



December 28, 2025

10:00

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

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

Ushers Needed for 9:02 Service

The 9:02 Worship Service is currently looking for volunteers who might want to serve on an Usher/Greeter Team. This is a great way to meet people and feel a part of the church. Currently there are 6 teams, so they only serve once every 6 weeks. We could easily establish a 7th team if we had the volunteers to fill the positions. If you are interested, please let Susan McDonald know: smcdonald@stjaiken.org or call 803-648-6891, ext. 216.

Sunny Monday

St. John's Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on January 12, 2026. The program will begin at 10:30am in the Faith Center featuring Linda Johnson from the Historical Foundation of Aiken speaking about "Women of the Winter Colony." Lunch at \$5 per plate will be baked ziti, salad, roll and brownie with ice cream for dessert. Please call the church office at 803-648-6891 to make your reservation by January 8, 2026.

Succession Plan Starting January 1, 2026

As we enter our senior pastor succession plan following Dr. Tim's retirement on December 31st, we do so prayerfully, trusting God will lead us in unity and wisdom. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) wishes to clearly communicate the succession process as dictated by our Book of Discipline:

1. SPRC has named Rev. Butch Blackwell as St. John's Interim Lead Pastor, who has graciously accepted, until a candidate is hired. Rev. Butch will preach church services beginning the first two Sundays in January.

2. SPRC has agreed with Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey formerly with Mt. Horeb Church (Lexington, SC) to preach the 1st and 4th Sundays of the month until a candidate is hired. Rev. Will and Rev. Butch will split preaching duties the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month.

3. Vanderbloemen, the executive search firm hired by SPRC, is currently recruiting and vetting potential senior pastor candidates. The job opening was posted on October 22, 2025. To protect candidates and maintain integrity, some details must remain confidential. We commit, however, to regular updates so you know where we are in the process.

4. As candidates are presented to SPRC and interviews conducted, per St. John's Book of Discipline, SPRC shall present one candidate at a time to the Church Council, where a vote will be taken.

5. Following Church Council vote, the candidate will preach one Sunday service at St. John's, followed by a Question-and-Answer session conducted that same afternoon.

6. A Charge Conference will be required to officially elect a candidate for the Lead Pastor role.

While SPRC expects the search process to take approximately 6-9 months, we are committed to moving at the pace that allows for wisdom, prayer, and unity rather than rushing a decision. Our ministries, worship, and mission will continue during this season. We are grateful for our interim leadership and staff who are faithfully serving during this transition. The "Eleventh Hour Prayer Group" meets on Tuesday mornings in the church's chapel from 11 am to Noon to pray for the church. We ask you to pray regularly for the SPRC, for the candidates God is preparing, and for our church to remain unified and hopeful as we trust the Lord together.

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, Jonathan Cook, Susan Lawson, Marshall Sanders

Crucifer: Rebecca Kreitzer **Acolytes:** Grant Kreitzer and James Rittgers

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

December 11:00 Ushers: Paula Blackmore, Donald Leader, Sally Alexander, Rod Alexander, Jeff Wallace, Jean Geiger, Penny Rue, Gerry Hansen, Bruce Carrera, Rea Maynard, Kevin Maynard, Katherine Sturm, Connie Pisko, Mick Pisko, Susie Graven-Smith, Art Smith, Karen Travis, Larry Travis, John Lindsay, Maxine Falb and Kent Falb

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

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 28, 2025

Children's Ministry

No Children's Church this Sunday.

Children's Event; Nerf War "God and For Gideon"- January 11th from 5-6:30pm Register here: <https://links.stjaiken.org/2026NerfwarSTJ>.

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

The Merge will take place on January 11, 2026 at 5pm in the Faith Center.

Youth Ski Retreat Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2026 to Winterplace "Are You Ready to Ski?" Registration link: <https://links.stjaiken.org/26STJyouthski> or use the QR code on the graphics page.

Youth Small Groups coming in 2026!

Young Adults Ministry

Young Adults Sunday School will resume in January in room 237 at 10am. See you there!

St. John's Missions News

A request from our partners in SE Asia: As Jesus' birth is celebrated around the world, please pray for the house church movement to multiply among the 16 million unreached Artisans. Pray for hearts to be searching, for miracles, repentance, and encounters with Jesus and His Word.

For the month of January, we are collecting canned tuna and salmon (pop tops or pouches only). Please place any donated items in the box marked "Grace Kitchen" in the Narthex of each worship service and in front of Ward Hall. Please place only the requested donation items in the Grace Kitchen boxes as these are the current items needed.

St. John's Methodist Women

Last Sunday checks were presented to the 2025 Applefest Recipients: Epworth, Life Choices Pregnancy Center, and The Aiken Center for Substance Abuse – Jake Miniard Recovery Fund.



PICTURED: Sharon West, Applefest Co-Chair; Diane Miniard, Board Member Jake Miniard Recovery Fund; Beth Williams, Epworth President/CEO; Lisa Fusco Epworth, Senior Director of Development; Susan Crosby, SJMW Treasurer; Gaye Vause, Center Director of Life Choices; Margaret Key, Director of Aiken Co. Center for Substance Abuse; Kathryn Wade, Executive Director of Life Choices; Lynda Platt, Applefest Silent Auction Chairperson; Connie Pisko, Co-President SJMW; Pat Sauls, Vice President SJMW; Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon, St. John's Senior Pastor; Mary Ward, Applefest Books Chairperson

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Hesse in honor of their 57 Wedding Anniversary
and in honor of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Tim McClendon
and his years of faithful service to St. John's.**

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

Wednesday Night Supper and Ministry Meals will resume on January 14, 2026.

Jan. 14: Chili with beans, salad, cornbread, and peach cobbler

Jan. 21: Spaghetti, green beans, garlic bread, and cheesecake

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by **12pm, Tuesday, January 12, 2026.**

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

Sympathies to:

John Bradley on the death of his wife, **Sally Bradley**, who died December 18, 2025 in Aiken, SC.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Sally Bradley

December 18, 2025

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

January – canned vegetables

Collection bins are located in both the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance—12/21/2025

8:30 | 142 9:02 | 233 11:00 | 336

In-person Total | 711

9:02 On-line Live | 89 11:00 On-line Live | 172

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2026 are now available for pick up. They are located on a table outside of Ward Hall. If you are not able to locate your box and are wanting envelopes, please see Nancy Fairgrieve in the Financial Office and she will assign a box to you.

Financials

Operation Budget as of 12/23/2025

Year-to-date offering given for what God is asking us to do: \$2,584,821.59

Year-to-date ministry expenditures: \$2,092,158.55

\$ 492,663.04

Missions Budget: Year 2025–2026

Year-to-date offering given for what God is asking us to do in Missions: \$ 320,746.64

Year-to-date disbursements: \$ 285,850.00

We thank you for your generous support of

St. John's Ministries & Missions!

Please use our new GIVING QR code to give online.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICE

ST. JOHN'S

HOLIDAY HOURS

DECEMBER 29 : CLOSED

*DECEMBER 30 : OPEN 9AM - 2PM

*DECEMBER 31 : OPEN 9AM - 2PM

JANUARY 1 : CLOSED

JANUARY 2 : CLOSED

*LIMITED OFFICE STAFF AVAILABLE

For God and For Gideon
1/11 at 5pm in Gym
Sign up with the QR Code or at
<https://links.stjaiken.org/2026NerfwarSTJ>



Come join us for a **NERF BATTLE** in the gym.

Let's learn about God using Gideon to rescuing the Israelites and have a fun battle!



2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May each day be a new beginning, and may you find inspiration in the possibilities that the future holds.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. - Isaiah 43:18-19

www.stjaiken.org

ST. JOHN'S
Methodist Church

LET'S GLOW!

2026 SNY KICKOFF & 6TH GRADE MERGE
GLOW-IN-THE-DARK
PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
5:00-7:00 PM

ST. JOHN'S FAITH CENTER
ALL YOUTH (6TH GRADE-12TH GRADE) INVITED!
FREE! BRING A FRIEND!

ST. JOHN'S FOUNDATION Student Ministries

YOUTH SKI TRIP
Winterplace, Chent, WV

JAN 30 - FEB 1, 2026

<https://links.stjaiken.org/26STJyouthski>

REGISTER 

FINANCE COMMITTEE BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

As we approach the end of the calendar year, the Finance Committee wants to review two "gifting" options for our church members.

- 1.) Gifting highly appreciated securities (i.e., stocks, bonds, etc.) - please contact Nancy Fairgrieve and/or speak to Mary Ann Barrett, Janney, Montgomery Scott LLC, Aiken office (803-649-6304) per the church's local brokerage account. We ask that transfer instructions be in process on or before 12/20/2025.
- 2.) Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) - for charitable gifts from IRAs. Please have check made payable to and as beneficiary "St. John's Methodist Church," PO Box 809, Aiken, SC 29802. Nancy Fairgrieve can provide further assistance if needed.

Both of these options can provide advantageous tax benefits to individuals and couples. Please consult your own personal tax advisor if appropriate.



Order of Worship - 10:00 AM

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 11am 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

And Can It Be

Anna Laura Page

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM pg. 39

The congregation will be led in the singing of God Claims You, TFWS #2249, using the name William.

*OPENING HYMN No. 220, "Angels from the Realms of Glory" REGENT SQUARE

*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 beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Work of Christmas

Chancel Choir

Dan Forrest

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONS

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 glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:7-14

Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

SERMON

"Time to Pass the Baton"

Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 386, "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" CANDLER

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

An Expression of Gratitude

David Schwoebel

POSTLUDE

Gallus Pugnax

Elmer Bernstein

**Please stand, as able.*