



December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

P.O. BOX 809
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891

stjaiken.org

Reminder from the Finance Office

In order to receive a tax benefit in 2023, donations must be received by December 31, 2023. With the office closed the last week of December, please make sure to put your donation in the mail making certain that it is postmarked on or before December 31, 2023.

For those who set up donations online, please remember that we are approaching the end of the year. If you put an end date on your donations for 2023, you must go in and set it up again for 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Fairgrieve at (803)648-6891 or nfairgrieve@stjaiken.org.

Sunny Monday

Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on January 8, 2024. The program will feature Dr. Tom Mack speaking on the "History of Trains Changing Aiken." Program starts at 10:30am with lunch to follow at 12 noon. Menu to be determined. There is a \$5 fee per meal. Please call the Church office to make your reservation by Friday, January 5, at 803-648-6891. Additionally, Senior Adult Council meeting will take place at 1pm on January 8th as well.

UMW Circle 20 at Cumberland Village

UMW Circle 20 sponsored a Christmas Party for St. John's members who live at Cumberland Village. Seventeen residents gathered on Friday, December 15th for games, songs and cookies and left with gift bags and reindeer ornaments that they made. They left with smiles on their faces and gratitude for being remembered. The love and caring of our Lord Jesus warmed the hearts of all present.



SERVING THIS WEEK

Worship Services: Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon; 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, Johnathan Cook, Susan Lawson, & Marshall Sanders

Crucifer: Xander Leigh **Acolytes:** Audrey Dietzel and Davis Smith

December 11:00 Ushers: Champ & Jeannette Bowden, Donald Leader, Alison & Roger Carpenter, Penny Rue, Jean Geiger, Al Hartgraves, Art & Susie Smith, Commie Peebles, Leah & Joe Lewis, Mick & Connie Pisko, Eric Randall, Dave Felak, Larry Burdette, Allen & Nola Radcliffe, Kent Falb, Jerry Miller, Mitch Rivers & Mary Ann Findley

December Worship Support: Jean Geiger, Sandra Jameson and Millie Winston

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.

December 24, 2023

Children's Ministries

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our caroling outing! It was wonderful to spread some joy to our homebound church members!



Birthday Party for Jesus: Today during Sunday School. The children will gather and celebrate the birth of our Savior during Sunday School. Gifts of new men's socks for the homeless are appreciated. Drop off your children at the Sunday School classrooms as usual; teachers will walk their classes to Ward Hall for the party.

Children's Nativity Skit: December 24 during the 5pm Christmas Eve Service. The children will walk through the story of Jesus birth, as told in Luke 2. Any child(ren) present during the 5pm service may participate; costumes not required.

Sunday, December 31: There will be no children's Sunday School due to only one service at 10am. Sunday School teachers, please enjoy the morning off from teaching as we worship together!

Merry Christmas! Have a wonderful day with family and friends.

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Merry Christmas! We hope to see you at one of the Christmas Eve services tonight. Youth band, youth choir and Sunday Night Youth will not be meeting tonight. Enjoy this special time with your families.

***No Bible Studies this Wednesday.**

Realm has a new texting update that requires an "opt-in" from you! Parents, counselors, and students, make sure you stay up-to-date on all things Foundation, **text START to (843)305-4638.**

St. John's Missions News

Each year Christ Central prays with over 1,000 people who come to them looking for help. Many of these people request Bibles. If you have a Bible that is not being used or if you want to purchase one more special Christmas gift, please donate a Bible to Christ Central on Richland Ave.

For the month of December, we are collecting **blankets and sleeping bags.** 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.

**Poinsettias will be on display from December 17 - December 24.
9:02's can be picked up following the that service and all others
can be taken following the 11pm Christmas Eve service.**

Wednesday Night Supper

Wednesday night supper will not be served next week, December 27 or on January 3, 2024. We will resume on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Primetime Travelers Announce First 2024 Trip

St. John's Primetime Travelers will be going to NarroWay Theater, Fort Mill, SC, on March 16, 2024, to attend the Easter production of The Fourth Cross. These Christian plays and lunches have always been popular with the Primetimers. Travel details and registration forms are available in the lobby, outside the church office. Do not delay. Invite a friend. The registration deadline is January 15, 2024.

Also, mark your calendars for Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 2pm in Ward Hall, for the ever-popular Travel Talk announcing the remaining 2024 St. John's travel dates!

News of the Family

Sympathies to:

Jack & Ava Hammond, on the death of Jack's brother, **Dick Hammond**, who died on December 17, 2023, in Muskegon, MI.

Bill & Nita Bell, on the death of their daughter-in-law, **Diana Holt**, who died on December 18, 2023, in Columbia, SC. Diana is survived by husband, Kevin Bell and son, Christopher.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

December — **peanut butter**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 12/17/2023

8:30 | 103 9:02 | 181 11:00 | 351

In-Person Total | 635

9:02 Online Live | 552 11:00 Online Live | 490

Financials

Operations Budget as of 12/06/2023

Year to date offerings given for what God

is asking us to do:

\$ 2,141,327.26

Year to date ministry expenditure:

\$ 2,057,878.68

\$ 84,448.58

Missions Budget: Year 2023-2024

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us
to do in Missions:

\$ 216,918.97

Year to date Missions Disbursements:

\$ 231,502.74

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

TODAY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Love

NEW GRIEF GROUP SESSION

Beginning January 9,
Tuesdays at 3:45pm
Faith Center

*All are invited
to join.*

Please contact Rev. Butch
if you plan to attend:
803-648-6891, ext. 214
gblackwell@stjohns-umc.org



REVOLUTION JANUARY 26-28 RETREAT



2023 Christmas Eve Services

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES AS NORMAL

5:00 PM FAMILY SERVICE

7:00PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

All services held in the Sanctuary

Mission Impact Celebration 2024

Mark Your Calendars
February 7 -11



Focus:

Local Mission



SKI TRIP 2024 FEBRUARY 9-11



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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell Out, My Soul

Chancel Choir

Walter Greatorex

*OPENING HYMN No. 202,

"People Look East"

BESANÇON

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

The Ray Family

*SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON

"Pardon the Interruption"

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"

MEINEKE

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

Mary, Did You Know?

Chancel Choir

arr. Bruce Greer

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS No. 95,

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. Amen.

ANTHEM

Canticle of the Turning

Chancel Choir

Anne Krentz Organ

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. 240,

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Tell Out, My Soul

Chancel Choir

Walter Greatorex

POSTLUDE

***Please stand, as able.**

This is a time of great need, and our missions and church operations require our continued generous giving. Please consider giving online, through text, through the mail, or over the phone to help us ensure that our ministries here and around the world are not adversely affected. More details can be found at stjaiken.org.



Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love

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 **This Child, This King** *Ray*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **John and Frances Osteen**

PRAISE SONG **Love Came Down at Christmas** *Jars of Clay*

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 **Make Room** *Casting Crowns*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING **Hebrews 1:1-4** **Rev. Will Altman**

SERMON **"God spoke through his Son"** **Rev. Will Altman**

PRAISE SONG **Joy To the World** *Casting Crowns*

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG

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Order of Worship - 11:00 AM

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PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tell Out, My Soul

Chancel Choir

Walter Greateorex

*OPENING HYMN No. 202,

"People Look East"

BESANÇON

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

John and Missy Poe

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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Chancel Choir

arr. Bruce Greer

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

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.

ANTHEM

Canticle of the Turning

Chancel Choir

Anne Krentz Organ

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Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON

"Pardon the Interruption"

Rev. Butch Blackwell

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 240,

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

I. Magnificat (abr.)

Chancel Choir

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

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