

After serving our church for 38 years, including 25 years as the Senior Pastor, our current **Lead Pastor, Jeff Clark**, is entering a new season of life and ministry. In 2024, he will transition into a new role as Legacy Pastor. Under Pastor Jeff Clark's leadership, we have become a church where the unchurched come to experience the life-changing power of the Gospel. Please pray with us as we seek the next leader for our church.

KEY METRICS

Founded in **1884**

Located in

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI

Hattiesburg (2 campuses + central offices), Wiggins, Gulfport, and Laurel)

3,000

average weekend worship attendance

5

physical campuses across 5 counties

309

baptisms in 2023

\$8M

annual operating budget

63

staff members across all campuses

2022-2023

Best Christian Workplaces certified

Our theology most closely aligns with

SOUTHERN BAPTIST doctrine

WHO WE ARE

OUR DNA

Our Mission is to lead people to **know, love, and follow** Jesus Christ. We believe when someone knows Jesus Christ personally, loves Him passionately, and follows Him faithfully, their life looks different. We want to see people so changed by God from the inside out that it permeates every part of their life - how they love and serve people and worship God. In the communities where we have been called to minister, serving in tangible ways on a consistent basis is a priority.



MORE ABOUT OUR DNA

OUR VALUES

WE CULTIVATE HEROES *because we value pointing people toward their purpose.*

WE CHAMPION TEAMWORK *because we value the house over any room inside.*

WE CREATE EXCELLENCE *because we value belonging before believing.*

WE CHOOSE JOY *because we value the privilege to participate.*

WE CELEBRATE CHANGE *because we value the message - not the method.*

MORE ABOUT OUR BELIEFS



OUR COMMUNITIES

For those who have not personally experienced life in Mississippi, they often find it has many attributes that make it a great place to live, work, raise a family, and even retire. Southern Mississippi is a great place to serve in ministry and pastor a thriving church. The total population across the five counties where our campuses are located is over **436,000 people**. Half of that total resides in **Harrison County**, where our fourth campus, **The Gulf Coast Campus**, is located. The population of the areas we serve is continuing to grow. Our region is home to quality institutions of higher education, including **The University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University**, and several **community colleges**. We are also blessed with numerous excellent **healthcare facilities**. This area is **racially diverse**, and our church continues to grow more diverse.

WHERE WE ARE GOING



We are passionate about reaching people far from God. We strive to be a **church for the unchurched**, a place where people can **belong before they believe**. It has been said, “We will do anything short of sin to see one more person transformed from death to eternal life through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Our worship environment is **dynamic and contemporary**, but most importantly, it is **passionate**. We value **creativity** and the participation of **all age groups** in worship. **House Church** is our method for engaging in faith-based community, providing a weekly gathering space where anyone can join at any time to share a meal, pray, and dig deeper into scripture together. House Churches have been instrumental in helping our church family transition from a “**come and see**” to a “**go and be**” mindset. These groups have helped us

extend our reach into various areas and neighborhoods in the communities we serve. We desire to expand our reach by carefully and strategically **adding new campuses** as God leads. Mississippi has many traditional churches that attract a predominantly “churched” population. We strive to create inviting spaces where people far from God feel welcomed and valued so that they might meet Jesus and begin their faith journey.



“We will do **ANYTHING** short of sin to see **ONE MORE PERSON** transformed from death to eternal life through Jesus Christ.”



WHO WE ARE SEEKING

Venture Church is led by a **team of leaders** including the **Lead Pastor**, a **six-member Elder Council**, an **Executive Team**, and **five Campus Pastors**.

Our next lead pastor should be a:

MOVEMENT LEADER

We are looking for someone who can boldly lead with vision while providing clear direction and sharing significant decision-making responsibilities with our core staff and team of leaders. We are looking for someone who seeks sound input and does not insist on getting their way. We recognize that when a decision must be made, the Lead Pastor is first among equals. The Lead Pastor will be the chief steward of our decisions, and we will respect, support, and share the weight of difficult decisions with him.

CHIEF EXPLORER AND FUTURE THINKER

We want a Lead Pastor who serves by seeking new territory to claim for God and the Church. We want someone who will seek to find new methods, means, and innovations that are a good fit and equip us to serve more effectively. We have grown by adapting and implementing approaches that most effectively reach those who are far from God and believe that method is beneficial for future growth.

LEAD TEACHING PASTOR

The Lead Pastor will be responsible for casting vision in planning message series and developing methods to guide the congregation in studying and applying God's word to their lives. While the Lead Pastor will be the primary teaching pastor, we value utilizing multiple voices to teach our congregation. The Lead Pastor will plan, guide, mentor, and coach other teachers.

DEVELOPER OF OTHERS

The Lead Pastor will be responsible for serving and developing other leaders by helping them mature in their calling, gifts, and ministry areas to serve our church family and the Kingdom. In our multisite approach, we value the development of many leaders at all levels to expand our reach and impact eternity.



Venture Church staff praying together over our church's future at our monthly Staff Rally

PREFERENCES

- LARGE CHURCH EXPERIENCE**
- EXPERIENCE IN A SUPERVISORY ROLE OVER MULTIPLE STAFF MEMBERS**
- MULTISITE EXPERIENCE OR COMFORT WITH THAT APPROACH**

The Lead Pastor should be a **humble, transparent, and authentic** man of God who **leads his family and household well**. We are seeking someone who faithfully practices **spiritual disciplines**, bears the **fruit of the Spirit**, has endurance to carry great **responsibility**, and demonstrates wise **financial stewardship**. It is important that our Lead Pastor passionately embraces the **vision and mission** of our church and continues leading us to new **milestones** in our ministry.

If the description of our church, the communities we serve, and the role described align with your calling and vision for ministry, we would like to hear from you. Please **write us a letter on how you fit this profile and email it to:**

searchteam@venturechurch.org

along with a **resume**, **links to recent messages**, and other **personal information** that would be helpful.

OUR CURRENT LEAD PASTOR AND THE FUTURE



Pastor Jeff Clark will not have significant involvement in the future in any regular way so that the next leader can fully embrace the role of Lead Pastor. Pastor Jeff will take a **sabbatical** upon the arrival of the next leader. When he returns, he will serve as an **advisor to the Lead Pastor** and a **connection to critical relationships**. However, he will not have a day-to-day role or be an Elder at Venture Church. We have clear guardrails and guidelines that can be shared with any candidate.