

TYLER MCKENZIE

Lead Pastor

Love the 'Ville (Eve Offering)

2015 - \$230,197

2016 - \$311,939

2017 - \$797,305

2018 - \$1,045,531

2019 - \$1,207,908

2020 - \$1,599,592

2021 - \$1,723,210

2022 - \$1,781,777

Scenario #1

2 givers at \$100,000

6 givers at \$50,000

20 givers at \$20,000

40 givers at \$10,000

50 givers at \$5,000

90 givers at \$2,500

200 givers at \$1,000

Hundreds of other smaller gifts

Scenario #2

One giver at \$2,000,000

Designate to "Love the 'Ville Outreach"

1. Give Online – necchurch.org/give
2. Bring a designated check to church
3. Snail mail it

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:1-18

He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:1-18

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because He was before me.' ") From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made Him known.

-27.3% of American adults have anxiety problems.

-41.7% of young adults (18 to 29 years) suffer from anxiety.

-64% of people w/mental illness say the holidays make their conditions worse.

-3 in 5 Americans feel their mental health is negatively impacted by the holidays.

Week 1 - Hope > Despair

Week 2 - Confession > Concealment

Week 3 - Perseverance > Fragility

Week 4 - Local Presence > Omnipresence

Omnipresent

"always present"

God is always present everywhere all the time.

God alone is ...

Omnipresent - all-present

Omnipotent - all-powerful

Omniscient - all-knowing

Two Major Factors in Teenage Mental Illness

1. The constantly rising achievement pressures we put on younger and younger kids.
2. The constant exposure to the people and evils of the world via social media.

- Black culture/community issues
- Police brutality/Black Lives Matter
- Pro-police/Blue Lives Matter
- Anti-refugee/immigration & border issues
- Texas culture
- Southern culture
(Confederate history)
- Separatist movements
- Muslim issues
- LGBT issues
- Meme culture/Red Pill
- Gun rights/2nd Amendment
- Pro-Trump/Anti-Clinton
- Pro-Bernie or Stein/Anti-Clinton
- Patriotism/Tea Party
- Religious rights
- Native American issues
- Veterans Issues
- Local News/Journalism/Media

“The realization that you can invent any fact, then watch it absolutely synchronized with the media outlets as one massive information outflow and spread worldwide—that absolutely breaks your psyche.”

“In brief, it’s the transition from a play-based childhood involving a lot of risky unsupervised play which is essential for overcoming fear and fragility to a phone based childhood which blocks normal human development by taking time away from sleep, play, and in-person socializing as well as causing addiction and drowning kids in social comparisons they can’t win.”

Teenage girls are more affected by:

1. social comparisons
2. signals that they are being left out
3. relational aggression

Achievement Culture + Social Media shows us

- all the places we can't be that others are (you're not omnipresent),
- all the things you can't do that others can (you're not omnipotent),
- and all the problems you can't solve that others have (you're not omniscient).

The result is often mental illness.

Two activities negatively correlated with mental illness:

1. Electronic device use (smartphone, table, computer)
2. Watching TV

Five activities with inverse relationship to mental illness:

1. Sports/exercise
2. Attending religious services
3. Reading books
4. In-person social interactions
5. Doing homework

Two categories of John 1:1-18

- Was/Were - "In the beginning was the Word"
- Became/Came/Made - "All things came into being through Him"

Was/Were

- Word
- God
- Life
- Light

Became/Came/Made

- All things
- John the Baptist
- Humanity
- World
- Word

While Christmas is supposed to be about incarnation (God becoming human), we make it about excarnation (humans becoming God). Rather than focusing on our local presence, we strive for God's omnipresence.

JOHN 1:14,16

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth ... From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

JOHN 1:18

No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made Him known.

"After hearing about Jesus' birth and a brief story about his boyhood, we find him again as a grown man at the banks of the Jordan. He's one in a crowd, squinting in the sun, sand gritty between his toes. The one who is worthy of worship, glory, and fanfare spent decades in obscurity and ordinariness. As if the incarnation itself is not mind-bending enough, the incarnate God spent his days quietly, a man who went to work, got sleepy, and lived a pedestrian life among average people...

If Jesus spent the vast majority of his life honoring God amid the ordinary and mundanity of life, what does that tell us about when and where and how we should follow Jesus? What does it tell us about when and where and how we should worship God? It tells us that God is blessing us, growing us, and calling us right now, right where we are. *It tells us that the resurrection life we are called to live happens in the ordinary minutes and mundane moments of today.*”

- Tish Harrison-Warren, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*

John 1:10-13

[Jesus] was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.