



# SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874 Cullman, Alabama  
EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

December 20, 2020

Liturgical Color: Blue

9:00 am (Christ Hall)



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### *Christmas Eve*

**12:00 noon—Sanctuary**

*Social distance Seating*

**5:00pm-Outside**

*Candlelight--(standing only)*

**6:00pm-Outside**

*Candlelight--(standing only)*

***IN ORDER TO SOCIAL DISTANCE IN THE SANCTUARY and OUTSIDE, EVERYONE WILL NEED TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE SERVICE THEY PLAN TO ATTEND.***

There is a limited number of people per service.

Go to the church website to register for the service of your choice.

At the current time all services on Christmas

A waitlist is available. ***You will be notified by email if vacancies open for the service you selected.***

Masks are encouraged but not required to attend the service.

## CHRISTMAS MORNING DAWNWATCH

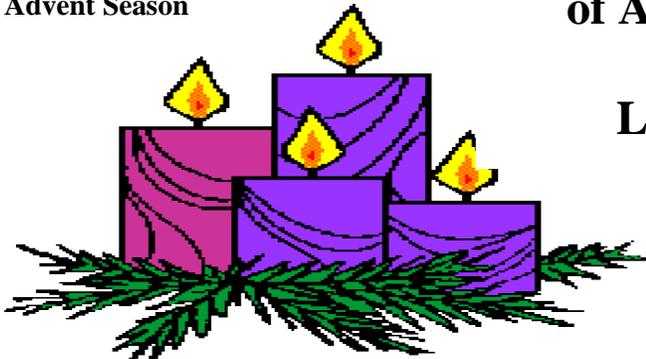
**6:00am-Sanctuary**

You will need to sign up for this service as well as Christmas Eve.

Advent Season

**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

**Love**



**SJ's CURRENT WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

**Thu Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> in Christ Hall**

**9a Early Service**  
in person and online

***Face coverings: With the updated state mask ordinance, face coverings are highly recommended but not required to wear in worship services and classes.***

***\*NOTE: Adjustments will be made as necessary.***

**Welcome to St. John's. If this is your first time with us, know that we are so glad you're here!** Wherever you're at on your spiritual journey, we hope you are able to leave today having experienced the grace and truth of Jesus. Hopefully you've already met some of our welcome team and ushers, but know that we are here to help you however we can.

Parents, for the kids, our nursery and kids leaders will be excited to meet you (see the bulletin for details regarding nursery, SJ Kids, Godly Worship, and SJ Students during this COVID19 Virus time)

Finally, if there's any way we can pray for you or help you connect to our church family, *please drop a welcome card in the offering basket as you exit today or fill out an online prayer card.* Thank you for joining us today either virtually or in person!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **STAY CONNECTED WITH US!!**

- **Sign up for notifications** from the *SJ Facebook page* --(**turn on notifications for SJ's**)
- Worship Service available on (**www.sjepc.com**) **watch on FB live or livestream**
- **Email:** make sure we have your current email in the office

## **• Important Worship Service Information thru Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**

- Due to rising Covid19 cases in our area, we have moved to one service at 9:00am in Christ Hall.
  - **This plan is in effect until Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.**
- All other church activities, Church related group meetings and Sunday School Class are cancelled thru Dec. 27. We will re-evaluate at that time.
- Please know we are monitoring the situation, and if in house numbers become too large we will move back to two services if necessary.
- Watch your email closely and the church Facebook page if you monitor social media. Please share information with your friends who might not have email or Facebook.

**ADVENT**—Today is the last Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. Advent begins this year on Nov 29, 2020 and continues thru Dec 24, 2020. Purple or blue are the colors for Advent. The four themes of Advent are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

**THANK YOU RECEIVED**—Our family would like to express our sincere appreciation to the “family” of St. John's Church. Thanks to Rev. John, St. John's Women's Guild and Card Ministry and especially all the church members that have reached out to our family in so many different ways. We appreciate your visit, cards, donations, thoughts and many prayers. Thank you. ~ The family of Bob Shannon (Judy, Chad, Misty, Haley and Wynn).

**Poinsettias** --White Poinsettias are available for purchase in memory or in honor of a loved one or for a special friend. Call the church office, then drop your payment of \$12.00 per plant by during the week.. Plants may be picked up after Service on Dec. 20.

**PROPOSED 2021 BUDGE VOTE**— The vote passed today with a 61-2 total.

**UNSHELTERED INTERNATIONAL**—Travis Sharpe, with Unsheltered International here in Cullman works with the homeless population in our area. If you are out shopping and would like to help him and his ministry, he is in need of throws to hand out to individuals. You may take them by Temple Church or drop off here at SJ's in the office.

## ST. JOHN'S MONDAY PRAYER COLLECTIVE

Are you receiving *SJ's Monday Prayer Collective* email?  
If not, and you would like to be included on the list, please email : karen.hassell@sjepc.com or call the church office with your email address.



**SJ Kids & Tweens  
Don't Forget....  
Wednesday Nights will resume in  
January!**

BEGINNING NOV 11TH - SJ TWEEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
ZOOM MEET UPS 6PM  
(MEETING LINK WILL BE TEXTED TO PARENTS)

BEGINNING NOV 15TH - SJ KIDS FB LIVE SUNDAYS @ 6PM  
JOIN US AS WE FOCUS ON ADVENT! WE WILL ALSO HAVE  
SOME FUN IN THE KITCHEN & COOL ACTIVITIES!

## SJ's Kids

Parents: Check into the Kids Min page to see Mrs. Stephanie's message.

Yummy treats to make and great lessons and stories!! Don't miss it!

## GATHERING POINTS FOR GROUPS AND WORSHIP

*Keeping in mind, we are in a fluid situation and our facilities and services can possibly change at any given time. Keeping our congregation as safe as possible is very important to us. Therefore we suggest the following:*

- **Face coverings:** *With the updated state mask ordinance, face coverings are highly recommended but not required to wear in worship services and classes.*
- If a positive test of an individual that has been onsite, an outbreak of the virus occurs, we will do our best to keep you up to date and informed of the next step. Watch your email and the church webpage (www.sjepc.com) for up to date information.
- **Been around someone who has tested positive?** If so, we kindly ask that you please remain at home until your test comes back negative and you are cleared by your Doctor before rejoining us in person.
- Wash your hands frequently

**A CARING CHURCH ?** At St. John's we long to be a caring church. Most churches share this desire, but to actually be a caring church requires all of our participation in member-to-member care. First and foremost, it begins in the friendships and relationships you establish with your brothers and sisters in Christ. A great way—in fact *the primary* way—to connect to caring, Christ-centered friendships at SJs is to get involved with one of our many groups. Each of our groups are encouraged to nurture biblical member-to-member care for one another. And, secondly, caring churches are intentional churches. Care doesn't just happen. It takes purposeful effort! Thus, our hope is that our groups will be intentional in listening to, looking out for, and praying with one another. Take time in your groups to develop a process to care for one another.

(continued next page)

We also want to offer good pastoral care during the more trying seasons of life. By God's grace, our church has the privilege of shepherding several hundred people who look to SJs as their church "home." Even though each of our services may feel relatively small or medium-sized, the sum total of our congregation is quite large. This simply means that we have to think wisely, biblically, and creatively on how to care for the spiritual well-being of a congregation this size. This, too, takes intentionality both on your part and the part of our staff.

We have recognized that we are best at remembering specifics when prayer requests are written down. So we want to make sure you have easy channels to ask for prayer and care. You'll find prayer cards in the sanctuary and Christ Hall and, of course, calls, emails, and texts are best to set up appointments. We'd love to see our care and prayer ministry grow and even explore new avenues. If that's a part of your heartbeat, we'd like to hear how God is prompting you to join in this ministry.~~Grace and Truth, Reverend John and Pastor Nate

**HOSPITAL: none currently**

**As a church of grace and truth, St. John's is...**

Rooted in the doctrines of the Protestant Reformation. We believe we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus, that the Bible is the rule for Christian life and faith, and that the Good News of Jesus should be proclaimed in word and deed.

Sacrament Celebrating. We believe God ministers to the community of believers in unique and special ways through the gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Liturgically Oriented. We believe remembering the whole life of Christ is important for spiritual maturity. We follow the church calendar, celebrating seasons like Advent and Lent.

Ecumenically Minded. In the context of our heritage, we believe all those who call upon Jesus as Lord and affirm the creeds of the church (eg the Apostles' Creed) will share in his eternal blessings and so we welcome all believers who join us to participate in worship and community life.

**CHURCHWIDE EMAILS—Are you receiving emails from the church? If not, please call the church office or email: ([karen.hassell@sjepc.com](mailto:karen.hassell@sjepc.com)) to give us your updated address so you will not miss out on important information from the church.**

**Up Dating Email Addresses and Phone Numbers--**We are currently in the process of moving our church wide email to a new system. While doing so, we are also in the process of updating all of our email addresses and phone number contacts for the congregation. If you have not been receiving church wide emails, please take a minute to go online and fill out a connect card with your current email address and phone number, so you will not miss important information from the church. ([www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com))

**New to SJ's? *HAVE YOU CONNECTED?*** We would love the opportunity to connect with you! Visit [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com) and fill out a new card so we can introduce ourselves to you and answer any questions you might have!

**PLASTIC BAGS--**We are not currently accepting plastic bags. Hold til further notice.

**Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings**--The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's Addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength, and hope. We carry the message of Hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own Attitudes. *We Respect Your Anonymity*. Our program is not a Religious one, but a Spiritual way of Life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (family life center of St John's Church) Tuesday evenings @ 6:30 pm. Contact Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

**SJ's SECURITY TEAMS – How can I find out more information?** We would love to tell you more about it and would love to have more men and women be a part of our teams. If you like to become involved in our Security Teams, contact Stan Sandlin, Kenny Culpepper or Karen Hassell.

**WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN**—currently we will not be handing out church bulletins. Bulletins are uploaded weekly on the church web site ([www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)) under the ABOUT US tab.

**DO YOU HAVE A NEED??**--If you are homebound during this time, and there is something we can do for you, please call the office (256-734-0344) and let us know your need. We will try to help you out!

**Tithes and Offerings and Special Gifts:** Baskets are located by each entry door in Christ Hall.

**Ways you can give:** \* **church website** ([www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)) and click the giving tab \***Mail your check to the church:** St. John's Church, 512 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE, Cullman AL 35055 \***"Text to Give"** text **84321** follow the prompt \***complete an authorization** form for Visa, MasterCard, Discover or debit card \***call the office before you come** and we can come out to your car.

**Our Faithful Giving: Dec. 6 2020:**  
Offering: \$30,303.00 (plate and mail)  
\$ 4,674.37 (online)

**Reducing our Debt in 2020**  
BTN YTD 2020  
\$147,500.00

**Sanctuary Project-** \$71,865.00

***Gifts Given:***

***Glory of God***

***...honor of God and Confirmation by Terry and Debbie Stone;***

***..honor of Corky Shavers Family by The Andy Page Family***

***Thank you for your continued faithfulness!***

**Office Hours**

Monday –Thursday 8am-5pm

Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

**When making contributions to any fund other than the general fund (Burn the Note, Music Fund, or Youth Fund, Women's Guild / Whit's Place) please write a separate check made specifically to that fund.**

**St. John's is a Church of Grace and Truth**

At St. John's we seek to be grace-filled, graceful, and a people of truth. Believing Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, we understand our need for the grace he offers. We believe in responding in gratitude for the grace we have received by extending grace to others. We do this by loving God, one another, and our community, and reorienting our lives around the truths handed to us through the Holy Scriptures. Join us in the journey!

**ST. JOHN'S RAPID RESPONSE TEAM.** . . If you are interested in joining St. Johns Rapid Response Team please notify Chad Knop or Karen Hassell in the church office. The team will provide assistance in the event of a medical problem/emergency that occurs at St. Johns. Medical background preferred but not required. We will need Members from all 3 services.

**Cullman AA Group Meetings** –If you or someone you know might need to attend, group meetings are held at: 1519 St. Joseph St. NW, Cullman. Additional meetings are held at Grace Episcopal Church on Monday and Thursday at 7:00pm; and also at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Contact: Nancy Clemmons Moore 256-347-8543 or 256-735-1717 for more information.



Download the  
Church Center App  
today!!  
Connect with  
Groups, Give &  
Register for events  
in one spot!!

## SJStudents

Middle School & High School

### YOUTH CENTRAL

#### Sunday

**Sunday School:** 10:10-10:50 am  
Youth Center (main gathering area only)

#### **STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

Get info and updates on all things student ministry sent to you in a text message!  
Text "@sjstudent" to 81010 to begin receiving updates!

**Wednesday's**  
**6:00 High School**  
**(9-12)**  
**Youth Center**

**6:00 Middle School**  
**(7-8)**  
**(basement of the**  
**Ruehl Building)**

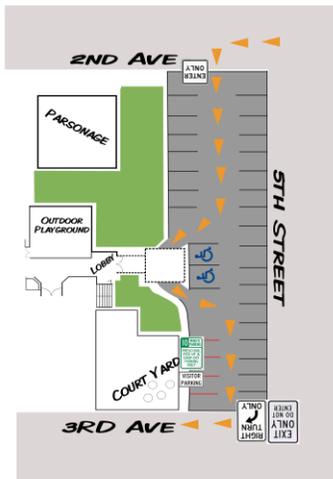
***Youth will continue to meet on Wednesday's this fall !!***

#### **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Instagram and Facebook - @sjyouthlive    Snapchat – sjstudents

Trent Dodson, Youth Pastor:    trent.dodson@sjepc.com    cell: 205-910-2741

## ONE WAY TRAFFIC FOR NORTH PARKING LOT



To help us ensure the safety of our children, visitors and adults, everyday, **beginning August 1, 2017** the traffic flow in the north parking lot will become **ONE WAY TRAFFIC**.

**Enter (ONLY) from 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.** (street that runs in front of the church) and **exit onto 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (facing St. Paul's) with a RIGHT Turn only.**

We now have 4 designated Visitor parking spots for our guests on Sundays.

~ Safe Sanctuaries

### VISITORS

Thanks for visiting with us today! Feel free to call the pastor, Rev. John Richter @ 256-734-0344 if you have questions and would like to set up a time to discuss them. You may also check out our website [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com) to learn more about St. John's.

### NURSERY

Nursery is available for newborns up to 3 yrs. of age at all worship services and Sunday School. Please see any usher or First Impression Team member this morning and they will direct you to the nursery.

### 2020 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mary Barnes, Fred Bussey, Wescoat Free, Will Harding, Willy Hendrix, Babs Herfurth, Billy Jackson, Matthew Laney, Don McKenzie, Matt Schlosser, Ronnie Scott, Christine Wiggins

### Assisted Living:

Folsom Center: Dee Jordan

Morningside: Doris Keathley

Hanceville Nursing Home: Virginia Nail, Juanita Schuman, Inez Ruehl, Betty Pitzing

Woodland Village: Bea Mack; Dot York, Jim Jones

Country Living- Jo Webb

### STAFF EMAIL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rev. John Richter, Sr. Pastor	<a href="mailto:john.richter@sjepc.com">john.richter@sjepc.com</a>
Rev. Nate (Pastor Nate) Randall, Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:nate.randall@sjepc.com">nate.randall@sjepc.com</a>
Stephanie Jowers, Director Children's Ministries	<a href="mailto:stephjowers@sjepc.com">stephjowers@sjepc.com</a>
Tiffany Richter, Director of Music Ministries	<a href="mailto:tiffany.richter@sjepc.com">tiffany.richter@sjepc.com</a>
Trent Dodson, Minister to Youth	<a href="mailto:trent.dodson@sjepc.com">trent.dodson@sjepc.com</a>
Lisa Buchannan, Director Little Lambs Preschool:	<a href="mailto:lisa.buchanan@sjepc.com">lisa.buchanan@sjepc.com</a>
Nathan Williams, Pastoral Intern (20+ group)	<a href="mailto:nathan.williams@sjepc.com">nathan.williams@sjepc.com</a>
Jane Brannon, Office Assistant	<a href="mailto:jane.brannon@sjepc.com">jane.brannon@sjepc.com</a>
Regina Baker, Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:regina.baker@sjepc.com">regina.baker@sjepc.com</a>
Karen Hassell, Administrative Assistant,	<a href="mailto:karen.hassell@sjepc.com">karen.hassell@sjepc.com</a>

Facility Coordinator, Sr. Adult Travel

St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church

512 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE Cullman AL 35055

256-734-0344

website: [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)

## ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

All prayer requests are very important to us. To make sure we can give your request proper attention, please be sure to communicate with us in writing requests on prayer request cards. You may also email prayer requests to: karen.hassell@sjepc.com. Sunday Mornings and Wednesday evenings are busy times for everyone and prayer requests can be accidentally lost in conversations. Thank you for helping us with this important matter.

- Our prayer list is renewed the first of each month.
- Please fill out a new prayer card with your individual requests each month and indicate clearly if you would like it public knowledge—*otherwise it will remain on the Pastor's Prayer list only.*
- Online prayer cards are available on the church website: www.sjepc.com or you may email your prayer request in or drop a note in the offering baskets.
- As your prayer request needs to be removed from the list, please let us know that too.
- Prayer lists are published as space allows.

### CHURCH MEMBERS:

Sandra Sloan, Judy Dean, Conner Laney, Virginia Nail; Rachel Riley, Frances Murphy, Jackson Ray, Don Dossey; Ray Bolzle, Maxine Whisenhunt, Jack Stevens, Debbie Shear, Etna Rigsby, Tommy Durden; Lorene Hyatt, Michael Hudson, David Richter, Johnnie Miller

All those suffering with Covid19 Virus;

All Doctors and Nurses at Cullman Regional Hospital

### EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Charlotte Cheatham, Buck Molzof, Rex Smith, Lillie Handley, Geoff McGukin, Kim Striker, Susan Waters, Carmen Underberg, Pastor Dudley Brock and Frances; Wendell and Marie Copeland, Ernie Moore

## Safe SANCTUARIES

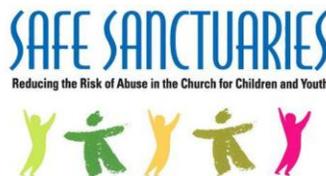
**Always keep your eyes open to something that looks unusual to you and report it to an usher or staff member immediately.**

**Safe Sanctuary and Emergency Preparedness 411**

- ❖ **Always keep your eyes open to something or someone that looks unusual to you and report it to an usher or staff member immediately. Be alert!**

### What is Safe Sanctuaries?

**Our Number 1 Priority:**  
Keeping Basic Procedures for a Safe Ministry with Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults



**Look for Ushers, Greeters and Staff wearing Yellow Lanyards to assist you with any questions.**

ALL VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF ARE BACKGROUND CHECKED PRIOR TO BEING INVOLVED WITH OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH OR VULNERABLE ADULTS.

Safe Sanctuary Steering Committee:

Stan Sandlin, Tricia Fuller, Billy Jackson, Kenny Culpepper, Karen Hassell

**We are a Safe  
Sanctuary Campus**

**local 24 /7 crisis line if you believe you are a victim:  
256-734-6100 and need help or information.**

## **Military Prayer List:**

*Help us update our Military Prayer list. Please look over the list and see if your family member or friend has changed locations or has now arrived back at home.*

**MILITARY ADDRESSES** --If you have friends or family currently serving in the US Military, our card ministry would like the opportunity to send cards to them throughout the year. Please submit (clearly print) complete mailing addresses to Geraldine Hendrix or bring them by the church office during regular business hours.

**Currently Serving:** Cmdr. Chris Hester, Chaplain—USS Harry S. Truman; Major Kellie Scott Hyatt—Cullman, AL; Lt. Cmdr. Scott and Cmdr. Roz Love, Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida; US Navy; Nicholas Sargent, US Marines

**GRACE PLACE**—"Grace Place is a program for adults with mild to moderate memory loss, who can still feed themselves and take care of their own bathroom needs. The program consists of 4 hours of mental and physical stimulus, 10am to 2pm, every Tuesday and Thursday at Grace Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 305 Arnold St NE, Cullman, AL. Grace Place is a community program open to all qualified people regardless of church affiliation, or no church. Email at [info@graceplacecullman.org](mailto:info@graceplacecullman.org). Facebook: Grace Place Cullman; or contact Wes Harding, 256-200-2434 for information."

