



ST. JOHN'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Loves, serves and worships with **PASSION**

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Church

104 Newberry Street, NW

Aiken, SC 29801

803-648-6891 www.stjaiken.org

December 24, 2017



Let us welcome God's bright
and shining morning star;
a child
born in a manger;
a son
sent to redeem the world,
a savior
come to renew all things.
May his light shine on you,
may his light shine in you,
may his light shine through you.
The light of God's Christmas
star be with you
in this season of new birth.

****Please note the church offices will be closed Monday, December 25.**



December 24, 2017

Wise Men Find Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

Jesus deserves our
worship.

GROVE is in recess until Jan. 7, 2018.
Children's Choirs in recess until Jan. 17.

NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH TODAY



December 24, 2017

**Sunday Night Youth &
Confirmation Classes are in recess
until January 7, 2018**

MERRY CHRISTMAS

St. John's Missions News

MISSION CHRISTMAS Pray that the people we support through our Mission Partnerships will have a joyous, Christ-filled Christmas. As we enjoy our Christmas, remember that your prayers, mission service and Faith Promise giving are making a difference here and around the world.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Dec. 24** - Worship services (9:02 & 11)
- Dec. 24** - Children's and Family Christmas Eve Service—5 pm (Faith Center)
- Dec. 24** - Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir & brass—7pm (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 24** - Candlelight Service with family choir, wind ensemble and communion—11pm (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 31** - Church-wide communion & Wesley Covenant Service
- Jan. 12** - Primetimers Travel Talk
- Jan. 26-28** - Revolution Retreat (youth)
- Jan. 27** - Saturday of Service
- Jan. 28** - MIC Sunday (one service at 10:30) with lunch following
- Mar. 2-4** - Confirmation Retreat (youth)

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

The members of St. John's 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. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to return often.

Announcements

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS ARE IN RECESS UNTIL JANUARY.

Thanks for sharing.

The ministers and staff would like to thank all of you who so generously shared Christmas treats and goodies with us. We loved every bite!

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for the outpouring of love and sympathy we received following Brandon's death. The prayers, calls, visits, cards, emails, posts on Facebook and food meant so very much to all of us. The service was beautiful beyond words and the reception remarkable. We know there were a lot of people involved to make that so and we gratefully acknowledge each one of you. We are so thankful we call St. John's our church home and all of you our family.

With love,
Terry and Susan McDonald

News of the Family

Our Congratulations to:

Don & Patricia Smith who celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on Dec. 21.

David & Mary Lou Schenken who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 27

Welcome to our new members:

Clinton, Noel & Ansley Moore
Thomas, Susie, Kai & Marin Wessel

New Young Adult small group

Sunday, January 7th at 10 am

Dr. Tim will teach the group. It will meet in **Room 121** next to the Resource Room, diagonal from the church office. Whether you're single or married, invite your friends and plan on a good place of learning and fellowship.



Thanks to your generosity, church family, we raised over \$9,000 to give to the North Katanga Annual Conference in the Congo. The clergy there will certainly have a very Merry Christmas!

Way to go, St. John's!



CHURCH HOSTS

Hosts the week of December 24, 2017

Sunday AM	Todd Campbell
EVENING	
Sunday	Matt Beckum
Monday	Jim Wert
Tuesday	Tom Brown
Wednesday	Mark Mahoney
Thursday	Marc Nadeau
Friday	Jeff Ray
Saturday	John Geiger
*Dec. 31	Bryan Staubs

Year to date tithes and offerings for what God is asking us to do: \$ 1,992,324.31
 Year to date ministry expenditures: \$ 1,769,136.18
 Year to date variance: \$ 223,188.13

We thank you for your generous support of the ministries of St. John's

2016/17 Faith Promise Carryover \$ 10,357.64
 Year to date offerings given for what God is asking us to do in Missions: \$ 149,362.81
 Year to date missions disbursements: \$ 139,515.00

We thank you for generously supporting the missions of St. John's!

Current Loan Balance \$ 563,200.00
 12/21/17 Principal Payment \$ 1,100.00
 Balance on Loan \$ **562,100.00**



December
Tuna
January
**Cereal/grits/
oatmeal**
Collection bins located in the narthex and the Faith Center.

Attendance

12/17/17

8:30 328

9:02 196

11:00 759

Total 1283

Hurry, Hurry, Yonder

Hurry, hurry yonder, star is brightly shining,

Gloria alleluia, glory hodie

Shining on the baby lying in a manger,

Shining on the child born on Christmas day.

Come and sing his glory, tell again the story.

Praise the baby Jesus, praise the tiny King.

Join in jubilation, shout your adoration

Glory alleluia, hear the angels sing.

Behold a star that lights the road to Bethlehem.

With kings and shepherds, come to the babe in the manger.

Hurry, hurry yonder, Mother, father Joseph;

Gently they attend, attend the holy Child.

Enter now the stable, shepherds and the wise men

Kneel before the child so undefiled. Come and sing his glory, tell again the story.

Praise the baby Jesus, praise the tiny King.

Join in jubilation, shout your adoration

Glory alleluia, hear the angels sing.

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
 To find the lost,
 To heal the broken,
 To feed the hungry,
 To release the prisoner,
 To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



SERVING THIS WEEK

9:02 - Dr. Tim McClendon; Worship Leader - Harry Sampson; Music - Jane Timmerman & The 9:02 Band

11:00 - Dr. Tim McClendon; Rev. Nancy Reed; Music Director - Catherine Stapleton Nance; Organist - Christopher Nash
Crucifer - Palmer Rowan; Acolytes - Ansley Brodie and Clare Carpenter
December Worship Support - Jean Geiger, Keenan Kizer and Peg Robinson

December 24—11am (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

GREETING AND WELCOME

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space and time this morning, please silence all electronic devices. The prelude is the call to silent meditation and preparation for worship.

PRELUDE **Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella** *Arr. Keith Chapman*

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 250** **Once in Royal David's City** *Irby*

CONGREGATIONAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **Neil, Genny, Matthew, Michael, Evvie & Stella Nelson**

Response is 4th stanza of #211, O Come, O Come Emmanuel

OPENING PRAYER (prayed together)

We gather in preparation, for good news is about to be proclaimed. We gather in expectation for joy is about to break forth in our midst. We gather in celebration for we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to the one incarnate for others, and yes to the wholeness of you, O Lord. In the name of your son, whose birth we soon celebrate, Amen.

ANTHEM **Hurry, Hurry, Yonder** *Wagner*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (p. 881)** **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** *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.*

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER and CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY¹ **The First Noel** *Forrest*

Please enter your name in the Friendship Pad, located near the center aisle. If you are new to St. John's, please add your contact information. Pass the pad down the row to others. When the pad reaches the end of the row, please pass it back so we may learn each other's names.

***DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS** *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!*

***HYMN OF PREPARATION NO. 229** **Infant Holy, Infant Lowly** *W. Zlobie Lezy*

***SCRIPTURE READING** **Matthew 25:31-46**

SERMON **The Fourth Wiseman** **Dr. Tim McClendon**

***HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 217** **Away in a Manger** *Away in a Manger*

*BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE **Fugue on a Popular English Carol Tune** *Jonathan Mui*

¹You may text your gift to St. John's by texting **stjaiken** to 73256 and following the instructions

***Please stand, as able.**

Texts used with this service permission granted under CCLI #2220845.

Please silence all electronic devices during the service. This service is broadcast over WKSX 92.7 at 12 pm. One week delay.

Do Not Be Afraid

Shepherds in the field Cattle on the hill
Stars up in the sky like diamonds in the night.
Then an angel appears with a voice so clear
I bring good news No need to fear
For unto you a child is born
Do not be afraid
Cause I bring good news
A Savior is born
God's gift to you
Do not be dismayed
Cause help is on the way
A Savior is born today
Do Not Be Afraid
The brilliant star shown bright to wise men in the night
They traveled far to see the long awaited King
In a manger full of hay born this Christmas Day
The name above all names let the whole world proclaim
That Christ is born
Do not be afraid
Cause I bring good news
A Savior is born
God's gift to you
Do not be dismayed
Cause help is on the way
A Savior is born today
Do Not Be Afraid
Glory to God in highest
Peace on earth peace on earth

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
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Psalm 9:02
I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praises to Your name,
O Most High.

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Gathering

Noel

L. Daigle

Greeting and Announcements

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

PJ, Kim, Parker, Eli, and Colin Burke

Song of Praise

The First Noel

D. Gilbert

Pastoral and 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.

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.

Children's Sermon

Harry Sampson

Offering*

Do Not Be Afraid

JJ Weeks

Reception of New Members

Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

The Fourth Wiseman

Dr. Tim McClendon

Closing Song

God of This City

C. Tomlin

Benediction

Sending Forth

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