



**South Aiken Presbyterian Church  
1711 Whiskey Rd.  
Aiken, SC 29803**

# Welcome!

Welcome to God-Encountered worship at South Aiken Presbyterian Church! We are thankful that you have been called to worship with us this morning. We believe all people are children of God. We believe that the redeeming grace of God can transform our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe all people are loved with a love that has no end in Jesus Christ.

Today, may you encounter Jesus Christ through Spirit-inspired worship including dynamic preaching, specific prayers, and beautiful music. May the blessings of the triune God give you joy and hope that can only come from God with us. Let us worship God!

**Staff Announcement:** Scott Chappell, Pianist/Accompanist of South Aiken Presbyterian Church is stepping down after 13.5 years. We are sad to see him go, but we celebrate his playing and service to God. He has inspired us to see God through the music heard from the piano, organ, and his singing. We are grateful for Scott and his musical talents!



## Poinsettias Dedications

Scott Chappell, in memory of Thomas Chappell.

Scott Chappell, in memory of Betty Chappell & Tom Chappell.

Phillip & Becky Campbell Hare, in memory of Rev. Lee Roy Campbell.

Phillip & Becky Hare, in memory of Rev. Marion Hare.

Susan Seldon, in memory of William Allen Johnson.

Greg & Lynn Burkes, in memory of their parents, Marilyn & Bob Kierspe and Nell & Lamar Burkes.

Greg & Lynn Burkes, in honor of Alice Kierspe.

Scott Chappell, in memory of Kaylee Boden.

Elsie Worpell, in memory of Roger Worpell.

Sandy Bartlett, in memory of Ronald Bartlett.

Jackie Scherman, in memory of Jeannie, Pat, Bobby, Victoria, Sydney, Takumi, Snickers and Michael.

Kenneth & Marilyn Hoffstetter, in honor of South Aiken Presbyterian.

Charles & Heidi Abele, in honor of our grandchildren.

Alice Kierspe, in honor of my great grandchildren.

Edmund & Jane Jones, in honor of our grandchildren.

Greg & Kathy Peterson, in memory of family members.

Hank & Bonnie Hayes, in memory of our parents.

Jenny Chase, in memory of children & grandchildren.



(Please stand, if able, when indicated by an \*)

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Paul Ebel (Pulpit Assistant, PA)**

**The Chiming** (*Handbell is rung three times, for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*)

**Introit**

***“He Came Down”***

**Bell**

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

**\*Call to Worship** (*Psalm 89: 1-4*) (*Responsively*):

PA: We will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with our mouths, we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**ALL: We declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

PA: You said, “We have made a covenant with our chosen one; we have sworn to our servant David:

**ALL: ‘God will establish our descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.’ ”**

**Lighting of the First, Second, Third and Forth Advent Candle:**

**Clifford Family**

One: We light the first Advent candle acknowledging HOPE is still with us praying that nation shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.

*(Light one purple candle)*

We light the second Advent candle and commit to be a channel of PEACE in our community as we remember the scripture image of the wolf shall dwelling with the lamb, the leopard lying down with the kid, the calf with the lion, and the fatling together, and a little child leads them.

*(Light one purple candle)*

We light the third Advent candle of JOY maintaining the joy of the Lord in all circumstances as we remember the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

*(Light the pink candle)*

We light the fourth Advent candle of LOVE remembering Isaiah 7:14, “The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

*(Light the purple candle)*

**ALL: Let us walk in the love of Christ.**

**\*Hymn #119**

***“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”***

**Prayer of Confession *(Together)*:** Loving God, we confess we struggle believing what you can do in our lives. Our faith is a little beyond what we can see, but not by much. Forgive us, O God, when our doubt paralyzes us into inaction and unbelief.

*(Pause and confess your personal sin in silence to God)*

PA: Amen

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

PA: As you hear the water being poured into the font, remember Jesus Christ is the light of the World.

**The Font** *(pouring of the water)*

**\*Responsive Hymn #581**

***“Glory Be to the Father”***

**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.**

**\*Passing the Peace *(Responsively)*:**

PA: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.** *(share fist bumps, high fives, hugs, and other signs of forgiveness and peace to each other.)*

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD**

**Children’s Moment**

**Kim Goetter**

**Interim Children and Family Ministry Coordinator**

*(Children are invited to come to the stage steps for a small lesson, then walk together to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall.)*

**Anthem**

***“The Jesus Gift”***

**Martin**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lessons** *(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, NRSVUE):*

**Old Testament :**     **2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16** *(page 281 of the Old Testament in the Pew Bible)*

**New Testament:**   **Luke 1: 26-38** *(page 56 of the New Testament in the Pew Bible)*  
*(fill-in the blanks on pages 7)*

**One:** Hear what the Spirit of God says to the Church!

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**“How Can This Be?”**

**Rev. Jason Hammersley**

**\*Hymn #98**

***“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”*** *(stanzas 1-3, 6)*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *(Together):* The Brief Statement of Faith *excerpt*

**We trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. Amen.**

## **SENDING INTO THE WORLD**

**Prayer of Intercession** *(prayers for the Church, the world, the nation, the community and our loved ones)*

**Offering of Gifts** *(Usher come and receive the offering)*

**\*Doxology: Hymn #606 *“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”***

**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. Amen**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving *(with the 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen**

**\*Hymn #300**

***“We Are One In the Spirit”***

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude:**

***“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”***

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.  
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I’ll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.**

## Sermon Scripture Activity (NRSVUE):

*As the Scripture is read (Luke 1: 26-38) fill in the blank with the word(s) you hear.*

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel \_\_\_\_\_ was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a \_\_\_\_\_ engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, \_\_\_\_\_! The Lord is with you."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and \_\_\_\_\_ what sort of \_\_\_\_\_ this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be \_\_\_\_\_, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will \_\_\_\_\_ in your womb and bear a \_\_\_\_\_, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the Lord God will give to him the \_\_\_\_\_ of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be \_\_\_\_\_." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the \_\_\_\_\_ will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born<sup>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her \_\_\_\_\_ has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be \_\_\_\_\_. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord; let it be with me according to your \_\_\_\_\_." Then the angel departed from her.



## Have you misplaced an item while you were at South Aiken Presbyterian Church or the Family Life Center?

We have a beautiful floral walking cane, along with a pair of glasses in a black case, a man's blue Irish cap, women's brown gloves, a leather/metal belt, etc. Please stop by the Family Center (Room F100) to see if, what you are missing, has been found!!



## Sound Operator's Needed

We are in need of additional volunteers to serve as Sound Operators. Each new operator will be provided with training, and will serve with support until they are completely comfortable with the system. Once trained, each operator serves approximately once every 4 to 6 weeks and on special occasions.

Anyone who is interested in serving in this capacity should contact **Larry Hinson** at [shbc50@gmail.com](mailto:shbc50@gmail.com) for more info.



## Online Donations

available on our website, or by scanning this QR code with camera.



**Please Note:** *We can no longer determine who has donated stocks to the church, due to a recent change in laws. However we want to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who has made this type of contribution to SAPC. We are extremely grateful for your donation. If you would like a letter for your taxes, please notify us of your donation and we will be glad to provide it to you.*

**Has your Address Changed?** If so, we kindly ask that you provide us with your updated address and/or phone number so that we can update our Church records. Thank you



## Calling all Knitters and Crocheters!

Our prayer shawl ministry meets every second and fourth Thursday in the library at 1:30 pm. Besides shawls, we also make lap afghans, hats, baby blankets, etc.



If you don't know how to knit or crochet but want to learn, we would love to teach you. We have both knitting needles and crochet hooks donated to us as well as yarn and patterns, so just come! If you have questions, please contact Mary Bunch at [marybunch1953@gmail.com](mailto:marybunch1953@gmail.com)



**Sanctuary flowers for this Sunday's Service were given by Sue Kelly, in memory of our parents Janice and Richard Auernheimer.**

Reserve your date by visiting the new "Sanctuary Flowers" web page found under the Worship menu tab, or call the Secretary's office at 803-648-9574



## December Collection (Canned Vegetables)

ACTS collection baskets are located in the narthex by the church entrance and across from the church office. Monetary donations may be made by placing a check made out to SAPC in the offering plate and noting 'ACTS' on the memo line. Thanks for sharing with others!

## Jesus & Music (JaM)

*Coming soon to our neighborhood!*

**What is JaM?** Children's Choir for South Aiken Presbyterian Church

**Who is this for?** 4K and Older Youth

**Where will this be held?** South Aiken Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall

**When?** Sunday Mornings, 9 – 9:20 AM. After dismissal the children will go to the nursery until church. Practice will follow closely to the Aiken County Public School District Calendar.

**Why?** To share the love of music with our young people and celebrate our love of Jesus. They be learning songs, but they will also discuss what the words mean.

Children will be able to share the songs with others and with the congregation. The real heart of this choir is in the week-to-week community-building and skill development that will occur.



***Want to get the digital newsletter of announcements each week?***

Email [secretary@southaiken.org](mailto:secretary@southaiken.org) to join the Spirit Express emailing list!

***Join us in this learning opportunity....***

## **Presby Café**

Life of Joseph through the lens of Family Systems  
Theory (Genius 37)



Where?: Pastor Conference Room  
(PRC) in the  
Family Life Center

When? Each Sunday at 9:00am

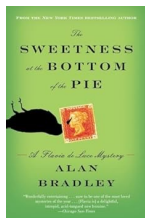
## **Pickle Ball**

SPCA now has Pickle Ball courts. To sign up for games, please use the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the hallway behind the Sanctuary.



Any questions, please  
contact Linda Blake at  
[mrhankey@gforcecable.com](mailto:mrhankey@gforcecable.com)

## **The Chapter Chat Book Club**



**“The Sweetness at the  
Bottom of the Pie”**

**By Alan Bradley**

**Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>,  
at 2 pm.**

**Meet in the Church Library**

*Call Maureen Dunn at (803) 443-8681 for more info.*

## **PRIVACY OF CONTACT INFORMATION**

If you wish for your phone number and/or address to be withheld from any printed publication which may be seen by the public, please contact Monica at [secretary@southaiken.org](mailto:secretary@southaiken.org) or (803-648-9574) to let your wishes be known.

## **Prayer Requests**

**Linda S.** (friend of Scott M.) for healing.

**Emily L.** for comfort.

**Leona F.** for comfort.

**Edmund J.** for healing.

**Ethel** (mother to Steve H.) for comfort.

**Jeff B.** (family friend to Sarah S.) for health concerns and in season of grief

**Hammersley Family** in season of grief.

**Pethick Family** in season of grief.

**Lewis Family** in season of grief.

**Edwards Family** in season of grief.

**Samuel M** (Becky H's Uncle) for health concerns.

**Pat M.** (Linda B's sister) for health concerns.

**Mike G.** (brother in-law to Steve K.) - for health concerns.

**Kari M.** for health concerns.

**Mary Louise S.** (Mary S.'s granddaughter) for health concerns.

**Leslie C.** for health concerns.

**Doug M.** (Linda B.'s nephew) for healing and comfort.

**Ray P.** (cousin of Sarah Scott) for healing and strength

**Lynn S.** - for comfort

**Scott Family** - in season of grief.

**Dot M.** - for comfort

**Gail** (friend of Kitt M.) for healing as her treatments have changed.

**Steve & Linda H.** for comfort.

**Bob A.,** for comfort and strength

**Lois V.,** sister of Lyn V., for continuing improvement.

**Peg P.** for comfort.

**Jim and Shirley S.** for comfort.

**Jayne B.** for comfort.

**Barbara K.** for healing.

**Anita & Bob P.** for comfort and discernment.

## **Homebound Members**

*Email [secretary@southaiken.org](mailto:secretary@southaiken.org) to change*

## **Volunteers Today**

**Pulpit Assistant:** - Paul Ebel

**Ushers:** Chuck Abele, Heidi Abele,  
Diane Davies, Deanna Davies

**Sound:** Steve Kuhl

**Video:** Kelly Frontroth

## **Volunteers Next Week**

**Pulpit Assistant:** Sandy Haines

**Ushers:** Greg Peterson, Kathy Peterson,  
Jim Barber, Mary Barber

**Sound:** Scott Martin

**Video:** Haley Culp



**The church email address is:**

**[secretary@southaiken.org](mailto:secretary@southaiken.org)**

## ***SAPC THIS WEEK***

### **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)**

9:00a - Apocrypha Sunday School (Library)  
9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (FLC PCR)  
9:00a - JaM (Fellowship Hall)  
10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)  
5:00p - Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)  
6:00p - Youth Group (FLC, Rm 202)

### **Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

2:00p - Pickle Ball (Gym)  
5:30p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)

### **Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

2:00p - Pickle Ball (Gym)  
4:30p - Belles Canto (Music Room)  
5:30p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)  
6:00p - Long Range Planning Team (Library)  
7:00p - Scouts Meeting (Upstairs Scouts CR)

### **Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

2:00p - Pickle Ball (Gym)  
5:30p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)  
7:00p - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

### **Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

2:00p - Pickle Ball (Gym)  
4:00p - Aiken Kinderchoir (Fellowship Hall)  
4:00p - Tall Pines (Gym)

### **Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**

2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)  
4:00p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)  
5:30p - Mighty Warriors of God (Gym)

### **Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)

### **Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Years Eve)**

9:00a - Apocrypha Sunday School (Library)  
9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (FLC PCR)  
9:00a - JaM (Fellowship Hall)  
10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)  
6:00p - Youth Group (FLC, Rm 202)

\* FLC - Family Life Center  
\*\* PCR - Pastor's Conference Room

## **CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Church Office:** 803-648-9574

**Rev. Jason Hammersley**, Pastor/Head of Staff: ext. 112

[pastor@southaiken.org](mailto:pastor@southaiken.org)

**SAPK:** 803-648-9895

**Fax:** 803-648-7972

**Web Site:** [www.southaiken.org](http://www.southaiken.org)

**Email:** [secretary@southaiken.org](mailto:secretary@southaiken.org)

Find our SAPC page on Facebook at **@SouthAikenPresChurch!**

Also with Instagram at: **southaikenpc**

## **SAPC STAFF**

### Office Staff

**Monica Grindle**, Secretary: ext. 100, [secretary@southaiken.org](mailto:secretary@southaiken.org)

**Barbara Bono**, Bookkeeper: ext. 103, [treasurer@southaiken.org](mailto:treasurer@southaiken.org)

### Music Staff

**Phillip Hare**, Director of Music, [philliphare@hotmail.com](mailto:philliphare@hotmail.com)

**Scott Chappell**, Pianist/Accompanist, [scottchappell57@icloud.com](mailto:scottchappell57@icloud.com)

### Communication Staff

**Carina McGee**, Communications Specialist, [media@southaiken.org](mailto:media@southaiken.org).

### Family and Children Staff

**Kim Goetter**, Interim Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, [families@southaiken.org](mailto:families@southaiken.org)

### Youth Staff

**Anthony Williamson**, Youth Programs Coordinator. [youth@southaiken.org](mailto:youth@southaiken.org)

### Facility Staff

**Kirk Callan**, Sexton (Custodian): [kirkcallan@gmail.com](mailto:kirkcallan@gmail.com)

### Church & School Staff

**Jennifer Huntley**, Interim Kindergarten Director:

803 648-9895: ext. 107. [sapkdirector@southaiken.org](mailto:sapkdirector@southaiken.org)

**Cissy Kelley**, Assistant Kindergarten Director/ Childcare Coordinator:

803-648-9895 ext.110, cell 803-270-5808. [sapkasst\\_director@southaiken.org](mailto:sapkasst_director@southaiken.org)