



# SAINT JOHN'S

Established 1874

Cullman Alabama

## EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH

Dec. 8, 2024 Liturgical Color: Blue

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT—PEACE

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

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

(Live stream available on YOUTUBE)



JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING WITH MONA IVEY AS WE PAINT & FELLOWSHIP! ALL AGES WELCOME!

COOKIES, COCOA & SUPPLIES PROVIDED!  
NO COST TO PARTICIPATE BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! REGISTER WITH QR CODE OR AT [WWW.SJEP.COM](http://WWW.SJEP.COM).



DEC 11TH @ 6PM  
CHRIST HALL

### This Wednesday- Dec. 11- 6:00pm

Cookies, Cocoa, and Painting.

Bring your own brown bag dinner and we'll have dessert as you work out your artistry on a Christmas painting, led by Mona Ivey.

Registration is necessary to prepare all the supplies.

Please register by Mon. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.

### VOTE ON PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET

This Sunday is the vote on the 2025 Proposed Budget.

Ballots will be collected at a designated time during the service.

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT BALLOTS IN THE OFFERING PLATE.**

### POINSETTIA SUNDAY'S Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>

If you would like to purchase a white poinsettia, to be placed in church, in memory or in honor of someone, please fill out one form per lily. Cost: \$15.00

Memo section: Poinsettia. Poinsettia's may be picked up after each service Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>.



pixatstock.com - 107009167

**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!

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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.

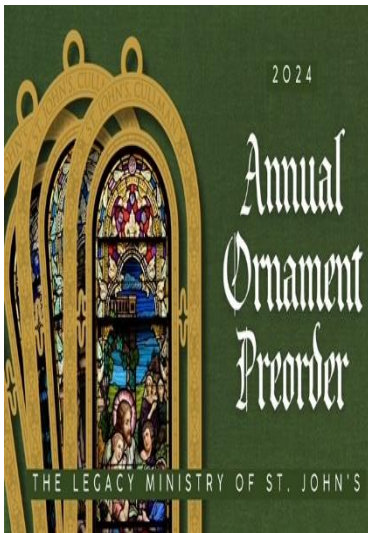
**VISITORS**---Thanks for visiting with us today! We would love the opportunity to sit down and meet with you! Please give us a call to set up an appointment with our Senior Pastor, Rev. John Richter @ 256-734-0344 if you have questions and would like to schedule an appointment to learn more about SJ's. You may also check our website [www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com) to learn more about St. John's.

**MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY**—Be sure to extend a SJ's welcome all of our new members this week!

Those received into membership this year: Addison, Miranda, Lillian and Bean Powell; Paul and Cheryl Bailey; Justin and Lydia Nichols; Daniel, Emily and Michael Kilpatrick; Jakob, Katie and Wade Kirkwood; Charles Moore; Russell and Ruth Buster; (Seth) Carlie and Ellis Blair; Sophia and Caleb Machen; Jacob and Hannah Neilsen; Dylan (Kelsey) Stone; Keaton, Haole, Sunni Oliver; mark and Margaret Hamm; Christina Cruitt; Jenna (Daniel) Hassell

**BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF SACRED HEART MONASTERY** invite you to their Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00pm and also to view their special collection of international nativity sets on display (No charge).

**THANK YOU**- Thank you to the sponsors that helped provide a St. John's Christmas table and meal for The Foundry Christmas . Special thanks to Becky Bussey, Nancy and Don Mckenize, Linda Wesley and Teena Milligan! The Foundry Men loved it all ! We were all blessed ! Love, Yvonne Krenkel



Individual \$30  
2024 Bundle (3) \$80

Preorder on the church website  
[www.sjepc.com](http://www.sjepc.com)

SJ's Legacy Committee  
*presents*  
2024 New Ornaments  
The Temple  
The Children  
The Sisters

**Ornament Pickup will be in the atrium  
after the 9:00 service  
and before the 11:00 this Sunday, December 8th.  
Past years' ornaments are also available.**

## 2024 Advent Schedule

### Wednesday's December 11, 18

#### 12pm Advent Devotional Services with Communion

Come to the Sanctuary for a time of quiet prayer and reflection. The Wednesday services will be at 12pm on Dec. 11, and 18. We will have short devotions on the topic of "The Trinity through the Apostles Creed," with each week covering the biblical roles of one Person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

#### Evenings with the (Church) Family – Times vary in Christ Hall

Fun for all ages as we get creative.

- **Dec 11 @ 6**– Cookies, Cocoa, and Painting. Bring a brown bag and we'll have dessert as you work out your artistry on a Christmas painting, led by Mona Ivey.
- **Dec 18 @ 6** – Christmas Singo Bingo. Brown bag it again as we finish the songs. Great prizes!

#### A Contemplative Christmas – 7 pm—Sanctuary

Does the hustle and bustle of holiday activity get you stressed out and worn down? Are you longing simply to ponder all the mystery, simplicity, grandeur, and meaning of Christmas or even for a quiet place to pray? Have you ever considered practicing the ancient listening and meditative prayer practice of Lectio Divina? If so, join us in the sanctuary on Wednesdays in Advent at 7 (December 11, 18).

**QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS—*The end of the year is not to far away!*** What is a qualified charitable distribution you might ask. 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 1/2 years old 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, 2024. Check now with your tax preparer and IRA Provider to get it set up.

## SINGO BINGO CHRISTMAS EDITION



**SINGO BINGO**  
*Christmas Edition*

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF BINGO FUN - SINGO BINGO STYLE!  
INSTEAD OF NUMBERS, MATCH THE SONG PLAYING  
ON YOUR BINGO CARD.  
LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL AGES!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**  
BRING YOUR OWN DINNER - WE'LL PROVIDE THE SWEETS!  
BINGO STARTS AT 6PM.

CHRIST HALL

REGISTER HERE  
OR AT  
[WWW.SJEPC.COM](http://WWW.SJEPC.COM)

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QR Code

**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 Student Center Room 107 (next to the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre). 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).

### COMMUNICATION---COMMUNICATION---COMMUNICATION !!!

In today's world communication is so important. Everyone is so busy and running in so many directions with time deadlines to be met. Many factors, including weather, play a part in where you will be. As we all gear towards fall, what better way to stay in touch with important events, class and meal information from your church???? SJ's TEXT ANNOUNCEMENTS will help you not miss any important communication for you and your family! **THIS IS NOT A GROUP CHAT.** Only SJ's staff will be able to see your reply.

#### 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.
- It takes less than 30 seconds to sign up!



Connect QR Code

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. Fill out a CONNECT Card (found in the pew rack),online ([sjepc.com](http://sjepc.com)).



## 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.

## 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.

## Sunday School Class Lineup

- College and Young Adult Class  
(Cori Manord and Blate Tetro)
- **\*New\* • Young Professionals and Young Couples**  
(Nate Williams)
- Reaching Higher  
(Matt and Melanie Townson, Wade Warren)
- Kingdom Builders  
(Wes Warren)
- Eddie McGriff's Sunday School Class  
(Eddie McGriff)
- Upper Room  
(Dennon Compton)

For information on these classes (locations, topics, etc.), visit our website (sjepc.com), look under "Ministries," and click on "Sunday School Classes."

Or use this QR code:



## **How's YOUR 150 In 2024?**

*Every Member on a Mission*

As we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we give thanks for what God has done in the past while looking forward to his continued faithfulness in the future.

Suggestion sheets are available in the Narthex and Christ Hall with some good examples of how you can practice spiritual disciplines.

**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



<p><b>FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA</b> Instagram @ sjstudents</p>	<p><b>Leaders:</b> Blake Tetro Madelyn Guest Carter Guest</p>	<p><b>Sunday School 10:10-10:50 am Youth Center</b></p>
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**THIS WEEK:**

**Mon. Dec. 9**

4:30-7:00p First Source for Women Christmas Party (CH)

**Tues. Dec. 10**

7a Men's Breakfast (CH)

9a PLARN (HH)

6p NaraNon- (RB)

6p Lights of Love (CH)

**Wed. Dec. 11**

12:00p Advent Service / Communion (Sanctuary)

6:00p Paint and Praise, Cookies and Cocoa—brown bag your dinner! (Youth Center)

7:00p Meditative Prayer -- Lectio Divina (Sanctuary)

**Thurs. Dec. 12**

12:00p 55 Alive Christmas Lunch Roadtrip @ Mildred's

12:00p Cullman Bar Association Lunch and Meeting (CH\_

12:00p Rotary Meeting and Lunch (CH)

12:00p Hank's Group (UR)

6:00p Rotary Club Christmas Dinner (CH)

**Fri. Dec. 13**

LLPS Staff Christmas Party (RB)

**Our Faithful Giving**

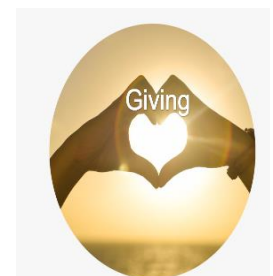
**Offerings: 12-1-24 \$25,675.49**

**Gift :**

**Mission 150—Memory of Joe Franey, Martha Oliver, Luan Atkins, Robert Jochum, Martha Brazelton by Terry and Helen Kent Family**

**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.



Sunday mornings  
**ONWARD** *is the Class for you!*

**Ages 18 +** reach out to Cori Manord and Blake Tetro about their Young Adult Sunday School Class.

We would love for you to join! Contact Cori (256-590-7603) or Blake (256-595-5259) if you have any questions.

**Basement of the Ruehl Building  
10:10-10:50a**

### **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 is struggling with alcohol and needs help or to attend group meetings, they 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 at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Contact: Nancy Clemmons Moore 256-347-8543 or 256-735-1717 for more information.



## **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**– All are welcome to our Sunday School class! Our group is generally composed of older adults, and we average around 15-25 people.

**Leader:** Eddie McGriff---Current Series: John MacArthur's "12 Ordinary Men"

**Location:** Heritage Hall

**2-Kingdom Builders**–Discussion-based studies that draw us into the truth of Scripture. All are welcome! We average around 40 people. Our class is inter-generational, from the younger to the more seasoned. All are welcome!"

**Leader:** Wes Warren

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

**3-Reaching Higher**–Welcome! We would love for you to come visit and check our group out. We tend to be composed of middle-age adults, with both married couples and singles. We average anywhere from 10-25 people.

**Leaders:** Matt and Melanie Townson, Wade Warren---Current Series: "No Other Gods" by Kelly Minter

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

**4-Onward**– College and Young Adult Sunday School class for ages 18 through upper 20s.

**Leaders:** Cori Manord, Blake Tetro--Current Series: The Sermon on the Mount

**Location:** Basement of the Ruehl Building

**5-Upper Room**--All are welcome to our Sunday School class! Our group is generally composed of older adults, and we average around 6-10 people.

**Leader:** Dennon Compton---Current Series: Luke

**Location:** Upper room, next to elevator and Tween room. Take the new elevator upstairs

**6- Young Professionals and Young Couples**

**Leader:** Nate Williams---Current Series:

**Location:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor- southside of the Ruehl Building

**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 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.*

### CHURCH MEMBERS:

Johnnie Miller; Judy Dean, Rachel Riley; Anna McGriff, Shane Guest; JP White; Gail Wallace; Bob Uzzell; Raymond Gladney; Lisa Miller; Christina Cruitt; The Family of Adam D. Cooner

### EXTENDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Kristen Hawsey Smith; Betty Walker; Lindsay Hickman; Lisa Sharpton (mother of Jessica Lowry); Susan McClendon Patrick; Julie Blaize; Porter Lynn Phillips; Terry Parker; Betty Barrett (mother of Vicky Bailey); Michael Clemmons; Brenda Landers; Lauren Rasbury Horstman; Ruby Kate Bailey Family; Rick Hebson; Sharon Morgan; Megan Carpenter; Alan Miner; Brian Goodwin; Becky Loyd (mother of Misty Shannon); Jimmy Zednik; Joann Pattillo; Leigh Neal

### 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, Mississippi National Guard; 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

## 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

# SJ's STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

Reverend Doctor John Richter, Sr. Pastor  
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Nathan Williams, Associate Minister  
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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.

## 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

*Updated Merch site coming SOON!!*



**You Asked...  
St. John's 150th Merch  
Available NOW!**

**SHORT & LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRTS (ADULT S THRU 5XL)  
YOUTH, INFANT & BABY SIZES  
HATS - CUPS - STICKERS  
AVAILABLE IN WHITE OR BLUE LOGO OPTIONS!**



**Visit our shop @  
<https://st-johns-cullman.myspreadshop.com>**

**So Convenient -  
Shop Online, Pay Online,  
Ships Direct to You!**



*Thank you for visiting our church  
website!*

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



