



WELCOME TO FIRST EVAN

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 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.



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



There is more to First Evan than Sunday morning. For a complete look at opportunities, browse: www.firstevan.org.

CONNECT WITH US!



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Search "First Evan Memphis"



connect@firstevan.org

First Evangelical Church, 735 Ridge Lake Blvd., Memphis, TN 38120
901.682.8452 // www.firstevan.org

Pictured: Worship Service on December 17, 2023; congregation with the Raspberry family in attendance; commissioning of Charity Gurley; baptisms of Mabry White, John David Moore, and Lila Tashie.

OUR DWELLING PLACE

"Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations." Psalm 90:1

Welcome	Taylor Park, <i>Executive Pastor</i>
Call to Worship	Psalm 100:1–5
Songs of Praise	He is Our God Noel
Responsive Reading	Psalm 90
Song of Worship	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Elder Prayer	Buddy Jones
Reading	"New Year" from <i>The Valley of Vision</i>
Song of Worship	All Glory Be to Christ
Sermon	Seth Stevens "Purpose and Power for the New Year" Colossians 1:9–20
Songs of Response	Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me
Benediction	

Musicians: April Fichthorn, Felicity Hall, Brandon Herrington, Andy Holler, Tori Martin, John Rawlinson, Jamie Scholik. Worship Leader: Austin Smith, Middle School Director

"He is Our God" by Jon Althoff and Bob Kauflin © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise, Sovereign Grace Worship. "Noel" by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Matt Redman © 2015 S.D.G. Publishing, Said And Done Music, sixsteps Music, et. al. "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" by Isaac Watts (1719) and William Croft (1708). "All Glory Be to Christ" by Dustin Kensrue, traditional Scottish melody © 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music. "Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me" by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, and Michael Farren © 2018 Farren Love and War Publishing, Integrity's Alleluia! Music, and CityAlight Music. CCLI #47316.

“Purpose and Power for the New Year”

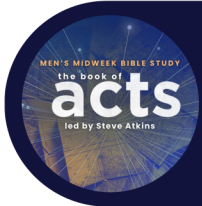
Colossians 1:9–20 | Seth Stevens



Break Bible Study "Colossians: Grounded in the Gospel" Wednesdays, January 10–February 14, 6:00 p.m.

Kary and Debra Meadows' Home

What does it mean to be grounded in the gospel? Join Break young adults weekly as we study through Colossians together and find out! Contact Anies Kunda at akunda@firstevan.org with questions and address.



Men's Midweek Bible Study "The Book of Acts" Wednesdays, January 10–April 24, 6:15–8:00 p.m., A121/122

Men, join us on Wednesday nights this semester as Steve Atkins, one of our Session elders, leads us on a study of the book of Acts. Acts walks us through the founding and history of the early church.

What is the church really to be about? What is God's plan and intention for it? What is our mission? How did those early followers of Christ spread the Gospel throughout the then-known world and establish the foundation upon which we continue to build to this day?



Student Ministries Lock-in, Friday–Saturday, January 12–13 9:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m., Gym | Cost: \$35

Students throughout the night will get to participate in live music, large group games, worship, teaching, optional competitions (Bumper Ball/Smash Bros/blacklight dodgeball/competitive tag), activities (art classes/karaoke/inflatables), trivia-style discussion groups, pizza, donuts and so much more! Register by NEXT Sunday, January 7 at 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. Full details at www.firstevan.org/midweek.

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK

Pradip & Judith, Southeast Asia

Praise

- For a productive four-month ministry trip to Southeast Asia (teaching, equipping and encouraging in Mekong region).
- For a successful left-shoulder replacement surgery for Pradip.
- For God's faithfulness and our supporters' prayers in sustaining us during this difficult year.

Pray

- For the church planters in the Mekong region to see lasting fruit in their ministry.
- For continued healing on Pradip's shoulders and for our sons' well-being.
- For God's wisdom and guidance for the new year.

MEMPHIS PARTNER OF THE WEEK

Neighborhood Christian Center

Praise

- For God's faithfulness to allow NCC to serve the Memphis community for 45 years!
- For our staff's commitment to love and serve our neighbors in need.
- For God's provision over NCC and our partners to provide 8,500 Compassionate Christmas Food Boxes during the holiday.

Pray

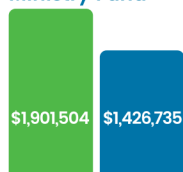
- For NCC's evangelism efforts; pray for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.
- For safety over our staff, volunteers, children and families across all NCC sites.
- That families enrolled in our Holistic Case Management Program would achieve their stability goals in the new year.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

www.firstevan.org/giving

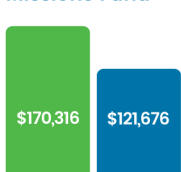
Today is the last day to give towards the 2023 tax year. The finance office is open until 1:00 p.m. today and we have a mail slot for after-hours giving. To stay on track, we need \$474,769 in the Ministry Fund and \$48,640 in the Missions Fund by midnight.

Ministry Fund



JUL-DEC Budget

Missions Fund



JUL-DEC Budget

FAMILY MATTERS

Hospital

Jim Henry, Methodist Germantown (No visitors, please.)

Hospice

Todd Vanderpool, Hospice at home

Death

Ken Meador, December 22, 2023

PASTORAL SEARCH PRAYER

Pray for First Evan

- That we would stand firm against the enemy.

Pray for Our Next Pastor

- That the aim of our next pastor is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5)

Pray for Our Pastoral Search Committee

- That they can accurately portray who First Evan is to our candidates.
- For wisdom to see the match between the congregational needs and the candidates' gifts.