



## WELCOME TO FIRST EVAN

"We exist to glorify Jesus Christ and magnify His gospel in all of life until He comes."

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023



We are so excited you are visiting with us today! Be sure to visit the Connect Center, fill out a connect card in the pews, or visit [www.firstevan.org/connect](http://www.firstevan.org/connect).



Can we help you find community here? There are many opportunities for equipping, service, and fellowship. Email [connect@firstevan.org](mailto:connect@firstevan.org).




There is more to First Evan than Sunday morning. For a complete look at opportunities, browse: [www.firstevan.org](http://www.firstevan.org).


### CONNECT WITH US!

 [facebook.com/firstevan](https://facebook.com/firstevan)

 [vimeo.com/firstevan](https://vimeo.com/firstevan)

 [@firstevan735](https://instagram.com/firstevan735)

 [soundcloud.com/firstevan](https://soundcloud.com/firstevan)

 Search "First Evan Memphis"

 [connect@firstevan.org](mailto:connect@firstevan.org)

First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd., Memphis, TN 38120  
901.682.8452 // [www.firstevan.org](http://www.firstevan.org)

*Pictured: Prime Time & Care Christmas Luncheon on December 3 with volunteers from Student Ministries.*

# GOD WITH US

*“And they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which means, God with us.”*  
*Matthew 1:23*

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Welcome Taylor Park, *Executive Pastor*

Third Candle of Advent: Luke 2:8–14 The Dycus Family

Songs of Worship Good Christian Men Rejoice  
The First Noel (Hymn #162)

Baptisms John David Moore,  
Lila Tashie, Mabry White

Elder Prayer Buzz Fly

Commissioning of Charity Gurley

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18–25 Amy Person

Sermon Rev. Ronnie Stevens  
*Associate Pastor, Harvest Church*

*“Joseph and the Crucible of God’s Testing”*  
*Matthew 1:18–25*

Song of Worship Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Hymn #171)

Benediction

*Musicians: The Worship Choir, Amelia Boer, Jeremy Conner, Trent England,  
Edrie Gray, Andy Holler, Tori Martin, Jamie Scholik, Phil Thompson,  
Ryan Wiley. Ken Boer, Pastor of Worship.*

# **“Joseph and the Crucible of God’s Testing”**

*Matthew 1:18–25 | Rev. Ronnie Stevens, Harvest Church*

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### The Annunciation of Advent: "Discovering Christ, Mary & Gabriel in Advent Art from a Global Perspective"

Wednesday, December 20 6:00–7:30 p.m., Chapel

Refreshments provided. Join us for an evening about Advent Art, including a presentation and fun group discussion as we look at the advent art from various cultures about the Virgin birth of our Savior, Jesus. Register at [www.firstevan.org/annunciation](http://www.firstevan.org/annunciation).



### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

Morning Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Come worship with us! (No Sunday School. Childcare for ages 2 and under.) Candlelight Service with Children's Choir and Children's Nativity, 5:00 p.m.\*, Sanctuary We will have special music, congregational singing, and a message from Pastor Taylor Park. Family service – no childcare. \*Children arrive at 4:00 p.m. to dress up and prepare for their song!



### Student Ministries Lock-in, Friday–Saturday, January 12–13 9:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m., First Evan

Get ready for a night full of worship, fellowship, and so many fun activities! We will have an exciting speaker to share with us about the gospel! This is one of our biggest events of the year, and we absolutely cannot wait! Register by Sunday, January 7 at [www.firstevan.org/lock-in](http://www.firstevan.org/lock-in).

Midweek at First Evan, Wednesdays, January 10–April 24, 5:00–6:00 p.m. Dinner, Fellowship Hall; 6:15–8:00 p.m. Electives. There is something for everyone on Wednesday nights! Enrich your spiritual walk and deepen your relationships in our fellowship. [www.firstevan.org/midweek](http://www.firstevan.org/midweek)

## NATIONAL PARTNER OF THE WEEK

In-Life, Czech Republic

### Praise

- For the many spiritually open students who meet with us and study the Bible.
- For the fruit of the special evangelistic campaign (talks on communication). Many friends are open to talk more about the Lord.
- For the growth of the young leaders in In-Life Academy (2-year course, finishing in May)

### Pray

- For the Evangelistic Sunday on Dec 17–distributing Christian materials on the streets.
- For the In-Life winter retreat with students and Pluska.
- For the mission trip to Nepal (the beginning of February). Eight people are going, and 8,000 USD still needs to be raised.

## MEMPHIS PARTNER OF THE WEEK

Memphis Coalition for Life

### Praise

- That we have a new sidewalk outreach intern who had a turnaway on her first day!
- That we have started sidewalk outreach at a second location (Choices), and we have already had a turnaway!
- That we have moved into our new office next door to Planned Parenthood!

### Pray

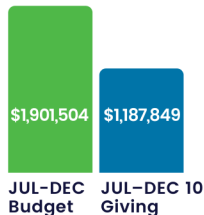
- For more interns to provide more sidewalk coverage at Choices.
- For more volunteers for the sidewalk.
- For blessing over our interactions on the sidewalk. We want to reach each woman with practical help but we also want to reach her with the Gospel.

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

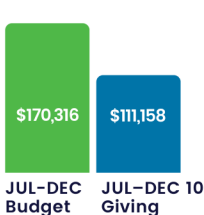
[www.firstevan.org/giving](http://www.firstevan.org/giving)

Historically we receive 21% of our budget in December. Will you pray, seeking our Lord's guidance for your year-end giving?

### Ministry Fund



### Missions Fund



## FAMILY MATTERS

**Hospice** Todd Vanderpool, at home

**Hospital** Ken Meador, Baptist

**Deaths** Shirley Boyd, December 2, 2023

Eugene (Gene) Brumfield,

December 2, 2023

Jackie Zywicki's father

Lee Roy Phillips, December 2, 2023

Lana Knight's father

Gary Winn, December 3, 2023

Max Winn's brother