



# SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

## EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

March 24, 2024 Liturgical Color: Purple

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

**PALM SUNDAY – Examination Sunday**

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

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE)

### 2024 Confirmation Class



Anna Kate Allcorn  
 William Arthur Apel\*  
 Sydney Shea Bates\*  
 Libby Laine Carter  
 Olivia Jayne Culpepper\*  
 Harper Ann Easterwood  
 Raemon Xavier Gladney  
 Cailyn Marie Harland  
 Hayden Reese Hice\*  
 Sadie Kaenuenuelani Jackson  
 Addison Kate Jones\*  
 Kamden Grace Jones  
 Anna Presley Kruger\*  
 Isabella Rose Rainwater\*  
 John Isaac Richter\*  
 Madeline Grace Elizabeth Stidham\*  
 Ayden Joseph Svarney  
 Katherine Marie Ugarkovich

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jason Allcorn  
 son of Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Apel  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weston Bates  
 granddaughter of Ms. Martha Carter  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clint Culpepper  
 daughter of Ms. Meredith Easterwood  
 son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gladney  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Harland  
 daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Blake Hice  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Jackson  
 daughter of Ms. Nina Jones and Mr. Tyler Jones  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Jones  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kruger  
 daughter of Ms. Olyvia Brown and Mr. Sam Rainwater  
 son of Reverend Dr. John and Tiffany Richter  
 daughter of Doctor's Jeremy and Katie Stidham  
 son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Svarney  
 daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ugarkovich

**An \* beside the name denotes 9:00am service for the Confimand**

### The Order of Confirmation

- Presentation of the 2024 Class
- Examination of the Confirmands
- Affirmation of Faith
- Congregational Affirmation
- Laying On of Hands and Prayer of Blessing
- Presentation of Gift and Right Hand of Fellowship
- Confirmation Prayer

*\*A person is received into the universal church the Body of Christ, through the sacrament of baptism. Confirmation celebrates and affirms the baptismal promises made by the parent's commitment to Christ and His Church.*

### PALM SUNDAY

Today is Palm Sunday, the final day of Lent. It also is the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey, and to the praise of townspeople who threw clothes or possibly palms or small branches in front of his as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are widely recognized as a symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use of Palm Sunday.



**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.sjpec.com](http://www.sjpec.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.sjpec.com](http://www.sjpec.com) to learn more about St. John's.

**SYMPATHY**- Christian love and sympathy is extended to the family of Mr. John Lambert, father of John (Gleena) Lambert. Funeral services will be held in College Park Georgia.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SUNDAY- MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**SJ's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

Come early and stay late!! A day of fun, fellowship!!  
Pie Contest Cake Contest Games Special 150<sup>th</sup> Items and more!!  
***DINNER ON THE GROUND*** – with an Old timey fish, shrimp and oyster fry and chicken fingers for those who prefer!

Special guests will be with us to celebrate!!

Sign up online: [sjpec.com](http://sjpec.com) under the event tab and look for 150 logo



## Holy Week Schedule

### March 24 Palm Sunday

#### Examination of the 2024 Confirmation Class

9:00 Worship (Sanctuary)

10:10 Sunday School

11:00 Worship (Christ Hall)

**March 27** No Wednesday Services or Activities

### March 28 Maundy Thursday

6:00 Prayer / Communion Service (Sanctuary)

### March 29 Good Friday

12:00 Prayer / Communion Service (Sanctuary)

### March 31 Easter Sunday

**7:30am** Communion / Meditation (Sanctuary)

**9:00am** Traditional Worship / Communion  
(Sanctuary)

**10:10am** Sunday School

**11:00am** Worship / Communion (Christ Hall)

**2024 Confirmation Class First Communion**

**April 1** Easter Monday – Easter Holiday

**Church Office Closed**



## CONNECT WITH US

We would love to connect with you if you have been visiting SJ's for a while or if you would like to more information about us. Scan the QR Code or fill out a CONNECT Card online on the church website: [sjepc.com](http://sjepc.com).



### EASTER LILIES

Lilies are available for purchase to be placed in honor or memory of loved ones or friends. Price: \$15.00 each. Forms available in the office. Please take home after each service Easter Sunday.

### 55ALIVE MARCH ROAD TRIP

**TUESDAY March 26<sup>th</sup>** --Linville Tennessee

**Leave time: 7:58 am Return: 5:15pm**

### CROSSES OF COMMITMENT

Your family is invited to bring a cross to hand on the wall in the Atrium. Crosses can be up to 9" x 14" and placed in the designated space. Nails and hammer are provided at the Welcome Desk area for your convenience. If you prefer not to hand to yourself, leave it on the desk and we will hang for you.

**EASTER LILY LIST** will be published next Sunday.

### APRIL WALKING TOUR

Each Saturday in April Cullman County Museum features a walking tour in downtown Cullman. Tours begin on the front steps of The Museum at 10:00am., rain or shine. Each Saturday the tour leader will choose the route and topic, so every tour is different. St. John's Church will be included on the tours.

**NURSERY AVAILABLE-** for newborns up to 3 yrs. of age during Sunday School and both worship services. Please see any usher or First Impression Team member with a yellow lanyard this morning and they will direct you to the nursery

***What's YOUR 150 In 2024 ?***

*Every Member on a Mission*

## AFTER EASTER WEDNESDAY'S BEGINNING APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

Wednesday Adult Classes start back after Easter! They will run for 6 weeks, from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>. Here is the lineup:

**5:15pm FIRST WEDNESDAY MEAL (Chick fil A Night)**

*sign up online*

*sjepc.com under events tab chick fil a symbol*

**Menu:** chick fil a sandwich, chips, baked beans, dessert

**6:00pm** Classes, Youth and Children

### **Women of the Bible – Women's Class**

Explore the lives of many biblical women based on the book *The Women of the Bible Speak* by Shannon Bream. Gain a deeper understanding of the diverse roles women played in biblical history and how their stories continue to inspire and resonate with women today.

Each class session contains 1 lesson, so if you miss a session, it is okay – come to 1 or all of them. Snacks and all materials provided.

### **Two Truths and a Lie – Men's Class**

There is a masculinity crisis in our culture, and this has reached the Church. In a confused world, what does it mean to be a godly man, and how do we answer the lies we are often told by the world around us? Join us as we study Scripture to answer deep life questions about being a father, husband, single man, and more.

### **Walking in Faith**

Join this class if you'd like to come together for a time of prayer and get outside for some walking!

**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](mailto:nathan.williams@sjepc.com), 256-338-9210)

**TEXT ANNOUNCEMENTS**--- Sign up today to receive the up to date last minute messages you might need to know about classes, worship services or events taking place at SJ's. To be sure you will not miss any important communication messages for you and your family, go ahead and sign up.

Here you can also ask questions thru this number to the staff. **THIS IS NOT A GROUP CHAT**; no one else other than SJ's staff will be able to read your message.

### **HERE'S HOW TO SIGN UP:**

- Text SJEPC to 256-734-0344
- After you receive a response from us, text your name, so we will know who you are for contact information purposes.

### **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](mailto:karen.hassell@sjepc.com) or call the church office (256-734-0344) with your email address.

**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



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

**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](mailto:Trent.dodson@sjepc.com)  
Cell: 205-910-2741

**STUDENTS AND P ARENTS**  
Get info and updates on all  
things student ministry  
sent to you in a text message!



## **THIS WEEK:**

**Sunday March 24 Palm Sunday – Examination of the 2024 Confirmation Class**

**Mon. March 25**

**Tues. March 26**

**7:58am 55A Roadtrip- Lynnville Tn.**

7a Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (CH)

9a PLARN (HH)

6p NaraNon- (RB)

**Wed. March 27**

10a Chapel

No noon or evening Services

**Communion / Meditation** (Sanctuary)

**Thurs. March 28-Maundy Thursday**

12:00p Rotary Meeting and Lunch

12:00p Hank's Group (UR)

6:00p Evening Service (Prayer / Communion Service-Sanctuary)

**Fri. March 29- Good Friday**

12:00 p Prayer / Communion Service (Sanctuary)

**Sat. March 30 Holy Saturday**

**Sun. March 31** Easter Sunday (7:30, 9:00 11:00) -register online

Sunday School 10:10a

## **Our Faithful Giving**

**Offering:** \$ \$24,560.38

### **Gifts:**

#### **General Fund:**

**Memory of Ray Bolzle, Wilford James and Jan Witte** by Butch and Mary Aderhold;

**Mission 150**

**Memory of Christine Kessler** by Shea Polancich

**Memory of Dad** by Denise and Jerry Schuman

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

## **6 Ways to Give:**

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

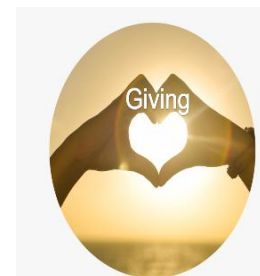
\***Mail gifts:** St. John's Church, 512 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SE, Cullman AL 35055

\***"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 (Mission 150!, 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.



**Ages 18-25 Welcome!!**

Sunday mornings

**@ *Reaching Higher Too!***

**Basement of the Ruehl Building**

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

*Great place to connect!!*

Leaders

Cori Manord and Blake Tetro,

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

*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**– "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

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

**4-Reaching Higher Too**– **Leaders:** Cori Manord, Blake Tetro; "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

## 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 allows.

### CHURCH MEMBERS:

Johnnie Miller; Judy Dean, Rachel Riley; Anna McGriff, Betty Gibbs; Shane Guest; Tamara White, JP White; Gail Wallace; Bob Uzzell

### EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Kristen Hawsey Smith; Betty Walker; Lindsay Hickman; Lisa Sharpton; Susan McClendon Patrick; Julie Blaize; Porter Lynn Phillips; Terry Parker; Ann Buster Payne; Michael Johnston; Pam Hagan; Betty Barrett; Michael Clemmons; Brenda Landers; Cindy Hawkins; Jabron (TJ) Luker; Lauren Rasbury Horstman; Dorothee Grayban

### Military Addresses

Praying for: Cpt. Chris Hester, Chaplain—Maryland; Nicholas Sargent, US Marines; Staff Sergeant Josh Ryan, USAF, Eglin AFB; Pvt. First Class 3 Caleb Wood, Middle East; Lt. Scott Waitley, US Navy; Lt. John Riley, Ft Benning, Ga; Jase Goolsby, US Navy-Norfolk; Ben Turner, US Navy-Norfolk

### Assisted Living:

**Folsom Center:** Doris Keathley

**Woodland Village:** Bea Mack

**Westminster—**Jo Webb

**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



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

**Reverend Doctor John Richter**, Sr. Pastor  
[john.richter@sjepc.com](mailto:john.richter@sjepc.com)

**Nathan Williams**, Associate Minister  
[nathan.williams@sjepc.com](mailto:nathan.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**, 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.

### **SIMPLIFY YOUR GIVING!**

Never worry about leaving your check at home or your tithes 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.

## 2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

### Officers:

President: Matt Page; Vice President: Deanna Little; Secretary: Corrie Antler Bradfield; Treasurer: Jamie Laney

### Members:

Pam Farmer, Chad Knop, Stan Sandlin, Kathy Schuman, Jeremy Stidham, Matt Townson, Jacob Waldrop, Malinda Windham

**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.**

### **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

*Thank you for visiting our church  
website!*

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



