

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 11TH-12TH, 2025 // VISION SERVICE

WORSHIP

SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE CORPORATE WORSHIP

- We always have **worship, verse-by-verse teaching from the Bible, and time to respond regardless of what stage of faith one is in** via a pastor available to **answer questions, a prayer team** for anyone who needs prayer, and **communion**.

How are we doing?

- In 2024 we averaged **8,078**. Last weekend was **8,403**. We baptized **705** people in 2024.

What do we need?

- Just be consistent in coming to church (Hebrews 10:25) and inviting other people who don't know Jesus or don't have a church home.

NEXT

AN EASY NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS

On the 2nd Monday of every month, we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about The Experience to come and 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 a lot of you, and you get to know more about this place.

How are we doing?

- We average around 200 people a month at Next Class, which is a great response.

What do we need?

- If you haven't been, please come out and see if this church is a good fit for you. This is an important step in getting plugged into The Experience.

DEVELOPMENT

- Following Jesus:** 7-week overview of Christianity and our church culture.
- Authentic Discipleship:** 12-week course about how to be an effective disciple-maker.
- Experience Finance:** A one-day free study on the biblical approach to debt and money.
- Preparing for Marriage:** An 8-week premarital class/group for engaged couples.

How are we doing?

- 981** went through F.J., **194** for A.D., **54** couples for P.F.M, and **230** people for E.F.

What do we need?

- For people to go through the process. We expect all volunteers to at least go through Following Jesus to make sure we are on the same page.

COMMUNITY

INTENTIONALLY BUILDING COMMUNITY

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

- We create community via large group/small group format from ECCO, Students, Evident, and with our Life Groups.

How are we doing?

- Currently we have over 200 adult groups (Boro), and 13 starting this month! We only have about **32% of adults** in groups.

What do we need?

- Attend **Intro to Life Groups January 25th at 2:30 or January 26th at noon** in the Fox Room behind the sanctuary.

SERVE

IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH

We have many serving opportunities in (Nursery, ECCO, Students, Hospitality, Parking, etc.) and through the church (**5000, Reclaimed, BAR, Embrace Grace, Stepping Stones, and non-profits** we support).

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment.

How are we doing?

- 38% of our church serves in some capacity. Though this is good, we'd love to get more people serving.

What do we need?

- Come to the Volunteer Fair Monday! We're called to serve, and with our growing church and city there are many opportunities!**

MISSIONS

- Our city and state:** our four campuses
- Our nation:** Garden City Church and New Life Church (Mass.), City Church (NY), Hope Church (DE), and six other domestic partnerships.
- Our world:** El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, Costa Rica, EEM, and 13 other international partnerships.

How are we doing?

- This year we will take seven mission trips: El Salvador, Egypt, Massachusetts, and New York.

What do we need?

- We need to communicate missions better and create more opportunities, and congregants need to pray about going!

FINANCES

WHY DO WE SHOW FINANCES?

We are transparent about finances because we want to **live above reproach** (1 Timothy 3:2), **be good stewards** (1 Peter. 4:10, Matthew 25:29), and **honor your sacrifice** (1 Corinthians 4:2). We're not doing this to brag, guilt, or manipulate.

- We're frugal, benevolent, & conscientious about how we use your giving!

2024 SUMMARY FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

- Expenses: \$14.2m. Income: \$17.1m. Surplus and lean spending allowed us to put **\$4m more in savings.**

2025 BUDGET FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

- Estimated expenses: **\$15.5m**. Projected income: **\$19m**. We are going to operate on a lean budget to prepare for future growth.

FULL AND PART TIME SALARIES FOR ALL CAMPUSES:

\$4,874,640 (31% of budget)

- The national average is 50-55%.
- Employee Taxes: \$250,800
- Health Benefits: \$1,737,924
- Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$96,000
- Outside CPA: \$15,000

MINISTRY EXPENSES: \$1,516,525

- All expenses to serve nursery through adult ministries (supplies, gear, printing, other materials, subscriptions, etc.).

Operating costs: \$1,549,700

- Utilities, rent for Tullahoma, cleaning services

Construction costs: \$1,000,000

- Mostly Mayday and ECCO Kids build out

Outreach/Benevolence: **\$4.65m (30% of budget)**

- Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs, non-profits, church plants, etc.

- The national average is 10% for churches.

Debt: \$0. We own 3 of our 4 buildings and rent our Tullahoma campus as we save up to buy it in cash.

COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

I don't know who gives at this church. Whether one believes tithing is mandatory or not, it's impossible to argue that we shouldn't financially contribute to the mission of the church.

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

ALL OF US SHARING THE WEIGHT

This church has never done, nor will ever do, a building campaign, pledge cards, or ask for any financial commitment from you other than biblical tithing.

- If we will just be faithful to what the Bible asks, we will have more than enough to do**

everything God wants us to do!

EXCITING THINGS

SOME RECENT WINS

So much happens that we don't have time to share all of the wins in our community.

- Over 700 baptized, over \$4.5 Million given away, Evident serving at MTSU, Student Ministry growth, 1,100 children receiving Christmas gifts, Over 2,000 at prayer night, and the **Pastoral Ministry taking off!**

FOCUSING ON SPANISH MINISTRY

- Creating opportunities for Spanish speaking people at our 12 pm service. Soft launch January 19th.

Email Savut@experiencecc.com

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STUDY

- 10-week trial run Feb. 25th-May 6th for people interested in high-level leadership in all walks of life.

This will have an application process.

BIG FOCUS ON STUDENT MINISTRY

Student Ministries is getting more involved in schools and doing more events. This creates an easy door to invite friends while still teaching through the Word and doing groups.

- We are also building out 11,000 sq. ft. for Encounter and giving EON its own 10,000 sq. ft. space.

GAINING 11,000 SQUARE FEET

The Mayday space will be used for Encounter and Evident during the week and as extra space for ECCO on the weekends.

- The first phase will accommodate Encounter and is set for completion in March. The second phase of building more rooms for ECCO is set for Easter Weekend.

CHALLENGES

MAKING THIS A HOUSE OF PRAYER

- Fasting:** We need as many of us as possible doing the fast together (Matthew 17:21) and our church to have some intentional objectives.

- More prayer opportunities:** Prayer Room throughout the week, Prayer Groups, and training to be on Prayer Teams.

- Prayer Nights** getting bigger and better.

SPACE AND PARKING

- Our **limited parking and interior space is starting to hurt us**. Please be patient with us as we do our best to get you in and out efficiently and safely!

- Moving services:** We may ask you to move to a less crowded service. This depends on what numbers look like in the first quarter.

TIGHTENING DOWN SO WE CAN GROW

- We will not compromise our integrity, benevolence, missions work, or ministry.** But we are going to really have to tighten up and work together because we are out of space, **we have to prepare for future generations, and many people in our city need to hear the gospel.**

NOT LOSING SIGHT OF OUR (HIS) MISSION

- As we grow and prepare for long term ministry in this city, state, nation, and world, **we cannot lose sight of what God is blessing at this church: teaching the truth, loving and welcoming all people, and serving the city!**

WE HAVE TO LEAN HEAVILY ON JESUS!

- We have to be **praying, ingesting the Word, obeying** the Word and the Spirit's conviction, and be in **strong community**.

- We must also fall deeper in love with God and ALL people!** This will become increasingly more difficult, but also increasingly more vital!

SMALL SACRIFICES FOR A BETTER EXPERIENCE!

- Our church is not the easiest to get to, in, or out of. We also don't have a lot of material amenities like green space, ample square footage and parking, or fancy décor.

- This year may be a little uncomfortable, but **we must make sure we're focused on the truly important things of church.**

- What we do have is **authenticity, biblical teaching, community, a reputation of serving the city, a clear discipleship process, and a welcoming environment.**

- Though it may be a little less convenient, here anyone can grow in their relationship with God and others!

AND WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE!

- The culture God has created at this church must not only be fed and protected, but **we must take steps to make sure generations to follow have a healthy church like this.**

- If we will be **patient, get involved, and be faithful**, God will open the door for this church (us) to continue to flourish.

NOT GROWING WEARY (GALATIANS 6:9)

- In essence, we must keep the Great Commission the focus (disciple, baptize, teach) without compromise or burnout.

- Now more than ever, people need the hope, wisdom, grace, and love Jesus has to offer. We are His conduits for His light and the good news to touch hearts.**