

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 16TH–17TH, 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**.

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.

DEVELOPMENT

- Following Jesus: 7-week overview of Christianity and our church culture.
- Authentic Discipleship: 12-week group 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.

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 in ECCO, Students, Evident, and with our Life Groups.

SERVE

IN AND OUT OF THE CHURCH

We have many serving opportunities in the church like **Nursery, Emerge, ECCO, Students, Hospitality, Parking**, etc.; in the community with **5000, Reclaimed, Bar**; and with **nonprofits** we support.

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment.

MISSIONS

- Our city and state: our 4 campuses
- Our nation: Garden City Church and New Life Church (Mass.), City Church (NY), Hope Church (DE), and 6 other domestic partnerships
- Our world: El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Eastern European Mission (EEM), and 13 other international partnerships

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 are not doing this to brag, guilt, or manipulate.

- **We are frugal, benevolent, and conscious of how we use your giving!**

2025 FINANCIALS FOR ALL CAMPUSES

- Budget: \$15.5m
 - YTD spending is \$7.9m. We are currently \$472k under budget.
- Projected income: \$19m
 - All excess has gone to savings. With our rate of tithing and wise stewardship, we will be able to do God's will without debt or campaigns.
- Full- and part-time salaries for all campuses including benefits: **\$4,874,640 (31% of budget, 26% of income)**
 - The national average is 50–55%.
 - Health Benefits (included): \$1,737,924
- Police and Sheriff Dept.: \$119,000
- 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: \$1,200,000
 - Mostly Mayday and ECCO build-out
- Outreach/Benevolence: \$4.65m (30% of budget, 24.5% of income)
 - Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs, nonprofits, 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 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!**

COMING SOON

EXPERIENCE RECOVERY: SEPTEMBER 11TH

Large group/small group format for all people who struggle with habitual, debilitating sin. This is designed to not only help with chronic sin but to integrate people into the church, long-lasting community, and eventually serving.

- 6:30 pm–8:30 pm every Thursday! More info and contact info are on the website.

GRIEF MINISTRY: SEPTEMBER 22ND

A safe space for people who have experienced the death of a loved one in the last 3 months to 3 years.

Large group/small group format. Capped at 90 people.

- This will be on Monday evenings. Sign up on the website or app.

SPANISH MINISTRY AT THE NOON

We are growing in our ability to minister to Spanish-speaking congregants. We are also working on software to be able to translate multiple languages in real time through headphones/app at any service.

NEW STUDENT AREA IS WORKING OUT GREAT!

- Encounter and ECCO

3 (OR 2?) YEAR PLAN

BORO NORTH: LAUNCHING JANUARY 25TH

We've purchased 31% of a shopping center off Northfield to plant a second Boro campus to take some pressure off this campus and reach people on that side of town.

- Savut and Mike will teach. It will be more stripped down with simple worship. We hope to get **10%** from here to go there.

IT DOES NOT TOTALLY FIX THE PROBLEM

Boro North will help relieve some pressure but will not ultimately fix our overcrowding.

- I feel like God has shut other doors and opened opportunities for us **to plant smaller versions of this around town and in surrounding areas**. At this time, this seems to be our future.

PURCHASE MORE LAND FOR PARKING/OFFICES

We are desperately trying to buy land that touches ours so we can create more parking and possibly move some offices off site to make room for nursery/ECCO.

REPLACING OUR ROOF

As much as you love getting rained on inside, we are going to replace the roof.

MCMINNVILLE: LAUNCHING JANUARY 2027

We have most of the team ready to launch in McMinnville. This will help relieve our Cannon County campus and open doors in Warren County. Soft launch is October 2026.

PORTABLE OFFICES FOR CANNON COUNTY

Purchasing a metal building to move offices out of that campus to make room for ECCO.

PURCHASING TULLAHOMA BUILDING

We currently rent a very similar building to this one in Tullahoma and plan to purchase it or something comparable within 2 years.

- Tully is 2 years old and consistently running over 500 people. We want to be able to invest in a place where we can continue to bless Tullahoma.

DOING IT ALL DEBT FREE

We are proactively watching spending and aggressively saving so we can continue to plant churches and serve others debt free.

- North campus = \$4.2m (\$3.2m spent)
- Parking/land = \$4m
- McMinnville plant & Woodbury portable = \$1m
- Tullahoma building = \$3.4m

ENCOURAGEMENT

THANK YOU!

With all sincerity, we want to thank everyone for being patient with parking, seating, and us learning how to wisely manage what God is doing here. Also, thank you for your serving, giving, and consistent church attendance!

- **We have seen tremendous spiritual growth and maturity in our churches!**

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 Bible, loving and welcoming all people in to hear the truth, and serving the city!**

- **Baptized 705 in 2024, 375 YTD**

WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO.

We are fighting against a strong current of a culture that is promoting principles and beliefs contradictory to Jesus and His Word.

- We must **radically love all people and have a desire to get to know them**. We must also **know, value, and live out biblical truth. Love + biblical integrity!**

WHAT NOW?

- We have direction now. Please pray for and be patient with us as we try to navigate it.
- **Be at church.** If you cannot do anything else, regardless of where your heart is, just make it a point to be here.
- **Get into the Discipleship Process.** This is how we find community and grow.
- **Love the people in your "world!"** We are called to be ambassadors for Christ and servants to the people around us. We cannot forget that **the local church is the light of the city.**
- Do not grow weary, apathetic, distracted, or confused. **Pray, read, listen, obey.**