## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES JANUARY 4 - JANUARY 10

#### SUNDAY, January 4

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Time 9:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

#### MONDAY, January 5

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

5:00 p.m. Missions 6:00 p.m. Charity Circle

#### **TUESDAY**, January 6

10:00 a.m. Christian Studies Class 5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery

#### WEDNESDAY, January 7

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training

5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Chance Choir Practice
6:00 p.m. Youth/Children Activities
7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice

#### THURSDAY, January 8

9:00 a.m. Quilt Guild

4:30 p.m. Community Meal

ST. Andrew's Global
Methodist Church
615 Main Ave. SW
Cullman, AL 35055-4729
256-734-0340
STAFF@STANDREWSCULLMAN.
ORG
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the web! standrewscullman.org

## **HELP US BUILD LASTING MEMORIES AT CAMP SUMATANGA!**

At Camp Sumatanga, we believe in the power of nature, friendship, and community to inspire and transform lives. Every summer, over a thousand campers experience unforgettable moments of growth, adventure, and spiritual discovery here. Throughout the year, hundreds of adults also experience connections. Now, we're reaching out to ensure that these treasured connections continue to flourish for generations to come. Your generosity helps us maintain and improve our facilities, provide camp scholarships, and create meaningful, accessible programs that nurture young minds and foster connections with the world around them. By contributing to *Creating Camp Connections 2025*, you play a vital role in bringing the joy of camp to those who might not otherwise have the chance. To give visit the Camp Sumatanga website.

- Cabin Renovations Last year's campaign helped us build-out Pool Camp Cabins 5 and 7 to make them ADA compliant. This year, we aim to complete Pool Camp Cabin #7 to be fully ADA-compliant, including the removal of steps, installation of a new ramp and hand railing, and other key accessibility upgrades. These improvements will ensure that individuals of all abilities can fully participate in the camp experience. Estimated cost: \$60,000
- Lodge Renovations The Lodge at Camp Sumatanga is a favorite retreat space for many of our guests, including our beloved friends from the Emmaus community. To keep it welcoming and comfortable for all who gather here, we're making much-needed updates starting with replacing the stall walls in the bathrooms for improved privacy, safety, and durability. Your gift will help preserve this special space as a place of rest, reflection, and spiritual renewal for generations to come.. Estimated Cost: \$7,000
- HVAC To continue providing a welcoming, restful experience for all who visit, we're replacing aging heating and cooling units in the North Hall. This space serves as overflow dorm rooms and reliable climate control ensures guests stay safe, comfortable, and focused on what matters most spiritual growth, community, and connection with God. Your gift helps us maintain our facilities with care and hospitality in every season. Estimated Cost: \$11,000.

## The Monthly Newsletter of St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church



#### Volume 26, Number 12

## **December 16, 2025**

#### St. Andrew's staff

<u>Senior Pastor</u> Robert Lancaster

Associate Pastor Brian Bradley

Children's Director Kellie Britton

Youth Director Michael Thompson

> Organist Jannie Ratliff

<u>Pianist</u> Melinda Briscoe

Office Administrator Lori Tafazoli

<u>Preschool Director</u> Wendy Ryan

#### OUR VISION:

Our vision is to be a worshipping, loving and witnessing church in Cullman County where disciples of Jesus Christ live out their call to ministry and are nurtured in small groups.

Our Mission: Reach the lost, nurture the faithful.

## Are Christmas Carols Just for Christmas?

One of the things I love most about Christmas are the Christmas carols we sing on the Sundays of Christmas. I love "Silent Night", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "Emanuel". That is just three of many amazing Christmas hymns. But what a shame that we have to wait until Christmas to sing these beautiful testimonies of Christ's birth. Which begs the question: "Why do we sing hymns of the birth of Jesus only at Christmas. We sing hymns that could be considered Easter Hymns all year long. We sing the Old Rugged Cross year-round. We sing hymns like "Because He Lives" and "I Know My Redemer Lives" and other hymns that speak of the death and resurrection of Jesus all year long. But songs like. "Joy to the World", an amazing hymn, we sing only during December. When did we decide to sing hymns about the birth of Jesus only for a few weeks each year?

I am just as guilty. I preach sermons about the death and resurrection of Jesus year-round. But the birth of Jesus, only during Christmas. His birth is a reason to celebrate year-round. Without the virgin birth of Christ, the cross would lose much of its meaning. If not for the virgin birth, the prophecy would not have been fulfilled, and then Christ would not be the Messiah foretold by Isaiah. And it is not just the prophecies of Isaiah. Several prophets speak of the birth of Jesus. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." – Micah 5:2. "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land." – Jeremiah 23:5. I hope we change things up a little this year. I would love to sing "Silent Night" in the middle of July or "We Three Kings" during Lent. Let's honor the birth of Jesus year-round. Let's sing of the Christ Child during Easter. Let's remember His birth all year. For without His birth, would there be an Easter?



#### WE COVENANT WITH GOD THROUGH . . . OUR PRAYERS

<u>Health and Healing:</u> Margaret Ann Adderhold, Rhonda Brown, Henry Burns, Maranda Callan, Don Cole, Carolyn Eller, David Fisher, Joe Gamble, Carol Gardner, Carol Garrett, Kym Grant, Betty Harbin, Jack Hershiser, Jr., Elaine Key, James and Clara Laminack, Elaine Mills, Don Wilbanks, Dale Woodard, Terri Wrenn

**Homebound, Nursing Home or Assisted Living** 

Marilyn Bell, Larry Britton, Mary Clark, Margaret Gill, Gary Lasdon, John & Connie New, Rhonda Oakley, Joyce Rowe, Dalton Sharpton, Polly Stone, Norma Wrenn

#### **Active Military**

Tim Anderson, Justin Bloom, Thomas Brown, Michael Cavanaugh, Sam Cretser, Landon Elliott, James Heard, Austin Hubbard, Alan Kilgore, Josh Laspin, Chris Leon, Grant Pinkley, Malcolm Riker, Tony Ruehl, Jonathan Ryan, Josh Ryan, Mark Smith, Matthew Steele, Nick White, Doreann Wiley (Please check prayer lists and contact Lori if any updates need to be made.)

#### **JANUARY SERVANTS**

**8:30 a.m. Worship** *Altar:* Dianne Herfurth

Take Up Offering: Fred Ponder

Hand out Bulletins & Greet: Tammy Kirk and

Virginia Pritchard

Attendance Sheets: Kay, Madeline and Rachel

Phillips

Make Coffee: Kay Phillips

Sunday, January 4

Communion Servers: James and Clara Laminack, Alan Kilgore, Rita Speegle and Virginia Pritchard

Set up Chairs: Mickey and Jack Phillips Security: Mickey and Jack Phillips

11:00 a.m. Worship Altar: Hazel Ruehl

Attendance Sheets: Byron and Rose Marie Martin

Straighten Pew Racks: Carol Patterson

Greeters: Hazel Ruehl Head Usher: Mike Burleson

Ushers: Byron and Rose Marie Martin, Jerry

Turnipseed

Sunday, January 4

Communion Servers: Jim and Peggy Ryan

Security: Bill Ruehl

Prayer Chain Contact:

Lori Tafazoli: 256-509-4985 (cell)

tafazoli@juno.com

256-734-0340 (church office)

\*You can leave a message on the church office phone and it will be emailed to me.

**Guest Internet Password:** OrangE-71

Our Attendance	
November 23	
8:30 a.m. Worship	59
11:00 a.m. Worship	105
On-line Worship	32
Sunday School 1	102
November 30	
Combined Service	152
On-line Worship	39
Sunday School	105
December 7	
8:30 a.m. Worship	58
11:00 a.m. Worship	87
On-line Worship	30
Sunday School	84
December 14	_
8:30 a.m. Worship	48
11:00 a.m. Worship	93
On-line Worship	20
Sunday School	88

## **Candied Apple Fundraiser**

The St. Andrew's Youth Group is hosting a Candied Apple Fundraiser featuring gourmet apples from Sweet Dreams! Each apple comes beautifully packaged in a 4×4×4 clear display box and served on a skewer—perfect for gifting or enjoying yourself. Only 100 apples are available, so don't wait! Prices are \$5 cash or \$7 through the church app, with administration fees (Subsplash). Apples will be made available for delivery (or pickup) from December 17–23, 2025. All proceeds support our youth ministry and upcoming events thank you for investing in the next generation.

#### **Needs for Clothes Closet**

Due to the recent cold weather the clothes closet is in urgent need of new or gently used blankets and/or quilts, as well as winter coats. If you are able to provide either please drop them off in the clothes closet room. We do not anymore clothes or shoes at this time. Thank you for your support.

#### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

#### **Missions Meeting**

Monday, January 5 at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Quilt Guild**

Thursday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Community Meal**

Thursday, January 8 at 4:30 p.m.

#### **Finance Meeting**

Monday, January 12 at 12:00 p.m.

#### **Friendship Circle**

Tuesday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

#### Trustees

Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **OCC** Team Meeting

Friday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Church Council**

Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Newsletter Folding**

Wednesday, January 21 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Emmaus**

Monday, January 26 at 6:00 p.m.

#### Bunco

Tuesday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m.

#### Swamp John's Fundraiser

Saturday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m.

# 2026 Flower Calendar

If you wish to put flowers in the sanctuary please contact the church office or sign up on the flower calendar in the sanctuary. Cost of the flowers has gone up to \$60.00.

Save the Date Swamp John's Fundraiser Saturday, January 31 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$15/plate (eat in or take out)



The January/February Upper Rooms are now available in the book rack outside the church office. If you need one mailed call Lori.





#### Church family.

Thanks to your generosity- over 40 children in our community will have a very Merry Christmas! Imagine what a gift it is to the parents to have this weight lifted off their shoulders. They may have been stressing about their children not having gifts, but through you, the Lord provided. He is good, all the time! Not only were gifts bought for many children, but you have also provided enough for us to provide Walmart gift cards to Victim's Services to help make sure these kids' mamas that are in domestic violence shelters will be able to receive a gift too! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus, and thank you for allowing me the honor to manage this program for our church and community!

In His Grace, Kellie Britton

#### 2026 SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Brother Robert in Fellowship Hall Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. - Ladies' Community Bible Study Thursday at 5:30 p.m. - Hilda Aldridge meet at her home Thursday at 6:00 p.m. - Doyle Jones meet at his home Thursday at 6:00 p.m. with Brother Robert on Zoom as well If you are interested in a small group contact the leader.

#### **Members in Ministry**

Please remember to turn in your Members in Ministry forms as soon as possible so that 2026 Ministry schedules can be completed. Forms may be turned in by either putting them in the offering plate or leaving them in the box outside the church office.

### **New Year Update Information**

I will be updating the all call phone list and the newsletter mail list for the new year. If you are not getting your all call please let me know. Also if you would prefer to get your newsletter by mail instead of email let me know. Thanks.

Lori

# **Special Contributions Building Fund**

In Memory of John Strickland By Seekers Sunday School Class

#### **Kairos**

In Memory of John Strickland By Lionel and Connie Butler By Bill and Carolyn Peinhardt By Gerald and Sandra Weatherly