



ST. JOHN'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

104 NEWBERRY ST. NW

AIKEN, SC 29801

P.O. BOX 809

AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891

stjaiken.org

REMINDERS FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

Financial statements through November 2021 will be mailed this week. Please look these statements over and let the Finance Office know of any corrections that need to be made. This will make the year-end statements much easier if we catch all corrections early. In order to receive a tax benefit in 2021, donations must be received by **DECEMBER 31, 2021**. If using the mail, all envelopes must be post-marked by **DECEMBER 31, 2021** to receive a tax benefit for the year.

*For those who set up donations online, please remember that we are approaching the end of the year, and you will need to set it up again for 2022 if you set the end date for December 31, 2021. IF YOU ARE STILL USING THE **REALM ONLINE** GIVING WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU PLEASE SWITCH OVER TO THE **SUBSPLASH ONLINE GIVING**. IF YOU ARE UNSURE HOW TO USE SUBSPLASH, PLEASE CALL NANCY FAIRGRIEVE. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Fairgrieve at 803-648-6891 or nfairgrieve@stjohns-umc.org.*

Applefest 2021 Results

We are so excited to report the incredible success of Applefest 2021. Thanks to the St. John's UMW, volunteers, and shoppers, this year's event raised \$33,000! Three local missions (ACTS, Children's Place, and St. John's SEED Program) will each be awarded \$11,000. Special thanks to the Applefest leaders, Audrey Osteen, Susan Mabry, & Newkirk Barnes, for all of their dedication!

Sisters Bible Study

Sisters Bible Study will begin a new Bible study on January 13, 2022, 9:30 – 11 a.m. in Ward Hall 1. We will be studying the book "Grace" by Max Lucado.

"Have you been changed by grace? Shaped by grace? Softened by grace? Snatched by the nape of your neck and shaken to your senses by grace? Grace is the voice that calls us to change and then gives us the power to pull it off. Max Lucado's Grace DVD-based study takes your small group on a journey to discover the depth of God's grace - greater than you can imagine, more than you deserve, and all that you need." There will be seven lessons. Please call Millie Winston at (770)815-7223 to sign up. You may also sign up at the reception desk at the church office.

Poinsettia Sales

Poinsettia Sales will take place today, December 12th after each service. Look for the tables in the Faith Center and inside the front doors by the church office. You will also be able to order your poinsettias online at <https://stjaiken.org/give>. Simply select the "flower" fund and put whom you are buying in honor or in memory of in the memo box of your payment. The cost is \$20 each. They will be displayed on December 19th and December 26th. They will be available for pick up after the last service on Sunday, and on Monday, December 27.

SERVING THIS WEEK

Worship Services—Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Butch Blackwell; Rev. Douglas Herlong; Music Director— Dr. Catherine Nance; Music Associate & Organist—Christopher Nash; 9:02 Band Leader, Jane Timmerman; 9:02 Band

Crucifer— Clare Carpenter **Acolytes**—Carleigh Day & Matthew Diczkowski

December 11:00 Ushers: Champ & Jeannette Bowden, Donald Leader, Paula Blackmore, Larry Burdette, Pat Piekos, Mitch Rivers, Mary Ann Findley, Jeanette Isaacson, Dave Felak, & Sinclair Short

December Worship Support—Jean Geiger, Peg Robinson, & Millie Winston

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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[This service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 p.m., one week delay.](#)

December 5, 2021

Children's Ministries

See you at The Grove tonight for our Christmas party. Dinner will be served! Bring \$2 and invite your friends!

Children's choirs will start back on January 19, 2022.

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Join us tonight for our Christmas party. We will have dinner and our annual White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$5. Also, we will be collecting *new in package* socks and underwear to donate. Meet in the Faith Center.

Youth Choir will resume in January.

Youth Bible Studies:

This Wednesday, December 15, CORE, Dwell, & Brotherhood will all meet at Hopelands Gardens at 7 p.m. to walk through the lights together! Meet at the main entrance at 135 Dupree Place!

St. John's Missions News

Christian Union Sports Club appreciates your faithful prayers and financial support! Their year is finishing well—with many kids and families coming to know Christ as Savior! They celebrated their 23rd city-wide soccer tournament with 130 teams where they all heard the message of God's love in Christ! Thank you, St. Johns! Interested in going to Medellin, Colombia in 2022? Call Renee at (803)215-8940.

*For the month of December, we are collecting **NEW Men's & Women's Underwear.** 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.***

Night of Joy

St. John's will be hosting a special Christmas Eve drive-in service at 5:00 p.m., December 24. The service will be located at the Western Carolina State Fairgrounds off of Hwy 1, down May Royal Drive and take a left at Rodgers Road. South Carolina Highway Patrol will be present for assistance. Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair and sit outside, and we will also use our FM radio transmitter for everyone who wishes to stay in their car and keep warm. You may tune to FM 90.1 while special music from members of the 9:02 Band and Chancel Choir members play and sing Christmas music. Rev. Douglas will offer a short sermon, and we will conclude with a candle lighting with 2,000 battery-operated candles that the church is providing. This is a service of hope and joy for all of Aiken in the midst of a very trying year. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you to the owners of the Western Carolina State Fairgrounds for this spectacular opportunity!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We need 5-6 adult parking attendants to make sure that people can park their cars easily for this drive-in worship service. Please call the church office at (803) 648-6891 to volunteer.

Poinsettias will be displayed on December 19th and December 26th. They will be available for pick up after the last service on Sunday, and on Monday, December 27.

Thank You from the Loughrans

Roger and Karen Loughran would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the St. John's congregation or all of the prayers and support during Karen's illness. It is greatly appreciated and has helped immensely.

Stewardship Pledges 2022

We continue to receive pledges for the 2022 Stewardship campaign. To date we have received 327 pledges totaling \$1,489,706.00. You may call or email Nancy Fairgrieve and she will fill out a pledge card for you. You may also still mail your pledge card through the post office.

Wednesday Night Supper

Menu: **Chicken Noodle Casserole, Salad, Roll, & Oreo Delight**

Reservations are required and should be made by Monday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m. Make reservations by calling the church office at (803)648-6891 or contacting Juli Davis at: jdavis@stjohns-umc.org. Cost is \$7.50 for 10 years old and older, and \$3.00 for children over the age of 3. You can pay online at stjaiken.org. Then go to "Give Now," next press the drop down button, then click on WNS. You may also pay in person. Checks are preferred. Please make checks out to St. John's. **We are in need of volunteers to help clean up on Wednesday Nights following dinner. Please contact Juli Davis to help.**

News of the Family

Welcome to our newest members:

Joel, Jean, & Jena Quinn

Our Sympathies to:

Tim & Alice Ross, Brent, Jennifer, Nancy, & Norah Ross, and Bekah & Ryan Muir on the death of Tim's sister-in-law and Brent's aunt, **Linda Ross**, who passed away on December 3 in Irmo, SC.

Ashley, Gary, Davis, Walker, & John Wesley Smith on the death of Ashley's grandmother and the boys' great-grandmother, **Ann Hanson**, who passed away on December 8, 2021 in Tallahassee, FL.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

December— Cereal

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance—12/05/2021

8:30 | 86 9:02 | 186 11:00 | 310 6:00 | 20
Total in Person | 627
9:02 Online Live | 301 11:00 Online Live | 329

Operations Budget as of 12/8/2021

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 2,035,415.96
Year to date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$ 1,851,444.47</u>
	\$ 183,971.49

Missions Budget: Year 2020/2021

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in	
Missions:	\$186,582.10
Year to date Missions Disbursements:	\$159,000.00

TODAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Joy



FOUNDATION SKI TRIP

FEBRUARY 11-13, 2022
Winterplace, West Virginia

REGISTER TODAY

FOUNDATION@STJAIKEN.ORG



★ REVOLUTION JANUARY 28-30 RETREAT



GRACE KITCHEN *Donations*

December Needs: NEW Underwear (Men & Women)

*Please place donations in boxes
marked "Grace Kitchen" in the
Narthexes of each service.*

Circle 1 Christmas Dinner Party

CIRCLE 1 WILL MEET AT MARY
LOU WALLACE'S HOUSE ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT
6:00 PM.



GETTING TO KNOW ST. JOHN'S

If you are interested in becoming a member or would like to know more about the ministry of St. John's, we invite you to attend our presentation that will be in the Faith Center following the 9:02 service today. Rev. Douglas and Juli Davis will provide attendees with information regarding our church's ministry and programs.



JOIN US FOR THE

Night of Joy

We invite all to celebrate the birth of our savior with a drive-in
Christmas Eve Worship Service at the Western Carolina State Fair
Grounds at 5:00 p.m. on December 24. Tune in to 90.1 FM to listen.



(803)648-6891 | WWW.STJAIKEN.ORG



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Order of Worship— 8:30 A.M.

The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

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 **Carol of the Bells/ God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen** *arr. Larson*
Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP **Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming** *Praetorius*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Rev. Butch Blackwell**

***OPENING HYMN NO. 221** **In the Bleak Midwinter** *Cranham*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **John & Claudette Strickland**
Hymn No. 211: Verse 3 of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

SCRIPTURE READING **Philippians 4:2-9**

SERMON **It's a Joy to Serve You** **Dr. Tim McClendon**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom shall have no end.

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.***

***GLORIA PATRI** *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 **Still, Still, Still** *arr. Hilsberg and Ingram*
Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**
(Sung to tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen") Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, on every hill and coast! Praise God above, all angels who comprise the heavenly host! Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost! O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

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. 218** **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** *Carol*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**Please stand, as able.*



Order of Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

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

Emmanuel

Tomlin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Douglas Herlong

PRAISE SONG

Thrive

Casting Crowns

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Mole Family

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel Shall Captive Ransom Israel.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

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PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

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OFFERTORY

Noel

Daigle

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:2-9

SERMON

It's a Joy to Serve You

Dr. Tim McClendon

PRAISE SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Casting Crowns

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG

Order of Worship— 11:00 AM

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OFFERTORY **Still, Still, Still** *arr. Hilsberg and Ingram*
Children K3-2nd grade may now follow the Crucifer to Children's Church in the Chapel.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**
(Sung to tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen") Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, on every hill and coast! Praise God above, all angels who comprise the heavenly host! Praise to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Ghost! O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

ANTHEM **Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes** *Larkin*

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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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