

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 12TH, 2024 // VISION SERVICE

WORSHIP

A COMMITMENT TO 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 **451**, a 17% increase over 2023 (386). We baptized **40** last year and 30 in 2023.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

We just need everyone to be consistent in coming to church (Hebrews 10:25). Invite your friends (and enemies).

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 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.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

We average around 20 people monthly at the 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 essential step in getting plugged into The Experience.

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.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

We had 76 sign up for Following Jesus and 23 for Authentic Discipleship.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

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

COMMUNITY

WE WANT TO BE INTENTIONAL WITH LIFE GROUPS

We encourage people to not only be in Life Groups but also 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 visit the **Connection Corner** after this service.

DOING THIS ON ALL LEVELS

We've created space for community for everyone in our church, from large group/small group format in ECCO and Student Ministries to our Life Groups for young adults (Evident) and our adult Life Groups.

- **If we don't intentionally get in community we will get lost in the shuffle.**

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Currently, we have over 16 adult groups, and are starting more very soon. That's about **53% of adults** in groups.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Attend Intro to Life Groups **on January 19th** during the 11 am service in the Red Room.

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, Miriam House, FCA, One Day of Hope, Schools, CASA, Access Hope, 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, and South Jackson Performing Arts Center.

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!**

HOW ARE WE DOING?

57% 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 tomorrow night. We're called to serve, and with our growing church and city, there are many opportunities!

MISSIONS

OUR CITY AND STATE

- Currently in 4 counties with plans to expand.

OUR NATION

- Churches in Beverly, MA, Albany, NY, and Seaford, DE, and 6 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 must communicate missions better and create more opportunities to send people. We are working very hard on this

FINANCES: HOW WE STEWARD YOUR GIVING

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 guilt or manipulate you.

- **We're frugal, benevolent, and 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 all campuses: **\$4,874,640 (31%)** national average: 53%; Employee Taxes: \$250,800; Health Benefits: \$1,737,924; M.I.T.: \$400,000; 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, cleaning services, etc.); Construction costs: \$1,000,000 - Mostly build outs for new spaces; Outreach and Benevolence: **\$4.65m (30%)** - Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs, non-profits, church plants, etc. The national average is 10% for churches; Debt: **\$0** - We own three of our four buildings and rent here as we save to buy it in cash.
- **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 2024

- **Giving 2024:** \$739,430. That is \$1,639 per person; the national average is \$2,262; **Expenses 2024:** \$1,150,186; **Difference: -\$410,756. If we had been "average," we would have given \$1,020,162 in 2024.**
- This does not include the Network...

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 it is our time to bless others beyond our campus.**

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.**

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.

- **40 Baptisms, over \$225,000 given away, 17% growth, Student Ministry represents 11% of our congregation, Prayer Nights, book studies, Spanish Speaking Life Group and more!**

THINGS TO COME

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

- **Keep your eyes and ears open as this demographic leads the church into 2025!**

NEW MINISTRIES

We will launch 5000 on **April 3rd**. It will begin as a once-a-month hot meal for our community. How it grows from there depends on you.

- A new 10-week Leadership Development course in the Fall of 2025 for high-level leaders from all walks of life.

CHALLENGE

MAKING THIS A HOUSE OF PRAYER

Fasting: As many of us as possible doing the fast together (Matthew 17:21), and our church having 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.

TIGHTENING DOWN SO WE CAN GROW

We will not compromise our integrity, benevolence, mission work, or ministry. But, we will really have to tighten up and work together because **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!

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.