



FOCUS

AUGUST 2022 - MMXXII ISSUE VIII

735 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120



Telling God What to Say

by Pastor Jim Fleming

For this is a rebellious people, false sons, sons who refuse to listen to the instruction of the Lord; who say to the seers, "You must not see visions;" and to the prophets, "You must not prophesy to us what is right, speak to us pleasant words, prophesy illusions" (Isaiah 30:9-10).

This declaration from the prophet Isaiah was given to Israel at a time when commitment to God had waned. Israel's bodies were in "church" but their hearts were elsewhere (Isaiah 29:13). They were merely going through the motions with God.

One of the symptoms of their problem was their taste in preachers. They liked "positive" preaching. The people wanted to hear something that made them feel good, even if it meant playing a little fast and loose with the truth.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with encouragement and encouraging sermons. But when we are off track, we need rebuke. Dictating to God which one He may use won't end well. So here's a great heart check you can perform before assembling for worship. Invite God to tell you whatever He thinks you need, whether pleasant or convicting. Assure Him that you want to know the truth more than you want to be entertained or made to feel good.

If you can honestly do this from the heart, your heart becomes an open invitation for God to work. And God will not leave you disappointed. He will give you something more precious than gold: He will reveal the next step you can take to become like His Son.



Aligned

by Bryan Miller, Polity & Doctrine
Committee Chairman

It has often been said that plans are only dreams unless they turn into action steps. Thankfully, after a lot of assessment and development of plans, we are moving fairly rapidly toward action steps. We do want to ensure that every action step can be traced back to our *On Mission* six challenges. Currently, our Polity & Doctrine Committee is working on the doctrine side of our responsibilities (*more about polity as it relates to effective governance structures and empowered leaders in future articles!*)

In our initial meeting, Pastor Jim asked our group to take on an assignment to assist the work of the Search Committee. They need to maintain their focus upon "filtering" applications. However, once they have identified candidates for further discussion, then we need to be able to ensure doctrinal alignment with First Evan. We are working on providing a resource to the Search Committee which would enable them to have discussions with candidates around doctrinal essentials and doctrinal distinctives (defined as their teaching positions in doctrinal areas of significance). Clearly, we want to discern that Pastor Next is theologically sound but has a theology that is grace filled.

The committee also felt that this process would not only benefit the Search Committee but also help us as we tackle our next challenge relating to our unity statement. Thank you for your continued prayers for the committee, and we look forward to providing further updates on our action steps to support the *On Mission* efforts.

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DEACONS WHO'S WHO?

Board of Deacons Officers and Committee Assignments 2022-2023



Jim Graham
*Chairman of the Deacons
Pastoral Search, Benevolence,
Finance, Personnel*



Ben Duffy
*Deacon Vice-Chairman,
Health and Safety,
Personnel, Students*



Rob Westmoreland
*Treasurer of the Deacons,
Audit, Benevolence,
Finance*



Steve Cloud
*Assistant Treasurer of
the Deacons,
Audit, Finance*



Jeff Shifflette
*Secretary of the
Deacons and
Congregation*



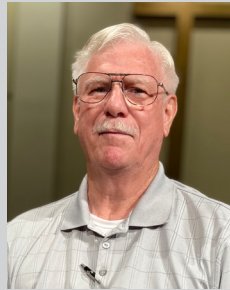
Gil Brandon
*Audit, Building and
Grounds, Personnel,
Finance, Ops & Tech*



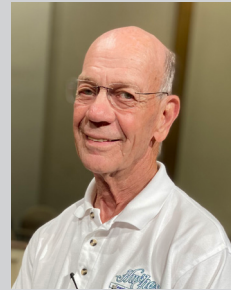
Lex Hester
*Assimilation
and Welcome,
Children's Ministry*



David Coates
*Assimilation and
Welcome*



Chuck Downs
Benevolence



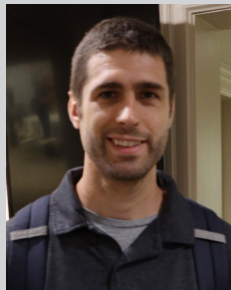
Ralph Hughes
*Pastoral Search
Committee,
Building and Grounds*



David Dingeldein
*Building and Grounds,
Outreach and
Global Missions*



Bill Granger
*Building and
Grounds*



Jonathan Klassy
Children's Ministry



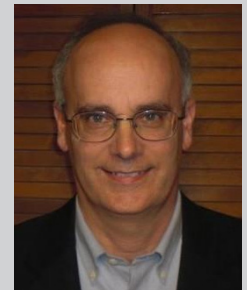
David Pritchard
*Outreach and
Memphis Ministries*



Mike Fergus
*Recreation,
Senior Adults*



Justin Templeton
Security



David McGill
Security



Brian Brock
Student Ministries



Robert Hoehn
Women's Ministry



Phil Sistrunk
Worship Ministry



Chris Dease
Young Adults Ministry

CHURCH-WIDE

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Steven and his wife Cammie have been part of the First Evan family since 2017 and 2019 respectively. In July of 2019 they were married. At the end of this July, Steven joined our staff team as the Interim Director of Outreach and Memphis Ministries. Steven's role will be much like that of Andrew Beach's, leading the Memphis Ministry Team in our outreach to the inner city and helping facilitate opportunities and connections for our members to be involved with our local partner ministries. Slightly different is that Steven's role will have a bit more emphasis on evangelism and outreach to the neighborhoods, workplaces, schools and other places where we live, work and play every day.

We are especially excited about Steven coming on board as we contemplate one of our six challenges, "Seek the Lost." He has been actively engaged in making contact with those around him, sharing the gospel with them, and leading them to Jesus. What a great example of what we would all like to become. So we are looking forward to partnering with him and learning how we can likewise bear much fruit for the kingdom as we seek the lost.



Steven Yeo
Interim Director of Outreach
and Memphis Ministries

Steven was born in South Korea and raised in California. After finishing his undergraduate degree in psychology at University of California - Los Angeles, he moved to Memphis to teach with Teach for America in 2016. He received his Masters in Education at Christian Brothers University. After teaching, Steven got to support God's mission from behind the scenes as a User Experience Designer at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA. He seeks to live a life that would have impact in a billion years, trusting that everything sooner is God's business. Steven lives with his love, Cammie, and their son, Rilian.



"Back to the Future" Daniel Sermon Series Beginning Sunday, August 28 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

A High School student was taken from his family, transported over 500 miles, and enrolled in a "re-education program" designed to tear down his faith in God. What chance was there that this young man would prevail? Surprise! He not only stayed true to his faith but became one of the most significant "influencers" for God of all time. That's not all! He also provided a detailed prophetic glimpse of what people who choose to live for God would face in the future. Get ready to go to the 6th century BC to catch a glimpse of what it means to follow the Lord no matter what! Get ready to see what that will mean in days yet to come. Beginning on August 28, Pastor Jim Fleming will begin a verse-by-verse sermon series on the Book of Daniel that takes us back in time to catch a glimpse of the future.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Luke Hawtrey
230 Arbor Commons Circle
Apt. 305
Memphis, TN 38120

Discover First Evan

Sunday, August 28

4:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel

This class is offered to those interested in learning more about First Evan or desiring membership. Attending the class in no way obligates you to join, but it is the first step toward membership. Questions can be directed to Jacki Stiefferman at jstiefferman@firstevan.org. Sign up at www.firstevan.org/dfc.



Midweek at First Evan

Wednesdays, beginning September 14

There's something for everyone on Wednesday nights this fall. It starts with dinner at 5:00 p.m., then we have activities for all ages. **Attending or volunteering and need childcare?** www.firstevan.org/midweek-childcare
(For ages 2 and under. Subject to availability.)

OUTREACH & MEMPHIS MINISTRIES



Thanks for donating to the Neighborhood Christian Center food drive. We dropped off a full car to a very appreciative group.

FEC KIDS

Summer Fun!



Pictured: Pastors Pals with Ken Boer and Taylor Park, Terrific Tuesdays, and End of Summer Skating Party.

Join Our Team!

We are actively recruiting teachers and helpers for our fall 2022–2023 school year. Please contact Cortney Cannon at ccannon@firstevan.org to volunteer!

Children's Church

Sundays, Beginning August 7

We ask parents to pick their children, **3-year-olds–5th grade**, up from Sunday School and take them to the worship service with you! They will participate in the worship portion of the service with you. We strongly encourage you to consider keeping your children with you for the sermon, too. However, if you believe your child is not ready or able to sit with you during the sermon, we welcome **3-year-olds–2nd graders** to join us in the Chapel for Children's Church just before the sermon begins. Parents may pick their children up in the Chapel after the service.



FEC Kids Midweek

Wednesdays, September 14–November 16, 6:15–7:30 p.m.*

K-5th graders will have theme nights, scripture memory work, discipleship groups, games, and guest speakers! Our preschoolers will reinforce Sunday's lesson and participate in crafts and play. Sign up at www.firstevan.org/feckids-midweek. **Childcare** is available for children ages 2 and under for adults participating in adult Midweek activities. ***Childcare will also be available from 7:30–8:00 p.m. for kids with parents participating in on campus electives.**

Child Dedication

**Sunday, September 18
10:45 a.m., Sanctuary**

Please sign up by Sunday, August 28 at www.firstevan.org/childdedication.



A LOOK AT AUGUST

**AUG 7 Promotion Sunday!
Parent Orientation!**

Kids nursery–4th grade will promote to the next class. Elementary kids will enjoy Kona Ice and meet their teachers. **Parents, join us in the Chapel from 9:30–10:30 a.m.** for a meeting about the upcoming year.

**AUG 14 God Made Saul King
(1 Samuel 11)**

**AUG 21 Saul Sinned and
Was Rejected
(1 Samuel 13–15)**

**AUG 28 God is Good to
Judge Sin (Genesis 18)**

Big Picture Question:

**Why does sin separate us from God?
Because God is holy and we are not.**

Memory Verse:

**And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"
Isaiah 6:5**

RECREATION



Fall Soccer

**6-Game Season: Saturdays,
September 10–October 22
Cost: \$65 (includes uniform)**

Boys and girls ages 4–12 (divisions based on ages as of June 1, 2022) are invited to play with us! Register by August 10 at www.firstevan.org/soccer.

Pickleball

**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
8:00–11:30 a.m., Gym
Tuesdays and Thursdays
8:00–11:30 a.m.; 1:30–4:00 p.m., Gym**

All are welcome! We have three pickleball courts available for use. We have a large number of ladies that come play on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30.



PRAYER

Prayer & Worship Night: World Prayer Night

**Sunday, September 11
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
(Nursery for ages 2 and under)**

Join us for a time of worship in song and corporate prayer to the Lord. Combined with our quarterly world prayer focus, we'll ask God through prayer and song to advance His Kingdom here and to the ends of the earth. Toward this end, the pastors and staff of First Evan are preparing for a special summer sermon series. Come prepared to learn the art of using grace well and thereby demonstrating our identity as ambassadors of grace. Come prepared to listen to the prompting of His Spirit as He gives us insight into how we can do better.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting Weekly, 6:15–8:00 p.m., D114

A prayer guide is provided each week to assist in praying for our church, ministries, sick, bereaved, country, missionaries, and military. For more information, contact Chuck Downs at cadowns@bellsouth.net.

STUDENTS



Miss Impact

The Impact girls had so much fun at our annual Miss Impact event. We had a fancy dinner and a time to show everyone our talent during the Miss Impact pageant. We talked about how God has gifted us each with unique gifts, and how each one of us is special and made just the way God intended. We love this event and are so grateful for all of the volunteers that helped make this event happen. We are already counting down the days for next year!



Impact Guys Overnighter

We had a great night, filled with basketball, dodgeball, and other games. At 1:00 a.m., we fired Pop Tarts, cookies, and all kinds of other things the students brought! We built community and learned what it means to be a man of God and how to act on that as middle schoolers. We finished the morning with an FEC classic, pickleball.

WORSHIP



Hymn Sing

Sunday, August 21
6:00–7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
(Nursery for ages 2 and under)

Join us for an evening of singing hymns together! We'll sing some of our "regular" hymns as well as old favorites from years ago. Ken Boer will also share devotional thoughts about some of the hymns throughout the evening.



Midweek Kickoff

Wednesday, August 10
6:15–8:00 p.m., E226

Students are combining to get the year started! This event is open to **parents and students** and will begin in the Impact room. During this time, we will play stage games and have the opportunity to worship together. You will also be able to meet small group leaders, observe what a typical student midweek will look like throughout the year, and prepare your hearts to hear who we are, what we are about, and where we are going.



Impact Fall Retreat

Friday–Sunday, August 26–28

During this weekend our Middle School students will be challenged to look at how Jesus changes us through intimacy with Him. We will be doing this by looking at the disciples who were in close proximity to Jesus. We will be staying at host homes of trusted church members of First Evan. This is a great opportunity for our community to grow together. Don't forget to invite your friends. Register by Thursday, August 11 at www.first-evan.org/students.



Worship Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays, 6:15–8:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Come be a part of this intergenerational group that loves to lift praises to the Lord in song and to support the congregation in its worship. We will also prepare for our Lessons & Carols service with symphony orchestra. If interested in joining, please contact Paige Poloni at ppoloni@firstevan.org.

Common Ground Beach Trip

Friday–Monday,
September 2–5

Cost: \$215

We will be at Gulf Shores Beach for a long Labor Day weekend of fun and fellowship. Your student will be able to enjoy home-cooked meals around the table with friends, fellowship around games and conversation, and worship on the beach. We are super excited to enjoy the beach with you! Register by Friday, August 19 at www.firstevan.org/students.



CARE

He Cares Ministry

We are looking for someone to restart and coordinate our He Cares Ministry. We also need one or two retired nurses on campus for this gathering. This is a special ministry designed to meet the needs of our seniors desiring more fellowship. We meet monthly from 10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. for a day of arts/crafts, devotional/prayer time, communion, and lunch. Every "Dear One" is assigned to at least one caregiver that stays with them throughout the day. This is also a ministry for the caregivers of the "Dear Ones" who can have a day to run errands, shop, or just take a nap. If interested in volunteering, please contact Jim Henry at jhenry@firstevan.org or 901-490-5825.



Student Band & Ensemble

Wednesdays, August 17–December 7
5:15–6:00 p.m., Common Ground (E202) and Impact (E226) Rooms
Open by **audition** to all students who wish to grow in their musical talent for worship leadership. If interested in joining, please contact Paige Poloni at ppoloni@firstevan.org.

WOMEN



Women's Ministry Summer

This summer our Women's Ministry focused on building community through three different venues: Garden Gatherings, Girls' Night Out: Game Night, and Girls' Night Out: Charcuterie Boards. We laughed, met new friends, learned new things, and provided needed supplies for those ministries. The responses from those who attended were overwhelmingly positive. It has been a fun and purposeful summer!



Women's Fall Kickoff

Sunday, August 14
9:30–10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Back by popular demand (formerly the All Women's Event). Join us for the Women's Fall Kickoff for fellowship, food, and a message from Crickett about our theme and upcoming events for the year. This is always a highlight as the women of the church come together for this special time.

Gals and Galleries

Crystal Bridges, August 18–21
We are considering a trip to Crystal Bridges in Bentonville, AR. Contact Jenna Fergus, jafergus4u@gmail.com, if interested.



Girls' Getaway

Friday–Sunday, September 16–18
Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa
Florence, AL

Join us for rest, fun, and fellowship. Our speaker will be Erica Wiggenhorn (www.ericawiggenhorn.com). Register by Thursday, August 18, in the Fellowship Hall and online: www.firstevan.org/girls-getaway.

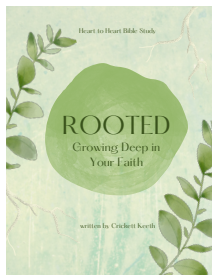


Heart to Heart Bible Study "Rooted: Growing Deep in Your Faith"

written by Crickett Keeth

Tuesdays, September 13–November 15, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall or
Wednesdays, September 14–November 16, 6:15–8:00 p.m., Chapel

Join us for this 9-week Bible study designed to take you deeper in your walk with God. Divided into three sections (The Foundation, The Growth, and The Fruit-bearing), this study will walk you through ways we need to be rooted in order to bear fruit for God's Kingdom. Visit www.firstevan.org/h2h for more details.



Precept Bible Study "Listen to His Word! Repent and Return – Jeremiah, Part 1"

Tuesdays, September 13–November 15
6:00–8:00 p.m. (off-campus)

Join us for this ten-week study of the book of Jeremiah. To register, contact Sara Butler, 901-491-0101 or sarabutler6@gmail.com by September 1. Purchase your workbook at shop.precept.org.



MEN



Men's Bible Study "The Book of Isaiah" led by Buddy Jones

Mondays, September 12–December 5
6:30–8:00 p.m., E143 (Moody Room)
Wednesdays, September 14–December 7, 6:30–7:30 a.m., Zoom
Isaiah is known as the "Prince of Prophets" and his prophecy is the most theologically significant book in the Old Testament. The format includes weekly study assignments, small group discussion, and lecture. Contact Buddy Jones at buddyjones0@gmail.com. Register at www.firstevan.org/mens-bible-studies.

Men's Fish Fry
SAVE THE DATE:
Tuesday, September 20

EQUIPPING



Momentum Yes

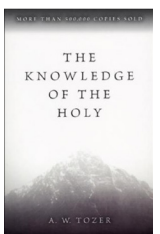
Wednesdays, September 14–November 16, 6:15–8:00 p.m.
A121/122 | Led by Jim Pendleton
MomentumYes is a free video-based series for small groups which teaches, inspires, and equips everyday people to rethink God's mission. It is designed to actively engage believers in taking the next steps in God's mission. Details and registration at www.firstevan.org/momentum-yes.

YOUNG ADULTS

Book Study

Thursdays, September 15–November 10, 7:00 p.m.
The Hall's House

We will study *The Knowledge of The Holy* by A.W. Tozer. Message Kassie Sanborn at ksanborn@firstevan.org for the address and/or the details.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

LOVE!!! by Missions Director and Assistant Jim Pendleton and Tori Martin

What if you had never been inside a church before?
What if you had never known a Christian in your family?
What if you had never known a Christian among your work colleagues?

Then, what is the single most important thing that your first impression of the Christian community is dependent upon?
Is it an articulate Gospel presentation?
Is it great skill in apologetic arguments?

OR...is LOVE/ACCEPTENCE the single most important thing?

This is the single thing that characterized our one-week experience at the In-Life Evangelistic English Camp in the Czech Republic in July. In conversation after conversation with unbelievers, the recurring theme was that the In-Life community of believers were loving and accepting of everyone!

And then, this unconditional love earned us the right as believers to share our stories of how Jesus changed our lives.

The fun thing was to see over the course of the week how God softened hearts. Though they knew that In-Life was a Christian organization, many unbelievers came who were skeptical and guarded. But, they saw real people sharing their real lives.



Jim with some English Class students

What a blessing to both of us to be reminded of how God works! Jesus says, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34–35)

They will know that we are Christians by our LOVE!



Jim and Tori with English students



Tori with a couple of new friends

JETS Mission Trip by Ron Man, Missionary in Residence

It was good to be back teaching at Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary after having to Zoom teach my course the past 2 years. This was my 7th trip to JETS, and I love being among Christians in the Middle East! Such a strategic ministry.

My class had 10 students (a few of them attending by Zoom): 5 from Jordan, 3 from Sudan, 1 from South Sudan, and 1 Iraqi who lives in Greece. It was a good group, and they responded really well to the teaching on the biblical foundations of worship.

One evening during the 2-week course, I gave a seminar for worship leaders, pastors, and other church leaders from Amman and beyond. About 50 attended, representing Baptist, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Nazarene, Free Evangelical,

and Assemblies of God churches. A few former students from my previous visits to JETS came—including one, Yousef, a young Egyptian (now on staff at a church in Jordan) who led the worship time; he also shared with me, and then with the group, how the course he took with me 9 years ago had impacted his life and shaped his ministry. So encouraging! I spoke on the topic “Jesus, the True Leader of Our Worship,” drawn from my book *Proclamation and Praise*; and at the end of the evening each participant was gifted with a copy of the Arabic translation of my book (released that evening for the first time). (A number of you helped with the funding for that project, thank you!)

Ironically, the temperatures there were about 15 degrees cooler than what you were facing in Memphis!!



Ron at JETS seminar and with Yousef

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 FEC Kids Terrific Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. East Lawn	3 Impact Nashville Day Trip 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Meet at First Evan CG Bob Ross Night 6:15-8:00 p.m., E144	4	5	6
SUNDAY						
7 Communion Promotion Sunday/ Parent Orientation 9:30-10:30 a.m., Chapel FEC Prayer Focus 5:00-5:30 p.m., Zoom	8	9 FEC Kids Terrific Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. East Lawn Canvas Art Class 6:00-7:30 p.m., E144	10 Student Ministries Midweek Kickoff 6:15-8:00 p.m., E226	11	12	13
14 Women's Kickoff 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall FEC Prayer Focus 5:00-5:30 p.m., Zoom	15	16 FEC Kids Terrific Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. East Lawn Canvas Art Class 6:00-7:30 p.m., E144	17 Student Ministries Midweek 6:15-8:00 p.m., E202/E226 >>>	18	19	20
21 FEC Prayer Focus 5:00-5:30 p.m., Zoom Hymn Sing 6:00-7:00 p.m., Sanctuary	22	23 FEC Kids Terrific Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. East Lawn Canvas Art Class 6:00-7:30 p.m., E144	24 Student Ministries Midweek 6:15-8:00 p.m., E202/E226	25	26 Impact Fall Retreat >>>	27
>>> 28 Discover First Evan 4:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel FEC Prayer Focus 5:00-5:30 p.m., Zoom	29	30 FEC Kids Terrific Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. East Lawn Canvas Art Class 6:00-7:30 p.m., E144	31 Student Ministries Midweek 6:15-8:00 p.m., E202/E226	<h1>AUGUST 2022</h1>		