



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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AIKEN, SC 29801

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

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www.stjaiken.org

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.

Epworth Mother’s Day Offering

Next Sunday, May 10, is Mother’s Day and also when we do our annual Epworth Mother’s Day Offering. Please consider making a special offering for Epworth Children’s Home. Look for the pink envelopes in the pews next Sunday. Thank you for your support in this worthy cause.

Sunny Monday

Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on Monday, May 11, at 10:30am in the Faith Center. This month’s program will feature Kendal Buchanan, sharing information about “Family Promise of Aiken County.” Lunch will be available per reservation, at \$5 per plate with the menu of chicken pot pie, salad, and apple pie with ice cream. Please call the church office at 803-648-6891 by 12 noon on May 7 to make your lunch reservation.

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 on May 17 at 10am in Ward Hall 1.

Demolition of the Annex Building

Demolition of the Annex Building is scheduled to begin May 18. The first stage of this project will have just the building and immediate parking area fenced off as they remove the asbestos. Then, 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.

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: Mary Davisson **Acolytes:** Jack Taylor and Ethan Wood

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, Peggy Stover, Betty Holloway

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.

May 3, 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.

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.

May 3: Regular SNY

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

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:

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

June 23: Serving Salkehatchie Supper & Bowling

St. John's Missions News

Following 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 **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 meets on Tuesday, at 6pm in the Faith Center. This week's movie will be "The Patriot." In 1776 South Carolina, widower and legendary war hero Benjamin Martin (Mel Gibson) finds himself thrust into the midst of the American Revolutionary War as he helplessly watches his family torn apart by the savage forces of the British Redcoats.

St. John's Methodist Men

Please find the insert titled Methodist Men's Ministry Survey in today's bulletin. We ask that each man please fill it out and return it to one of the baskets following the service today. It is our desire to build a Men's Fellowship for St. John's that encourages men's spiritual growth by helping meet those needs. We cannot do this without knowing your wishes and desires. Thank you for participating in this survey.

The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *Barry & Paula Clayton* in memory of *William & Nell Berrie*,
and by *Tom & Diane Miniard* in memory of *Jake Miniard*.

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

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

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

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

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by **12pm, Tuesday, May 5, 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:

John & Frances Osteen on the birth of their newest grandchild, **Bennett Thomas Parker**, born April 22, 2026 in Columbia, SC. Proud parents are Karyn & Ben Parker and proud siblings are Henry and Kit.

New Photo Directory

During the next 4 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, with any changes to address, phone numbers, or email addresses so this will be updated accordingly for the new directory.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

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

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 4/26/2026

8:30 | 137 9:02 | 271 11:00 | 357

In-Person Total | 765

9:02 Online Live | 171 11:00 Online Live | 160

Financials

Operation Budget as of 4/29/2026

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

\$1,003,528.42

Year to date ministry expenditures:

\$ 619,970.58

\$ 383,557.84

Missions Budget: Year 2026 - 2027

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

\$178,535.69

Year to date disbursements:

\$ 74,800.00

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

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



Healing Service



SUNDAY
10:00 AM
CHAPEL




ST. JOHN'S

GIVE BLOOD Save Lives

St. John's,
Please Help!

TODAY
May 3
8am-12pm
Ward Hall 2/3



Epworth
Serving Children & Families

Mother's Day Offering

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

WE WILL BE TAKING UP OUR
ANNUAL EPWORTH
MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING.
LOOK FOR THE PINK ENVELOPES.



Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry

ST. JOHN'S **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

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

**open to
ALL CHILDREN
RISING 4K -
6 GRADE**

**RAINFORREST
FALLS**

Exploring the Nature of God

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




Grace Kitchen

May

donation needs

DEODORANT



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**



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

PRELUDE **How Great Thou Art** arr. Thallander

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP **Crown Him with Many Crowns** George J. Elvey
Chancel Choir

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

***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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM **Power in the Blood** arr. Daniel J. Van Gelderen
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 **Exodus 12:23** **Rev. Will Altman**

SERMON **"Covered by the Blood of the Lamb"** **Rev. Will Altman**

***HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 357, "Just as I am Without One Plea"** WOODWORTH

*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE **Diademata** Traditional

**Please stand, as able.*