



# SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

## EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

Sept. 17, 2023 Liturgical Color: Green

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

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

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE for Worship Services)

### BRICK PAVERS

Only **2** weeks remain for our  
Brick paver sale.

*going.....going....almost gone!*

Go to the church website: [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com);  
find the events tab and click the brick picture  
OR come by the church office to order and  
pay.

**LAST DAY TO ORDER BRICKS IS  
OCTOBER 1, 2023.**

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED  
BY THIS DATE.**

### WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY!

During the Fall and Spring semesters, Nathan Williams leads a Bible Study on Wallace's campus on Wednesdays at 2:30pm. They meet in the Campus Ministries Room 100 in the Wellness Center.

The club—named Ratio Christi—generally focuses on evangelism (sharing the faith) and apologetics (defending the faith).

If you are a student, you are welcome to join! Invite friends. Contact Nathan if you have any questions ([nathan.williams@sjepc.com](mailto:nathan.williams@sjepc.com), 256-338-9210).

### TRUNK OR TREET it's HOOT 3 !!!

- Volunteers needed to host a trunk . Text Stephanie to sign up: 256-962-0211



*Drop by the office anytime!!*

*It's so much fun for  
young and old alike!!!*



### OKTOBERFEST WALKING TOUR



featuring St. John's

**Saturday Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Time: 1:00p**

**Come join us!**

The tour will officially start at 12:45 from the Col. Cullman Home heading south to SJ's.

To avoid the traffic congestion, SJ's folks meet at 1:00p here at the church to learn a little more about Cullman and St. John's !

*Light refreshments following*

**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!

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**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.

**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)

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## **NURSERY**

Available for newborns up to 3 yrs. of age at both worship services and during Sunday School. Please see any usher or First Impression Team member with a yellow lanyard 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.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Flowers are placed on the altar today to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Katie Wesley by her mother Linda Wesley.

## **SYMPATHY**

Christian love and sympathy is extended to the families who have experienced loss this past week:

- The family of Mrs. Esther Sparks, mother of Cindy Ponder. She is survived by her sister Mary Ruth Hice; her daughters: Cindy (Mike) Ponder, and DeAnn (Wally) Schafer; her grandsons: Eric (Taylor) Ponder, Bryan (Jessica) Schafer, and Jody (Mollie) Schafer; and her great grandchildren: Ava, Addison, Callan, Harper, Ellie, Greer, and Jack.
- The family of Mr. Howard Hays, husband of Evelyn and father of Anthony.
- The family of Mr. Bob Rigdon, father of Linda (Mike) Isbell and Robert Rigdon. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

## **55ALIVE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**

10:00am Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup> Rev. John will our special guest and will present “What Your Family Needs to Know About Your Final Requests” from the church side of information. Lunch (chicken alfredo, salad, bread) will follow. Call the office (256-734-0344) to let us know you plan to join us!

## **ALL CHURCH WORKDAY**

October 28<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more details.

**S T . J O H N ' S**  
**HOOT 3**  
**OCT 25 | 5 - 7 PM**  
**FOOD | TRUNK OR TREAT | INFLATABLES | CAKE WALK | TRIVIA CONTEST**  
**FUN FOR ALL AGES!**  
**St. John's Parking Lot**

**A new area for our HOOT 3 is a TRIVIA CONTEST!!  
Get your game on and team together!**

## Happening this week:

**Tues. Sept. 19** 7:00a Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

9a P.L.A.R.N

10a Widows (off site today)

6p NARANON (RB)

6p Church Council Meeting

**Wed. Sept. 20** 6:30a 55Alive to the Braves Game

10a LLS Chapel

6:00- 7:00p Classes, Confirmation, Kids Min, Youth--Class Session: Aug. 16-Oct. 18

**1- Walking in Faith—with Wade Warren (Atrium)**

Join Wade for a time of prayer and exercise! We will gather together in the Atrium, spend time in prayer, and then walk in the community.

**2-No Excuses: Discipleship and Following Christ--What does it mean to follow Christ? (Ruehl Bldg)**

Leaders-Wes Warren, Hank Apel, Steve Schwaiger

**3-Studying the Word: 1&2 Peter** with Nathan Williams (Heritage Hall)--Spend time in God's word, walking through 1&2 Peter.

**Thurs. Sept. 21** 10:00a 55Alive- "What Your Family Needs to Know" with Rev. John (RB)

11:30a 55Alive Lunch (RB)

12:00p Rotary Meeting and Lunch (CH)

12:00p Men's Group (CR)

1:00p Victim Services (RB)



**Ages 18-25 Welcome!!**

Sunday mornings

**@ *Reaching Higher Too!***

**Basement of the Ruehl Building**

**10:10-10:50a**

*Great place to connect!!*

### **TEXTING NUMBER FOR ST. JOHN'S--Important Communication Messages for You**

SJ's has added a new text line in order to improve our communication abilities. Members can ask questions through this number to the staff, and you will receive the occasional text concerning SJ Events. This is not a group chat; no one else other than SJ staff will be able to read your messages. **Here is how you can join:**

**1) Text "SJEPC" to 256-734-0344.**

**2) After you receive a response** from us, *text your name* so that we know who you are for contact information purposes.

		<p align="center"><b>FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA</b> Instagram and Facebook - @sjyouthlive Snapchat – sjstudents</p>
<p align="center">Text "@sjstudent" to 81010 to begin receiving updates!</p>	<p align="center"><b>Sunday School</b> 10:10-10:50 am Youth Center</p>	<p align="center"><b>STUDENTS AND PARENTS</b> Get info and updates on all things student ministry sent to you in a text message!</p>
<p align="center">Trent Dodson, Student Pastor <a href="mailto:Trent.dodson@sjepc.com">Trent.dodson@sjepc.com</a> Cell: 205-910-2741</p>		

## SAFE SANCTUARIES EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TEAMS

To help us be prepared in the event of an emergency here at SJ's, we are in the process of our annual assessment and update of our emergency teams. If you would be willing to stand in the gap and assist us if an emergency occurs, please let us know. Your skills and training might possibly help save someone's life!! If you can assist in any of the following fields, Safe Sanctuaries and the Security Team would like to have knowledge of your expertise.

***PLEASE NOTE: These lists will not be made public or be published. They are for our files only and will only be shared only with team members and pastoral staff.***

### Fields of Interest are:

- **Medical Training**
  - Your area of experience?
    - AED- Defibrillator trained
    - CPR Certified
    - First Aid Trained
    - Doctor, Nurse, PA
    - EMT
- **Background in Security or have had Security training**
  - Do you conceal carry?
  - Law Enforcement Background?
  - Military Police Background?
  - Have worked in security before?
  - The Service I usually attend-- 9 or 11 ?
  - I don't have experience in any of the above fields, but I am willing to be trained in \_\_\_\_\_ area.
  - Yes, I would help if there was an emergency at church possibly to help save a life \_\_\_\_\_

***Email: [karen.hassell@sjepc.com](mailto:karen.hassell@sjepc.com) with your name, area of experience, your willingness to assist if needed, or the area you would like to be trained in, along with the best contact number for you to be reached.***

## Our Faithful Giving

9-10--23 Offerings: \$18,055.43

Reducing our Debt in 2023

BTN \$91,208.10

### Gift:

BTN- Memory of Jean Driver by George and Brenda Scott

\*\*This section is printed on the weekly Order of Worship as space permits. It is printed weekly in the online church bulletin.

**BURN THE NOTE CHANGE**---Beginning October 1, 2023 our current *BURN THE NOTE Debt Reduction* will have a name change to *Mission 150! A Legacy of God's Faithfulness and Generosity*.

## St. John's Evangelical 2024 GERMAN REFORMATION TOUR

May 17-28, 2024

### *Do you have friends you would like to invite?*

Come along and join us as we see the magnificent sights of Germany! We will travel down from Berlin to Munich and visit many stops along the way! You will also experience the sites of Martin Luther as well as many other historical sites in between. As a part of SJ's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday Celebration, we will make a special visit to Frankweiler, Cullman's sister city!

Some of the highlights include: a panoramic tour of Berlin, attend a service at St. Mary's Church where Luther preached in Wittenberg; Visit Luther's home, Tour Eisleben; Stroll through Erfurt and visit the Augustinian Monastery; enjoy free time to explore Erfurt at your leisure; Explore Wartburg Castle; Sail one of the prettiest sections of the Rhine River viewing beautiful castles as you go; celebrate a meal and wine tasting at a family owned winery; tourn medieval Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber; explore Neuschwanstein Castle for amazing Bavarian views; explore Linderhof Castle; enjoy a guided tour in Munich and leisure time there for exploring; and a farewell dinner at Ettal before returning home.

For more information, receive an itinerary or to sign up to go, email:

[john.richter@sjepc.com](mailto:john.richter@sjepc.com)

the more the merrier!!

## SJ's Adult & Young Adult Sunday School Class Information and Locations

*Are you looking for a Sunday School class? You are invited to visit these classes and find the class for you! Ask any greeter (wearing a yellow lanyard) or staff member Sunday morning and they will be happy to help you find a class location.*

**1-Eddie McGriff's Class**– "Digging into books of the Bible a chapter at a time. All are welcome!"

**Location:** Heritage Hall

**2-Wes Warren's Kingdom Builders**– "Discussion-based studies that draw us into the truth of Scripture. All are welcome!"

**Location:** Ruehl Building Main Floor (South Side)

**3-Melanie Townson's Reaching Higher**– "We are a diverse group of like-minded individuals with different backgrounds pursuing one goal: We want to live like Jesus. Our main objective in studying the Bible is to develop an understanding of how to model our lives after the directions of Christ. We gather together to encourage and foster relationships, and we also like to have fun and fellowship with one another! "We do Bible studies that focus on our relationship with Christ, our prayer life, and how to apply Biblical principles to our everyday lives."

**Location:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Ruehl Building

**4-Wade Warren's Reaching Higher Too**– "Young Adult class for ages 18 - 25 years with a focus on developing relationships with each other and with God."

**Location:** Basement of the Ruehl Building

**5-Dennon Compton's Upper Room**– "The Book of James"

**Location:** Upper room, next to elevator and Tween room. Use elevator off the Atrium to get to the classroom.

### 6 Ways to Give:

\* **church website** ([www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)) and click the giving tab

\***Mail gifts:** 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

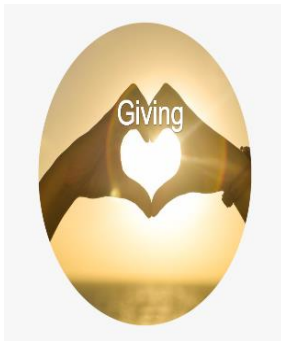
\***Put in the offering plate** during the service

### 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.



**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.

**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



**Just copy and paste this address into your internet browser.**  
<https://sjepc.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/online-connect-card-2.png> or log in from our church web site.

### **SIMPLIFY YOUR GIVING!**

Never worry about leaving your check at home or your tithe while you are away on vacation!

*Consider a regular recurring gift or automated EFT to St. John's Church.*

**EASY SETUP** thru our church website: [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)

- Look under the "giving" tab on the top right side of the page
- Select "giving" and under the frequency section you have two options: one time gift **or** regular recurring gift
- Call Regina in the church office(256-734-0344) if you need assistance to set up.



## SJ'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](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, Rachel Riley; Jackson Ray; Ray Bolzle; Anna McGriff, Betty Gibbs; Shane Guest; Tamara White, JP White; Donna Hendrix; Cori Antler Bradfield; Gail Wallace; Jim Mechaw; Raemon Gladney; Wilford James

### EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Kristen Hawsey Smith; Betty Walker; Lindsay Hickman; Lisa Sharpton; Susan McClendon Patrick; Julie Blaize; Porter Lynn Phillips; Kelli Kontogeorge Wright; James Laminack; Tom Sawyer; Sterling Bates; Terry Parker; Ann Buster Payne; Michael Johnston; Pam Hagan; Betty Barrett; Michael Clemmons; Brenda Landers; Doug Finch and Family; Sue Barnes

### 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.

Praying for: Cpt. Chris Hester, Chaplain—Maryland; 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, Middle East; Lt. Scott Waitley, US Navy; Lt. John Riley, Ft Benning, Ga

### Assisted Living:

**Folsom Center:** Doris Keathley  
**Woodland Village:** Bea Mack

**Hanceville Nursing Home:** Clarice Shafer  
**Woodland House—**Jo Webb

## 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.

## **SJ's STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Reverend Doctor John Richter**, Sr. Pastor

[john.richter@sjepc.com](mailto:john.richter@sjepc.com)

**Nate Williams**, Associate Minister

Wednesday Night Coord./ LLS Outreach

[nate.williams@sjepc.com](mailto:nate.williams@sjepc.com)

**Trent Dodson**, Student Pastor

[trent.dodson@sjepc.com](mailto:trent.dodson@sjepc.com)

**Tiffany Richter**, Director of Music Ministries

[tiffany.richter@sjepc.com](mailto:tiffany.richter@sjepc.com)

**Stephanie Jowers**, Director Children's Ministries

[stephjowers96@gmail.com](mailto:stephjowers96@gmail.com)

**Tina White**, Director Little Lambs Preschool

[tina.white@sjepc.com](mailto:tina.white@sjepc.com) or

[littlelambspreschool@sjepc.com](mailto:littlelambspreschool@sjepc.com)

**Jane Brannon**, Church Office and LLS Office Assistant

[jane.brannon@sjepc.com](mailto:jane.brannon@sjepc.com)

**Regina Baker**, Financial Secretary

[regina.baker@sjepc.com](mailto:regina.baker@sjepc.com)

**Karen Hassell**, Administrative Assistant,

Facility Coordinator; 55Alive Sr. Adults

[karen.hassell@sjepc.com](mailto:karen.hassell@sjepc.com)

**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**

**Phone: 256-734-0344**

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

look under the event tab to sign up for  
all up-coming activities and events

### **CHURCHWIDE EMAILS**

*email:* (karen.hassell@sjepc.com) to sign up  
for receiving emails from the church so you  
will not miss out on important information.

### **2023 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Kurt Apel, Champ Crocker, Pam Farmer, Michelle Joiner, Chad Knop, Deanna Little, Stan Sandlin, Kathy Schuman.

### **2023 Council Officers:**

Stacie Wren, President; Matt Page, VP; Corrie Antler Bradfield, Secretary; Jamie Laney, Treasurer

**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



*Thank you for visiting our church  
website!*

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

### **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 adult**

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

