

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 18TH, 2026 // 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 or elder available to **answer questions**, a **prayer** team for anyone who needs prayer, and **communion**.

WE ARE SEEING STEADY GROWTH

In 2024 we saw an average of 312 people at our campus, and we grew 6.7% (avg. 333) in 2025. In 2025 we grew 27% year-over-year, but we saw high peaks (4x over 400) and low valleys (13x below 300) in attendance.

- To start 2026, we have seen an average **424 people in attendance at this campus** and **10,497 across all campuses**.

BAPTISMS

At Worship Nights we invite everyone to one of our campuses for a biblical teaching on baptism. If someone is interested in getting baptized throughout the year, we meet with them to ensure that everyone baptized understands its meaning.

- In 2025, we saw **22 people get baptized at this campus** and **729 people across all campuses**.

PREPARING FOR GROWTH

We do not want to only respond to the rapid growth we are seeing, but we want to remain in what God is blessing (**teaching the truth, loving and welcoming all people, and serving the city**) while preparing for future growth.

- Next weekend we begin holding three services on Sunday (8AM, 10AM, and 12PM) to **create more opportunities for people to hear the gospel**.

NEXT

AN EASY NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS

On the second Monday of every month, we invite anyone interested in learning more about The Experience to come 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 and who we are.

TAKING YOUR NEXT STEP

In 2025 we had 105 people attend a Next Class at some point throughout the year.

- If you are new here or have never been to a Next Class, sign up on the app or website for the February 9th Next Class. If you call this your church home, it is good to know more about the church. If you are unsure, this is a great way to find out if this is the place for you.

DEVELOPMENT

- **Following Jesus:** This is a 7-topic course that helps to equip you to understand the core beliefs of Christianity and how we live those out at The Experience Community Church. Meets weekly for 7 weeks starting on **April 8th**.
- **Authentic Discipleship:** This is a 12-week course taken after completing FJ, and it is about how to be an effective disciple-maker. Meets weekly starting on **February 11th**.

WE SHOULD DESIRE PERSONAL GROWTH

In 2025, **39 people** completed **Following Jesus** and **18 people** took their next step in Development by completing **Authentic Discipleship**.

- These courses are **designed to help you grow in your faith** and are not meant to be another "thing" put on you. Exegetical teaching on the weekend and these courses have proven to **help us become who we are called to be**.

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 a large group/small group format in ECCO Kids, Students, Development courses, and with our Life Groups.

LIFE GROUPS

In the summer of 2025, we launched 6 new groups, creating space for 60% of our adults.

- Our goal would be to eventually have the space for every single adult to attend a group at a time that works for their schedule. Our Life Group leaders are constantly identifying and raising up leaders, but currently **only 43% are in community**.

SERVE

BLOCK SERVICES CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITY

We have many serving opportunities in the church (**Nursery, ECCO, EON, Encounter, Hospitality, Parking, Security, etc.**) and through the church (**5000 and nonprofits** we support).

- Different serving opportunities have different levels of commitment which create opportunities for everyone.

WE ARE TO SERVE OTHERS AS HE DID (MATTHEW 20:28)

52% of our adults are currently serving, with many serving in multiple capacities, and **63% of our students** are serving in some capacity.

- We're doing great compared to the national average of 24%, but the reality is, half of our adults are doing all the work. If we are to provide more opportunities for people to hear the gospel, **we need everyone to step up and do their part**.

MISSIONS

- **Our city and state:** our 4 campuses (Boro, Cannon County, Tully, and the Ville)
- **Our nation:** Garden City Church and NewLife Church (MA), City Church (NY), Hope Church (DE), and 6 other domestic partnerships
- **Our world:** El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, 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 you but to earn your trust.

- **We are frugal, benevolent, and careful about how we use your giving!**

2026 'VILLE CAMPUS BUDGET - \$1,092,687

Budgeted Expenses: **\$324,982**

- Ministry Expenses: **\$61,748**
 - All expenses to serve nursery through adult ministries (supplies, gear, printing, other materials, subscriptions, etc.)
- Operating Expenses: **\$113,070**
 - Utilities, repairs, cleaning, etc.
- Outreach/Benevolence: **\$150,164 (30%)**
 - Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs, nonprofits, church plants, etc.

- The national average is 10% for churches.
- Debt: **\$0**
 - We are 100% debt free. We do not owe anything to any banks/lenders. We own all of our facilities.
- Salaries/Benefits/Network: **\$767,705**
 - Many of you only see the 5 of us here on the team at the Shelbyville Campus, but there are 30+ people who work hard to protect, create, plan, and implement so much of what happens here in Shelbyville, and we are only responsible for 10% of that expense out of our budget.

OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE: FINANCIAL GIVING!

- In 2024, our campus brought in **\$568,730**.
- In 2025, our campus brought in **\$479,286**.
- Our giving per person **actually decreased from \$1,788 to \$1,438**, meaning on average **each person gave less in 2025 than in 2024**.
- The national average of giving per person is **\$2,250 per year**, which would have put us around **\$855,000** for the year.

SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE

We have a budget of \$1,092,687. That is 227% of our 2025 giving.

- Our financial capacity is not keeping pace with our numerical growth.
- More people are being reached, but the resources required to reach them, disciple them, care for families, and sustain ministries haven't grown at the same rate.

AND IF IT DOESN'T CHANGE...

We will eventually have to choose between slowing ministry growth or stretching beyond what's sustainable, and neither option aligns with the mission we believe God has entrusted to us.

- This is a serious warning light on the dashboard of our church that cannot be ignored and must be fixed. We cannot wait for the engine to fail before addressing this.

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 Christians 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 SHARING THE WEIGHT

This church has never done, nor will we ever do, a building campaign or pledge cards. We will not ask for any additional 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 accomplish everything God wants us to do!**

CELEBRATING THE WINS

LOOKING BACK AT 2025

We responded to 17 requests on CarePortal, made an economic impact of \$29,730, and helped 32 children in our area.

- There were 52 sign-ups and 5 teams that served during Community Cleaning Day.
- We gave First Choice Pregnancy Center a check for \$20,000 from the spring Worship Night.
- We had 83 kids at our Kids Camp, and 40% of those kids were either new to ECC or don't regularly attend.
- 5000 serves meals every Sunday at SCSK.
- There were 700-800 people who attended our Fall Festival behind Old Harris.
- 78 Thanksgiving meals were packed and delivered to families in our community.
- 25 families and 70 kids came to the campus during Experience Christmas.
- We connected with 8 schools in Bedford Co., provided lunch to 4 schools, distributed socks at the resource night, filled Moore Co. clothes closet for middle and high school, bought a fridge for a teacher's lounge, and stocked the teacher snack station at Cartwright.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

EON (6th-8th grade) currently meets on Sundays. We re-launched Encounter (6th-12th grade on Wednesdays), and in May 2025 we brought on Micah Thompson to lead Student Ministries.

- We have seen 106% growth in 2025 (142% in camp attendance). Our students have truly bought into the mission and vision of the church, and it shows!

CHURCH PLANTING

Boro North Campus will alleviate pressure from the Murfreesboro Campus. Pastors Savut Som and Mike Lee will lead this campus. It will have more stripped-down simple worship.

- To alleviate pressure at our Cannon County Campus, we will soft launch a campus in McMinville, led by Fred Mindach and Adam Pitts.

SPANISH MINISTRY

We have been working towards growing our ability to minister to the Spanish-speaking community here at this campus and are working on software that allows us to translate in real time.

- With Daniel Muñoz being brought onto the Network, we hope to see the Hispanic community impacted for Christ in greater numbers.

FACING CHALLENGES

REACHING THE UNCHURCHED

We must continue to reach the unchurched in our community. 48% of people in our area claim to have a church home. There are about 25k in Shelbyville and 53k in Bedford County.

- There are more than 12k unchurched people in our city alone, and more than 25k unchurched in Bedford County. **The harvest is truly plentiful** (Matthew 9:35-38).

CONSISTENCY MATTERS

Out of all of our campuses, this campus has the most fluctuations in attendance, with the most consistent group we see being our students who drive themselves here.

- A person who is inconsistent in praying, reading the Word, and attending church will show little to no change in their life. **We must be consistent to experience life change.**

OWNERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

- We must take individual ownership and responsibility for advancing the gospel in this community.
- We must step up and own our responsibility to further His mission and vision for this church through giving.
- We must each take responsibility for being a witness of Jesus.

GENERATIONAL MINDSET

- What we do today determines whether or not this church will still be here tomorrow.
- "This will be written for a later generation, and a people who have not yet been created will praise the LORD" (**Psalms 102:18**).
- The focus should not be on sustaining for today but **considering what we are leaving to those who will worship here after we're gone**.