



Candle of Peace

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!

Have you Noticed the Difference? *These previously rusty vents are located under the roof overhang at the main entrance to the Sanctuary.*



Rusted



Cleaned Up



Dear SAPC family,

I hope this note finds you well during this season of peace, hope and love. As we have done in the past, we will be collecting a Love Offering to honor our wonderful church staff. If you would like to make a contribution to this offering, please do so by Sunday December 17 so we can distribute the gifts prior to the Christmas holidays.

There are several ways to do this: you may leave an envelope marked "Love Offering" in my box in the church office; you may place your gift in the offering plate clearly marked "Love Offering." If you want to write a check, please make it out to SAPC and put "Love Offering" in the For/Memo line.

Many thanks for your gift in honor of our dedicated staff who make sure our children, our buildings, our services, and our community are well taken care of throughout the year.

In Christ,
Anita Self

(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

First Sunday of Advent (Isa. 2:4) (HOPE)

Scherman Family

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations 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 the purple candle)

ALL: Let us walk in the hope in Christ.

***Call to Worship (Psalm 80: 1-3) (Responsively):**

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

ALL: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

One: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

ALL: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

***Congregational Song**

“Goodness of God”

**I love You, Lord. Oh, Your mercy never fails
Me. All my days I’ve been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, I will sing
Of the goodness of God. All My life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good. With ev’ry breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire.
In darkest night, You are close like no other.
I’ve known You as a father, I’ve known You as a friend. I have lived
In the goodness of God. All my life You have been faithful.
All my life You have been so, so good. With ev’ry breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God.**

Prayer of Confession (*Together*): Gracious God, we confess that most of the time we do not like surprises. We like predictable, timely, scheduled, and calculated things, yet you continue to give us the unexpected. Forgive us, O God, when we are not patient and able to cope with unexpected things like you would have us do through Jesus Christ.

(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 you have Jesus Christ, the Light of the World to spread through the season.

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

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

Anthem

“An Advent Credo”

Martin

Prayer for Illumination

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

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 64: 1-9** *(page 694 of the Old Testament in the Pew Bible)*

Gospel Reading: **Mark 13: 24-37** *(page 50 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

“Waiting for Christmas or Waiting for Christ ”

Rev. Jason Hammersley

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***Affirmation of Faith** *(Together):*

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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell.
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on 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 Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen

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

SEALING GOD'S WORD AND NOURISHED AT THE TABLE WITH CHRIST

***Preparation Hymn#507**

"Come to the Table of Grace" (verses 1 & 4)
Come to the table of grace. Come to the
table of grace. This is God's table; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of hope. Come to the
table of hope. This is God's table; it's
not yours or mine. Come to the table of hope.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad...who forever sing to the glory of your name: 3

Many: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup...in the holy and life-giving Spirit.
Amen

Breaking the Bread

Communion of the People (*guidance of what to say each time you give or receive the Bread or the Cup*)

Giving the Bread: The body of Christ, given for you.

Receiver: Amen.

Giving the Cup: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Receiver: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO PRACTICE FAITH AND SHARE GOOD NEWS

*Hymn #384

"Soon and Very Soon"

*Blessing and 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 (Mark 13: 24-37) fill in the blank with the word(s) you hear.

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be _____,

and the moon will _____ give its light,

²⁵ and the stars will be falling from _____,

and the _____ in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ "Then they will see 'the Son of _____ coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels and gather the^[a] elect from the four _____, from the ends of the earth to the ends of _____.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ "From the _____ tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes _____ and puts forth its leaves, you know that _____ is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^[b] is near, at the very _____. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ _____ and earth will pass away, but my words will _____ pass away.

We hope that everyone is able to enjoy the Christmas decorations, that an anonymous party has taken the time to put up throughout our church.



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



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 for more info.



Living in Faith Together (LIFT) (Women's Small Group)



Our monthly meeting time has been changed to the 3rd Monday at 6 pm.

We will be having a Christmas party on Dec. 18th at 142 Mallard Lake Dr. Bring your favorite appetizer or sweet to share. Beverages will be provided.

Now for the fun stuff, we will have a gift exchange. Be creative but stay under \$10. You can do a re-gift, shop at a second hand store or create it yourself!

To join our group on Facebook, scan this QR Code.



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.*



November Collection (Soup)

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!

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

Secret Santa of SAPC Volunteer Needs

Shopping Day - Mon. Dec. 4th,
5pm Ollie's Bargain Outlet.

Wrapping Day - Sat. Dec. 9th,
9am Fellowship Hall.

Please be on the lookout for a possible third shopping day, if needed.



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.

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 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

The Chapter Chat Book Club

Each book club member is asked to read and discuss a Christmas themed book they have read

**Thursday, December 7th,
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 or (803-648-9574) to let your wishes be known.

Serving Communion Today: Susan Selden, Paul Ebel, Michelle Green, Dianne Davies and Bill Poulson

Prayer Requests

Emily L. for recovery.

Phil L. for comfort and strength .

Leona F. for comfort.

Edmund J. for cardiac rehab.

Ethel (mother to Steve H.) for comfort & healing.

Anthony B. (Linda B's grandson) for health concerns

Jeff B. (family friend to Sarah S.) for health concerns and 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.

Mike D. (Linda B's daughter's husband) 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.

Anita & Bob P. for comfort.

Homebound Members

Email secretary@southaiken.org to change information or removal of name.

Volunteers Today

Pulpit Assistant: - Paul Ebel

Ushers: Jenny Chase, Elaine Barnes,
Cheryl MacCrum, Mary Snyder

Sound: Larry Hinson

Video: Kelly Frontroth

Volunteers Next Week

Pulpit Assistant: Sandy Haines

Ushers: Linda Blake, Amy Loftus,
Martin McCrum, Julie McCrum

Sound: Robert Glance

Video: 'Haley Culp

Upcoming Christmas Musical Events



A Winter's Day w/Aiken's Youth Choirs

- * December 9, 2023 @ 3pm
- * South Aiken Presbyterian Church

Carols By Candlelight - Aiken Choral Society

- * December 10, 2023 @ 3pm
- * Aiken's First Baptist Church

On With The Snow - Aiken Singers

- * December 14 @ 7pm
- * St. John's United Methodist Church

Cantata - SAPC Choir and Orchestra

- * December 17, 2023 @ 10am
- * South Aiken Presbyterian Church

Christmas - The South Boundary Singers

- * December 17, 2023 @ 4pm
- * First Presbyterian Church

SAPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 3rd

9:00a - Apocrypha Sunday School (Library)
9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (FLC PCR)
9:00a - JaM (Fellowship Hall)
10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:00a - Bethel Study (Library)
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
4:00p - Session Meeting
6:00p - Youth Group (FLC, Rm 202)

Monday, December 4th

9:00a - Beginner Ukulele Fellowship (Music Rm)
10:00a - Interm. Ukulele Fellowship (Music Rm)
12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
5:00p - Secret Santa Shopping
5:30p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)
6:00p - Communication Team (PCR)

Tuesday, December 5th

10:00a - The Sonshine Circle (Library)
12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
4:30p - Belles Canto (Music Room)
5:00p - Property Team Meeting (Library)
5:30p - Tall Pines Basketball (Gym)
7:00p - Scouts Meeting (Upstairs Scouts CR)

Wednesday, December 6th

12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
6:00p - Indoor Soccer (Gym)
7:00p - Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, December 7th

8:50a - SAPK Chapel (Sanctuary)
12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
2:00p - Chapter Chat Book (Library)
4:00p - Aiken Kinderchoir (Fellowship Hall)
5:30p - Tall Pines (Gym)
5:30p - Aiken Coin Club (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, December 8th

12:00p - Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
5:30p - Mighty Warriors of God (Gym)
6:00p - Secret Santa Inventory Day

Saturday, December 9th

8:00a - Secret Santa Wrapping Day (Fellow. Hall)
1:00p - Belles & Bellina Bound (Gym / Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 10th

9:00a - Apocrypha Sunday School (Library)
9:00a - Presbyterian Cafe (FLC PCR)
10:00a - Worship Service (Sanctuary)
11:00a - Bethel Study (Library)
11:00a - Secret Santa Inventory
11:00a - Mission & Membership Meeting (PCR)
12:00p - Confirmation Trip to AdasYeshurun
Synagogue in Augusta
2:00p - Pickleball (Gym)
6:00p - Youth Group (FLC, Rm 202)

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

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Also with Instagram at: **southaikenpc**

SAPC STAFF

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