



# SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

## EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

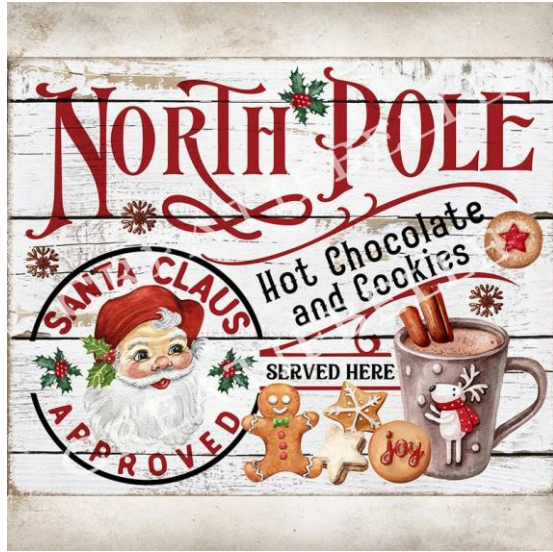
December 11, 2022 Liturgical Color: Blue

9:00 am (Sanctuary) 11:00 (Christ Hall)

Third Sunday in Advent- JOY

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

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE for Worship Services)



December 18

9:45am to 10:45am

Atrium

Come and enjoy a cup of cocoa and a cookie



### Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services

12:00 pm Meditation / Communion Service (Sanctuary)

5:00 pm Candlelight / Communion Service (Sanctuary)

### Dec. 25 Christmas Day (Sunday)

6:00am Dawn-watch Communion Service (Sanctuary)

Dec. 26 Church Office Closed

### POINSETTIA SUNDAY'S

Dec. 11 and 18<sup>th</sup>

Poinsettias are available for purchase to be placed in church in memory / honor of friends and loved ones. Forms are available in the church office. Please submit form along with payment back to the church office. Poinsettia's may be taken home after each Christmas Eve Service December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Price: \$15.00



Last chance to sign up for Wednesday Dec. 14th  
Reservations Required

Sign up on the church website or in the Atrium Sunday morning

**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!* 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 or fill out an online prayer card.* Thank you for joining us today either virtually or in person!

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

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

**VISITORS**--Thanks for visiting with us today! We would love the opportunity to sit down and meet with you! Please give us a call to set up an appointment with our Senior Pastor, Rev. John Richter @ 256-734-0344 if you have questions and would like to schedule an appointment to learn more about SJ's. You may also check our website [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com) to learn more about St. John's.

#### **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](http://www.sjepc.com)) **watch on You Tube**
- Fill out a green connect card and drop in the offering plate when you visit us! We would love to meet you!
- **Email:** make sure we have your current email in the office (256-734-0344)

#### **SYMPATHY'S**

- Christian love and sympathy is extended to the families who have experienced recent loss of a loved one:
  - Mrs. Ellen Uzzell, mother of Marie (John) Apel, Bob (Becky) Uzzell
  - Mr. Thomas Baker, husband of Kendall, father of Riddle and Kennedy, son of Regina Baker, brother of Justin and Steven Baker
  - Mr. Phillip "Bud" Cason, brother of Denise (Jerry) Schuman
  - Mr. Skip Urquhart stepfather of Stephanie (Joe) Jowers
  - Jefferson Walker, brother of Jennifer (Leon) Manning and son of the late Rev. Jim (Cindy) Walker
  - Steve Miller, brother of Sherry (Jim) Jennings

**BAPTISM**- Today we will observe the Sacrament of Christian Baptism of Emmett David Keller, son of Kris and Alex Keller in the 11:00 worship service.

**2023 BUDGET SUMMARY**-- A copy of the Proposed 2023 Budget Summary is available in the narthex or Christ Hall.

**END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS**—All end of the year contributions must be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31, 2022. You may also give end of the year gifts online through the church website ([www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)) or TEXT to GIVE by texting to the number 8321. Enter the amount you want to give and follow the prompts on the message you receive. You may also set up a one time gift to the church at that time. The church office will close at 12:00pm on December 30.

**PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET VOTE** –Vote on the 2023 proposed budget will be by ballot, Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> in both worship services.



**Advent Meditation  
Communion Service**

*Join us for a  
short meditation  
and communion  
service on our  
last Wednesday  
of Advent.*

**12:00pm Sanctuary  
Dec. 14**

#### **LINK PANTRY FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES**

Regular size boxes and cans needed items: Pop top canned soups, saltine crackers, mac and cheese, canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter, rice, pasta and pasta sauces. *Food collection bins locations:* Inside the front door next to the church office and preschool entry.

**CLEAN PLASTIC BAGS WELCOME!!**--- --Please drop off **clean** bags in the receptacles located at the entrance to the education building (by the church office) and Little Lambs Preschool entrance. **PLEASE—NO STICKY BAGS WHERE ITEMS HAVE SPILLED INSIDE.**

**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.

#### **2022 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON**

- Dec. 9-13 55Alive-Savannah Trip
- Dec. 11 **Third Sunday of Advent- Joy**  
9:00am Prayer Service – Sanctuary  
10:10-10:50a Sunday School  
11:00am Children’s Christmas Program (Christ Hall)  
4-6p Tween’s Pancakes and Pajamas Christmas Party (Christ Hall)  
6:00pm Youth Christmas Party (Youth Center)
- Dec. 13 Savannah Group Returns
- Dec. 14 Noon Advent Meditation / Communion Service (Sanctuary)  
5:00pm **\*\*Gingerbread Bash (meal and activity) (\*\* MUST PREREGISTER FOR)**  
Meal: Vegetable Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich
- Dec. 15 6-7:30pm -The Link Christmas Community Outreach Meal-sponsored by St. John’s Church  
5:00p for volunteers

Dec. 16 LLS Christmas Parties

**Dec. 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love**

Vote of the Proposed 2023 Budget

Services 9 and 11 Sunday School 10:10-10:50

**9:45a-10:45a Cookies and Cocoa Fellowship for everyone (Atrium)**

**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

**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 @ 6:00 pm. Contact Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information

**Happening this week:**

Mon. Dec. 12 8a Victim's Services (RB)

Tues. Dec. 13 7a Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (CH)

9a P.L.A.R.N. (HH)

6p NARANON (RB)

**Wed. Dec. 14**

10a Soul Sister's Bible Study- off campus in individual's homes. Contact Becky Hudson to find out location of the week at: (256) 565-9840

**12:00pm Noon Advent Communion Meditation Service (Sanctuary)**

**5:00p Gingerbread Bash Meal and Activity (CH)**

**Meal:** vegetable beef soup and grilled cheese for adults and kids

Confirmation Class will not meet

6p Youth

6p Praise Team

**Thurs. Dec. 15**

12:00p Rotary Meeting and Lunch (CH)

12:00p Men's Group (CR)

1:00p Victim Services (RB)

6:00p Link Christmas Dinner

6:00p Rotary Christmas Party (CH)

Fri. Dec. 16 LLS Christmas Parties

Sun. Dec. 18 9:45a-10:45a Cookies and Cocoa (Atrium)

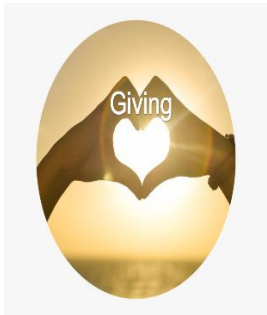
Vote on Proposed 2023 Church Budget

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

**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 (256-734-0344) with your email address.

<p><b>FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!</b> Instagram and Facebook - @sjyouthlive Snapchat – sjstudents</p>	<p><b>YOUTH 411</b></p> <p><b>STUDENTS AND PARENTS</b></p> <p>Get info and updates on all things student ministry sent to you in a text message!</p>	<p>Text “@sjstudent” to 81010 to begin receiving updates!</p>
<p><b>Sunday School</b></p> <p>10:10-10:50 am Youth Center</p>	<p>Trent Dodson, Student Pastor</p> <p><a href="mailto:Trent.dodson@sjepc.com">Trent.dodson@sjepc.com</a> Cell: 205-910-2741</p>	<p><b>Wednesday's:</b> 6-7:00pm Youth Center Middle School &amp; HS</p>

<p><b>Offerings:</b> 12-4-22 \$ 24,004.14</p>	<p><b>Our Faithful Giving</b> <b>Reducing our Debt in 2022</b></p>	<p><b>BTN \$143,338.95</b></p>
<p><b>Gifts:</b></p>		
<p><b>Memory of Whit Warren</b> by Clark and Janie Keller <b>Honor of Mary Jane Leverett</b> by Jeanne Phillips; <b>Memory of Thomas Baker</b> by Ken and Beverly Yeager; Dave and Karen Hassell <b>Memory of Mark Richter</b> by David and Betsy McLeroy</p>		
<p><b>Women's Guild</b></p>		
<p><b>Memory of those who started the Women's Guild and those who carried on thru the years and to honor those who refused to let it die</b> by Betty Gibbs</p>		
<p><b>Memory of Lorene Hyatt</b> by Jo Webb</p>		



### **6 Ways to 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
- \***Put in the offering plate** during the service

### **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.**

### **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution**

Anyone 70.5 years of age or older can give up to \$100,000 as a tax-free gift, in the form of a QCD, from their traditional IRA account. Contact your IRA custodian or tax preparer for more information.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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.*
- Prayer lists are published as space allows.

### **CHURCH MEMBERS:**

Johnnie Miller; Judy Dean, Ronnie Pattillo, Rachel Riley; Jackson Ray; Ray Bolzle; Anna McGriff, Betty Gibbs; Shane Guest; Bay Bacate; Tamara White, JP White; Donna Hendrix; Cori Antler Bradfield; Gail Wallace; Roman Higdon; Cindy Walker; Juanita Schuman; Charlie McBrayer; Jerry Laney; Jean Driver

### **EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Kristen Hawsey Smith; Baker Shoemaker, remission -treatment; Betty Walker; Avery Lyle; Jeannie Elliott; Lindsay Hickman; Lisa Sharpton; Susan McClendon Patrick; Julie Blaize; Porter Lynn Phillips; Kelli Kontogeorge Wright; Darrell Raley; James Laminack; Tom Sawyer

## 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. Serving: Cmdr. Chris Hester, Chaplain—USS Harry S. Truman; Nicholas Sargent, US Marines; Staff Sergeant Josh Ryan, USAF, Eglin AFB; Ben Turner, Navy Seaman E3, Naval Station Norfolk; Pvt. First Class 3 Caleb Wood, Mississippi National Guard; Lieutenant Scott Waitley, US Navy

### Assisted Living:

Folsom Center: Dan Keel, Frank Brunner, Doris Keathley, Jean Driver- Rehab

Hanceville Nursing Home: Juanita Schuman, Clarice Shafer

Woodland Village: Bea Mack

Woodland House—Jo Webb

Summerford Nursing Home: Bob Polancich



**Are you an AMAZON shopper?** If so, please consider making us your designated charity! St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church is now a registered charity with amazonsmile.

**SAFE SANCTUARIES**  
Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth



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

- ❖ **Remember do not leave your valuables in your vehicles.**
- ❖ **Do not leave your purses, wallets, phones, laptops, weapons in plain sight.**

**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 Dille, Billy Jackson, Kenny Culpepper, Karen Hassell

We are a safe sanctuary campus.

Local crisis line: 256-734-6100 if you need help or 911

**Look for Ushers, First Impression Team Members and Staff wearing Yellow Lanyards to assist you with any questions.**

**STAFF EMAIL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Rev. John Richter, Sr. Pastor  
Nate Williams, Wednesday Night Coord./ LLS Outreach  
Stephanie Jowers, Director Children’s Ministries  
Tiffany Richter, Director of Music Ministries  
Trent Dodson, Student Pastor  
Tina White, Director Little Lambs Preschool

[john.richter@sjepc.com](mailto:john.richter@sjepc.com)  
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[tina.white@sjepc.com](mailto:tina.white@sjepc.com) or  
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[jane.brannon@sjepc.com](mailto:jane.brannon@sjepc.com)  
[regina.baker@sjepc.com](mailto:regina.baker@sjepc.com)  
[karen.hassell@sjepc.com](mailto:karen.hassell@sjepc.com)

Jane Brannon, Office / LLS Assistant  
Regina Baker, Financial Secretary  
Karen Hassell, Administrative Assistant,  
Facility Coordinator; 55Alive Sr. Adult Travel

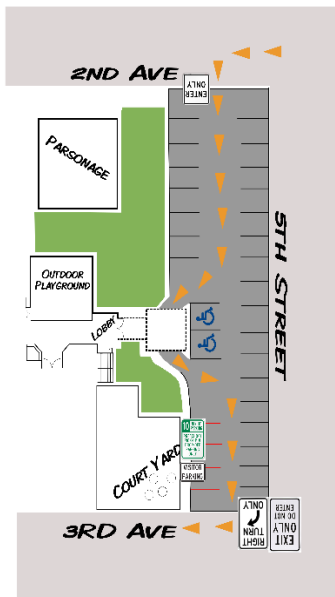
St. John’s Evangelical Protestant Church  
512 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE Cullman Al 35055

**Church Office Hours** Monday –Thursday 8am-5pm  
Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

256-734-0344  
Phone

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

**If your visiting, a little traffic information for you about the parking lot:**



To help us ensure the safety of our children, visitors and adults, the traffic flow in the north parking lot is **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.**

There are 4 designated Visitor parking spots for our guests on Sundays.  
~ Safe Sanctuaries

**ONE WAY  
TRAFFIC  
FOR NORTH  
PARKING  
LOT**

**2022 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kurt Apel, Mary Barnes\*, Corrie Antler Bradfield, Fred Bussey, Champ Crocker, Billy Jackson, Michelle Joiner, Jamie Laney, Matt Page, Stan Sandlin, Matt Schlosser\*, Stacie Wren.

**2022 Council Officers:**

Billy Jackson\*, President; Fred Bussey\*, VP; Stacie Wren, Secretary; Jamie Laney, Treasurer

\*Retiring members this year



**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.

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

**YOU WERE  
MADE TO  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.  
TAKE THE  
FIRST STEP  
TODAY.**

 **Get Fit**

*Find out more  
about how you can  
get involved in  
Kingdom service.*

*Scan me*



## **SJ's Weekly Sunday Worship Schedule**

**9:00 – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary** without weekly communion

**10:10-10:50 – Sunday School** – classes for children, youth and adults

**11:00 – Modern Worship in Christ Hall** with the addition of weekly communion



*Thank you for visiting our church  
website!*

Download the Church Center Ap today!  
Registration for events or meals is a breeze with the ap!!

