



November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

First Sunday Communion

Please note that our regular first Sunday Communion that is celebrated at our 8:30am service each month will be held in December on the second Sunday, December 14th, at 8:30am. We are moving it by a week for December only, as we look forward to enjoying our Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata on December 7th at our 8:30am and 11:00am services. Our 9:02am service will also enjoy special music on the 14th. We look forward to our times of worship during the Advent season.

Home Communion Training

We will be holding a training session for new Home Communion Servers on Tuesday, December 9, at 3:30pm in the Conference Room. There is still time for those who have yet to volunteer to do so. If you wish to know more please contact Rev. Butch Blackwell in the church office.

Dementia Support Group

We are looking forward to beginning a new 8-week session for our Dementia Support Group on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 4:00 pm in the Faith Center. This group is open to all caregivers of those struggling with Dementia. For the past year and a half, this group has been instrumental as a resource and support for those caring for a loved one with Dementia. Please contact Rev. Butch if you have questions or if you wish to attend.

Grief Group Announcement

When we lose someone we love, we embark on a journey not of our choosing. And yet, it is a vital and sacred journey we must make. That, of course, is a journey of grief. St. John's offers a Grief Care Group that serves as a means of self-care and shared community for those in grief. It is designed to be a series of twelve sessions – where you will listen, share, and gain important tools to use in navigating your unique grief experience. We will be beginning a new 12-week session on January 14, 2026, at 3:45 in the Faith Center. If you are on a journey of grief and would like to attend or know more about our group, please call Reverend Butch at the church office.

Love Gift for Dr. Tim

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.” – 1 Timothy 5:17

This Scripture reminds us that those who faithfully serve in pastoral ministry are not only to be respected, but to be given “double honor.” In context, Paul was teaching that spiritual leaders who devote themselves to shepherding, teaching, and caring for the flock are worthy of both respect and gifts of gratitude. As Dr. Tim prepares to retire from fifty years of ministry, twelve of which have been at St. John's, we are grateful for how we have been blessed by his devotion to serving God, the church and all of us in many special ways. A love gift is Biblical as well as serving as a way for us to share our gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Tim and his incredible ministry. You may participate in providing a love gift by mailing it directly to Bradley L Boni, PO Box 6532, Aiken, SC 29802. All contributions should be received no later than December 19, 2025. You may also drop your gifts off with Nancy Fairgrieve who will make sure they get to Brad Boni. Please remember to designate your gift to the Dr. Tim Love Gift Fund in the memo field.

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: Katie Kirk **Acolytes:** Caulden Kirk and Loren Wilkens

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

November 11:00 Ushers: Mitch Rivers, Mary Ann Findley, Donald Leader, Diane O'Connor, Penny Rue, Sara Carmichael, Doug Carmichael, Commie Pebbles, Jean Geiger, Missy Poe, Bruce Carrera, Gerry Hansen, Dawn Beam, Leah Lewis

November Worship Support: Christy Kisner, Nita Bell, Libby Taylor, Peg Robinson & Judy Keaton

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 W KSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.

November 30, 2025

Children's Ministry

Gingerbread Nativity has been moved to – December 10th at 6pm! Sign up here: <https://links.stjaiken.org/2025Gingerbread> or use this QR code on the graphics page.

Confirmation Sunday will be December 14.

SAVE THE DATE:

Dec. 14: Children's Christmas Caroling, 3pm – 5pm, meet in the SEED parking lot.

Dec. 21: Children's Christmas Party for Sunday School

5pm Christmas Eve Nativity practice: Date and time to be determined soon.

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Sunday Night Youth will not meet on December 7. We hope to see you at the Gingerbread Nativity event on Dec. 10. Our last gathering for 2025 will be on Dec. 14 for our Christmas Party. Hope to see you there!

Youth Choir will not meet today due to a funeral. However, we will join Wednesday evening choir rehearsal at 6:30pm. This will be our final rehearsal before the Cantata.

SAVE THE DATES:

Dec. 10: Gingerbread Nativity, 6pm in the gym.

Dec. 14: Youth Christmas Party from 5pm – 7pm at the church. Get your ugly Christmas Sweater ready!

Young Adults Ministry

Sunday School meets in room 237 at 10am.

SAVE THE DATES:

Dec. 4: Christmas Cookie Baking, 6pm, at 102 Glencarin Dr., Aiken
Please use the following GroupME QR code:

Dec. 18: Christmas Lights at Hopeland Gardens, 6pm



St. John's Missions News

Today we will hold Missions on the 5th Sunday with a presentation in the Faith Center during the Sunday School hour. Jackie Hyche will share about the Epiphany Ministry that provides support to young women and men who are troubled and/or in custody of Juvenile Justice Facilities.

St. John's 4th quarter day of service will be Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10am – 12pm at the Salvation Army's Christmas Cheer Center at 240 University Pkwy, Aiken SC 29801. We will be bagging, packing gifts and sorting. Children must always be accompanied by a supervising adult. Sign up after one of the services today in the narthex or email Don Hayes at hayesdonj@gmail.com. Afternoon time slots may be available. Additionally, if you want to volunteer outside of that Saturday, you can register here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C48ACA72BA0FE3-60213292-aiken>

For the month of November, we are collecting new blankets & sleeping bags. 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.

Men's Night Out

Next week's Men's Night Out attendees will be viewing "Guns at Batasi." This 1964 film tells the story of the strict Regimental Sergeant Major Lauderdale about a remote colonial African army caught in a local coup d'etat, and how he must use his experience to defend those in his care.

Epworth Angels

Many thanks to the generous people at St. John's, as you make Christmas special for the children at Epworth! All gift tags have been claimed. REMINDER: All gifts will be due TODAY! The collection bin is located outside the main Church office.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *Marge Clemens* in loving memory of *Tom Clemens*,
and by *Davie Surrett* in loving memory of
Forrest Cofield Surrett and *Rev. David C. Surrett*.**

Christmas Cards for Veterans

Warm the hearts of veterans now living in Aiken area care facilities. Express your gratitude and help spread our Christian love at this joyous time of year. Write the same message on 10 cards (or more), sign your name, do not seal the envelopes, then deposit the bundled cards in the boxes located in the Narthex, the Faith Center lobby and Ward Hall corridor. Detailed writing instructions are available on/near the drop off boxes. Thank you for your time and kindness.

Poinsettia Sales Start Today

Orders for poinsettias will be taken today and next Sunday, December 7, in the main lobby or the Faith Center lobby. Orders will be limited as only 60 plants have been ordered. The cost per plant will be \$25.

Sunny Monday

Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on Monday, December 8, 2025. The program will feature Barb Rollins with the Aiken Academic Band as they play "Music of Christmas." The program will start at 10:30am in the Faith Center. Lunch will be served at 12pm following the program at \$5 per plate, with the menu being: Chicken Spectacular, salad, roll and key lime pie. Please call the church at 803-648-6891 by 12pm on Thursday, December 4 to make your lunch reservation.

News of the Family

Congratulations to:

Kennedy Alexandra Plunkett, daughter of ***Kevin & Bianca Plunkett*** and granddaughter to ***Mark & Tammy Plunkett***, was baptized on November 23, 2025.

Sympathies to:

Dr. Whitney Simons on the death of her father, ***Chuck Simons***, who died November 24, 2025 in Aiken, SC.

In Memoriam

Mr. Chuck Simons
November 24, 2025

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

November - Canned Beans

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

Attendance - 11/23/2025

8:30 | 148 9:02 | 215 11:00 | 327

In-person Total | 690

9:02 On-line Live | 145 11:00 On-line Live | 155

Financials

Operation Budget as of 11/25/2025

Year-to-date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	\$2,299,578.83
Year-to-date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$1,908,428.94</u>
	\$ 391,149.89

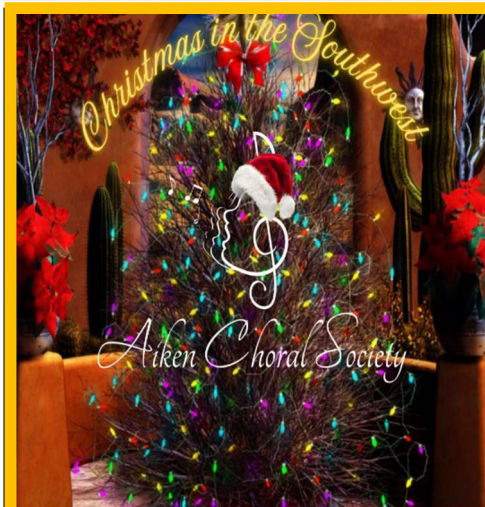
Missions Budget: Year 2025–2026

Year-to-date offering given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$ 30,2415.86
Year-to-date disbursements:	\$ 259,250.00

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

Please use our new GIVING QR code to give online.





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.



PRELUDE	From Heaven to Earth the Angels Came	Pachelbel
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CALL TO WORSHIP *People, Look East* Traditional French Carol
Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **John & Jane Eyler**

SERMON **“Where Are You Christmas?”** **Rev. Will Altman**

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 Come, Emmanuel* arr. Alice Parker

DEDICATION OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS	OLD 100TH
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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.

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER AND 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. 196, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL**

***BENEDICTION**

*CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>People, Look East</i> Chancel Choir	Traditional French Carol
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POSTLUDE **Angels We Have Heard on High** Albrect

***Please stand, as able.**



Order of Worship – 9:02 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

PRAISE SONG **In the Bleak Midwinter** *Rossetti*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **Kevin & Lynette Connelly**

PRAISE SONG **Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord** *Schwartz & Tebelak*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **We Believe**

We believe in God the Father. We believe in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Holy Spirit and He's given us new life. We believe in the crucifixion. We believe that He conquered death. We believe in the resurrection and He's comin' back again. We believe.

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 **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** *Wesley/Vessel*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING **Romans 13:11-14** **Rev. Will Altman**

SERMON **"Where Are You Christmas?"** **Rev. Will Altman**

PRAISE SONG **Prepare the Way** *Nuzum Thomason*

BENEDICTION



Order of Worship - 11:00 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 stjohns.org, our Facebook Page, and the St. John's App. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE **From Heaven to Earth the Angels Came** Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *People, Look East* Traditional French Carol
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 206, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** HOUSTON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **Vernon & Audrey Osteen**

***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 Come, Emmanuel* arr. Alice Parker

DEDICATION OF THE 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. Amen.

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 AND 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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