

# COVID-19 ALERT

## How St. John's Staff and Leadership Are Responding

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY; THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

### Church Closure

**Effective Monday, March 16 at 4:30 p.m., St. John's United Methodist Church is closed for operations until further notice.** Our target reopen date is April 12, which is Easter Sunday. We will monitor and assess the situation, and determine what course of action best enables our continued effective ministry.

**Worship:** The decision has been made to publish a pre-recorded Worship Service to the [www.stjaiken.org](http://www.stjaiken.org) website each Sunday. We will offer a blended service of contemporary and traditional music as well as a sermon by Rev. Dr. Tim McClendon. We have decided to do this to avoid any potential contamination of our worship space. The 9:02 Band, Chancel Choir, Organ Music, and Prayers were recorded before we suspended church operations to ensure a vibrant worship experience each week.

**Giving:** Opportunities are highlighted in this document for online giving so that our ministries around the world and here are not adversely affected. This is a great time of need, and our missions and church operations require our continued generous giving.

**Cancelations:** Children's Ministries will not take place until regular operations resume. Youth Ministries will not take place until regular operations resume. SEED will not be in session until regular operations resume. All group meetings are cancelled including choirs and Grace Kitchen. Any Community Meetings, Circle Meetings, Sporting Activities, Social Activities, or related group meetings at the church are also on hiatus until regular operation resumes.

### Church Access

**We ask that NO ONE enter the building during this time.** All electronic key and code access have been temporarily suspended. If you are in possession of a physical key to the building, please refrain from accessing the church. If you have an extenuating circumstance requiring entry, please contact Dr. Tim McClendon.

All key access will be reinstated once we return to our regular operations. We have a staff member who will monitor the building during the closure to ensure the space is maintained properly.

We ask for your cooperation because we have a plan in place to disinfect the building thoroughly: once shortly following closure and once prior to opening. Your health and safety is the top priority.

### Pastoral Care

**Effective March 12,** The Pastoral Staff will not be making Hospital, Nursing Care, Rehab, or Home visits. This is not to protect us, but to prevent the spreading of germs from one room/location/person to another. We are available for any phone calls, texts, or video chats. The same visitation restrictions apply to the Shepherd of Love Ministry and Stephen Ministry.

*We will follow this protocol until further notice in order to protect the church and community. Please be in prayer for one another. This means **SOCIAL DISTANCING**, not **EMOTIONAL OR SPIRITUAL DISTANCING**. God bless each of you, Aiken, and the world.*

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- **If you do not feel well or have been sick within the last 24 hours, please consider staying home in an effort to protect those around you**
- Use your best judgement based on your personal health concerns when attending group gatherings of any type. *The Federal Government is recommending no group gatherings over 10 individuals*
- Wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds frequently throughout the day. *Try washing to a verse of Amazing Grace!*
- Use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth.
- Avoid physical contact with anyone who has been ill.
- Wear a mask **if you are sick** to prevent spread through coughing or sneezing.
- St. John's will not be serving Communion until further notice.

## **HOW TO CONTINUE GIVING**

- **Online:**
  - 1) Visit our website [www.stjaiken.org](http://www.stjaiken.org) and select "Give Now" at the top of the page.
  - 2) Follow the steps once you are redirected to the giving page. Make sure you type in "Operating Fund" for your tithe or "Faith Promise" for missions.
- **Mail:**
  - 1) Mail your tithe or Faith Promise to our P.O. Box:  
Care of Nancy Fairgrieve  
P.O. Box 809  
Aiken, SC 29802  
*Please do not send anything to our street address.*
- **Credit Card:**
  - 1) Call Nancy Fairgrieve who has the authorization to process credit cards over the phone. **ALL INFORMATION GIVEN IS CONFIDENTIAL.**
  - 2) Phone Number: (803)648-6891 ext: 217

## **HOW TO CONTACT CLERGY OR STAFF**

- **E-Mail:**
  - 1) Visit our website [www.stjaiken.org](http://www.stjaiken.org) and select "About" drop down menu at the top of the page. Click "Our Ministers" or "Our Staff"
  - 2) Each of our emails and extensions are listed by our pictures!
- **Phone:**
  - 1) Call the St. John's Main Line (803-648-6891). Follow the prompts to be redirected to the appropriate Staff Member.
  - 2) You can choose to contact us using the "Dial by First Name Directory" or by our direct extension. Your calls will be forwarded to us as we work from home. The extensions are listed on our website!

## **HOW TO PURCHASE EASTER LILIES**

*If we have not resumed our Worship Services by Easter, any lilies purchased will be donated to brighten our community!*

We will still be selling Easter Lilies in Honor of and in Memory of your loved ones. If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily, please follow the instructions below! A list of persons for whom lilies have been purchased in honor or in memory of will be published along with those donating them to this website.

- **Online:**

- 1) Visit our website [www.stjaiken.org](http://www.stjaiken.org) and select "Give Now" at the top of the page.
- 2) Follow the steps once you are redirected to the giving page. Make sure you type in "Flowers."

- **Phone:**

- 1) Call the St. John's Main Line (803-648-6891). Follow the prompts to be redirected to the appropriate Staff Member.
- 2) Speak with Nancy Fairgrieve (Ext. 217), Carolyn Wall (Ext. 201), or Becca Hartsell (Ext. 210) to place your order!

## **HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR THOSE IN AIKEN COUNTY**

Christ Central: [\(803\) 644-0705](tel:8036440705)

ACTS: [\(803\) 642-5919](tel:8036425919)

Golden Harvest Food Bank: [\(803\) 642-2912](tel:8036422912)

Aiken Area Council on Aging: [\(803\) 648-5447](tel:8036485447)

## **INFORMATIVE LINKS**

**CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

**SC DEP. OF HEALTH:** <https://www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

**UMC SC CONFERENCE:** <https://www.umc.org/en/content/coronavirus-what-to-know-how-to-help>

**RIGHT NOW MEDIA:** <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/>

***If you would like to do a personal Bible Study during this time, feel free to use Right Now Media! Call Becca Hartsell or Carolyn Wall if you would like more information!***