



ST. JOHN'S

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

STREET ADDRESS
104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

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

803-648-6891
www.stjaiken.org

Friendship SS Class Soup Luncheon

Please join us for a cup of soup today, Sunday, February 22. Friendship Sunday School Class will have a variety of soups for purchase in Ward Hall from 10am-1pm. If you cannot stay and enjoy in Ward Hall, you can always grab a cup to go! All proceeds will go to Honduras Agape Foundation and Local Missions.

Bible Study for Lent

Beginning March 4, 2026, Rev. Butch will lead a 5-week Bible Study of the I Am Statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. We will be making these seven transformative statements of Jesus our focus during the season of Lent. It is our prayer that during these five weeks, we will move from simply knowing about Jesus to encountering him and by God's truth, transforming the "I Am" claims into promises that empower our faith and life. The sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings in the Chapel at 5:45pm, lasting one hour. This study will run from March 4 through April 1. Everyone is invited to attend.

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 Last Samurai." Set in Japan during the 1870s, Captain Nathan Algren, a respected American military officer is hired by the Emperor of Japan to train the country's first army in the art of modern warfare. As the Emperor attempts to eradicate the ancient Imperial Samurai warriors in preparation for more Westernized and trade-friendly government policies, Algren finds himself unexpectedly impressed and influenced by his encounters with the Japanese warriors, placing him at the center of a struggle between two eras and two worlds, with only his own sense of honor to guide him as The Last Samurai.

Sunny Monday

Senior Adult Council will host Sunny Monday on Monday, March 9 at 10:30am in the Faith Center. This month's program will feature Tommy Harman and Friends, "Toe Tapping Dulcimer Time." Lunch will be served following the program at 12pm for \$5 per plate with the menu of: Oriental Chicken salad, roll and lemon pie. Please call the church office to make your lunch reservation: 803-648-6891 by 12pm, Thursday, March 5.

Vases Needed

The Altar Guild is currently asking for clean (pre-washed) vases for delivering flowers to our homebound members. Please leave in the Sacristy.

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: Emily Poole **Acolytes:** Matthew Poole and Cate Rodgers

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

February 11:00 Ushers: Virgil Sauls, Pat Sauls, Donald Leader, Sally Alexander, Rod Alexander, Connie Pisko, Mick Pisko, Jean Geiger

February Worship Support: Pat Sauls and Claudette Strickland

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.

February 22, 2026

Children's Ministries

Sunday School: Upstairs in the Education building. Sign-in by the boat!

March 7: Father Daughter Dance - See graphic to register

March 13: Mother Son Golf Outing at Top Golf in Augusta, GA from 6pm - 8pm, Sign up by March 6. - See graphic to register

Save the Date:

April 4: Easter Egg Hunt

April 5: Easter Party during Sunday School

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Wednesday Small Groups: Girls at 6:30pm (Upstairs in the Faith Center), Guys at 7pm (Upstairs Game Room)

Feb. 22: Sunday Night Youth and Youth Choir/Band will meet.

May 17: Save the Date for Senior Sunday: Please use QR code for Senior Survey for Senior Times. Details can be found at:

<https://stjaiken.org/foundation-seniors>



Young Adults Ministry

Young Adults Sunday School Class takes place at 10am in Room 237. Please join us!

St. John's Missions News

ACTS distributes food to seniors in our community on the third Saturday of every month and they need drivers to make deliveries to the recipients' homes, which are located in the downtown Aiken area. Please prayerfully consider meeting this need. To learn more, please call Frances Osteen at 803-617-9771.

For the month of **February**, we are collecting **tissues and chapstick**. 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.

Nursery Substitutes Needed

The church nursery is looking for a few loving people to spend time with our little ones! We have a team in place and need to have a list of substitutes who can step in as needed on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The hours are Sunday, 8am - 12:15pm and Wednesday, 6pm - 7:30pm. Compensation is available. Please reach out to Cara Robinson if you are interested; we'd love to have you on our Nursery Team!

Churchwide Communion

We will hold Churchwide Communion on Sunday, March 15, 2026. This will be hold at all three services, as well as, Home Communion. Therefore, we will not hold Communion at the 8:30am service on March 1.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

*We still have several dates available for Altar flowers.
If you are interested in signing up for a specific date, please
contact Jennifer Windham in the main office: 803-648-6891.*

Wednesday Night Supper

WNS MENUS LOOKING FORWARD:

Feb. 25: Pulled pork, coleslaw, mac & cheese, and peach cobbler

Mar. 4: Meatloaf, roasted potatoes, green beans, & chocolate pudding pie

Reservations are required by phone/email: jwindham@stjaiken.org by **12pm, Tuesday, February 24, 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.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

February — **canned fruit**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance — 2/15/2026

8:30 | 111 9:02 | 182 11:00 | 198

In-Person Total | 491

9:02 Online Live | 181 11:00 Online Live | 178

Financials

Operation Budget as of 2/18/2026

Year to date offering given for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 510,328.26
Year to date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$ 245,236.77</u>
	\$ 265,091.49

Missions Budget: Year 2026 - 2027

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$62,520.52
Year to date disbursements:	\$18,900.00

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

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



Grace Kitchen February donation needs

TISSUE & CHAPSTICK



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

Soup's On! Today



**Friendship SS Class
Soup Luncheon**
February 22, 10am - 1pm
in Ward Hall,
TO GO containers available
Money raised benefits the Honduras Agape
Foundation & Local Missions.

SUNNY MONDAY

MARCH 9

TOMMY HARMON & FRIENDS:
"TOE TAPPING
DULCIMER TIME"

STJ CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
**MOTHER & SON
OUTING**



DETAILS:
MARCH 13TH, 2026
6-8 PM
\$15/GOLFER

<https://links.stjaiken.org/2026STJMotherSon>

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

BOWTIES & Bows Ball

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

MARCH 07 5 TO 7 PM

St. John's Methodist Church Gym

REGISTER ON REALM
\$30 PER COUPLE
EACH ADDITIONAL DAUGHTER \$5

Register today
with QR Code:



-OR-

[https:// links.stjaiken.org/2026STJFatherDaughter](https://links.stjaiken.org/2026STJFatherDaughter)

Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry

ST. JOHN'S **GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

REGISTER TODAY




MAY 15, 2026
8:00 am

Houndslake Country Club
901 Houndslake Dr, Aiken




SAVE THE DATE
5/17/26
SENIOR
SUNDAY



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 **Prelude in C minor** Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP **God of Grace and God of Glory** John Hughes
Chancel Choir

***OPENING HYMN No. 110, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** EIN FESTE BURG

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING **Philippians 4:13** Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey

SERMON **"Half-Truths: Taking the Text out of Context"** Rev. Dr. Jeff Kersey

***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"** GREATORIX
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 **Lead Me, Lord** Samuel S. Wesley
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.

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. 127, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"** CWM RHONDDA
Chancel Choir

*BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE **CWM Rhondda** Traditional

**Please stand, as able.*



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

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children K4-2nd grade may now follow the Crucifer to Children's Church.

Choir members that sang at the 8:30 service may now leave.

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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