



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

September 21, 2025

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. BOX 809
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

Epworth Work Day – Thank you

Thank you, St. John's, for your generous gifts to Epworth Children's Home for the Work Day offering. Are you interested in volunteering to be the Local Church Representative for Epworth? It's a great opportunity to help this important mission. Please contact the church office for more information and your interest.

Church Council Nominations

Nominations for the various church committees are now open. If you are interested in serving on one of the various committees within Church Council, please email Dr. Tim at tmclendon@stjaiken.org. Do let your committee chair know of your desire to rotate off or remain on. Committee Chairs, please let us know of your committee rosters before October 6, 2025, as the Leadership Development Committee will meet at 12pm on October 12 for consideration. Elections will take place at Charge Conference on October 28.

Senior Pastor Search

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is holding a Drop-In Session today, September 21, 2025 in Ward Hall from 8:30am - 10:30am to obtain input on the key pastoral skills the congregation would like to see in a Senior Pastor. At the Drop-In you will be able to speak with a SPRC member, to provide your complete survey to the SPRC, and to give additional input based on the survey.

You may also provide input by completing a survey on-line on our website: www.stjaiken.org, or returning a hard copy to the Church Office. Hard copies can be picked up in the Church Office. If you would like to email in our survey please send to Jennifer Windham: jwindham@stjaiken.org, you can also turn them into SPRC at the Drop-In Session. All surveys, online and hard copy, are due by September 30, 2025.

Applefest

MISSING: The Applefest wall quilt is missing. If you have it or know where it is, please call the church office: 803-648-6891. Thank you!

Twice Loved Treasures will begin accepting items in the gym on Monday, Oct. 27 beginning at 8:30am each day through Friday, Oct. 31. We will have our early Friday Sale at 5pm on Friday, so the cutoff to bring items for donation needs to be by 12 noon on Friday. As a reminder we do not accept: TVs, computers, DVDs or children's car seats. Thank you St. John's members for your generous donations you provide each year. If you have an question please reach out to Marsha Mikes at 803-645-0078.

Silent Auction: Items are needed for the silent auction baskets. Examples of what to bring in: gift cards for car washes, oil changes, restaurants, movie tickets, board games, boxes of candy, bottles of soda, pet items (snacks, toys, collars, leashes), stationary, note cards, gardening items (gloves, trowels, packets of seeds), etc. Bring in what you have and our ladies will work their magic in making up the themed baskets.

Discovering God's Good News Bible Study

A Bible Study entitled *Discovering God's Good News* on the first eight chapters of Romans will begin on Tuesday, October 7, at 5pm in Room 119. This 5-week Stonecroft Bible Study explores questions such as "Is God ever unfaithful?" and "How can we live life to the fullest?" For more information or to order a study book, please contact Susan Frushour at 803-507-0373.

Worship Services: Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Will Altman; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Organist - Christopher Nash; 9:02 Band Leader - Jane Timmerman; The 9:02 Band - Chuck Carver, Juli Davis, Earl Melton, Matt Osteen, George Collins, Steve Davis, Alec James, Jeff Krok, Jonathan Cook, Susan Lawson, Marshall Sanders

Crucifer: Sophie Jaq Gadus **Acolytes:** Helen Diane Gadus and Joel Nichols

September 8:30 Ushers: Tom Miniard, Randy Shelley, Greg Lowry

September 11:00 Ushers: Dave Felak, Donald Leader, Art Smith, Susie Graven-Smith, Commie Peebles, Bill Hillan, Cary Milliner, Hollie Milliner, Kevin Maynard, Rea Maynard, Joe Lewis, Leah Lewis, John Bradley, Katherine Sturm, Penny Rue, Eric Randall

September Worship Support: Judy Turner, Anita Allen, Camille Bailey, Pam Beckum, Claire Seawell

You may text your gift to St. John's by texting **stjaiken** to 1-888-364-4483 and following the instructions.

Images and texts used with this service have permission granted under CCLI #2220845.

The 11:00 service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.

September 21, 2025

Children's Ministries

UPCOMING:

October 26: Trunk or Treat, at 4pm in the back parking lot. This year we are adding a chili cook-off.

Nov. 9: Operation Christmas Child packing of boxes. Please see insert. Register today: <https://links.stjaiken.org/2025OCC>

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Youth Choir & Band will begin at 4pm in the Choir Room. Sunday Night Youth will meet in the gym at 5pm and pick up from the Faith Center at 7pm. Bring \$2 for dinner and invite a friend to join you.

Asbury Hill Retreat will take place November 21-23, 2025.

Register today at: <https://bit.ly/AsburyHill2025> or with the QR Code:



Young Adults Ministry

Young Adults Sunday School Class takes place at 10am in Room 237. Please join us!

St. John's Missions News

Disaster Response and Community Support Initiative: During times of disaster or when individuals are struggling with life's basics, the Church serves as a source of support and comfort. It is important that we prepare ourselves to respond effectively to the needs of our community. Let's be ready.

We invite all interested individuals to attend: Sunday, September 28, at 12:15 PM in Ward Hall. Anyone who can offer comfort, operate a chain saw, prepare snacks, swing a hammer, organize groups, or pray for those in need is welcome. If you are unable to attend the initial meeting, additional follow-up meetings will be scheduled. Please refer to the church bulletin for future meeting dates. Email questions to hayesdonj@gmail.com.

For the month of September, we are collecting **canned or dried fruit with easy to open tops**. Please place any donated items in the box marked "Grace Kitchen" in the Narthex of each worship service. Please place only the requested donation items in the Grace Kitchen boxes as these are the current items needed.

Dr. Tim's Bible Studies

Dr. Tim's Bible Studies, both morning and evening, will not take place on September 24. Both will resume on Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Men's Night Out

Join us in the Faith Center at 6pm on September 23 for Men's Night Out Bible Study. This week's film will be, "Red Badge of Courage" featuring Audie Murphy and John Huston.

Methodist Men

Methodist Men will meet on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30pm in Ward Hall. Please bring a covered dish. The program will be KT Ruthven with Meybohm Realty, "The status of realty in Aiken now and the future."

Carnegie Hall Trip - A Few Spaces Are Open

We have had a few spaces open up on our Chancel Choir and Friends trip to New York (January 16-20, 2026) when the choir will sing at Carnegie Hall. If you would like to go on this exciting trip, please contact Dr. Matt Caine ASAP at mcaine@stjaiken.org, (803)648-6891, ext. 206.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *Lenore, Eric, Esther, Cindy and Judy* in memory
of *Duncan & Mary Ellen Randall*
and by *Edie Conners* in memory of *Donna Donley*.

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

Sept. 24: Barbeque chicken, coleslaw, diced potatoes with cheese, & cherry pie

WNS CANCELED FOR OCTOBER 1. Thank you for your understanding.

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by 12pm, Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

Dinner is served at 5pm in Ward Hall 2/3. Cost for dinner: \$8 per adult (10 yrs. & older) and \$3 per child (ages 3 - 9yrs). Payment options: on-line via our website: www.stjaiken.org and select "GIVE NOW" and then select "WNS" from the drop down menu. You may also pay in person by cash or check. Please make checks payable to St. John's.

News of the Family

Welcome New Members:

Amy & Frank Prendergast

Peach Abbott-Douglas

Doug & Sara Carmichael

Karen Field

Danny & Mary Jo Herring

Hanna Hammons

Matt & Ashleigh Forrest

Sympathies to:

Jerrie Shepherd on the death of her husband, *Fred Shepherd*. Fred died on September 11, 2025 in Aiken, SC.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Barbara Peel
September 10, 2025

In Memoriam

Mr. Fred Shepherd
September 11, 2025

In Memoriam

Ms. Johanna Gibbs
September 11, 2025

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

September — **cereal/oatmeal or grits**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 9/14/2025

8:30 | 102 9:02 | 241 11:00 | 289

In-Person Total | 632

9:02 Online Live | 152 11:00 Online Live | 164

Financials

Totals are not available for this week due to Nancy Fairgrieve serving the Kairos Ministry in McCormick this past week.

Totals will be updated and share next week.

*We thank you for your generous support of
St. John's Ministries & Missions!*

Please use our new GIVING QR code to give on line:



Undy Sunday

Last Days

Thursday, Sept. 25

Final day to bring in donations!



Please use the following QR code to complete the

ST. JOHN'S MC SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH SURVEY



**SURVEY CLOSSES
SEPT. 30, 2025**



Soup's On!



Friendship SS Class Soup Luncheon

October 12, 10am - 2pm
in Ward Hall,
TO GO containers available

Money raised benefits the Honduras Agape
Foundation & Local Missions.

Wood carving

with
Tommy Harman

**Classes will be held
Tuesday, Oct. 7 & 14
from 5pm-9pm**



Join us for this **FREE** class to carve and paint your own Santa ornament. Classes are limited to 6 people each night. Open to adults and teens 14 -18 (must be accompanied by an adult). All tools and supplies will be provided. **Call the church office 803-648-6891 to sign up today!**



OCT 18 9am

5K RUN FOR FREEDOM 2025

H. Odell Weeks Activity Center
1700 Whiskey Rd., Aiken, SC

- Wheelchairs, strollers and friendly pets welcome! Please start rate at the back of the line. NO bikes
- Prizes for each age category. Music, games, and vendors! Drinks and other items available for purchase.
- 1 mile Fun Run FREE for kids 9 and under. Starts at 10 AM

Register by 10/5 to receive t-shirt as participation prize.
\$38 THROUGH 10/5. \$43 THROUGH RACE DAY.

CHECK-IN AND LATE REGISTRATION: 7:30 - 8:30 AM ON RACE DAY

THE BRIDGE 2 HOME IS A 501(C)(3) NON PROFIT IN AIKEN, SC
THAT HELPS CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

[register here](#)



First Friday

OCT.31, 5-7pm,

\$10 entry

(limited areas open)





St. John's
Applefest

FREE SATURDAY NOV. 1, 8AM - 2PM

TRUNK OR TREAT

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO HOST A TRUNK AND
PARTICIPATE IN A CHILI COOK-OFF FOR TRUNK OR TREAT ON

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
FROM 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

Register on Realm





Order of Worship - 8:30 A.M.

We welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

Air in G

JS Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Genevan Psalter

Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 534, "Be Still, My Soul"**

FINLANDIA

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

SERMON

"Comfort My People"

Rev. Butch Blackwell

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI No. 71, "Glory Be to the Father"**

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Light of Life

Mack Wilberg

Chancel Choir

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

OLD 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & CHORAL RESPONSE

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 133, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" SHOWALTER**

BENEDICTION

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Christian Lutkin

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

Joel Raney

***Please stand, as able.**



We welcome you, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide. This service will be livestreamed today at 9:02 on our website stjaiken.org, our Facebook Page, and the St. John's App. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

PRAISE SONG **Come As You Are** *Crowder*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG **Nobody** *Casting Crowns*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY **Desperate** *McDonald*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4** **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

SERMON **"Comfort My People"** **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

PRAISE SONG **Give Me Jesus** *Ortega*

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG



Order of Worship - 11:00 AM

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PRELUDE **Air in G** JS Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP ***Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*** Genevan Psalter
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 534, "Be Still, My Soul"** FINLANDIA

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Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM ***O Light of Life*** Mack Wilberg
Chancel Choir

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** OLD 100th
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Children K4-2nd grade may now follow the Crucifer to Children's Church.
Chancel Choir members who sang at the 8:30 service may now leave.*

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER & CHORAL RESPONSE

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

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SERMON **"Comfort My People"** Rev. Butch Blackwell

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*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE** ***The Lord Bless You and Keep You Peter Christian Lutkin
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE **Jesus Shall Reign** Joel Raney

***Please stand, as able.**