



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

SPRC Update On Search for a Senior Pastor

Our SPRC Committee is pleased to announce that they have extended an invitation to a Senior Pastor candidate to preach at each of our three services on April 26, 2026. Additionally, the candidate will be answering questions submitted from the congregation at a question-and-answer period to be held at 2pm on April 26, 2026 in the Faith Center. St. John's Book of Discipline requires that a Senior Pastor candidate finalist proposed by the SPRC is required to preach a regularly scheduled Sunday service at St. John's followed by a question-and-answer period (Par. 335.5.e.(3)). SPRC is requesting that any church member who wishes to pose a question to please do so by completing the bulletin insert and return your questions to Jennifer in the church office, or by placing your questionnaire in the offering plate.

You may also submit your questions online at:

<http://www.menti.com/al7qpm5vwby5> or use the QR Code:



The question-and-answer period is not a town hall discussion, but questions will be asked by our SPRC Chairman from the questions submitted. All questions are to be submitted either in person or online by 3pm on Monday, April 20, 2026.

Charge Conference Announcement

A Special Session of our Church Council and our St. John's Methodist Church Charge Conference has been scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6pm in the Faith Center. Our SPRC Committee will formally make a recommendation to Church Council regarding a candidate for our open Senior Pastor position. Church Council will then move into a special session of our St. John's Methodist Church Charge Conference, where they will vote on said proposal. All current members of our Church Council are voting members of The Charge Conference. The April 28 Church Council meeting has been rescheduled for May 19 at 6pm in the Faith Center.

Methodist Questions Bible Study

There are times when we receive some great questions about our Christian Faith and Methodism. Usually the basis of the question boils down to this, ***"What do we believe about , and why do we believe it?"*** Beginning Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 5:45pm in the Church Chapel, Rev. Butch will be leading a study that responds to some of the questions that we hear most frequently. The schedule for our study is as follows:

May 6: "Who is John Wesley and why do his teachings matter?" We will take a look at who John Wesley was and why his theology and interpretation of Scripture are important to us as Methodists and how it has and does shape what we believe.

May 13: "Do Methodists believe in the rapture?" We will take a look at the three most prominent schools of thought on the rapture and which if any of these three reflect a traditional Methodist belief on the topic. We will consider premillennialism, postmillennialism and amillennialism. This will reflect only upon the rapture and not the entire Book of Revelation.

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.

Worship Services: Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Will Altman; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Guest Organist - Katherine Jolliff; 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: Henry Vaughters **Acolytes:** Joel Nichols and Teddy Nichols

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

April 11:00 Ushers: Allen Radcliffe, Nola Radcliffe, Rod Alexander, Sally Alexander, Larry Travis, Karen Travis, Kevin Maynard, Rea Maynard, Donald Leader, Newkirk Barnes, Judy Keaton, Dawn Beam, Diane O'Conner, John Lindsay, Sinclair Short

April Worship Support: Bonnie Culbertson, Kathie Gassman, Diane Buschle

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

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

April 19, 2026

Children's Ministries

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

May 2: Kid's Fishing Event for 3rd - 5th graders, register today: <https://links.stjaiken.org/25STJFishing> or use the QR Code on the graphics page.

June 15-20: VBS - Register here: <https://vbapro.events/p/802a90>. Volunteers are needed for VBS. Please use same link to register.

Foundation Student Ministries

(6th-12th Grades)

Wednesday Small Groups: Girls at 6:30pm (Upstairs in the Faith Center), Guys at 7pm (Upstairs Game Room)

Sunday Night Youth (SNY): 5pm - 7pm, Meet in the gym and finish in Ward Hall.

April 19, April 26 and May 3: Regular SNY

May 10: No SNY - Mother's Day, Celebrate Your Moms!

May 17: Chill & Grill/Senior Night

High School Seniors:

April 26: Inez Crain Scholarship due. You can find the application and more information at: <https://stjaiken.org/foundation-seniors>

May 17: Senior Sunday

Welcome New Youth Director

We're excited to introduce our new Youth Director, **Brett Bucklin**, and his wife, **Riley**. All youth and parents are invited to a special meet-and-greet on **April 26th from 5-7pm** during SNY. Come connect, ask questions, and help us give them a warm St. John's welcome.

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:

April 23: Pickleball at Odell Weeks, 6:30pm

May 14: Ice Cream and Board Games at 6:30pm at the Church

June 23: Serving Salkehatchie Supper & Bowling

St. John's Missions News

Join us at 10am in Ward Hall 1 for an interest meeting for a Fall mission trip to the Christian Union Sports Club in Medellin, Colombia. Children and youth accompanied by a parent or guardian on the trip are welcome. One final meeting will be held next Sunday, April 26 at 10am.

For the month of **April**, we are collecting **socks for men and women**. 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.

Shepherd of Love

Shepherd of Love members will meet April 27th at 2pm in room 119. All Shepherds are encouraged to attend and those interested in learning more about this ministry are invited to join us. The members of this ministry provide at least one visit per month to a home bound member of the congregation. Please contact Carol Godfrey (803)220-9238 or Rev. Butch if you would like more information.

Kairos Prison Ministry

The Kairos Prison Ministry Team will be sharing the Good News of Christ to men at the Trenton Correctional Institute during the week of April 30 - May 3. In Matthew 25:36, "... I was in prison and you came to visit me," believers are judged. While you may not physically be able to join us in prison, you can join us spiritually! We need COOKIES (1,200 dozen!), PRAYERS, and if you are inclined, FUNDING. For cookies, please deliver to the church by Monday, April 27. No nuts, no sprinkles, no sugar coatings, no frosting, no fruit. Cookies should be no larger than 2 inches in diameter and packaged by the dozen in Ziplock bags. Please mark "KAIROS" and leave in the main church kitchen.

**The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by Lynn Martin in memory of Craig Martin.**

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

**April 22: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and chocolate
crème pie**

**April 29: Roasted chicken thighs, roasted potatoes, roasted broccoli, roll
and cherry pie.**

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by **12pm,
Tuesday, April 21, 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

Sympathies to:

Murray, Liz, Kennedy and Ethan Hiller on the death of **John Martin**, who died
April 7, 2026 in Columbia, SC. John was Liz's father and grandfather to
Kennedy and Ethan.

Dean & Judy Keaton on the death of Judy's brother-in-law, **George Rider**,
who died April 9, 2026 in Kansas City, MO.

New Photo Directory

Beginning April 26 and continuing the following 5 Sundays, from 8am-1pm, in
Room 105, 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.
Appointments can be made by calling the church office: 803-648-6891, how-
ever, walk-ins will be taken as well. You'll already be dressed up and here,
might as well swing by and say "cheese." Please contact Susan McDonald,
smcdonald@stjaiken.org, with any changes to address, phone numbers, or
email addresses so this will be updated accordingly for the new directory.

Men's Night Out Bible Study

Our Men's Night Out Bible Study meets on Tuesday, at 6pm in the Faith
Center. This week's movie will be "Facing the Giants." A losing coach and his
underdog football team face their giants of fear and failure on and off the
field, with surprising results.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

April — **pasta sauce (please, no glass)**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 4/12/2026

8:30 | 96 9:02 | 162 11:00 | 228

In-Person Total | 486

9:02 Online Live | 163 11:00 Online Live | 169

Financials

Operation Budget as of 4/15/2026

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do: \$ 938,610.41

Year to date ministry expenditures: \$ 561,578.03

\$ 377,032.38

Missions Budget: Year 2026 - 2027

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

\$169,311.27

Year to date disbursements:

\$ 50,500.00

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

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



SCAN ME

**APPLEFEST
PREP**

PLEASE WATCH FOR FUTURE BULLETINS FOR DATES OF COLLECTION.

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

COME TOGETHER SHOWING GOD'S LOVE
St. John's Applefest

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
FISHING EVENT 5/2**

Calling all 3rd-5th graders interested and experienced anglers!

We invite you to attend our Fishing Event at the Outing Club for an evening filled with excitement and camaraderie from 5-7pm on May 2nd.

REGISTER NOW
<https://links.stjohns.org/25STJFishing>

LET FREEDOM SING!

Aiken Choral Society

Aiken Choral Society Celebrates America's 250th Birthday

Sunday, April 26, 2026
3:00 PM

St. John's Methodist Church

Active Military & Veterans Honored

**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>

ST. JOHN'S
Methodist Church of Aiken
104 Newberry St NW
Aiken, SC
(803)648-6891

It's **Kairos cookie time!**

Home-baked cookies are needed by 12 noon on April 27 for Trenton Correctional.

Please complete a form regarding questions you'd like to ask the Senior Pastor candidate. All questions must be turned into Jennifer in the main office by 3pm, Monday, April 20th.

The question-and-answer session will take place from 2-3 pm, Sunday, April 26 in the Faith Center.

Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry

ST. JOHN'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

REGISTER TODAY

**MAY 15, 2026
8:00 am**

Houndslake Country Club
901 Houndslake Dr, Aiken

**SAVE THE DATE
5/17/26
SENIOR
SUNDAY**



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 stjohns.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 **Lay Your Burdens Down** *Long*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG **Come to the River** *R. Walker*

***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 **Lead Me to the Cross** *Fraser*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 24:13-35** **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

SERMON **"Just A Little Walk With Jesus"** **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG **Just A Closer Walk with Thee** *Morris*



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 "Prière à Notre-Dame" from *Suite gothique* Léon Boëllmann
Katherine Jolliff, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPEAKER Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry Steve Lathrop

CALL TO WORSHIP *O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread* Charles H. Webb
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 700, "Abide with me"** EVENTIDE

***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"** GREATORIX
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 *Awake, My Heart* Jane M. Marshall
Chancel Choir

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children K4-2nd grade may now follow the Crucifer to Children's Church.

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.

***SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 24:13-35 Rev. Butch Blackwell

SERMON "Just A Little Walk With Jesus" Rev. Butch Blackwell

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

*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE "Variation finale" sur le thème du 'Veni Creator' (op.4) Maurice Duruflé
Katherine Jolliff, organ

*Please stand, as able.