



# ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

*April 26, 2026*

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

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P.O. BOX 809  
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891  
[www.stjaiken.org](http://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)).

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 were to be submitted 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.

## St. John's Blood Drive



If you are able to give blood please consider donating on Sunday, May 3 between the hours of 8am and 12 noon in Ward Hall 2/3. The sign-up sheet is located on the reception desk outside the main office.

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**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:** Grant Parker    **Acolytes:** Amelia Orr and Loren Wilkins

**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 26, 2026

## Children's Ministries

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

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

**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.

## Foundation Student Ministries

(6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 TODAY! You can find the application and more information at: <https://stjaiken.org/foundation-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:

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

**June 23:** Serving Salkehatchie Supper & Bowling

## St. John's Missions News

If you're interested in going to Colombia and celebrating what God is doing in South America, please come today at 10am to Ward Hall 1 to show your interest in the mission trip. Also today, after all three services, you can sign up in the narthex for our quarterly mission project performing landscaping and outdoor projects for a Habitat for Humanity home on Saturday May 9.

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 tomorrow, April 27th at **3pm** 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. 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 *Rea & Kevin Maynard* in honor of *Kaitlind Ellerik's birthday*  
and in memory of *Linda Sharp Hance*.

### Wednesday Night Supper

#### WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

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

**May 6:** Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and cheesecake

**May 13:** Hamburger steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots,  
and chocolate pudding pie

Reservations are required by phone/email: [jwindham@stjaiken.org](mailto:jwindham@stjaiken.org) by **12pm, Tuesday, April 28, 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](http://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:*

**Brett & Riley Bucklin** on the death of Riley's father, **Darrell Cain**, who died April 20, 2026, in Walnut Cove, NC.

### 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, however, 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](mailto: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 "Saving Private Ryan." Set during World War II, Saving Private Ryan follows Captain John Miller and his squad as they venture behind enemy lines in Normandy to rescue Private James Francis Ryan, whose three brothers have already been killed in action.

### ACTS Monthly Collection Item

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

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

#### Attendance — 4/19/2026

8:30 | 106      9:02 | 199      11:00 | 256

In-Person Total | 561

9:02 Online Live | 171      11:00 Online Live | 153

### Financials

#### Operation Budget as of 4/22/2026

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	\$1,000,166.75
Year to date ministry expenditures:	\$ 576,366.61
	\$ 423,800.14

#### Missions Budget: Year 2026 - 2027

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$178,353.09
Year to date disbursements:	\$ 55,500.00

*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



**It's  Kairo's cookie time!**


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

**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 Cutting Club for an evening filled with excitement and camaraderie from 5-7pm on May 2nd.

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

**GIVE BLOOD Save Lives**

 St. John's, Please Help!

**Sunday, May 3**  
**8am-12pm**  
**Ward Hall 2/3**

*Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry*

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SPACE STILL AVAILABLE**

**REGISTER TODAY**



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

Houndslake Country Club  
 901 Houndslake Dr, Aiken



**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**  
 104 Newberry St NW  
 Aiken, SC  
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**Grace Kitchen**

*April*

**donation needs**

**SOCKS FOR MEN & WOMEN**



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

**APPLEFEST PREP**

PLEASE WATCH FUTURE BULLETINS FOR DATES OF COLLECTION.

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




**2026**

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







