



SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

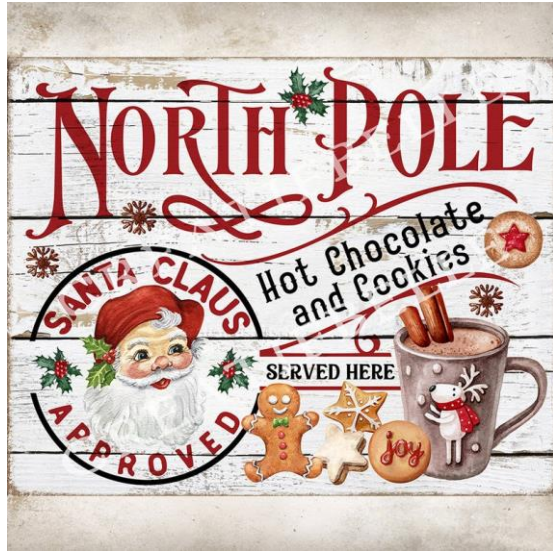
EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

December 18, 2022 Liturgical Color: Blue

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

Fourth Sunday in Advent- LOVE www.sjepc.com

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE for Worship Services)



TODAY

9:45am
to
10:45am

Atrium

Come and
enjoy a
cup of
cocoa and
a cookie



POINSETTIA SUNDAY

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 24th.

Price: \$15.00



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

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET VOTE

Today members of SJ's will vote by ballot in each worship service on the 2023 proposed church budget.

Ballots will be handed out and collected in a designated part of the service.

Please do not put ballots in the offering plates.

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 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) 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)

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) 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.

THANK YOU—In our time of loss you have given us peace and healing. Through your comforting words. We are grateful. ~ The Mark Richter Family

POINSETTIA'S ARE PLACED IN THE CHURCH:

In memory of:

Whit Warren by Curt and Rebecca Peinhardt

Eta Rigsby by Lee, Ginger, Evie and Emmaline Powell

Andy Page by Lliz, Jay, Suzy, Don, Mary Claire, Anna

Raymond and Terry McCutchen by Yvonne Krenkel

Don Dossey by His Family

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) to give us your updated address so you will not miss out on important information from the church.

WINDING UP THE 2022 ADVENT SEASON

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)
Music Ministry Christmas Party

See the Christmas worship schedule on the front page of the bulletin.

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:

Sun. Dec. 18 Music Ministry Christmas- Ruehl Bldg.

Mon. Dec. 19 8a Victim's Services (RB)

Tues. Dec. 20 7a Men's Bible Study and Breakfast (CH)

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

11:30 Staff Christmas Lunch

6p NARANON (RB)

Wed. Dec. 21

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

11:00 Ingram Farms Christmas Lunch-Freddie Day- Ruehl Bldg.

Confirmation Class will not meet

6p Youth

6p Praise Team

Thurs. Dec. 22

12:00p Rotary Meeting and Lunch (CH)

12:00p Men's Group (CR)

1:00p Victim Services (RB)

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.

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

Our Faithful Giving

Offerings: 12-11-22 \$29,508.19

Reducing our Debt in 2022

BTN \$143,823.95

Gifts:

A gift is given in honor of those who came and helped cut and clean up around my home by Bob Rigdon
Memory of Lorene Hyatt by Don and Maria Schultz
Memory of Steve Miller by Don and Maria Schultz
Memory of Thomas Baker by Mark and Pam Farmer

BTN

Memory of Lorene Hyatt by George and Brenda Scott

Men's Fellowship

Memory of Steve Miller by Ricky and Netta Willoughby

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.*
- 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; Sterling Bates; Doris Grissom

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

YOUTH 411

FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!
Instagram and Facebook -
@sjyouthlive
Snapchat – sjstudents

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!

Sunday School

10:10-10:50 am
Youth Center

Trent Dodson, Student Pastor

Trent.dodson@sjepc.com

Cell: 205-910-2741

Wednesday's:

6-7:00pm
Youth Center
Middle School & HS



6 Ways to Give:

- * **church website** (www.sjepc.com) and click the giving tab
- ***Mail your check to the church:** St. John's Church, 512 2nd 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.



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

Jane Brannon, Office / LLS Assistant

Regina Baker, Financial Secretary

Karen Hassell, Administrative Assistant,

Facility Coordinator; 55Alive Sr. Adult Travel

john.richter@sjepc.com

thenatewilliams1@gmail.com

stephjowers96@gmail.com

tiffany.richter@sjepc.com

trent.dodson@sjepc.com

tina.white@sjepc.com or

littlelambspreschool@sjepc.com

jane.brannon@sjepc.com

regina.baker@sjepc.com

karen.hassell@sjepc.com

St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church

512 2nd Ave SE Cullman AL 35055

Church Office Hours Monday –Thursday 8am-5pm

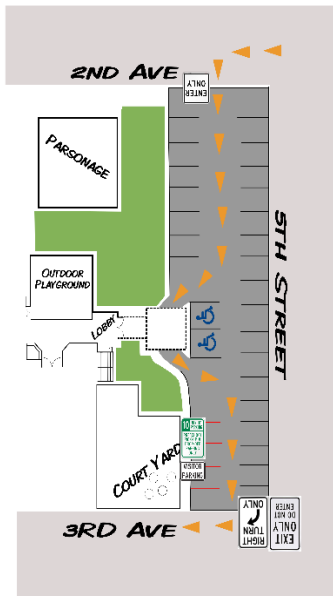
Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

256-734-0344

Phone

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 2nd Ave. (street that runs in front of the church) and **exit onto 3rd 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

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!!

