



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

May 17, 2026

Senior Sunday

8:30

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

Church Council Meeting

St. John's Church Council will hold the second quarterly meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6pm in the Faith Center.

Sunny Monday

St. John's Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on June 8, 2026. The 10:30am program will take place in the Faith Center with a program featuring Logan Ford, "A Musical Sing Along" and "What is ACTS and What are We Doing?" This month's meal will be Chick-fil-A box meal for \$5 per person. All reservations for the meal are required to be made by 4pm June 3, to ensure our order is placed in a timely manner. Please call the church office to make your reservation: 803-648-6891.

Methodist Questions Bible Study

We will conclude the study this week on Wednesday at 5:45pm in the Church Chapel, with Rev. Butch leading a study that responds to the following questions:

May 20: "Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?" We will reflect upon theodicy, which is the theological question of why God permits evil. We will consider and will very lightly touch upon the question of free will. Come join us for what we believe will be an interesting and informative time of answering questions that you may have been pondering.

Demolition of the Annex Building

Beginning May 25, the entire back parking lot will be blocked as they begin the full demolition of the building. The back parking lot will be off limits through July, as it will be in construction phase.

Vacation Bible School Supplies Needed

You may have noticed that the main lobby of the church is slowly transforming into a rainforest, featuring the Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God, the theme for this summer's VBS. There are cards hanging on the display featuring items that are requested to make this summer's VBS a success. Please stop by and grab a card. Donations can be returned to the church office and will be accepted through June 12, 2026. Thank you!

New Photo Directory

We have a couple more Sundays where a photographer will be taking pictures for those of you who would like updated pictures for the new version of our St. John's directory. Please come to Room 105 from 8am-1pm. Appointments can be made by calling the church office: 803-648-6891; however, walk-ins will be taken as well. Please contact Susan McDonald, smcdonald@stjaiken.org, with any changes to address, phone numbers, or email addresses to be updated accordingly in the new directory.

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: Rebecca Kreitzer **Acolytes:** Davis Smith and Loren Wilkins

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

May 11:00 Ushers: Missy Poe, Donald Leader, Connie Pisko, Mick Pisko, Mary Ann Findley, Mitch Rivers, Sally Alexander, Rod Alexander, Karen Travis, Larry Travis, Rea Maynard, Kevin Maynard, Leah Lewis, Penny Rue

May Worship Support: Nancy Perrine, Melinda Greene, Karen Blackwell, Susanne Rhoden

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.

May 17, 2026

Children's Ministries

Sunday School (children 4K-2nd grade): Upstairs in the Education building. Sign in by the boat!

June 15-20: VBS - Register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/802a90>.

VBS Volunteers Needed! We'd love to have you work with us in VBS this year. Come spread God's love and have a blast with the children. Sign up to volunteer on the same site as registration; you can use the QR code or website. We hope to see you there.

Children's Worship Bulletins are now available! Kids ages 7 years and older can pick up a bulletin with Scripture and puzzles just for them. Look for the green paper in the narthex.

Parents, Children's Church has moved! 11 am Children's Church is now meeting in Room 223. This is an exciting change that gives the children more room and a dedicated space. Room 223 is upstairs - take the elevator in the coffee area and look for the boat. Signs will be out to direct you.

Foundation Student Ministries (6th-12th Grades)

Wednesday Small Groups: Enjoy Summer Break!

Senior Bibles will be set up outside of Ward Hall (in front of the archives display) today, May 17, from 8am – 11am for the congregation to sign each Bible and extend your best wishes.

May 17: Chill & Grill/Senior Night

High School Seniors:

May 17: Senior Sunday

Young Adults Ministry

Young Adults Sunday School Class takes place at 10am in Room 237.

Thursday Night Philippians Bible Study: 6pm in the Faith Center Room 212/213.

SAVE THE DATE:

June 23: Serving Salkehatchie Supper & Bowling

St. John's Missions News

Please consider supporting ACTS with their 18th Annual Fan Drive. Help bring relief and comfort to our neighbors in need this season. Please see more details on the graphics page.

For the month of **May**, we are collecting **deodorant**. 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 Bible Study

Our Men's Night Out Bible Study typically meets on Tuesdays, at 6pm in the Faith Center; however, it will not meet on May 19 due to Church Council Meeting being held at 6pm. We will resume the following week.

The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *Bob & Barbara Branson* in memory of *Scott Branson*,
and by *Jeannie Heard* in memory of *Stephen Heard*.

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

May 20: Pulled pork, coleslaw, mac & cheese and peach cobbler

May 27: Grilled chicken thighs, roasted broccoli, diced potatoes with
cheese and peach cobbler

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by 12pm,
Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

**WNS and Ministry Meals will break for the Summer following the May 27th
meal. Both will resume August 19, 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. **Payment online does not make your reservation.**
You must still call the office to do so. You may also pay in person by cash or
check. Please make checks payable to St. John's.

News of the Family

Congratulations to:

Cary & Hollie Milliner on the birth of their grandson, **Smith William Milliner**.
"Smith" was born to **Cary & Nicole Milliner** in Atlanta, GA on May 5, 2026.

Sympathies to:

Hunter, O'Neal, Finn, Chase and River Mole on the death of their grandfather,
John Henry Mole, Sr., who died May 4, 2026 in Barnwell, SC.

St. John's Security Team

If you are interested in becoming part of St. John's Security Team, please join
us for a Safety & Security Informational Meeting today, May 17 at 10am in
Ward Hall 1.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

May — **Canned meats (chicken or tuna)**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 5/10/2026

8:30 | 114 9:02 | 263 11:00 | 238

In-Person Total | 615

9:02 Online Live | 132 11:00 Online Live | 163

Financials

Operation Budget as of 5/12/2026

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do: \$1,206,933.29

Year to date ministry expenditures: \$ 720,680.44

\$ 486,252.85

Missions Budget: Year 2026 - 2027

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us
to do in Missions: \$191,663.33

Year to date disbursements: \$ 88,350.00

*We thank you for your generous support of
St. John's Ministries & Missions!*
Please use our new GIVING QR code to give on line:



Grace Kitchen

May donation needs

DEODORANT

Please leave items in the boxes in both the Narthex and Faith Center Lobby marked "Grace Kitchen"

Chill and Grill

5/17

Senior Night

5-7pm

FAN DRIVE

Help us bring relief and comfort to our neighbors in need this season.

PURCHASE A BOX FAN FOR ONLY \$28

\$28 = 1 FAN
BIG IMPACT. COOL COMFORT.

YOUR DONATION WILL HELP:

- Provide comfort and relief to individuals and families in our community
- Keep our neighbors safe during the heat
- Make a real difference right here in our community

SCAN TO DONATE

or visit: actsofaiken.org/donate

Thank you for caring.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

PROVIDING HOPE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

JOIN US FOR ST. JOHN'S METHODIST VBS 2026

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

DATES: June 15 - 19
TIME: 9AM - 12PM

OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN RISING 4K - 6 GRADE

REGISTER TODAY:
<https://vbspro.events/p/802a90>

APPLEFEST PREP

PLEASE WATCH FUTURE BULLETINS FOR DATES OF COLLECTION.

WE ARE **NOT** ABLE TO STORE ITEMS ONSITE PRIOR TO ANNOUNCED DATES!



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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Thomas Rittgers, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

***OPENING HYMN No. 57, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" AZMON**

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 3:5-14 Henry Vaughters

**SENIOR REFLECTIONS Ella Jernigan
Avelyn Yeh
Madison Zeigler**

SERMON "A Listening Heart" Rev. Will Altman

VIDEO PRESENTATION - OUR SENIORS

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

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

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Thomas Rittgers, piano

***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. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 451, "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE O God Our Help in Ages Past Traditional

**Please stand, as able.*



Order of Worship - 9:02

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

Just as Good
Foundation Youth Band

Chris Renzema

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG

Made for More
Foundation Youth Band

Josh Baldwin

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Henry Vaughters

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.

STUDENT PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Ella Jernigan

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

The Commission
Foundation Youth Band

Cain

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

Ella Jernigan
Avelyn Yeh
Madison Zeigler

VIDEO PRESENTATION - OUR SENIORS

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 3:5-14

Mary Davisson

SERMON

"A Listening Heart"

Rev. Will Altman

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

The congregation will be led in the singing of "God Claims You," using the name Luke.

PRAISE SONG

All My Hope

Crowder

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG



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 stjajiken.org, our Facebook Page, and the St. John's App. Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please silence all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

Thomas Rittgers, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR PROCESSIONAL **Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 in D** Sir Edgar Elgar

***OPENING HYMN No. 57, "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"** AZMON

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

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

The Commission

Logan, Madison, and Taylor Cain

Foundation Youth Band

*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Matthew Dzickowski

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.

STUDENT PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Katie Forrest

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Blair Wood

1 Kings 3:5-14

Adelyn Parker

SENIOR REFLECTIONS

Ella Jernigan

Avelyn Yeh

Madison Zeigler

SERMON

"A Listening Heart"

Rev. Will Altman

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES & VIDEO PRESENTATION - OUR SENIORS

PRESENTATION OF INEZ CRAIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Ted Nichols

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 451, "Be Thou My Vision"**

SLANE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O God Our Help in Ages Past

Traditional

**Please stand, as able.*