

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 16TH–17TH, 2025 // VISION SERVICE

## WORSHIP

### SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE CORPORATE WORSHIP

We always have musical 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 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 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 study on the biblical approach to debt and money.
- Preparing for Marriage: An 8-week premarital class/group for engaged couples (Murfreesboro campus).

## 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**, doing life together, **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 (**Nursery, ECCO, Students, Hospitality, Parking**, etc.) and through the church (**5000**, community service events, and **nonprofits** we support).

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment.

## MISSIONS

- Our state: 4 campuses (Murfreesboro, Woodbury, Shelbyville, Tullahoma)
- 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 TALK ABOUT FINANCES?

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

### 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 follow God's leading without debt or "capital 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: \$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)**
  - Nonprofits, individuals needing help, schools, missionary support and missions projects, 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 do not know who gives at this church.** Whether one believes tithing is mandatory or not, it is impossible to argue that we should not 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 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

So far this year, we have had **22 baptisms at our campus** and 375 across all our campuses!

- We have a Baptism Weekend coming up, and we have had 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 in the days ahead?***

### STUDENT MINISTRIES

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

- We had over **50 students** (middle and high school) go to camp this summer, and we will be moving **Wednesday night Encounter** to the sanctuary!
- If you are a **middle or high schooler**, come out on Wednesday night!
- If you have a **heart to reach the upcoming generation**, come serve!

### GROWTH (OVER THE SUMMER?)

We have typically seen a dip in the summer months, but we have been averaging **791** this summer (**which is up about 100 from last summer**).

- This is amazing, but we're **feeling the squeeze** in: **Kids' space downstairs**; Sanctuary **seating (at the 10AM especially)**; **Traffic in the building (up and down the stairs)**; Parking and restrooms (**8AM and 10AM**)

### 2–3 YEAR PLAN

#### BORO NORTH CAMPUS: LAUNCHING JAN. 25TH

We have purchased 31% of a shopping center off Northfield Blvd. to plant a 2nd Boro campus to alleviate growth and reach people on that side of Murfreesboro.

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

### FACILITY BUILD-OUT IN CANNON COUNTY

We are going to be moving our staff offices out of this building to a **portable (behind the current building)** to make space for expanding our **men's and women's restrooms (upstairs)** and getting more classrooms for **children's ministry (downstairs)**.

- In total, **this project's budget is \$500k**.

### MCMINNVILLE CAMPUS: LAUNCHING JAN. 2027

We have most of the team ready to launch a campus in McMinnville by January 2027 (soft launch October 2026).

- The new campus will help relieve some growth pains at this campus and open doors to do ministry and reach those far from Christ in Warren County. If you live in Warren County, God might be calling you!

### PURCHASING TULLAHOMA BUILDING

We currently rent our building in Tullahoma and plan to purchase it or something comparable within 2 years.

### GROWTH SOLUTIONS FOR 1ST BORO CAMPUS

Purchasing more land for parking/offices and replacing the roof.

### DOING IT ALL DEBT FREE!

We are proactively watching our 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 for Boro = \$4m
- McMinnville and Cannon build-out = \$1m
- Tullahoma building = \$3.4m

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

**Pray and Give:** We need **God's guidance, protection, provision, and power** in the days ahead, and this work needs **financial support**.

- **Encourage:** Growth is not always comfortable, but let's keep **speaking words of life and encouragement!**
- **Get Disciplined, Trained, and Developed.**
- **Serve:** Our weekend attendance growth has outpaced our current volunteer teams. **We need volunteers** for ECCO/EON, Security, Parking, and Hospitality.
- **"Serve One, Attend One"**—we get filled up, we pour out (**If we are not getting filled up, we cannot pour out. If all we are doing is getting filled up...?**).

### THE CHALLENGE

- Joshua 3:5

### "CONSECRATE YOURSELVES..."

Israel had just finished 40 years in the wilderness, and **they were camped by the Jordan River** about to finally cross into the Promised Land.

- God was about to **perform a miracle by stopping the Jordan River's** waters so God's people could cross to the other side.
- **"Consecrate"** = Set yourselves apart for God because **God has something big** ahead.
- Before **God acted tomorrow**, Joshua told the people to **prepare spiritually today**.
- God's work in us, through us, and among us tomorrow begins with our obedience today.
- If we **want to see God's power tomorrow, we have got to obey today!**

### THE TEMPTATION

The temptation is to seek God's **personal will and direction for our future** while we ignore or disobey **God's revealed will (Scripture)** for how we are to live today!

- God has **already instructed us** to love Him, love people, walk in purity, forgive others, serve, **make disciples, be in Christian community, and live generously**.

### OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Surrender: Give God every part of your life, and **commit your actions, words, attitudes, and priorities** to honor Him.

- Purify: Remove anything that distracts or defiles, and **cleanse your heart through repentance**.
- Focus: Turn your heart and mind toward Him, and **create space to hear His voice**.
- Joshua 3:5
- **If we want to see God's power tomorrow, we must be obedient and set ourselves apart for Him today!**