



SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

November 19, 2023 Liturgical Color: Green

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

www.sjepc.com

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE for Worship Services)

NEW MEMBER

RECOGNITION SUNDAY--December 10th

If you have joined SJ's this past year, on this day we will recognize all new members in each worship service.

If you have been attending SJ's and would like to join, please call the office (256-734-0344) to schedule a meeting with Rev. John prior to Dec. 10th.

Email Karen at: karen.hassell@sjepc.com to let her know which service you will be attending that day.

CHURCH OFFICE

will be closed
November 23 and 24 for the
Thanksgiving Holiday.

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

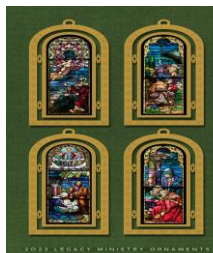
COMING 2024

Mark your calendars for
January 8-13th and *January 29-30th*
More details coming soon.

SJ's Legacy Ministry

new ornaments
available for pickup Today
each service in the Atrium.

You can purchase today,
place order online or
in the church office.



\$30 each or three new ornaments: \$80



55ALIVE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thursday Dec. 14th at 11:00am
The Freight House in Hartselle and then a little
retail therapy!

RESERVATIONS DUE BY DEC. 1ST
HO! HO! HO! The more the merrier!!

BOTH BUSES ARE READY TO ROLL!!

Call the office (256-734-0344) to let us know you
are going and if you plan to ride with the group on
the bus or meet us there.



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 kid's 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.

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)

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 to learn more about St. John's.

NEW ARRIVAL- Congratulations to Owen and Mary Paige Lovell on the birth of their daughter Ann-Frances Lovell born October 31, 2023 weighing 9 lbs 23 ¾" tall. Grandparents are Donovan and SF Lovell and Barry and Adi Hunt.

SYMPATHY- Christian love and sympathy is extended to the following families this week:

- The Family of *Mrs. Corinne Glasscock*, mother of Steve (Ange) Glasscock and grandmother of Sonya Glasscock and great grandmother of Seth and Shane Whiting. Funeral services were held Nov. 16, 2023 at Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church.
- The Family of *Ms. Rachel Mayhall*. Arrangements are pending at this time.

THANK YOU'S-

- Dear St. John's, Thank you for caring for our family during this difficult time. The payers, calls, and beautiful plant were certainly appreciated. We are grateful for our church family. ~ Love , The Apel Family
- Thank you, St. John's Family, for the beautiful plant, prayers, and concerns during the illness of Howard Hays and his passing. You will all have a special place in my heart. Blessings from my family.
~ Anthony Hays, Ray, Patricia, Erin and Benjamin Wise, and Evelyn Hays

55ALIVE ORBIX HOT GLASS ROADTRIP- Tuesday Nov. 21. *Leave time: 7:15am.* In keeping the safety of our Little lambs students at the forefront, please park along streetside of SJ's parking lot rather than in the lot. Lunch will follow at 1:00pm at Vintage 1889 Restaurant in Ft. Payne Al.

Christmas at the Richter Haus --- Sunday Dec. 17th . Save the date! More details coming!

CALLING ALL COOKS!!! --SJ's is providing a special Christmas dinner for the families at The Link. The meal will be Dec. 7th in Christ Hall here at SJ's. My favorite part of any meal is the desserts! To help complete this meal, we would like to have a few "festive desserts" like iced cupcakes, any kind of iced cakes, pies or cookies to help complete this meal!!

If you would like to volunteer to provide a dessert, we would need them at the church no later than Wednesday Dec. 6th, or you can bring them earlier and we can freeze them. Please call the church office 256-734-0344 or Gloria Hewett 256-962-0509 if you can provide a dessert!! Thanks in advance!!~ Gloria

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The First Sunday in Advent is December 3. The Advent Season is the four-week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word adventus which simply translates into "coming" or "arrival". There are beautiful and rich traditions included in the celebration of Advent. The four Sundays of Advent are Hope, peace, Joy, and Love each focusing on a different theme. The Advent Wreath is another tradition of the season. Advent candles shine brightly, as one candle is lit each week, symbolizing, and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. A large white candle, the Christ Candle, is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Advent Meditation Communion Services

Wednesday's --12:00pm Sanctuary

Dec. 6

Dec. 13

Dec. 20

Come and join us for a short meditation and communion service each Wednesday of Advent.



SJ Kids ✨ O Holy Night



All Children thru 6th Grade attending our Christmas Eve 10am Service are invited to participate in our telling of the Christmas Story.

Join us in the Atrium before the service to receive your part - No practice or registration needed.

ST. JOHN'S CHRIST HALL

DECEMBER 24TH 10AM



Toy Drive Stil Continues

1 more week

Bring a toy for the toy drive until Dec. 1st !!

If you sponsored a Christmas Angel

ALL UNWRAPPED GIFTS are due at Curt's Closet by on or before DEC. 5th .

ARE YOU IN THE LOOP? *Did you sign up ?? Sign up today to receive the up to date last minute messages you might need to know about classes, worship services or events here at SJ's.* The winter weather and secondary severe weather season are fast approaching! To be sure you will not miss any important communication messages for you and your family go ahead and sign up. *Here, you can ask questions through this number to the staff, and you will receive the occasional reminder text about SJ Events. This is not a group chat; no one else other than SJ staff will be able to read your messages. What do you have to LOOSE??? You can opt out at any time.* **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.

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

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY!—If you are on campus Wednesdays at 2:30pm, join Nathan Williams 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, 256-338-9210).

		<p>FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA Instagram and Facebook - @sjyouthlive Snapchat – sjstudents</p>
<p>Text “@sjstudent” to 81010 to begin receiving updates!</p>	<p>Sunday School 10:10-10:50 am Youth Center Friendsgiving Meal Wed. Nov. 15 Bring a Dish to share</p>	<p>STUDENTS AND PARENTS Get info and updates on all things student ministry sent to you in a text</p>
<p>Trent Dodson, Student Pastor Trent.dodson@sjepc.com Cell: 205-910-2741</p>		

Happening this week:

- Tues. Nov. 21** 7:00a Men’s Bible Study and Breakfast
7:15a 55Alive Roadtrip to Orbix Hot Glass, Ft. Payne Al
9a P.L.A.R.N
6p NARANON (RB)
- Wed. Nov. 22** 10a Chapel
NO WEDENSDAY ACTIVITIES
- Thurs. Nov. 23** **Thanksgiving Day—Gobble Gobble!!**
- Fri. Nov. 24** CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**St. John's Evangelical
2024 GERMAN REFORMATION TOUR
May 16-26, 2024**

Trip deposits are now being accepted to reserve your spot.

Cities on the tour: Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Speyer, Heidelberg, Mainz, Worms, Frankweiler, Rothenburg, Munich

Rev. Richter invites you to join an 11-day tour of Germany. As part of the church's 150th anniversary celebration, there will be a special visit to Frankweiler, Cullman's sister city.

Land price only \$3,399 / Land and air \$4,999

**Price based on a minimum of 20 participants*

To sign up for the trip, and receive a copy of the full itinerary, please email John at:

john.richter@sjepc.com



END OF YEAR FOR 2023 IS COMING!! *Have you considered a qualified charitable distribution to SJ's?* What is a qualified charitable distribution? This is a direct transfer of assets from your IRA, payable to a qualifying charity, that counts toward annual **required minimum distributions** (RMDs). They are a great way for people age 70 ½ or older to satisfy RMD requirements in a tax-efficient way and make a charitable impact. For the gift to count, it must come from your IRA by December 31, 2023. Check now with your tax preparer and IRA provider to set it up.

Our Faithful Giving

Offering: \$28,604.11

Gifts:

Mission150!

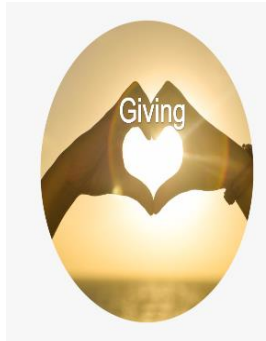
Memory of Cheri Apel by David and Peggy Adderhold and Julie Berry Creel; Liz Page; Jerry and Donna Hendrix; Judy and Freddie Day;

In Honor of Ronny Apel by David and Peggy Adderhold and Julie Berry Creel;

Memory of Bob Rigdon and Danny McAfee by Freddie and Judy Day;

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

Mission 150! A Legacy of God's Faithfulness and Generosity.



6 Ways to Give:

- * **church website** (www.sjepc.com) and click the giving tab
- ***Mail gifts:** 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.

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: 2nd 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 1 Peter"

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



Ages 18-25 Welcome!!
Sunday mornings
@ *Reaching Higher Too!*
Basement of the Ruehl Building
10:10-10:50a
Great place to connect!!

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

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

- 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 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

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** 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 allow

CHURCH MEMBERS:

Johnnie Miller; Judy Dean, Rachel Riley;
Ray Bolzle; Anna McGriff, Betty Gibbs; Shane
Guest; Tamara White, JP White; Gail Wallace;
Wilford James; Jean Creasey

EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Kristen Hawsey Smith; Betty Walker; Lindsay
Hickman; Lisa Sharpton; Susan McClendon
Patrick; Julie Blaize; Porter Lynn Phillips;
Sterling Bates; Terry Parker; Ann Buster Payne;
Michael Johnston; Pam Hagan; Betty Barrett;
Michael Clemmons; Brenda Landers; Cathy
Burch

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, US Navy- Bahrain; Pvt. First Class 3 Caleb Wood, Middle East; Lt. Scott Waitley, US Navy; Lt. John Riley, Ft Benning, Ga; Jase Goolsby, US Navy- USS Gerald Ford, Middle East.

Assisted Living:

Folsom Center: Doris Keathley
Hanceville Nursing Home: Clarice Shafer
Woodland Village: Bea Mack
Woodland House—Jo Webb

SJ's STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

Reverend Doctor John Richter, Sr. Pastor

john.richter@sjepc.com

Nate Williams, Associate Minister
Wednesday Night Coord./ LLS Outreach
nate.williams@sjepc.com

Trent Dodson, Student Pastor
trent.dodson@sjepc.com

Tiffany Richter, Director of Music Ministries
tiffany.richter@sjepc.com

Stephanie Jowers, Director Children's Ministries
stephjowers96@gmail.com

Tina White, Director Little Lambs Preschool
tina.white@sjepc.com or
littlelambspreschool@sjepc.com

Jane Brannon, Church Office and LLS Office Assistant
jane.brannon@sjepc.com

Regina Baker, Financial Secretary
regina.baker@sjepc.com

Karen Hassell, Administrative Assistant, Facility Coordinator; 55Alive Sr. Adults
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**

Phone: 256-734-0344

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

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.

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.



**ONLINE
CONNECT
CARD**

NEW HERE? WE'D LOVE TO CONNECT WITH YOU.

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.

Thank you for visiting our church website!

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

