



SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

December 25, 2022 Liturgical Color: Blue

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

www.sjepc.com

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE for Worship Services)

NEW YEAR'S DAY

WORSHIP

9a Sanctuary

11a Christ Hall

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



2023 OFFERING

ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are now available for pick up downstairs by the drink machines. Please do not use the 2023 envelopes until January 1, 2023, as offering numbers usually change each year. Online users will not have assigned envelope sets unless requested. Envelope numbers are no longer required for recording contributions.

YEAR END 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 84321. 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.

HOLY COMMUNION FIRST SUNDAY OF THE NEW YEAR

January 1, 2023 we will observe Holy Communion in worship. If you are homebound and can not be in attendance and would like for a Pastor to visit you and serve you Communion, please call the church office (256-734-0344) to schedule a time for a Pastor to visit with you.

149th ANNUAL MEETING

The 149th Annual Meeting of St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church will be on Sunday January 15, 2023 immediately following the last worship service. The meeting will be held in Heritage Hall. Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Four new Council members will be elected at the Annual Meeting. There will be no meal served.

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)

SYMPATHY'S-

- Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Ronald Pattillo, husband of Virginia, and father of Patrick and the late Clark (Daphne) Pattillo. Funeral services were held Wednesday, December 21 at Moss Service Funeral Home by Rev. John Richter.
- Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Frances Hartwig, mother of Brian (Michelle) Cain.
- Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Cindy Walker, wife of the late Rev. Jim Walker. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced when completed.

THANK YOU'S—

- Dear Church Family, We are amazed at the outpouring of love we have felt in our loss of Thomas. We thank you for the plant, cards, gifts, kind words and prayers. They are very much appreciated.
~Sincerely, Regina Baker and Family
- Dear Women's Guild, We thank you for the meal gift card and look forward to a time when we can use it together. Sincerely, The family of Thomas Baker

BUDGET VOTE- The 2023 Budget passed. Vote total: 158 yes 5 no

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEES- Nominations are now open for the congregation to nominate Council persons. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Church Secretary Stacy Wren, along with a signed permission form by the nominee. Nominations will remain open until ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting to be held on January 15, 2023. Nominations to date are: Chad Knop, Kathy Schuman, Deanna Little, and Pam Farmer. Council members completing their three year terms are: Mary Barnes, Fred Bussey, Billy Jackson, and Matt Schlosser. Four new Council members will be elected at the Annual Meeting to new three (3) year terms.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS BREAK- Tuesday morning Men's Fellowship will take a couple of weeks off and resume on January 10th at 7:00am in Christ Hall. All men are invited to come for a short 30 minute Bible Study with Perry Warren and breakfast. Donations for breakfast are accepted each Tuesday morning.

POINSETTIA MEMORIALS:

In memory of:

Whit Warren by Curt and Rebecca Peinhardt

Whit Warren by Will and Kate Blackmon

Etna Rigsby by Lee, Ginger, Evie and Emmaline Powell

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

Raymond and Terry McCutchen by Yvonne Krenkel

Don Dossey by His Family

Katie Wesley by her mother

Please remember to pick your poinsettias up after each service Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning Dawnwatch Service.

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.

2023 WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S

Resume January 11

5:30p-6:00p Monthly Meal (reservations requested)

adults and children: spaghetti, salad, bread

6:00p-7:00p Small Groups

Confirmation, Kids Ministry, Youth, Praise Team

Small Groups:

Jamie Laney- "Stories Jesus Told"

Everyone loves a good story, and Jesus was a master story-teller. If you need fresh inspiration or are stuck in a personal life story you can't seem to change, consider this study of the parables of Jesus. In this class, you'll hear directly from Jesus through the Word. His parables not only form (or reform) who we are, they reveal more about God than we ever thought possible. Join this study to experience hope and dive deeper into the Bible.

Wes Warren- "Not a Fan"

Jesus never asked us to be his fans, sit on the sidelines, and cheer for his cause. The dictionary defines a fan as "an enthusiastic admirer." Fans want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires sacrifice. But is that really the extent of the relationship Jesus wants? Jesus was never interested in having admirers; Jesus wants us to be followers of him. Are you ready to grow closer to God and take the next step in your faith? Then this study is for you.

Nathan Williams'- "Apologetics 101"

We live in confusing times, and sometimes Christians don't know how to answer tough questions about their faith. Can a woman become a man (and vice-versa)? Should children be allowed to change their gender with drugs and surgeries? Why is marriage between one man and one woman? When does life begin, and does being pro-life mean that you hate women? Join this class to learn that there are good, satisfying, and biblically-sound answers to the hardest questions the world can ask you.

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. 26 **Church Office Closed**

Victim's Services will not meet (RB)

Tues. Dec. 27 Men's Bible Study and Breakfast will not meet until Jan. 10

P.L.A.R.N. will not meet

6p NARANON (RB)

Wed. Dec. 28

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

NO CLASSES OR GROUPS MEETINGS TONIGHT

Thurs. Dec. 29

12:00p Rotary Meeting and Lunch (CH)

12:00p Men's Group (CR)

1:00p Victim Services (RB)

Wednesday night small groups and classes resume on January 11th.

Wednesday monthly meal will be on January 11th beginning at 5:30 pm.

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: 12-18-22 \$27,708.09

Reducing our Debt in 2022

BTN \$169,093.95

Gifts:

BTN

Memory of Lorene Hyatt by Dennon and Sherry Compton

Women's Guild

Honor of Tom Oliver and Julie Apel by Lynda Hankey

YOUTH 411

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!

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

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

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, 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



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
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

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

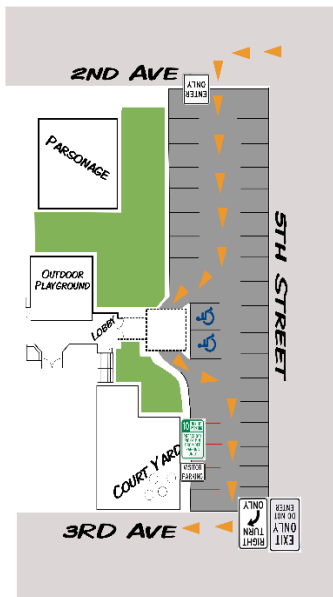
St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church
 512 2nd Ave SE Cullman Al 35055

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!!

