

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 18TH, 2024 // VISION

GROWTH

In 2023, we averaged 369 in Tullahoma. Over the last three weeks, we have averaged 515 in Tullahoma.

- We baptized 32 in 2023 and have baptized 26 in 2024 (in 7 ½ months).

WHY IS GOD BLESSING THIS CHURCH?

We have seen rapid growth because we do **expository teaching**, give a large part of our income away, are **involved in the community**, welcome all people, and we're **simple** and **authentic**.

- We're simply using biblical principles to make disciples, baptize, and teach (Matthew 28).

WORSHIP

A COMMITMENT TO CORPORATE WORSHIP

From the birth of the Church in Acts 2 through Revelation, the NT tells us to worship together corporately (Hebrews 10:24–25; Matthew 16:18; 18:20; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:11–13; Romans 10:17).

- Corporate worship brings us closer, activates joy, reassures us, and tunes us in to focusing on God.

A COMMITMENT TO THE WORD OF GOD

We will always have a solid commitment to expository teaching. **Studying verse-by-verse prohibits us from skipping complex topics and puts the Bible in the proper context.**

- This method helps comprehension, creates a love of the Word, and grows Christians much faster.

COMMUNION, PRAYER, AND QUESTIONS

Every service ends with **communion** to bring every lesson back to Christ. This is a great time to repent and reflect.

- We offer **prayer** for anyone who may need to confess or ask for spiritual help.
- We invite old, new, or non-believers to **ask a pastor questions** and move forward.

NEXT

AN EASY AND INFORMATIVE NEXT STEP

On the second Monday of every month, we invite anyone interested in learning more about The Experience to come take a tour, hear my story, hear the church's story, and take their next step in the process.

- This is where I get to meet many of you, and you get to know more about this place.

DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS (101)

- A seven-week intro to the Christian faith that covers **prayer and worship, the Bible, baptism and communion, the Holy Trinity, the church, how to share our faith, and discipleship.**

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP (201)

- A 12-week course of practical and effective ways to make disciples who make disciples.

COMMUNITY

GOD IS COMMUNAL, AND WE SHOULD BE TOO

The Trinity shows us that God is communal. So, we're to also be in community. The church has always met corporately on weekends and in small groups during the week.

- Life Groups foster accountability, deep discussion, friendships, mentors, and support.

WE WANT TO BE INTENTIONAL WITH LIFE GROUPS

We encourage people to not only be in Life Groups but to be in and lead Life Groups that are intentional about **reaching people, discipling, and multiplying** into more groups.

- If you want to join a Life Group, check out the app or go to the **Connection Corner** after this service.

SERVING

CONSISTENT SERVICE IN OUR LOCAL NON-PROFITS

- Life Choices, Blue Monarch, HorsePlay Inc., Shepherd's House, Storehouse Food Pantry, Come to the Table, The Attic Outlet, Be the Bush, Haven of Hope, Miriam House, FCA, One Day of Hope, Schools, and We Care of Coffee County.

INVOLVEMENT IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

- 41A Music Festival, Taste of Tullahoma, Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival, Community Cleaning Day, Stuff the Bus, South Jackson Performing Arts Center, and Tullahoma Fire Department.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE CHURCH BODY

We do a lot outside the church, but we also have a lot to do inside the church to serve each other and visitors.

- Hospitality, ECCO Kids, Encounter, EON, Emerge, Worship/Production, Prayer Team, Security/Medical, Art Ministry, Congregational Care, Photography, Parking, and ECCO Kids Wednesdays!

MISSIONS

OUR STATE

- Murfreesboro: February 2009; Cannon County: August 2017; Shelbyville: August 2021; Tullahoma: November 2022 ;M.I.T. Program: Training ministers for growth; The Network: A team that supports all campuses

OUR NATION

- Hope Church: Seaford, Delaware; City Church: Albany, New York; Garden City Church: Beverly, Massachusetts (We plan on taking two trips in 2025)

OUR WORLD

- El Salvador: ministry to elementary-age kids.; Eastern Europe: EEM, and we are trying to find churches to partner with in Europe.; We also support missionaries in Haiti, Costa Rica, Thailand, South Africa, and Egypt.

FINANCES: HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

TOTAL FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

- 2024 Budget: \$13,000,000 (based off last year's giving)
- Full and part time salaries all campuses: **\$4,454,388 (34%)**; Taxes: \$233,000; Health Benefits: \$1,300,000; M.I.T.: \$152,000; Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$91,978; Outside CPA: \$17,314

2024 CAMPUS BUDGET BREAKDOWN

- Murfreesboro: \$9,644,539 + \$324,385; Cannon County: \$781,064 + \$324,385; Shelbyville: \$426,475 + \$324,385; Tullahoma: **\$825,801 + \$324,385**
- Ministry expenses: \$2,546,382; Operating costs: \$1,666,176 (buildouts, maintenance, utilities, etc.); Outreach and Benevolence: **\$3,892,627 (30%)**; Debt: **\$0**
- Our team earns 34% of our budget compared to 55% national average. We give away 30% compared to 10% national average.
- **If you are giving and serving at this church, we thank you more than we can say! Your faithfulness is changing lives!**

THE EXPERIENCE TULLAHOMA

- 2023 Budget: \$825,801+\$324,385=\$1,150,186; Salaries: \$261,129; Benevolence: \$128,209; Ministry Expenses: \$147,461; Operating Costs: \$233,360 (rent, general administration)

HOW IS OUR GIVING?

Compared to average giving in America, we don't fare well. **The average giving per person in 14,000 churches surveyed was \$2,340 annually. This campus averages \$1,594.**

- As a congregation, we're about **\$453,186 below where our giving should be, but we're stewarding what is given very well.**

WHERE WOULD IT GO?

If we were average this year, that \$453,186 would **NOT** have been used for luxurious living or increased salaries, it would have gone into the ministries of this church.

- **If we had been average in our giving this year, we would meet every need here and contribute to the ministries beyond our neighborhoods.**

THE EXPERIENCE TULLAHOMA 2023

- Giving 2023: \$641,047; Expenses 2023: \$815,276; Difference: **-\$174,229**

THE EXPERIENCE TULLAHOMA 2024

- Projected Giving 2024: \$697,000; Projected Expenses 2024: \$1,150,186; Difference: **-\$453,186**

THE NETWORK

Many of you only see the six of us here on staff at the Tullahoma campus. **There are 30 more people who work hard to protect, create, plan, and implement so much of what happens here in Tullahoma...and we only pay a portion of that expense out of our budget.**

BLESSING

Because we are part of a network of campuses, we have been blessed with support for our needs here in Tullahoma.

- God has provided, and soon it will be our time to bless others beyond our campus.

BURDEN

The thought of someone needing the truth and not having a place to hear the Word should bother us profusely.

- We want to **serve our city, help others serve their cities, see more people come to know Jesus, and grow current Believers deeper in their faith.**

WE ARE TRYING TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

We don't advertise or use gimmicks, waste money on production or meaningless comforts, and we are the most benevolent church we know how to be.

- **We need your help financially to provide space and resources for people to hear the gospel.**

WHAT ARE TITHES AND OFFERINGS?

- Tithing is the biblical action of giving a tenth of one's "first fruits" to the work of the ministry.
- Offerings are when we give to the church or benevolence beyond tithes.
- Personal Giving to nonprofits is an offering given above what we should be contributing to the church.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I do not know who gives at this church. Whether one believes tithing is a NT thing or not, it is clear that Christians should contribute financially to the church's mission.

- **If we are going to advance the gospel, it will take not only time and effort but also a financial commitment.**

SHARING

A HEALTHY CULTURE

By depending **heavily on the Word, authentic community, and serving the city**, we are culturally in a good place to reach the lost and mature each other in our faith.

- **When we are on the same page and growing in our faith, we are more equipped to reach the lost.**

SHARING THE BURDEN

It is time to dig in because there is much to be done.

- **Since we're not manufacturing the growth, it must be God making it happen.** If that is the case, we need to step up and do all we can to facilitate what God wants to do.

HOW TO SHARE THE BURDEN NOW

- **Please be patient** as we do our best with rapid growth and limited resources.
- Be present and **make church a priority.**
- Don't just come; **get involved in our discipleship process** because it helps grow and connect people.
- **Build your personal relationship with Jesus: pray, read, listen, and obey.** There's no gimmick or trick to seeing lives changed; it is just consistent dedication to a relationship with Christ.
- **Prayerfully consider tithing.** I will not personally benefit, and we will not use your giving for foolish or decadent means. It will go to serving our city and advancing the gospel.
- **Serve.** It honors God and changes people! We have a **Volunteer Fair** coming up!

THIS IS ALL FOR HIS KINGDOM!

- We must stay humble, focused, selfless, and hungry because **God has included us in His plan to touch people and save them here and all over the world!**
- **The church must step up because people desperately need Christ, and we are to be His ambassadors.**