



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH

December 26, 2021

104 NEWBERRY ST. NW
AIKEN, SC 29801

P.O. BOX 809
AIKEN, SC 29802

803-648-6891
stjaiken.org

COVID Mandate Update

Bishop Jonathon Holston has provided new guidance in response to COVID and the Omicron Variant. The link to the exact statement is <https://www.umcsc.org/bestpractices/>. Although all are welcome to worship with us and have their usual meetings and classes, masks are required, and unless from the same household, please try to keep an arm's length distance from others. We hope this variant passes soon and we can return to mask-optional in weeks rather than months. This guidance is for every activity inside our facilities. We will not have in-person Wednesday Night Suppers, or Coffee House refreshments. Ministry Meals and ordering take-out meals will continue. Please know that we recognize that there are differences of opinion about the best way to respond to COVID-19. We urge patience and understanding as we continue to seek the best ways to continue to make St. John's a safe place to worship and to share the love of Christ by caring for one another.

No Vespers Service Dec. 26

We will not be holding the 6:00 p.m. Vespers Service on December 26. We hope to see you at any of our other three services: 8:30, 9:02, or 11:00! We will resume the Vespers Service on January 2, 2022.

St. John's Calendar Reservations for 2022

As we approach the end of 2021, we would like to remind all group leaders that they must re-up any and all rooms or resource reservations for 2022. Our calendar does not roll-over from year to year, so please contact Jennifer Windham in the church office at (803)648-6891 or jwindham@stjohns-umc.org to make your reservations. All room and resources will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. Please note that if your group does not have a reservation on the church calendar, you will not be permitted to use the space or resource. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Flower Calendar 2022

The Flower Calendar for 2022 is now available. There are vases available throughout the year. To donate a vase in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call Jennifer Windham in the church office at (803)648-6891. Each vase is \$40, and there are two vases available most Sundays.

Church Zoom Update

Is your Sunday School Class or Bible Study still utilizing Zoom for meetings? If so, leaders should contact Amy Jernigan at ajernigan@stjaiken.org to re-up your subscription. We will be ending our Zoom subscription in January unless groups notify Amy of their need. Our subscription can be restarted at any point in the year if it is needed again.

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— Lillian Orr **Acolytes**—Ella Jernigan & Benton Orr

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 26, 2021

Children's Ministries

Grove will not be meeting tonight. Enjoy Christmas break with your family and friends. Grove will resume Sunday, January 9. Bring your \$2 and a friend!

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

Foundation Student Ministries

(7th-12th Grades)

Sunday Night Youth will not meet tonight. Enjoy Christmas break with your family and friends. Registration is open for REVOLUTION 2022 and the Ski Trip! Sign up today to reserve your spot!

Youth Choir will resume in January.

Youth Bible Studies:

CORE, Brotherhood, and Dwell will not be meeting on Wednesday, December 29. Bible studies will resume on Wednesday, January 5. Join CORE (7th & 8th grade girls) and Dwell (9th-12th grade girls) in the upstairs Faith Center from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Brotherhood (7th-12th grade boys) will meet in the gym from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

St. John's Missions News

The images of the devastation of the tornadoes in the midwest have touched us all. Please keep these folks in your prayers. If you would like to help financially, consider a donation to United Methodist Committee on Relief. You may send your gift through St. John's: please note UMCOR Advance #901670. To give directly, go to their website <http://www.umcor.org>.

*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.***

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 postmarked 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.*

The flower arrangement behind the altar in the Sanctuary is given by **Kay & Phil Leach** in honor of *their 46th wedding anniversary*.

Poinsettia List Edit: **The Rorex Family** gave in memory of **Edward, Eleanor, & Bill Rorex**.

Poinsettias will be available for pick up after the last service today, and on **Monday, December 27 UNTIL NOON.**

Thank You from St. John's

We would like to extend a huge, heartfelt "Thank you" to all who helped make this Christmas season special. Thank you to the Choir for all of the hard work and dedication that went in to creating a spectacular Christmas Cantata. Thank you to all of the volunteers, musicians, and everyone else who gave their time and talent which enabled us to have a wonderful drive-in Christmas Eve Service. Thank you to all who worked so hard to produce the virtual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service for online viewing. Each of you is so greatly appreciated!

Wednesday Night Supper

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER! We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you again for supper on January 5th for **TO-GO MEALS ONLY**.

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

Congratulations to:

Chaplain (First Lieutenant) Travis Pearson, United States Army who was commissioned on December 16, 2021.

Collin Ray & Lauren Jackson who were married on December 18, 2021 in Moncks Corner, SC. Collin is the son of **Jeff & Margaret Ray** and the grandson of **Mary Ann Ray**.

Sydney Goodlove & Blake Richardson who were married on December 23, 2021 in Aiken, SC. Sydney is the daughter of **Deanna Smith** and the granddaughter of **Don Smith**.

ACTS Monthly Collection Item

December— **Cereal**

Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Faith Center

Attendance—12/19/2021

8:30 | 196 9:02 | 167 11:00 | 414 6:00 | 10

Total in Person | 787

9:02 Online Live | N/A 11:00 Online Live | N/A

Operations Budget as of 12/15/2021

Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do:	\$ 2,137,274.64
Year to date ministry expenditures:	<u>\$ 1,989,186.99</u>
	\$ 148,087.65

Missions Budget: Year 2020/2021

<i>Last Year Carryover</i>	\$ 25,940.99
Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions:	\$172,151.53
Year to date Missions Disbursements:	\$173,650.00

The Church Office will be closed in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays from December 24, 2021 to January 3, 2022.

NEW GRIEF SHARE SESSION

Wednesday, January 12
5:45 p.m.
Faith Center
All are invited
to join.

Please contact Rev. Butch
if you plan to attend:
(803)648-6891 ext. 214
gblackwell@stjohns-umc.org



FOUNDATION SKI TRIP

FEBRUARY 11-13, 2022
Winterplace, West Virginia

REGISTER TODAY

FOUNDATION@STJAIKEN.ORG



★ REVOLUTION JANUARY 28-30 RETREAT



Dr. Tim's Matthew Bible Study

Dr. Tim will do a study of the
Gospel of Matthew
beginning Wednesday, Jan.
12 from 10-11:30 a.m. in the
Sanctuary.



GRACE KITCHEN *Donations*

January Needs: Coats & Gloves

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

Thank You!

The Pastors and Staff would like to say
THANK YOU to everyone for the cards,
gifts, and goodies for Christmas. We
appreciate it so much and wish you a
Happy New Year!



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

CALL TO WORSHIP Love Came Down at Christmas

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Butch Blackwell

***OPENING HYMN NO. 234** O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

***SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:1-20

SERMON Good News!

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

Welcome to Our World

Rice/Goeller

Catherine Nance, Solo

***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. 246** Joy to the World

Antioch

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

**Please stand, as able.*



Order of Worship

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 **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day** *Casting Crowns*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS **Rev. Douglas Herlong**

PRAISE SONG **God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/Star of Wonder** *BL/McLachlan*

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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 **Be Born in Me** *Nordeman/Herms*

SCRIPTURE READING **Luke 2:1-20**

SERMON **Good News!** **Dr. Tim McClendon**

PRAISE SONG **Go Tell It on the Mountain** *Work/Williams*

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH SONG

Order of Worship— 11:00 AM

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Love Came Down at Christmas

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OFFERTORY

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

This Child, This King

Ray

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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