

Amens & Alleluias – November 2026

St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree

1151 Elm Savannah Road, Hopkins, SC 29061

Sundays, 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Phone: 803.776.9292 - Website: www.stjohnscongarree.net – Office email: stjohnscongarree@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

We, as members of St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree, are an open, caring, nurturing community, committed to living the Word of God by witnessing through Christ and growing in grace through prayer, fellowship, education and service.

From the Senior Warden – November 2026

Dear People of St. John's,

November 1st is All Saints' Day. In the Episcopal church, it is one of the seven feast days of the church. It is the day we remember all the saints of God who have gone before us focusing on the unity within the mystical body of Christ and the grace to follow the saints. As we gather on this All Saints' Day, take time to remember those who have gone before us who have played such an important part in each of our lives and in the life of St. John's.

November not only begins with All Saints' Day it ends with The First Sunday of Advent. We are planning to begin our first adult and youth formation classes before church for five Sundays beginning on November 8th. There will be more information soon with details about these classes. Please plan to join us. We continue move forward with our search process. There is still time to complete the on-line parish survey which will guide the search committee. There is also still time to complete your pledge card, another opportunity to support the ministries of St. John's.

As always, keep St. John's, the vestry and the Search Committee in your prayers.

In Christ, Lisa Clarkson

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH:

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, page 817)

A PRAYER FOR OUR VESTRY AND SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, page 818)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, October 31st.



FROM YOUR JUNIOR WARDEN

Please see the vestry highlights for news. My thanks to everyone who willingly offers their help in day-to-day duties. If you are aware of or see any issues or have any concerns regarding the property, please don't hesitate to bring it to my attention. Rusty 803-422-2882

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH LEADERS

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6 following the worship service. We will be requesting reports from all leaders and committee chairs to prepare the annual report for the congregation. If you need a copy of the 2025 report, please let us know. Reports for 2026 will be due on November 19th.

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

On October 12th the Congregational Assessment Tool provided to us by Holy Cow! Consultants went out via email and printed copy to 51 persons who are invested in St. John's and its future. This assessment will be open for completion until November 2nd. As this assessment is underway, the search committee will begin developing the next stage of our search process, building a Vocational Hub Database. This Vocational Hub will be based on celebrating who we are at St. John's in conjunction with the results from the assessment. In the meantime, know the search committee is on the job and will report frequently as we move along in the process.

A NOTE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

October and Stewardship month are over. Our pledges will be blessed on November 1st. Thank you to everyone who turned in their 2027 pledge cards. If you have not turned in your pledge card, you may still do so by placing it in the offering plate at church or mailing it to the church office. There are extra pledge cards in the narthex if you need one. I said that stewardship month is over, but being good stewards of all God has given us is never over. Thank you for being faithful stewards every day of your lives.

Thank you for your continued support of God's ministries at St. John's through your faithful giving. If you would like to donate online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stjohnspledge2026> or scan this QR code:



Julie Claytor
Stewardship Chair

HOMECOMING/ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

This year, St. John's Homecoming and All Saints' Day happen on November 1, 2026!

The weekend will begin Saturday, October 31, to begin cooking the BBQ and the traditional Chicken Bog prepared by Drew Robb and pit crew helpers. We would like to encourage everyone to bring friends and family to enjoy the fun. Chicken Bog will be served at 6:00pm and has always been a great gathering with lots of fun and hospitality.

On Sunday morning at 8:30am, there will be a short Eucharist by the BBQ pit for the workers who won't be able to attend the 10:30 service. Following the 10:30 worship service, lunch will be served! All are welcome, All the time!

Beginning Sunday, November 8

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Christian formation classes for adults and youth will begin on Sunday, November 8 from 9:00 am – 10:00 am. The classes will run for five weeks through Sunday, December 6. The focus of the youth classes will be “God’s Promises”. Please join us for fun, fellowship, study, and more fun!

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 5, 2026

- Replacing the chairs in Zion Hall—possibly folding chairs—will be researched.
- The playground equipment is being repaired and painted to make it safer for our children.
- Homecoming plans are in the works led by Rusty Davis at the pit, and Lisa Clarkson in Zion Hall. The chicken bog dinner on Saturday will begin at 6pm. The evening will encompass some sort of Halloween activities for any children who are present.
- Julie Claytor will lead Christian Formation for five weeks beginning in November for youth. Adult formation will occur at the same time and will be participant led.
- The Ukuloonies from St. Matthew’s Parish Church, Ft. Motte, will perform at St. John’s on October 18.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6, which is the second Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent occurs during the Thanksgiving weekend.
- The Search Committee will send out the Holy Cow! Consulting survey on October 12. Participants will have three weeks to complete the survey online. Paper copies will be available to those who prefer not to use the electronic version.
- The next vestry meeting will be Monday, November 9, at 6:30 pm.

ST. JOHN’S NOVEMBER CALENDAR AT A GLIMPSE

Sunday, Nov 1	-Communion outside for the pit crew, 8:30am
Sunday, Nov 1	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Nov 1	-BBQ homecoming luncheon following worship
Sunday, Nov 8	-Christian Formation Youth & Adult classes beginning at 9am
Sunday, Nov 8	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday, Nov 9	-Vestry Meeting at 6:30pm
Friday, Nov 13	-104 th Diocesan Convention convenes
Saturday, Nov 14	-104 th Diocesan Convention adjourns
Sunday, Nov 15	-Christian Formation Youth & Adult classes at 9am
Sunday, Nov 15	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Nov 15	-ECW Meeting at 11:45am
Sunday, Nov 22	-Christian Formation Youth & Adult classes at 9am
Sunday, Nov 22	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Nov 29	-Christian Formation Youth & Adult classes at 9am
Sunday, Nov 29	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Nov 29	-Covered dish luncheon at 11:45am

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Sunday, December 6, 2026 – Annual Congregational Meeting
Saturday, March 6, 2027 – Annual Oyster Roast/Shrimp Boil Fund-raiser
Sunday, April 11, 2027 – Bishop Richard’s Visitation to St. John’s

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>WORSHIP LEADER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>VIDEOGRAPHER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>
November 1	Jim Hiott	John Lott	Van Lott	Debbie Davis
November 8	Fran Burnett	Rita McCaskill	Selman Watson	John Davis
November 15	Lisa Clarkson	Julie Claytor	Frank Claytor	Louise Barker
November 22	Louise Barker	Ayden Floyd	Selman Watson	Julie & Frank Claytor
November 29	Van Lott	Alex Peraza	Jose Peraza	Bev Watkins

****FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON A GIVEN SUNDAY IN DECEMBER. YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE MOST APPRECIATED. THANKS, LOUISE**

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE OCTOBER NEWS

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings.”



Hard to believe it is already November! October was a busy month at St. John's, with the Ukuloonies Band visit, Homecoming, and many other opportunities to extend our hospitality to members and visitors. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talents, and support to make these events successful. Much of what happens in our church takes place behind the scenes, and your dedication does not go unnoticed...*Thank you!*

As always, if any needs arise, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can email me at rdandz@gmail.com, call or text **803-622-2929**, or contact the church office.

Be well and have a blessed November!

~ Debbie Davis

GADSDEN MINISTRIES

Gadsden Backpack Ministry

Each week St. John's delivers weekend meals for 20 selected students at Gadsden Elementary. We support these students with nutritional foods because they have less than we have. Each student gets breakfasts and lunches for Saturday and Sunday, and dinners for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We provide 140 meals each week. Your participation in this project is needed and valued. Pick up something to donate the next time you are in the grocery store. A list of food items may be found on our website. Monetary donations are accepted as well. Thanks to each of you as we help the students at Gadsden Elementary.

A list of suggested items can be found on our website at <https://www.stjohnscongaree.net/volunteer-opportunities>. There is also a hard copy list of suggestions on the Narthex table for your convenience.

NEWS FROM YOUR EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW met on Sunday, October 18 at 9:30 am. Here are the highlights of the meeting:

- The ECW Bake/Craft sale held on October 17 was a huge success with donations totaling \$1023. A big thank you goes to everyone who helped with set up, baked, and bought. We appreciate you!

- Plans were made to decorate the inside and outside of our parish hall for the Homecoming barbecue.
- Preliminary plans were made for our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach projects with Gadsden Elementary, the Women's Shelter, and Senior Resources.
- A call for nominations was made for the 2027 ECW officers. The offices of president, vice president, and secretary will need to be filled as of January 2027.

Our next ECW meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15 at 11:45 am. Please join us to plan our Christmas outreach projects and select new ECW officers.

ECW OFFICERS NEEDED

The ECW is seeking people to fill the offices of president, vice president and secretary beginning on Jan. 1, 2027. These positions have been held by some very dedicated church members who have unselfishly given of their time. (Some for more than a few years.) It is time to give these folks a rest, and also a time for new faces. I hope you will consider taking a more active role in the ECW by filling one of the available offices. If you have not participated in an ECW meeting please know that all ladies of the church are welcome and needed in the ECW. Our organization is a wonderful group of friends who worship, work, and play together for the glory of God and His purpose; to care for and love our church and community. Join us at our next meeting on Sunday, November 15 at 11:45 am. Please consider being an ECW officer. We want to continue all of our outreach projects, and without officers this goal will be difficult to accomplish. You are needed!

Food Collection For Senior Resources

The ECW continues to collect non-perishable food items to help stock the pantry at Senior Resources. This food will be shared with people who are on a waiting list to begin Meals-on-Wheels. The food you donate should be single serving and easy to open or pop-top items. Senior Resources is also accepting donations of pet food for cats and dogs. Please bring your donations to our monthly covered dish lunches.

ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to the Altar Guild members who served in October. No flowers were given in the month of October; however, altar guild workers provided beautiful arrangements. Remember, you can sign up to give flowers for the altar in memory of or in honor of a loved one at the bulletin board in Zion Hall. We are in the season of Pentecost, which ends with Advent. Advent begins on November 29th. During Advent, only greenery is used on the altar and the Advent wreath. As always, thank you to all the volunteers who work each week to prepare the altar for worship and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Nov 1 (All Saints-vestry gives flowers) – Rita McCaskill & Betsy Cate; Nov 8 – Julie & Frank Claytor; Nov 15 – Lisa Clarkson; Nov 22 – Fran & Al Burnett; Nov 29 – Corrie Blasi.

Please prayerfully consider joining this important ministry and call Lisa at 803.237.2892 to volunteer. Training will be available. Lisa Clarkson, Altar Guild Director



BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

1	Jason Davis	11	Debby Watson
2	Betty Thompson	22	Debbie Davis
3	Eva O'Brian	24	Molly Floyd
4	Cooper Edens	25	Libby Byars
6	Scott Anderson	25	Kevin & Wyatt Dubose
9	Amanda Nichols	30	Natalie Hazen
9	Debbie Morris	30	Gray Thompson, Sr.

ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

7	Blanche & Jed Holliday
30	Wendy & Gray Thompson

GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE

News from our Cordova friends: "Good day to all of you at St. John's. We miss you all very much. However, we may not be there in person, but we tune in nearly every Sunday. Sara has even figured out how to get the service on the big screen TV! We look forward to all the news about 'the doings' at St. John's every week in the bulletin and in the monthly newsletter. God bless all of you at St. John's and especially the search for a new minister. Love in Christ, Lloyd and Sara Ash."

If you have something you would like to share for the December newsletter, please send it to the church office by November 21.

THANKFUL FOR OUR VIDEOGRAPHERS

There is a group of people who have worked hard to ensure that our service goes live every week. This group may be small, but they play an important role in our ministry. You may have seen the iPad set up on the second pew with one of our volunteers following the service. Each week they send our service out to people who may not be able to be in church whether they are sick, out of town, or unable to attend for other reasons. If you have never seen one of the services on Facebook live, you can go back and watch it later in the day. It's the next best thing to being in church. Thank you to Frank Claytor, John Davis, Van Lott, Jose Peraza, Perri Peraza, and Selman Watson. If you'd like to be a part of this special group, let one of the wardens know. Training is available.

A BLESSING

*Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love; make haste to be kind.
And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with you today and remain with always.*

-Henri-Frederic Amiel

FINANCIAL REPORT through September 30, 2026

Gifts received September 30 through October 18.

In memory of Rexford H. Hunt, MD

Given by Pancye Hunt

In memory of William Duffy Verner Jr.

Given by Dallas McGuire

Operating Fund Checking Account:

September income: \$10,185.36

September disbursements: \$5352.15

Difference: \$4833.21

1/1/2026 through 9/30/2026:

Income: \$117,521.67

Disbursements: \$120,547.81

Difference: **-\$3026.14**

Cemetery & Grounds Checking Acct:

September income: \$1500.16

September disbursements: \$670.00

Difference: \$830.16

1/1/2026 through 9/30/2026:

Income: \$9612.16

Disbursements: \$5960.00

Difference: \$3652.16

Building Fund Checking Account:

September income: \$0.16

September disbursements: \$0.00

Difference: \$0.16

1/1/2026 through 9/30/2026:

Income: \$501.28

Disbursements: \$1314.14

Difference: **-\$812.86**

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please Pray For:

Brenda Manning

Requested by:

Ed Manning

Mary Clarkson	Parish
Debby Watson	Parish
Judy Addison	Parish
Michelle	Jane Rye
Holly Davis	Parish
Maria Brady	Debbie Davis
John Train	Selman Watson
Don Burton	Selman Watson
Tom Moore	Carol Fowles
Austin Mintz	John & Lynn Davis
Lesley Antley Marshall	Annie Antley
Roy Brazzell	Tammy Brazzell
Heather Tsahalís	Corrie Blasi
Betty Thompson	Parish
Penny Teague	Debbie Davis
Jewell Sams	The Floyd Family
Laura Timmons	Lisa Clarkson
Charlie & Phyllis King	Julie Claytor
Jacob & Angela Pendleton	Lisa Clarkson
The Owens Family	Bev Watkins
John Grimbail	Parish
Liz Grice	Sheryl Moureaux
Susan Grice	Sheryl Moureaux
Janet McKinney	Bev Watkins
Our Military	Parish
Morris Tajman	Van Lott
Andrew Knight	Bev Watkins
Paul	Rita McCaskill
Deacon Ann Pilat	Parish
Ally Lambert	Nikita Floyd/Parish
Susan Voelker & family	Marion Crane
Alicia H. & Isaac J. Mikell IV	Jenks Mikell/Parish
Jason Gant	Rita McCaskill
Margaret Dydecka	Corrie Blasi
Brooke Moran	Corrie Blasi
Mary Mason Walker	Danielle Floyd
Mary Ann Hiott	Parish

Please let us know if you have someone to add to the Prayer List. If there are folks who have recovered, please let us know that important and happy news as well, and we will take them off the list. Thanks so much for your help in keeping our Prayer List updated.