

A man and a woman are embracing in the foreground, with water being splashed over them. In the background, a large crowd of people is visible, some of whom are clapping. The entire image has a light, warm, and slightly faded aesthetic.

grateful[®]



*Listen to **GRATEFUL**, a new song
from **WATERMARK MUSIC**.*

dear watermark family,

As we reflect upon the last year, we have much to be thankful for, and it is only appropriate that we celebrate the Lord's faithfulness. We are reminded of the lesson from Luke 17:11-19 when only one of the ten lepers whom Jesus healed returned to give Him thanks. "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" Jesus asked (17:17). With this lesson in mind, we give thanks to the Lord for what He has done in and through our church this year.

In September, we asked for you to pray with us over three primary initiatives:

- 1 Strengthen our leadership team
- 2 Re-engage the body back into the life and ministry of the church
- 3 Equip the church for a changing world

God has provided to these ends in stunning ways.

We are grateful for how the Lord has provided Blake Holmes to be our Lead Pastor. In this role, Blake is "responsible for leading the staff and church body in carrying out the purpose and values of the church and overseeing the church's ministries." The Lord also raised up and confirmed Todd Anders and Ben Caldwell as Elders, and He helped us identify two gifted Teaching Pastors, John Elmore and Timothy "TA" Ateek, who will play a significant role in preaching God's Word on Sunday mornings. Todd Anders and Ben Caldwell were instrumental in helping identify and confirm these men for their roles. We humbly ask that you pray for these men that they may be faithful shepherds for you, our church family.

After experiencing a season of social distancing and communicating through screens, we also celebrate being able to gather freely, both on Sundays and throughout the week. Thank you for the many ways you have cared for and shepherded each other through times that have often been difficult. We are grateful for how you have jumped in to serve, both inside and outside of Watermark, demonstrating the love and hope that we have in Jesus.

We pray the Lord strengthened and encouraged you through our recent Uncompromised message series, equipping classes, and life stage and recovery ministries. We plan to offer more equipping opportunities to help you confidently address the questions of our day.

Church, we are grateful for you. The statistics on the following pages are only meaningful because of the stories that they represent. Be encouraged at the way God is using each of you to care for one another, transform our city, bring healing to a broken world, and spread the good news of the gospel. Thank you for stewarding your time, talents, and treasure to be on mission here at Watermark. Great things lie ahead for us, and we look forward to see what God has planned for this family in 2022 and beyond.

Let's go, church!

gratefully,

The Watermark Elder Team,

Todd Anders, Ben Caldwell, Mickey Friedrich, Blake Holmes, and Kyle Thompson



we give thanks for

50 SUNDAYS of fully operational, in-person church services. On average, **5,756 people** joined weekly for in-person Sunday services at the Dallas campus.

5,280 WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS in midweek ministries like re:generation, Gather, and The Porch.

85,000 LIVESTREAMS during Sunday services in 2021. **Watermark.org** saw nearly **1 million users** and **350,000 listeners** accessed Watermark podcasts.

40 GIFTED LEADERS at the **Watermark Institute**. **21 residents and 19 fellows** have chosen to spend two semesters training in apologetics and theology while contributing to ministry work with Watermark staff. **70 Watermark Members** have decided to participate in the Lay Institute.

WATERMARK HEALTH'S MOBILE CLINIC launched this year, serving **930 patients** in 250 square feet of space.

SONOGRAM SERVICES for **22 women** at Watermark Health's Urgent Care Clinic through the purchase of a new sonogram machine.

10,823 PATIENT VISTS at Watermark Urgent Care Clinics with people from **110 countries**, saving DFW residents nearly **\$15 million**. During the freeze crisis in February, Watermark Health partnered with OurCalling to treat more than **60 homeless patients** sheltering at the Convention Center.

\$285,000 OF MATCHED FUNDS in the Community Development Corporation's **Financial Catalyst** provided for **33 participants** from historically underresourced communities to purchase life-changing assets like a home or post-secondary education. **More than 100 people** in this financial literacy and empowerment program are currently working toward their financial goals.

JOB PLACEMENT FOR 20 INDIVIDUALS with job training and one-to-one discipleship through the Community Development Corporation's **Job Connection Program**, launched in response to the impact of COVID-19.

3,250 SPONSORSHIPS provided by Watermark Members to cover the care and discipling of children in Uganda and El Salvador through our partnerships with ALARM and Compassion International.

290 MEMBERS on welcome teams prepared to help resettle Afghan families in the DFW area. Members have already donated **300 baskets** of needed items for refugees.

14 NEW ORIGINAL SONGS recorded by **Watermark Music** for our church with deeply rooted biblical truth. **4 songs have been released**, and the full album, *Sing Hallelujah*, will be available on all streaming platforms in February 2022.

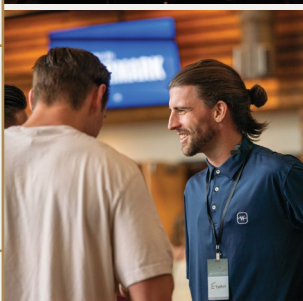
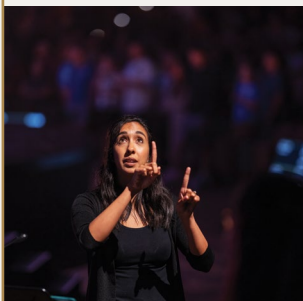
3 EVENINGS of extended praise and worship where the Watermark family gathered for **Night of Worship**.

253 WRITERS and **21 EDITORS** who contributed to **Join the Journey** devotionals sent to **16,000 daily email subscribers** and app users.

30 MENTORS SUPPORTING WOMEN with unexpected pregnancies through **The Life Initiative**.

350 FIRST-TIME VOLUNTEERS who helped host, serve, and welcome weekend attendees on the Frontlines team every week.

20 COUPLES who took the next step to learn about becoming foster care or adoptive parents through **Foster Care & Adoption** classes.



2 FULL DAYS OF WORSHIP, teaching, and memories at **DTown**, the biggest event for Watermark Students of the year, where **1,000+ students** in grades 6-12 learned about Jesus.

100+ STUDENT MEMBERS of the local church in **19 community groups**.

146 STUDENTS who found freedom from their struggles through Christ-centered discipleship at **RE:GENERATION for Students**.

12 STEPS AND 507 STORIES OF LIFE CHANGE from participants pursuing Biblical recovery in **re:generation** at the Dallas campus. Nationwide, thousands of participants in **194 churches** found freedom in Christ through re:generation.

WATERMARK'S DEAF MINISTRY which relaunched this year, offering American Sign Language interpretation during Sunday morning services, The Porch, and Membership classes.

150 COLLEGE STUDENTS who dedicate their Thursday nights to learning about Jesus at The Nine, Watermark's college student ministry.

TUESDAYS AT THE PORCH. **3,000 young adults** hear the gospel and gather to worship every week in Dallas. **200+ leaders** pastor and shepherd their peers while serving weekly. Online, more than **9.3 million messages** and podcasts were streamed across all platforms. **40,815 subscribers** regularly tune in on The Porch's YouTube channel.

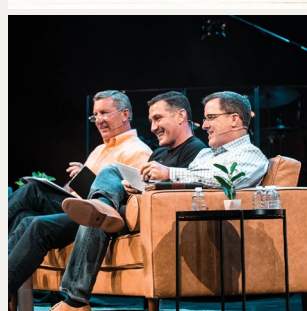
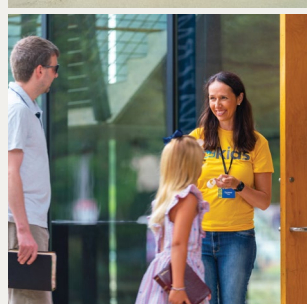
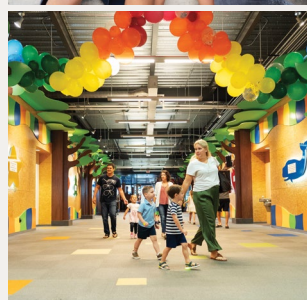
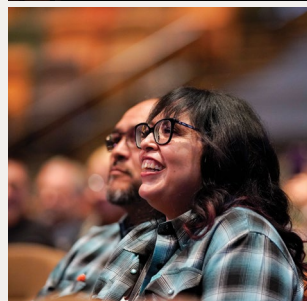
AWAKEN, a conference two years in the making. After rescheduling twice during 2020, **2,500+ young adults** from **49 states** (we'll see you next time, Vermont) came to the Dallas campus for an unforgettable time of worship and new friendships. **Hundreds of attendees** surrendered their life to Christ throughout the weekend alongside **400 volunteers**.

188 PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS with Christ and stories of life change were celebrated through **baptism** on Sundays, at re:generation, and at Shoreline.

260 VISITING CHURCHES with **1,450 leaders** from around the nation who dedicated three days to becoming stronger leaders at the **Church Leaders Conference** in April.

NEW PATHS TO HEALING from sexual abuse. In its first season, **50 women** took part in **Courageous Hope**, a new ministry for recovery from sexual abuse.





HEALTHIER MARRIAGES. Nearly 700 seriously dating and engaged couples learned biblical perspectives on marriage at **Merge. Re|engage** impacted marriages throughout the country with **300 participants** this year at the Dallas campus and **22,000 participants** at **460 churches** nationwide.

45 FOUNDATION GROUPS of newly married couples who have chosen to be discipled through their first year of marriage in biblical community.

1,042 WATERMARK KIDS VOLUNTEERS who stepped up and stepped in to serve. **4,489 kids** were taught about Jesus at **Watermark Kids** this year.

80 KALEIDOSCOPE LEADERS who created an inclusive and caring environment weekly for **36 families** of kids with special needs.

7 OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN about God's Word in **Online Equipping Courses.** **420+ people** completed these courses independently and in community groups.

125 NEW SPANISH-SPEAKING MEMBERS. In April, **Watermark en Español** launched weekly services in Spanish thanks to **55 volunteers** supporting production, Frontlines, Kids Ministry, worship, prayer, and teaching teams.

275 MEMBERS serving as **community shepherds**, who have tirelessly poured into **1,109 community groups** through conversations in living rooms, coffee shops, and across dinner tables throughout the last year.

185 NEW COMMUNITY GROUPS launched in 2021 for Members to authentically share, serve, and learn about Christ together with others in the same life stage.

170+ VOLUNTEERS who served **850+ women**, including almost **200 women** in at-home and workplace groups, in **Women's Bible Study.**

1,100+ MEN who participated **Summit**, Watermark's Bible study for men, including **330 men** from other churches or without church homes.

450 PEOPLE who committed to learning more about Jesus and spiritual disciplines each week in **Equipped Disciple.**

2,500 WOMEN AND 75 LEADERS who came together to celebrate and transform our city for Christ at **The Collective.**



it's been good to see you, church.™

we give thanks for



timothy "TA" ateen

Teaching Pastor

"For years, I have been blessed by Watermark from afar. I am so grateful that God has now given my family and me the opportunity to enjoy his work at Watermark up close. To get to teach the Word of God to a community of believers known for treasuring it and living it out is a great gift from the Lord. I thank God for calling me to join the Watermark staff family."



john elmore

Teaching Pastor

"As someone who once knew life far apart from Christ, I am filled with awe and gratitude each week as I see God exalted and moving in all of our gatherings. It is my joy to have the opportunity to spend Sundays with you. I am consistently encouraged at how this church stewards God-given gifts to serve the body, community, and world, all for Jesus' Kingdom and glory!"



blake holmes

Elder, Lead Pastor

"I'm grateful for the privilege of serving with such a gifted staff team and for the many ways our body cares for one another and serves our city."



ben caldwell

Elder

"I stand amazed as I see your faithfulness, church, and humbled in all that God has done through Watermark. His work in our midst is unmistakable, and I am so thankful for the privilege of serving our King with each of you."



mickey friedrich

Elder

"Thank you to all who have prayed for us, provided counsel, extended grace, and encouraged us this year! I rejoice in how together we get to experience God most deeply when we need Him the most."



todd anders

Elder

"I'm so grateful to get to serve our King and His people in this new role alongside the men on the Elder team. I am so excited to see what the Lord will do in the coming year and how He will use His people at Watermark to further His Kingdom."



kyle thompson

Elder

"I am thankful this is Jesus's church. He has transformed my life along with thousands of others. My role is simply to be faithful daily in ways I follow Christ, and it is God who accomplishes His work in us and as a body at Watermark."



watermark frisco

in partnership with Centennial Church, launched as **Onward Community Church** to serve the Frisco community on September 12, 2021.

watermark dallas



watermark plano

launched as **City Bridge Community Church** January 1, 2021, to serve the Plano community as an independent, local church.

watermark rockwall

serves 200 adults and 75 kids every Sunday afternoon.

- Membership has doubled in 2021 with 20 active community groups and 100 people currently pursuing joining Watermark Rockwall.
- Each month, the church intentionally spreads out all over the city in homes and parks to encourage one another and engage their neighbors and friends with worship and God's Word.

watermark south dallas

completed Phase 1 of construction and opened to the community on June 20, 2021.

- We are grateful for God's generous provision of \$7.5 million to restore the historic structure and build a 320-seat multi-purpose room, 11 classrooms, and a courtyard area.
- Financial Catalyst and the Job Connection Program are now operating out of the new classrooms, serving 20+ active participants weekly.
- The multi-purpose room serves as a weekly place of worship and gathering for 70+ community members who now call Watermark South Dallas their church home.



watermark fort worth

became an independent, local church on July 1, 2020.

campus updates

We give thanks for all the ways God has used Watermark across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

financial faq

What is Watermark's budget?

Our budget is \$28.6 million across all campuses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. We are funded entirely through the generous giving of our body. Those dollars are contributed all throughout the year, but about 25% of our annual giving is received each December.

What is Watermark's missions budget?

\$28.6 million. Every dollar we spend advances God's mission in DFW and around the world.

We were able to share more than \$900,000 of our budget with local and international ministry partners to support causes like family restoration, anti-sex trafficking, healthcare, education, mentoring, prison ministry, life initiatives, and more.

The Watermark body also contributed an additional \$2.6 million to support external ministry partners and international discipleship trips through "Designated Giving" funds to support causes such as orphan care, disaster relief, the Watermark Health urgent care clinics, and more.

Why don't we "pass the plate" for giving at Watermark?

We believe the best way to facilitate joyful giving (2 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 6:4) is not to prompt it with a specific moment in the service, but to provide our body with opportunities to give as the Lord leads. Anyone can give online, send checks by mail, place gifts in the secure giving boxes in the auditorium, or drop off gifts in person at our offices.

What is Watermark's budget allocation?

86% of our budget goes directly to Kingdom work, including all weekend and midweek ministries, our staff, local and international ministry partners, and conferences and other strategic investments in churches locally and around the world.

14% of our budget goes toward operating, maintaining, and developing the facilities at our campuses, which are used all throughout the week.

Does Watermark have any debt?

We gratefully celebrate that we have never incurred any debt.

How are budgets created, approved, and managed?

Each ministry and department builds its budget from the ground up every year, evaluating what we should keep doing, start doing, and stop doing. Budgets are then reviewed by our internal Finance Team; our lay-led Business Advisory Team, which provides leadership in our budget planning and implementation; and our Elders, who ultimately approve the budget.

We have rigorous processes to track every dollar in and out of Watermark, with monthly reporting for each department. Our annual financial statements are audited by an outside firm to ensure accuracy and accountability.

How did the budget change from last year?

Our budget increased by \$1.5 million (6%) over last year. Over the past four years, our budget has increased an average of 6% annually.

The only way our budget is maintained or can increase is through the generous giving of our body. We continually look for ways to use funds more effectively, cutting budgets where cost-saving opportunities are found. If additional staff hires are necessary to support growth, there is a rigorous process to vet all requests before they are approved. Our actual spending has consistently been less than budgeted, and any extra funds are put toward strategic priorities.

How has COVID-19 impacted Watermark's budget and giving?

We reviewed all ministry strategies and budgets specifically in light of COVID-19 to right-size them appropriately. Thankfully we were not forced to lay off any staff, and the vast majority of our ministries are operating in-person.

To date, giving has been on track to meet our budget for this fiscal year. However, since approximately 25% of annual giving is typically received in December, we won't have a clearer sense until early 2022 of whether that giving trend will continue. Thank you for your continued generosity, and please pray with us that God will meet our needs.

How does Watermark prepare for the unexpected?

Given that our economy cycles over time and we could be impacted in a downturn, we see wisdom in maintaining some reserves for the unknown. In accordance with the direction of our Business Advisory Team, we set aside funds to cover three months of operating expenses, along with a reserve account to fund repairs and maintenance as needed for our facilities.

What are some significant opportunities ahead for Watermark?

- Updating the third floor of the East Tower to better serve the needs of the Community and Connecting teams, providing spaces to host community group gatherings and Membership classes, and equip community group shepherds, leaders, and Members.
- Adding a digital content recording studio to the seventh floor of the West Tower to support the increasing volume of podcasts and videos created to serve our local body and the church across the country and around the world.
- Refreshing the outdoor space between the West and East Towers to improve campus integration and to provide activity areas for small groups and ministry gatherings.

These opportunities and other exciting projects depend on the necessary resources being provided by our body.

How do I get more information?

Our Finance team regularly meets with Members to discuss our budget and answer questions. Please email finance@watermark.org if you would like to set up a meeting.



Visit watermark.org/giving to invest or learn more.

Or send gifts to **Watermark Community Church, Contributions**, 7540 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75251