

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 18TH, 2026 // 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 2025, we averaged **551 people**—a 22% increase over 2024 (451). We baptized **39** last year and 40 in 2024.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

We just need everyone to be consistent in coming to church (Heb. 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 had 244 people attend Next Class in 2025, 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 in to 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 66 sign up for Following Jesus and 17 for Authentic Discipleship.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

For people to go through the process. We expect all volunteers to at least go through FJ 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 Connections 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

Kids and Student Ministries to our Life Groups for young adults (Evident) and adults.

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

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Currently, we have over 19 adult groups, and we are starting more very soon. That's about **51% of adults** in groups.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Attend Intro to Life Groups on **February 15th** during the 12 pm service in the Red Room.

SERVING

CONSISTENT SERVICE IN OUR LOCAL NONPROFITS

Life Choices, Blue Monarch, HorsePlay Inc., Shepherd's House, Storehouse Food Pantry, Come to the Table, The Attic Outlet, FCA, One Day of Hope, CASA, Access Hope, We Care of Coffee County, and local schools.

INVOLVEMENT IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Taste of Tullahoma, Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival, Community Cleaning Day, Stuff the Bus, CarePortal, Thanksgiving meals, and Experience Christmas.

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?

71% 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 and Leominster, MA, Albany, NY, and Seaford, DE, and 6 other domestic partnerships.
- Our world: El Salvador, Egypt, Guatemala, 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!**
- Ministry expenses: \$126,346
 - All expenses to serve nursery through adult ministries (supplies, gear, printing, other materials, subscriptions, etc.).

- Operating costs: \$236,000
 - Utilities, rent, cleaning services, etc.
- Salaries/Benefits/Network: \$899,908
 - 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 10% of that expense out of our budget.**
- Outreach and Benevolence: **\$233,000 (30%)**
 - Individuals needing help, schools, missionary needs, nonprofits, community service, etc.
 - The national average is 10% for churches.
- Debt: **\$0**
 - **If you are giving and serving at this church, we thank you more than we can say! Your faithfulness is changing lives!**

WHAT WE DID IN 2025

We directly served over 10,000 people through our community outreach.

- **We served over 45 schools, 95 classrooms, and thousands of students.**
- We gave over \$50,000 to support local nonprofit organizations.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO IN 2026

Connect to over 12,000 people in our community through outreach

- **Connect directly with administration and faculty to better serve students**
- **Become more involved with our local nonprofits through service and giving**
- **Can we continue this pace?**

THE EXPERIENCE TULLAHOMA 2025

Giving 2025: \$771,727

- That is \$1,401 per person; the national average is \$2,262.

Expenses 2025: \$1,485,254

Difference: -\$713,527

- **If we had been "average," we would have given \$1,246,362 in 2025.**

THE MATH

We budget for 10% of the Network expense, and the Network paid 48% of our expenses in 2025.

- **We have been blessed to have the support of a network of churches, but this isn't sustainable.**
- **If we don't increase our giving, we will need to make serious changes.**

THE INVESTMENT

ECC sees the Tullahoma Campus as an investment in God's Kingdom.

- **Because of that, our 2026 budget includes the purchase of this building!**
- **We have a budget of \$3,024,578 for 2026. That's 392% of our 2025 giving!**
- **ECC is investing in the future of this campus. The question is this: are we?**

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE VISION

Except for the paid ministry team, 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 time, effort, and commitment.**

ALL OF US SHARING THE WEIGHT

This church has never done, nor will ever do, a building campaign or pledge cards. We won't ask for any financial commitment 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! Will you do it?**

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, give, and work together because **we have to prepare for future generations, and thousands in our community need to hear the gospel.**

EXCITING THINGS

SOME RECENT WINS

So much happens that we don't have time to share all of the wins in our community.

- **39 baptisms, over \$233,000 given away, 22% growth, Student Ministry represents 11% of our congregation, Prayer Nights, 5000, new classes, more Life Groups than ever before!**

THINGS TO COME

Purchasing the building will create more areas for future growth, expanded discipleship, and greater community outreach.

- Opening a new campus in Murfreesboro next week!
- **Adding a third service next week with new service times: 8, 10, and 12!**
- Planting a new McMinnville campus in October, and **Fred Mindach** will be the pastor!
- **Grant Marshall** will become our new Development Pastor!
- **Danielle Mendonza** will become our new Children's Director!

CHALLENGE

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 **staying 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.**