



# ST. JOHN'S

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

*May 28, 2023*

*Pentecost*

104 NEWBERRY ST. NW  
AIKEN, SC 29801

P.O. BOX 809  
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891

[stjaiken.org](http://stjaiken.org)

## Graduate Recognition

St. John's is proud of ALL of our 2023 graduates! If you or a loved one has graduated or will graduate in the spring/summer of 2023, we would love to share the joyous news with our church family. We would like to recognize graduates with degrees of any level. Please send the name of your graduate, the date they graduate, the degree they receive, and the school they attend to Jennifer Windham at [jwindham@stjohns-umc.org](mailto:jwindham@stjohns-umc.org). Congratulations Class of 2023!

## St. John's Holy Land Trip

The 2024 St. John's Holy Land Trip is full as of Tuesday, May 23. We're sorry for those not able to make this trip, but you can call in and be on a waiting list if spaces become available. With the high interest in this, we may plan on doing this in the future with the Holy Land, Journeys of Paul, or John Wesley Methodist tours in England. You can call the church office, and we will note your interest. Thanks for your support of this great learning and fellowship experience.

## 50 Plus Activity Night Coming Soon

Mark your calendars - The Senior Adult Council is having a 50 Plus Activity Night, Wednesday, July 26th from 6pm-9pm in Ward Hall. After a barbecue dinner, play bingo, euchre, or bring your favorite board game. The Council will provide pulled pork, buns, beverages and paper products. Bring a side dish or dessert to serve 8 -10 people. To ensure there is adequate food, please call the church office 803-648-6891, by Wednesday, July 19, to make your reservation.

## Memorial Day Closure

The church office will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Please take some time during this long weekend/unofficial start to summer, to remember the countless people who fought and gave their lives in combat and to unite with their families and communities.

## Thank You for the Vases

Thank you to all that brought vases in to restock the Alter Guild supply. They are no longer in need of vases but are still recruiting a few helping hands! Please call Pat Sauls at (803)998-9105 or Leah Lewis at (803)270-4003.

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### SERVING THIS WEEK

**Worship Services** - Rev. Butch Blackwell; Lay Leader - Dennis Fish; Director of Children's Ministry and Christian Education- Heather Peacock; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Organist - David Salter; 9:02 Band Leader - Jane Timmerman; The 9:02 Band

**Crucifer** - Mary Caroline Dean **Acolytes** - Grant Kreitzer and Rebecca Kreitzer

**May 11:00 Ushers:** Missy Poe, Paula Blackmore, Donald Leader, Jean Geiger, Susie & Art Smith, Helen & Eric Randall, Penny Rue, John Schmidt, John Bradley, Connie & Mick Pisko, Alison & Roger Carpenter

**May Worship Support** - Millie Winston, Betty Holloway, Karen Blackwell, Nancy Perrine

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 28, 2023**

## **Children's Ministries**

**ALL Adult and Youth VBS Volunteer Meeting - June 4 from 4pm - 4:45pm in Ward Hall.** Station leaders, crew leaders, snacks, games, and youth volunteers we look forward to seeing you for this very important meeting. Each work area will receive important instructions, schedules, rosters, and meet the other members of your team. Please make every effort to attend. Please contact Heather Peacock if you are unable to attend this training for the makeup date.

**VBS Donation Boards:** We have donation boards set up in the Narthex and lobby of the Faith Center with items that we need to make VBS possible. Please check these boards out, grab a card or two and help support VBS!

**Lemonade Stand Kits** available in the Narthex and Faith Center lobby today. Take a kit, host a lemonade stand, raise money for our VBS Mission Partner, Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center, and pass out VBS invitations to your neighbors!

**Summer Bible Memory Challenge** for ages Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade! Hide God's Word in your heart and earn a special prize. Parents, check your email for the verses we are learning, or grab a copy from your Sunday School teacher.

**Promotion Sunday** for Children and Students will be June 11, 2023. Begin in your regular Sunday School class and receive instructions on where your new class will be. See you there!

## **Foundation Student Ministries**

*(7th-12th Grades)*

**Sunday Night Youth and Youth Choir:**

Neither Sunday Night Youth, nor Youth Choir, will be meeting tonight due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Don't forget to sign up to volunteer for VBS – June 19-22, 2023!

**Youth Bible Studies on Wednesdays from 7pm-8pm:**

Brotherhood (7th-12th grade boys) in the gym

CORE (7th-8th grade girls) in the Faith Center

Dwell (9th-12th grade girls) in Bekah & Amy's office

## **St. John's Missions News**

Stand at the Crossroads Ministry is in need of more housing for their ladies with children. Pray for God's provision and guidance as they are in the planning stages of building another duplex or triplex. Also, praise God for the lives and families being transformed through this ministry.

For the month of June, we are collecting deodorant. Please place any donated items in the box marked "Grace Kitchen" in the Narthex of each worship service. Please place only the requested donation items in the Grace Kitchen boxes as these are the current items needed.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of *Wade Jones* by *Gayle Jones*.**

### **Wednesday Night Supper/Ministry Meals**

Wednesday Night Supper and Ministry meals have stopped for the summer break. We will resume on Wednesday, August 2, 2023.

### **Dr. Tim's Bible Study**

Dr. Tim's Bible Study on "God's Deliverance" wrapped up by reaching the end of the Book of Numbers last week. It will now be on break until Wednesday, August 2, when it will resume with the Book of Deuteronomy, 10am-11:30 am.

### **News of the Family**

#### ***Congratulations to:***

***Kevin & Karen Buchanan***, whose son, ***Connor W. Buchanan***, graduated Clemson University on May 12, 2023 with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. Connor is also grandson of ***Gayle Jones***.

***Royal & Becky Robbins***, whose granddaughter, ***Ashlyn Frick***, graduated *summa cum laude* from Wofford University with Bachelors Degree in Science on May 21, 2023.

### **ACTS Monthly Collection Item**

June — **Macaroni and Cheese**

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

### **Attendance — 5/21/2023**

8:30 | 199    9:02 | 212    11:00 | 253

In-Person Total 564

9:02 Online Live | 348    11:00 Online Live | NA

### **Financials**

#### **Operations Budget as of 5/24/2023**

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

\$884,342.21

Year to date ministry expenditures:

\$905,627.09

**\$ 21,284.88**

#### **Missions Budget: Year 2023-2024**

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

\$ 88,071.31

Year to date Missions Disbursements:

\$ 73,900.00

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

## Discernment Period Town Hall Meeting Time Change

The Discernment Committee has changed the time for the Town Hall Meeting on May 31. Since WNS has stopped for the summer, the **May 31** meeting will be held at **6pm** in the Faith Center. This is the second open forum with the intent to allow anyone within St. John's who wishes to speak regarding the upcoming vote.

Additionally, you are encouraged to continue with the "40 Day Prayer Guide" that started Friday, May 19, 2023. This and additional discernment process information can be found on St. John's website: <https://stjaiken.org/discernment>.

This QR code links to a frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding the separation.





## 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	<i>Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire (Veni Creator Spiritus)</i>	L. Smith
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Dennis Fish
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me</i>	J. Meyer
*OPENING HYMN	No. 547, "O Church of God, United"	ELLACOMBE
SCRIPTURE READING	ACTS 2:1-21	Rev. Butch Blackwell
SERMON	"The Unlimited Imagination of God"	Rev. Butch Blackwell
*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. 70** MEINEKE  
*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** *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit* arr. William L. Dawson

**\*DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, No. 95** 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, 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.*

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION** No. 548, "In Christ There Is No East or West" McKEE

### \*BENEDICTION

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

**POSTLUDE** *Postlude on HYFRYDOL* J. Payne

*\*Please stand, as able.*

*This is a time of great need, and our missions and church operations require our continued generous giving. Please consider giving online, through text, through the mail, or over the phone to help us ensure that our ministries here and around the world are not adversely affected. More details can be found at [stjaiken.org](http://stjaiken.org).*



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### PRELUDE

**PRAISE SONG**                      **Nothing But the Power In the Blood**                      *Lowery & Jones*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      **Heather Peacock**

**PRAISE SONG**                      **Soul On Fire**                      *Third Day*

**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**                      **Coming Home**                      *Cochren & Co*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**                      **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      **ACTS 2:1-21**

**SERMON**                      **"The Unlimited Imagination of God"**                      **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

**CHILDREN'S DISMISSAL** (Kindergarten thru 6th grade dismiss for Sunday School)

**PRAISE SONG**                      **Where the Spirit of the Lord Is there Is Freedom**                      *Bethel*

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING FORTH SONG

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**CHILDREN'S SERMON** Rev. Butch Blackwell

*Children K3-2nd 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.*

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