

# 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 (675 in Cannon County)**. Last weekend was 8,403. We baptized **705 (36 in Cannon County)** people in 2024.

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

Just be consistent in coming to church (Heb. 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 second Monday of every month, we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about The Experience to come take a tour, hear my testimony, hear the church's story, and take their next step in the discipleship process.

- This is where you get to meet our team, and you get to know more about this place.

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

We average around 10-15 people a month at Next Class, which is a decent response.

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

If you haven't been, please come out and see if our 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 study on the biblical approach to debt and money.
- **Preparing for Marriage:** An 8-week premarital class/group for engaged couples (Murfreesboro campus).

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

84 went through F.J., 51 for A.D., and 8 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 (January 28) 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 19 different Life Groups that meet throughout the week across our community! We only have about **25% of adults** in groups (that's not great).

### WHAT DO WE NEED?

Attend **Intro to Life Groups Monday, January 13th at 6:00 pm!** We need more group leaders willing to be trained.

## SERVE

### IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH

We have many serving opportunities in (**Nursery, ECCO, Students, Hospitality, Parking**, etc.) and through the church (**5000**, Community Service events, and **non-profits** we support).

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment.

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

35% 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 community, there are so many opportunities!**

## MISSIONS

### OUR COMMUNITY

Last year, we ministered to our community through Fall Festival, WeCareCannon, and Experience Christmas (175 food boxes given away).

- In total, we gave away 1,825 food boxes through our 5,000 Ministry in 2024.
- We provided care packages to community workers and organizations on a weekly basis.
- Our state: Our four campuses (Murfreesboro, Woodbury, Shelbyville, and Tullahoma); 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 TALK ABOUT FINANCES?

We want to be transparent with our finances because we want to live above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2), be good stewards (1 Pt. 4:10, Mt. 25:29), and honor your sacrifice (1 Cor. 4:2). We're not doing this to brag, guilt, or manipulate.

- **We want to be frugal, benevolent, and conscientious with God's money!**

### 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 plan 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)** - Non-profits, individuals needing help, schools, missionary support and missions projects, church plants, etc. The national average is 10% for churches.; **Debt: \$0. We own three of our four buildings and rent our Tullahoma campus as we save up to buy it in cash.**

## CANNON COUNTY CAMPUS FINANCES 2025

C.C. brought in \$1,207,843 in 2024.

- Our annual expenses for 2024 were \$1,105,450.03.
- We are part of an amazing network that provides great resources (Facility expenses, all Network employee salaries/benefits, HR software, payroll fees/taxes, legal/accounting fees, website/app, operations/business team, graphics, videos, photography, all network wide events – Worship Nights, camps, etc.).

## CANNON COUNTY CAMPUS BUDGET 2025:

- 2025 Operating and ministry costs: \$830,708; Budgeted expenses: \$439,221; Salary and benefits: \$391,487; Network expenses: \$1,367,552.62 (expenses for those resources shared between all four campuses); Total Operating Cost for 2025: \$2,198,260

## 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 SHARE 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 giving through 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

### BAPTISMS

Last year, we had **36 baptisms at our campus** and 705 at all four campuses!

- We'll have baptism weekends twice this year, and we will **have the baptistry open** every month.
- Every one of us should be sharing the gospel and rejoicing with new Believers professing their faith in Christ through baptism! **Who will you share Christ with and baptize this year?**

## STUDENT MINISTRIES

Student ministries have **grown and are growing.**

- We will continue our outreach in the schools this year and **continue to do outreach events to reach the youth in Cannon County.**
- If you are a **middle or high schooler**, come out on Wednesday nights!
- If you have a **heart to reach the upcoming generation**, come serve!

## PRAYER MINISTRY

Last year, **we had 320 people attend two different Prayer Nights.** This year we'll have two Prayer Nights as well.

- We're starting our **40-Day Fast Monday (morning prayer).**
- Sunday night Prayer Group: **6:00 pm in the sanctuary** (list of answered prayer requests).
- Prayer Room (**Monday–Thursday, 9 am–4 pm**).

## SOME VERY PRACTICAL GOALS...

1. **Evangelism:** a culture of engaging our communities with the gospel, **inviting people to church**, having spiritual conversations with neighbors. I'd like to see our baptism to attendance ratio be 20:1 (750-800 in attendance, 38-40 baptisms for the year).
2. **Discipleship:** for **everyone to be a disciple maker!** To be a church made up of Life Groups; to grow from 19 to 30 Life Groups.
3. **Serving:** We need volunteers in security, parking, and ECCO/EON. **We still need folks from the 10 am service to serve at the 12 pm**, and as we grow, we'll need people from the 10 am service to be willing to move.
4. **Giving:** The national average for annual church giving per person is **\$2,272–\$2,848 (we're still at \$1,803).** I would like to see us at least reach the national average.

## THE CHALLENGE

### A NEED FOR MATURE LEADERS

We need leaders in Life Groups, **ministry teams, prayer, and disciple-making.**

- We are in a season of transition and need more high-level leaders willing to **step up and serve consistently**, who will commit to being trained/discipled.
- We need those who are **faithful** (consistent), available (not incurably busy), and teachable.

## GROWTH AND SPACE

We are growing, and **growth/change always involves some level of un-comfortability** and sacrifice.

- It might mean a **sacrifice of time/energy to serve others** in our church (we need your help).
- It might mean you have to **give up your seat for someone new (or move to another service)!**
- Church can **NOT** be about personal preferences.

## STAYING FOCUSED ON EVANGELISM

We're never going to be a church for just one type of person or one type of family. We will always be welcoming and open to people from **all walks of life, no matter their situation or struggles.**

- Why? Because we want to introduce them to **Jesus so their lives** can be forever changed!
- *Do you see those different from you as **humans to be persuaded** or as **enemies to be eradicated**?*

## AVOIDING CONSUMERISM AND ENTITLEMENT

Church isn't a place to simply get our own needs met while **we ignore the needs of others.**

- If this is your church home, **what are you doing to serve others in this room and contribute to what God is doing here?**
- If everyone contributed at the level that you contribute...**where would our church be?** Would we be able to exist anymore?
- Proverbs 20:6
- Galatians 6:9