



A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

July 5, 2026
Patriotic Worship Service

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

Church Office Closure

Please note that the church office will be closed Monday, July 6, 2026. We will reopen at 8:30am on Tuesday, July 7, 2026.

Charge Conference/Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6pm, we will hold our quarterly Church Council Meeting in the Faith Center. At this time, we will also hold a special Charge Conference to vote on updating our Endowment Policies.

Church Council Meeting

We are opening nominations for various church committees. If you are interested in serving on one of the various committees within Church Council, please email your interest to Rev. Butch at gblackwell@stjaiken.org. Please let your committee chair member know of your desire to remain on or rotate off. Committee Chairs, please let us know of your rosters before August 1, 2026.

Support for Venezuela Earthquake

Many of you have asked how we can help those that have lost loved ones, homes, jobs, and truly much of their lives that was destroyed by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. We at St. John's Methodist Church are responding by supporting the efforts of Samaritan's Purse (Billy Graham Ministry), who are sending Disaster Response teams to minister to the needs of the people of Venezuela. We ask that you please continue to pray for the people of Venezuela, especially around hard-hit Caracas and La Guaira. If you would like to support the efforts of Samaritan's Purse as they minister to the people of Venezuela, you may write a check to St. John's Methodist Church and in the "for" section of the check, please note that it is for Venezuela Earthquake. For more information about what Samaritan's Purse is doing in Venezuela: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/article/samaritans-purse-responding-to-venezuela-quakes/>

Upcoming Dementia Support

Caring for someone with memory loss can be stressful, often an isolating experience, but talking with others who are going through the same thing can help. We will begin an 8-week program for all that care for those with Dementia. Rev. Butch will lead a discussion on various topics from a basic understanding of Dementia to resources available within our community, to Biblical support and prayers for caregivers. We will meet on Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 4pm, upstairs in the Faith Center. If you have questions or wish to know more about our program, please contact Reverend Butch in the church office.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Today's Patriotic Service is coordinated by Brigadier General John W. Geiger, Joint Services Detachment, South Carolina Military Department. Thank you to the Chancel Choir and Brandywine Brass for participating in worship this morning.

Worship Service: Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Will Altman; Director of Traditional Music - Dr. Matt Caine; Organist - Christopher Nash

Crucifer: Finn Mole **Acolytes:** James Rittgers and Thomas Rittgers

July Ushers: Missy Poe, Donald Leader, Newkirk Barnes, Mick & Connie Pisko, Jeff Wallace, Kevin & Rea Maynard, Commie Peebles, Nola & Allen Radcliffe, Bill Hillan, Sara & Doug Carmichael

July Worship Support: Bessie Boyette, Lynn Martin, Jean Quinn, Commie Peebles

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.

July 5, 2026

Children's Ministries

Save the Date for our annual Children's Ministry Parent Meeting. This meeting will be held July 26 during the Sunday School hour (10am) in Ward Hall 2/3. The yearly event calendars will be available as well as other important information. We'll see you then!

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Due to the 4th of July weekend, we will not hold Sunday School or SNY today. Please join us next week as we continue the Gospel Through Movies Bible Study for Sunday School.

UPCOMING: Wed., July 8th we'll go bowling at Park Avenue Lanes, 6-8 pm

Sunday, July 12th, is Messier Night, 5-7 pm

Wed., July 15th will be Game Night in the Faith Center, 6-8pm

St. John's Missions News

Interested in learning more about our International Mission partners? Volunteer to be on the planning team for the February 2027 Mission Impact Celebration. Contact Renee Reid at 803-215-8940 or Don Hayes at 803-761-3533.

For the month of July, we are collecting **toothbrushes and toothpaste**. 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.

Sunny Monday

Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on July 13, 2026. This month's program will feature Shaneka Brown as she shares "Myths of Dementia." The program begins at 10:30am in the Faith Center. Lunch of beef stroganoff, salad, roll and peach crumble, at \$5 per plate, will be served at 12pm, following the program. Please call the church office: 803-648-6891, to make your reservations by 3pm, Thursday, July 10.

Senior Adult Council: 50+ Activity Night

Mark your calendars for a night of Fun, Fellowship and Food. The Senior Adult Council invites you to our 50+ Activity Night Wednesday, July 22 at 6pm in Ward Hall. Bring a salad or dessert serving 6-8 people to share. The Council will provide iced tea, lemonade and water. After dinner, we will again play Bingo where laughter reigns. Who knows, you may even win a prize that you'll treasure forever. To ensure adequate seating, please call the church office by Monday, July 20th to make your reservation.

Thank You from Salkehatchie

Thank you to everyone who donated water, drinks, snacks, homemade cookies, brownies, desserts, and meals to the campers of the Sand River Salkehatchie camp this past week. If you gave your time in the kitchen or donated other items to the recipient families it was all appreciated! We have such a giving church!

Upcoming Grief Support

St. John's offers a Grief Care Group that serves as a means of self-care and shared community for those in grief. It is designed to be a series of twelve sessions, where you will listen, share, and gain important tools to use in navigating your unique grief experience. We will begin a new 12-week session starting July 22, at 3:45pm in the Faith Center. If you are on a journey of grief and would like to attend or know someone who would like to attend, please contact Rev. Butch at the church office.

**The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God
by *John & Kim Rush* in loving honor and memory
of *all who currently serve and*
*those who have served in our US Military.***

Wednesday Night Supper/Ministry Meals

Wednesday Night Supper and Ministry meals have stopped for the summer break. We will resume on Wednesday, August 19, 2026.

Name Badges

If you have requested a new name badge, you can find your new badge on the table in the Narthex today. After this Sunday, they will be available on the ribbon on the wall near the clock, just across from the reception desk.

Best of Aiken

Once again, St. John's has been nominated as Best Place to Worship in Aiken as part of the Aiken Standard's Best of Aiken. You can vote daily now through July 7th for St. John's with the following link: bit.ly/4xgOAff

News of the Family

Our Sympathies to:

Tommy & Beth Harman on the death of Beth's sister, **Connie Santee**, who died June 25, 2026 in Aiken, SC.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

July — Canned Complete Meals (chunky soup/stew/ravioli/etc.)

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 6/28/2026

8:30 | 97 9:02 | 185 11:00 | 225

In-Person Total 507

9:02 Online Live | 224 11:00 Online Live | 202

Financials

Operations Budget as of 7/01/2026

Year to date offerings given for what God	\$1,508,122.37
is asking us to do:	<u>\$ 975,498.74</u>
Year to date ministry expenditures:	\$ 532,623.63

Missions Budget: Year 2026-2027

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$221,661.15
Year to date Missions Disbursements:	\$123,265.82

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

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





Order of Worship - 10:00 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 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

American Patrol
A Sousa Collection

arr. Don Meachem
arr. Howard Cable

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth. Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed the responsibility and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and people may work together. Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth. We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.
(Andy Langford, USA, 20th Century, Book of Worship)

*PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN & STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA FLAGS

*UNITED STATES NATIONAL ANTHEM "The Star Spangled Banner"

ANTHEM

ARMED FORCES SALUTE

arr. Michael Brown
and SFC Greg Hammond

You are invited to stand when you hear the anthem of your branch of service.

US COAST GUARD
US SPACE FORCE
US AIR FORCE
US NAVY
US MARINES
US ARMY

"Semper Paratus"
"Semper Supra"
"The US Air Force"
"Anchors Aweigh"
"The Marines' Hymn"
"The Army Goes Rolling Along"

*PRESENTATION OF THE POW / MIA FLAG

Taps

*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

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

"Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" from *Miss Liberty*

Irving Berlin,
arr. Roy Ringwald
OLD 100TH

*DEDICATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND 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.

ANTHEM

The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson,
arr. Matt Chaine

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

SERMON

"What We Can do for America"

Rev. Butch Blackwell

*CLOSING HYMN, NO. 519

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

LIFT EVERY VOICE

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

This is My Song

Jean Sibelius

POSTLUDE

The Stars and Stripes Forever

John Philip Sousa

*Please stand, as able.