South Aiken Presbyterian Church, dedicated to Jesus Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit, will deliberately foster an ***inclusive, intergenerational congregation****. We will extend* ***revolutionary, Christ-Like hospitality*** *to everyone we encounter, embrace* ***diverse styles of worship****, and utilize a* ***tech-based relational outreach****.*

South Aiken Presbyterian Church

1711 Whiskey Rd.

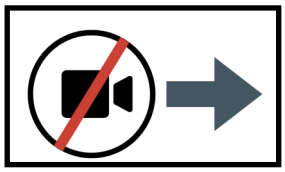
Welcome!

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!

Please Note: *God may be calling you, but probably not on your cell phone! Please turn off or silence your devices during worship. We also ask for your support in keeping the aisle open; kindly place any walkers in the pew to keep walkways clear.*

All SAPC services are recorded for release on our YouTube channel. If you do not wish to be recorded during services, please sit in the video free zones, designated by this sign. Contact media@southaiken.org for more details and to confirm your privacy request.



Welcome our Guest Minister, Richard (Duke) Dixon

Duke Dixon grew up in Macon, GA, graduated with a history degree from Valdosta State College. He earned a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL, specializing in urban ministry; and a Doctor of Ministry from Palmer Seminary just outside Philadelphia. He recently retired after 36 years of pastoral ministry. He served churches in Philadelphia, PA; Macon, GA; Easton, MD, and interim pastor in Dover, DE and Clinton, SC. He and his wife, J. Lynne recently moved to Columbia to be near their daughter and son-in-law. They also have a son who lives in Salisbury, MD. They now live in Columbia, SC and are settling into retirement.

Pastor Jason will be on vacation from Sept. 21st through to the 27th. He will be back in his office on the 28th. Please contact Lisa Lader for any Pastoral care or emergencies.

Online Donations

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

September 27, 2026 **18th Sunday after Pentecost** **10:00 am**

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

Prelude **Olga Kuzmenkova (Accompanist)**

Welcome and Announcements **Greg Burkes (Pulpit Assistant, PA)**

The Chiming *(For God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)*

Introit ***"God Welcomes All"*** **South African Song**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship** *(John 14:1-7)(Read responsively):*

Leader: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

All: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Leader: Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

All: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Hymn #647** ***"Give Thanks" **Henry Smith**

Prayer of Confession (Together):

Leader: Even at our most faithful, we stand in need of grace. Because of God's unfailing love, mercy is promised, even before we speak the truth. In humility, with confidence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All: You are righteous, O God, and your law is truth. Yet, we struggle to be faithful and daily fail to live lives of justice and mercy. Forgive us again, O God; keep covenant with us, as you have promised, and soothe our aching souls, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

Assurance of Forgiveness *(Responsively)*:

P.A.: Our assurance of forgiveness of all our mistakes and short comings is experienced through faith in Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

ALL: In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Know we are forgiven and be at peace in our hearts, our minds, and our spirits.

P.A.: As you see and hear the water being poured into baptismal font, let us witness, to the community through the resurrected Christ in thought, words, and actions.

The Font *(pour water into the baptismal font)*

Responsive Hymn #582** ***"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Holy Interruption** (aka, 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 **Alan Miller**

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

Anthem ***"Grace Alone"*** **Arr. By James Koerts**

Prayer for Illumination

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

Old Testament Lessons: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *(pg. 537 of the Old Testament)*

New Testament: Luke 18:35-9:10 (*pg. 82 of the New Testament)*

One: Hear what the Spirit says to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon **"Hoping for a Miracle"** **Rev. Richard Dixon**

Responsive Hymn #462** ***"I Love to Tell the Story"

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

Offering of Gifts

Offertory ***"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*** **Edtsrong**

***Doxology Hymn #608:** **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**
Praise Christ all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore
Praise Triune God whom we adore. 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

SENDING INTO THE WORLD

Hymn #742** ***"We Will Walk With God"
We will walk with God, my brothers; we will walk with God.
We will with God, my sisters, we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.

***Blessings and Benediction**

Postlude Hymn #743** ***"O God, You Are My God"
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise You.
O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise You.
I will seek you in the morning, and I will
learn to walk in your ways.
And step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

Sermon Scripture Activity (NRSVUE):
As the Scripture is read (*Luke 18:35-19:10*) fill in the blank with the word(s) you hear.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar Near Jericho

35 As he approached Jericho, a _____ man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36 When he heard a
crowd going by, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth[a] is passing by." 38 Then
he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have _____ on me!" 39 Those who were in front sternly ordered him
to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 40 Jesus stood still and or-
dered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, 41 "What do you _____ me
to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." 42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your _____
has saved you." 43 Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people,
when they saw it, praised God.

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief _____
_____ and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not,
because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and _____ a sycamore tree to see him, be-
cause he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him,
"Zacchaeus, hurry and _____ _____ down, for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried
down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the
guest of one who is a _____." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my pos-
sessions, Lord, I will give to the _____, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back
four times as much." 9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today _____ has come to this house, because
he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the _____."

SAPK STAR STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Dawn Thurston

Position: Director

About: Originally from Chicago, Dawn moved here from Indiana & enjoys hiking, camping, & traveling.

Love to have: More substitutes & Aide volunteers

Cissy Kelley

Position: Assistant Director

About: Born & raised in Aiken, Cissy has worked with children since she was 11 herself!

Love to have: Unique field trip & lesson opportunities

First Monday, *Rescheduled for October. 5thj*

8:45 Coffee, 9am Lesson

Topic: "Faithfulness & Wisdom in Times of Crisis"
Ruth 1, 2: and 1 Samuel 25

Join us on Monday, October 5 at 8:45 AM in the Library for a special study exploring the lives of Ruth and Abigail. We'll look at how Ruth's quiet loyalty in times of loss and Abigail's quick diplomacy in a high-conflict crisis show us how to live with courage, practical wisdom, and trust in God today.

All are welcome—bring a friend! Coffee at 8:45 and Study at 9:00 AM

Living in Faith Together (LIFT)

(Women's Small Group)

When: Oct. 5th, at 5:30pm
Where: SAPC's Library

Angela will be leading us with a devotion and bring your own dinner

Please let Lynn know if you need childcare. To join our group on Facebook, scan this QR Code.

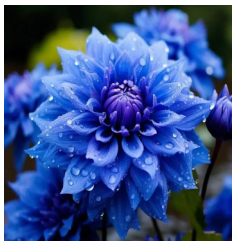
The Chapter Chat Book Club

"In Spotlight and Shadow"
by Rachel Scott McDaniel

Thursday, October 1st, at 2 pm.
Meet in the Church Library

Enjoy reading a Christian dual-timeline historical, mystery, and contemporary romance novel!

A ***BIG thank you*** to all who contributed in any way to the Family Promise rummage sale last weekend. We still have a couple of more valuable things we are trying to sell, but for now our total in sales was over $24,000. In years past our total has been between $13-15,000, so this is ***huge***. And this will be a huge help to Family Promise as we seek to relieve homelessness for families in Aiken County.



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.

Whoops…change of plans!

Communications Office Hours
by appointment only

Let's Jam
Jesus and Music
Children's hand chimes, instruments, and choir

Hand Chimes
Instruments
Singing

Sunday Mornings
8:50am Fellowship Hall

Coordination Team:
Lyn VanDervort
and
Lynn Burkes

We follow the ACPSD school calendar - when they are off on Monday, there will no practice on the prior Sunday.

KINDer Closet

We've expanded to include **children sizes 7 through 18** - if you have any items, please consider donating today!

Needs Big kid Sizes!

To All of Our Wonderful Volunteers

WANTED

Volunteer(s) for the SAPC's Property Committee Team who has talents for:

⇒ **Electrical**

⇒ **Plumbing**

⇒ **HVAC**

⇒ and **General Repairs**

for our SAPC property.

Please contact Gary Hamman via the church office

The church email address is:
secretary@southaiken.org

Prayer Requests

Anita P. & Linda M. - season of grief.
Hinson Family - season of grief.
Appigani Family - season of grief.
Kierpse Family - season of grief.
MacCrum & Tyler Family season of grief.

Lisa L. for comfort & healing.
James W. (Husband of Sara W.) for effective treatment.
Rob K. (Lynn B.'s brother) for comfort & healing.
Ed T. for comfort (hospice).
Jimmy H. for comfort.
John C. for recovery.
Jane B. for effective treatment.
Judi A. for recovery.
John P. (friend of Will & Anita Self) for healing & strength.
Crissy C. (Daughter in Law of John C.) - for health concerns.
Donna B. for healing & recovery.
Graham T. (Chery M.'s great grandson) for healing & recovery.
Jim M. (Alex M's father) for health concerns.
Gordon C. for strength
Sonni C. for stability.
Leland K. (Cissy K) for health & strength.
Michael & Jennifer H. (friend of Linda W.) for health and strength..
Carina M. for health & strength.
Nancy & Andrew G. for health & strength.
John K. (Donna B's brother) for comfort & healing.
AJ B. (Donna B's relative) for comfort and healing.
Debbie E. (niece of Linda B.) comfort and healing.
Myra & Brooke R. (friends of Jimmy B.) health concerns.
Linda S. (friend of Scott M.) healing.
Ethel (mother to Steve H.) comfort.
Pat M. (Linda B's sister) health concerns.
Leslie C. health concerns.
Doug M. (Linda B.'s nephew) healing and comfort.
Ray P. (cousin of Sarah S.) healing and strength.
Lynn S. comfort.
Dot M. for healing & comfort..
Lois V. sister of Lyn V., increased mobility

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

Volunteers This Week

Pulpit Assistant: Greg Burkes

Ushers: Bonnie Hayes, Hank Hayes, Angela Clifford, Quinn Clifford

Sound: Alex McGee

Video: Kelly Frontroth

Volunteers Next Week

Pulpit Assistant: Shirley Colburn

Ushers: Jenny Chase, Elsie Worpell, Scott Martin, Debbi Reboul;

Sound: Scott Reboul

Video: Angela Clifford

Upcoming Schedule for Sunday School

September 27th *(Books of the Bible, The Books About Jesus!)*
Teacher: Allan Miller
Assistant Teacher: Kimberly Goetter
Aide: Sandy Haines

October 4th *(Pray-Ground, No Sunday School - World Communion Sunday)*

October 11th *(Books of the Bible, History Again)*
Teacher: Kimberly Goetter
Assistant Teacher: Alan Miller
Aide: Elsie Worpell

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.

SAPC THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 27th
9:00a The Present Word Sunday School (Library)
- Presbyterian Cafe (FLC PCR) Book of Acts
10:00a Worship Service
1:00p Youth Group-Aiken Big Air Park (Aiken)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)
4:00p Session Meeting

Monday, September 28th
9:30a Music Room Reserved
12:00p Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)
6:00p Mighty Warriors Basketball Practice (Gym)

Tuesday, September 29th
12:00p Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)
7:00p Scouts Meeting (F205 in FLC)

Wednesday, September 30th
12:00p Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)
5:30p Sacraments Class (Library)
6:00p Mighty Warriors Basketball Practice (Gym)
7:00p Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)

Thursday, October 1st
12:00p Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p Chapter Chat Book Club (Library)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)
5:00p Kash Elite Basketball Practice (Gym)

Friday, October 2nd
12:00p Bible Friends (Gym)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)
6:00p October First Friday (Gym, Kitchen, Youth Room & Playground)

Saturday, October 3rd
11:30a Mighty Warriors Basketball (Gym)
2:00p Pickleball (Gym)

Sunday, October 4th
9:00a The Present Word Sunday School (Library)
- Presbyterian Cafe (FLC PCR) Book of Acts
10:00a Worship Service
1:00p Youth Group-Aiken Big Air Park (Aiken)
2:00p Pickleball
6:00p Youth, Cooking Dinner with Devotion-Activities (Youth Rm)

* *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
SAPK: 803-648-9895
Fax: 803-648-7972
Web Site: www.southaiken.org
Email: secretary@southaiken.org

Find our SAPC page on Facebook at **@SouthAikenPresChurch**!
Also with Instagram at: **southaikenpc**

SAPC STAFF

Office Ministry Staff
Monica Grindle, Secretary: ext. 100, secretary@southaiken.org
Rebecca Ferguson, Financial Manager: ext. 103, treasurer@southaiken.org

Music Ministry Staff
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Olga Kuzmenkova, Pianist/Accompanist, okvwarren@gmail.com

Communication Ministry Staff
Carina McGee, Communications Specialist, ext. 105 media@southaiken.org.
Office Hours**:** By appointment only.

Family and Children Ministry Staff
Kim Goetter, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, families@southaiken.org

Youth Ministry Staff
Kim Goetter, Interim Youth Programs Coordinator

Facility Ministry Staff
Kirk Callan, Sexton (Custodian): kirkcallan@gmail.com

Church & School Mission Staff
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803-648-9895: ext. 107. sapkdirector@southaiken.org
Cissy Kelley, Assistant Kindergarten Director/Childcare Coordinator:
803-648-9895 ext.110, cell 803-270-5808. sapkasst_director@southaiken.org