

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 17TH, 2025 // 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**.

NEXT

AN EASY AND INFORMATIVE NEXT STEP

On the 2nd 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.

DEVELOPMENT

FOLLOWING JESUS (101)

A 7-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.

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 **Connections Corner** after this service.

DOING THIS ON ALL LEVELS

We have 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 do not intentionally get into community, we will get lost in the shuffle.**

SERVE

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 5000!**

MISSIONS

Our city and state

- Currently in 4 counties with plans to expand

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 guilt or manipulate you.

- **We are frugal, benevolent, and conscientious about 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: \$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 here in Tullahoma 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 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!**

3 (OR 2?) YEAR PLAN

BORO NORTH: LAUNCHING JANUARY 25TH

We bought 31% of a Northfield shopping center to launch a second Boro campus, easing pressure and reaching that side of town.

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

IT DOES NOT TOTALLY FIX THE PROBLEM

Boro North will help relieve some pressure but will not ultimately fix the overcrowding in Murfreesboro.

- God has shut other doors and opened opportunities for us **to plant smaller campuses around the Murfreesboro area**. At this time, this seems to be our future plan for growth in Murfreesboro.

PURCHASE MORE LAND FOR PARKING/OFFICES

We are desperately trying to buy land around the Boro campus so we can create more parking and possibly get some offices off site to make room for nursery/ECCO.

REPLACING THE BORO ROOF

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

MCMINNVILLE: LAUNCHING JAN. 2027

We have most of the team ready to launch in McMinnville. This campus 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 get offices out of that campus to make room for ECCO.

PURCHASING TULLAHOMA BUILDING

We currently rent this amazing building and plan to purchase it or something comparable within 2 years.

- We are about to finish up our 3rd year and are consistently running over 500 people. Thank you for being here and investing in this community!

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 at Boro campus = \$4m
- McMinnville plant and buy portable = \$1m
- Tullahoma building = \$3.4m

ENCOURAGEMENT

THANK YOU!

So many things have brought us to this place, at this time, and I am grateful to God for all that we have seen and done over the last 3 years. Thank you for being part of what God is doing here and everywhere ECC is serving communities.

GROWTH REQUIRES GROWTH

Because you have committed to sharing your faith, people are coming.

- Because people are coming, we need more people to serve.
- It may be time for you to do something new and take the step into service.
- If you are ready (or not), Student Ministries is looking for a few more volunteers.

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 community!**

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.