ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

November 29, 2026

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

Love Gift for Rev. Butch

The Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC) wishes to extend our most heartfelt gratitude for Reverend Butch's faithful service to St. John's and its members. Through his bible studies, pastoral care, compassion, and countless acts of service, Rev. Butch has touched the lives of so many of our members and has strengthened St. John's church family. We pray that God will continue to bless Rev. Butch, Karen and their family.

Rev. Butch's last day of employment as our Nurture Pastor will be on December 31, 2026. For those of our church family who wish to show their gratitude for Rev. Butch's service and dedication, St. John's will be setting up a "Love Gift." Brad Boni, Esq., has agreed to will collect your non-tax-deductible love gift and make the presentation on your behalf. If you would like to contribute to this love gift, please make your checks out to the ***"Rev. Butch Blackwell Gift Fund"*** and mail directly to **Bradley L. Boni, PO BOX 652, Aiken, SC 29802**. Thank you for your generosity.

Following Rev. Butch's retirement announcement at the September 13 Sunday services, the SPRC held our first Nurture Pastor candidate search meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026. As we continue this search process, we would appreciate your prayers and support as we look for God's guidance in finding the best candidate for St. John's. SPRC will periodically keep the St John's church family updated during our search.

Help to Make a Family's Christmas Merry and Bright

You are invited to participate in our church-wide mission project on December 5 with the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Join the fun as you are given a child's "wish" card and a shopping cart to go through the well-organized warehouse and fulfill their wishes. To volunteer, contact Lynda Platt at lyndaplatt714@gmail.com. The warehouse is located at 240 University Parkway, and the shift times are 10am-12pm, 1pm-3pm, 6pm-8pm, but times are flexible to fit your schedule. You can also register online through this link - https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/60B0C48ACA72BA0FE3-67255712-aiken?useFullSite=false. Over the last few years, we have noticed that there are plenty of toys donated but a shortage of clothing. If you would like to donate clothing, contact Lynda Platt for guidance on sizes. Please consider making time to join the fun and serve our community.

Save Some Space on Your Christmas Shopping List!

St. John's Methodist Women have been preparing a few more of those beautiful baskets normally seen at Silent Auction and will be offering them for sale during all three services on Sunday December 13th. **Supplies are limited – first come – first served.** This is a great opportunity to score some great deals for those on your list. A table will be set up across from Ward Hall, next to Coffee House, for you to browse and buy. Come enjoy the beautiful Christmas music that morning (at all 3 services) and then drop by the basket table. All monies from the sale will go to support Methodist Women missions.

Santa Carving Class

Are You Interested in making your own ornament? Tommy Harman has offered to host a FREE class to carve and paint your own wooden Santa ornament. All tools and supplies will be provided. This class is open to adults and teens 14-18 (must be accompanied by an adult). Please call the Church Office if you would be interested – the class will be scheduled within the first part of December once we have enough interest.

Worship Services: Rev. Dr. Josh Duckworth, 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: Palmer Gregory **Acolytes:** Joel Nichols and Teddy Nichols

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

November Ushers: Mitch Rivers, Mary Ann Findley, Donald Leader, Sara Carmichael, Doug Carmichael, Jean Geiger, Joe Spencer, Paula Blackmore, Penny Rue, David Jameson, and Missy Poe

November Worship Support: Christy Kisner, Nita Bell, Libby Taylor, Peg Robinson, and 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 WKSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.

November 29, 2026

Children's Ministries

Sunday School (children 4K-5th grade): Upstairs in the Education building. Sign-in and pick-up by the boat!

Wednesday Children's Music: 1st & 2nd graders will practice chimes from 5pm-5:30pm and then choir from 5:30pm-6pm. The 3rd-5th graders will have choir from 5pm-5:30pm and then they will practice handbells from 5:30pm-6pm.

Wednesday night lessons for grades 1st- 5th begin at 6:30pm, followed by a little gym time before parents pick up at 7:30pm.

Nativity skit practice will be held in the Faith Center immediately following the Children's Sermon at the 11am service.

Register today for the December 9th Churchwide Gingerbread event following WNS! https://bit.ly/4l2kRTm

Foundation Youth Ministries

(6th-12th Grades)

- Get ready for the Christmas Open as we turn the gym into an 18-hole mini golf course! Contact Brett Bucklin for more information, to RSVP, and/or to help decorate a hole!
- Youth Bible Study is in room 212/213 at 10 AM with the Gospel through *The Lion King.*
- Sunday Night Youth tonight! 5pm drop-off in the gym and pick-up at 7pm from Ward Hall.
- Tuesday Prayer Breakfast meets at Dunkin Donuts on Whiskey at 7:15am
- We are putting our Wednesday Night Small Groups on pause for the holidays so that you can enjoy time with family. Stay tuned for future updates.

Young Adults Ministry

Mark your calendars for the Young Adults Christmas Party Dec. 13 at the Snipes' home, following the Christmas Open.

St. John's Missions News

Please join us today, Nov. 29 at 10am in the Faith Center for Missions on the 5th, featuring Capt. Michael Good from the Salvation Army.

For the month of November, we are collecting blankets and sleeping bags. Please place any donated, freshly cleaned 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.

Christmas Cards for Veterans

It's not too early to start writing those cards. Please write the same heartfelt 'thank you' message in each card and bundle them in packages of 10. Do not seal the envelopes as this helps in sorting them for distribution. Collection boxes will be placed in the Narthex, outside Ward Hall and in the Faith Center. Thank you for taking time to remember those who are alone during our most joyful Christmas celebration.

St. John's Advent Devotional

We are happy to share a St. John's Advent Devotional, written by members here at St. John's! These will be emailed to the church family each morning from November 29 through December 25 – please note the sender will be Cara Robinson. There are a limited number (first-come-first-served) of printed booklets available in the church office if you would like a printed version.

Coming to St. John's in 2027

- Wesley Bible Studies – small group (12-15 people) studies on the book of Matthew (13 lessons).
- D-Groups – small group (4-5 people, same gender) who read the New Testament together, journal, and memorize verses (1 year commitment).

Stay tuned for more information and sign-ups in January! Space will be limited. To ensure a place for everyone interested, we'd love to have more facilitators. If you have completed a year of D-Group and are willing to facilitate a new group, or if you'd like to facilitate a small group study on Matthew, please reach out to Cara Robinson at crobinson@stjaiken.org.

The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by *Frank & Dorothy Heckendorn* in loving memory of *Judy McMillan.*

Wednesday Night Supper

Dec. 2: Bacon wrapped chicken, mashed potatoes, roasted broccoli, roll and cherry dump cake - In Ward Hall with Christmas Trivia

Dec. 9: Ravioli and meatballs, salad, garlic bread and gingerbread cookies – serving in the gym, along with the Gingerbread Nativity Activity

***WNS and Ministry Meals will break for the holidays and resume on January 13, 2027.**

Dinner is served at 5pm in Ward Hall 2/3 (unless otherwise posted). **Meal rates are: $10 per adult, $4 per child (over 3yrs) with a family cap of $28.** Payment options: On-line via our website: www.stjaiken.org and select "GIVE NOW" and then select "WNS." Payment on-line does not guarantee that your reservation has been made. You must still call in your reservation for WNS. You may also pay in person by cash or check made payable to: St. John's.

Poinsettias Sales Start Today

Poinsettia Orders will be taken today, November 29 and December 6 before and after each of the three services. We have 60 plants available for purchase "in memory" or "in honor" of someone. The cost for each poinsettia will be $25.

News of the Family

Sympathies to:

In Memoriam
Ms. Henriann Goddard
November 19, 2026

Church Directory

We have a good supply of directories still available. If you are interested in one, they may be picked up in the narthex, the Faith Center lobby or the reception desk LAST CHANCE to have your information included in the upcoming supplemental sheet to be distributed in December. If your contact information is not in the new directory or if it is incorrect, please contact Susan McDonald at smcdonald@stjaiken.org..

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

November — Canned beans

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 11/22/2026

8:30 | 95 9:02 | 177 11:00 | 280

In-Person Total | 552

9:02 Online Live | 193 11:00 Online Live | 117

2027 Offering Envelopes

The 2027 Offering Envelopes are now available for pick-up. They are located on the tables just outside of Ward Hall.

Financials

Operation Budget as of 11/23/2026

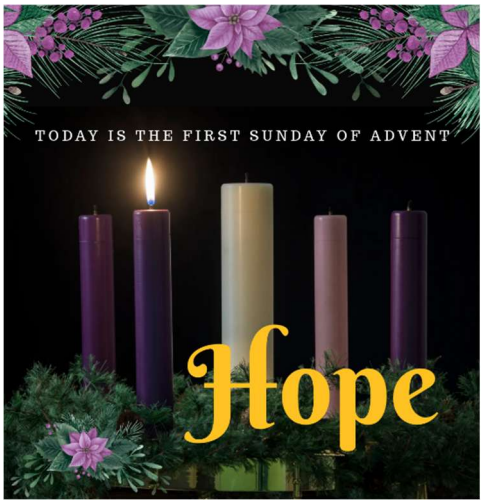
Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	$2,459,275.13
Year to date ministry expenditures:	$2,027,946.60
	$ 431,328.53

Missions Budget: Year 2026 - 2027

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	$300,456.38
Year-to-date disbursements:	$285,838.50

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

Please use our 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, Montogomery Scott LLC, Aiken office at 803-649-6304 per the church's local brokerage account. We ask that transfer instruction be in process on or before 12/20/2026.
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 necessary.

Both options can provide advantageous tax benefits to individuals and couples. Please consult your own personal tax advisor if appropriate.

ST. JOHN'S

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 **Wauchet Auf** JS Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*** Michael Praetorius
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 211, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **GEN Dennis & Lois Kenneally**

***SCRIPTURE READING** **Mark 13:24-37** **Rev. Josh Duckworth**

SERMON **"Watch!"** **Rev. Josh Duckworth**

***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 No. 4, "And the glory of the Lord," *Messiah* George Frideric Handel
Chancel Choir

***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, 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. 213, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"** TRURO

***BENEDICTION**

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

POSTLUDE **Angels We Have Heard on High** Albrecht

***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. 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 **We Need Emmanuel** Heath

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **The Kring Family**

PRAISE SONG **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** Wesley/Robinson

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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 **The King Is Coming** Red Rocks Worship

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***SCRIPTURE READING** **Mark 13:24-37** **Rev. Josh Duckworth**

SERMON **"Watch!"** **Rev. Josh Duckworth**

PRAISE SONG **Soon, Very Soon** Crouch

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG

***Please stand, as able.**

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