

WATERMARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

YEAR IN REVIEW

20 *Sails up* 26



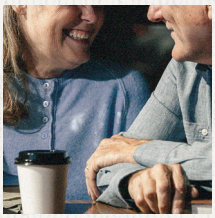
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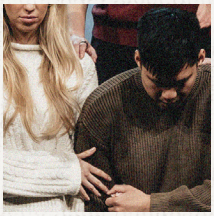
GUIDED BY HIS WORD 02



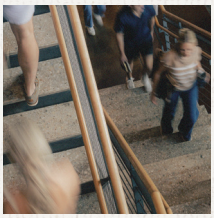
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Throughout God's Word, the Holy Spirit directs and empowers God's people, like wind filling the sails of a boat and moving it forward. This year, we raised our sails, asking the Spirit to make his work increasingly evident among us.

We saw the Holy Spirit move as we prayed and worshiped, studied God's Word, shared the gospel, made disciples, served our neighbors, welcomed people into our church family, and sent people on mission to the nations.

We practiced saying "yes" to wherever God led us as we pursued our vision: Abiding in Jesus, we are making disciples together.

The pages ahead are a glimpse of where we saw God at work this year and where we believe he is leading us next. As we look ahead, we want to remain dependent on his Spirit, ready to obey, and willing to go.

Sails up, Watermark!

GUIDED BY HIS WORD

This year, we journeyed through 28 chapters of Acts to discover more about who the Holy Spirit is and how he empowers his witnesses in the early church and today.

Over 42 Sundays, we grew in our enjoyment of God's presence, urgency for mission, and awe at the acts of the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAYS AT WATERMARK

Throughout 2026, we had the opportunity to learn from and be encouraged by leaders from other churches, including Tyler Staton, Trip Lee, and David Platt.



TYLER STATON
AUTHOR AND LEAD PASTOR OF BRIDGETOWN CHURCH



TRIP LEE
RAPPER, AUTHOR, AND PREACHER



DAVID PLATT
FOUNDER OF RADICAL AND PASTOR OF MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

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GROWING IN HIS WORD

Wanting to dive deeper into Scripture as a church, we aligned our Join The Journey reading plan with the preaching calendar, added a video podcast, and slowed down to unpack a passage each week to experience abiding in Jesus together.

We spent 292 days studying 1,007 verses in Acts, growing in our enjoyment of God's presence and maturity in Christ. Through spiritual practices such as contemplative reading, sharing the gospel, and examen prayer, we enriched our time spent abiding in Jesus. These spiritual practices challenged us to grow in maturity as we read God's Word, not only observing and interpreting the text, but also applying it to our daily lives in practical ways.



JOIN THE JOURNEY
VIDEO PODCAST

MATTHEW 4:4 | BUT HE ANSWERED, "IT IS WRITTEN, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

CALLED INTO SERVICE

We're grateful for the countless lay leaders at Watermark who already live out God's Word by giving their time, energy, gifts, and talents to serve others and help make disciples.

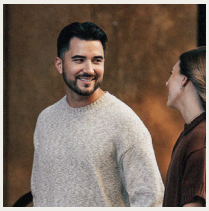
Through our care ministries, members walked alongside people facing difficult seasons, offering biblical encouragement, prayer, and practical support. In family ministries, leaders partnered with parents and families, encouraging and equipping them to navigate parenting, marriage, and family relationships through a biblical lens.

Through more than 20 local outreach ministries, women were rescued from sex trafficking, international students experienced Christlike community, incarcerated men and women found freedom in Christ, and more.

Over 120 neighbors heard the gospel through Watermark Community Development Corporation, and 7,300+ patients heard the good news of Jesus alongside compassionate, accessible healthcare through Watermark Health.

As we look ahead to the new year, we're focusing on 1 Peter 2:9 and the truth that every believer is a priest. Ministry isn't reserved for a select few; it's something every member gets to be part of. Get ready to use those Top 10 cards more than ever in 2027!

Every Member is a Minister



AUSTIN LEOS
LEADER AT THE PORCH
SINCE 2022



ALICIA KIENTZ
LEADER IN RALLY
SINCE 2023



KATIE JONES
LEADER AT THE NEST
SINCE 2016



CLAY AND STACY RIEBE
LEADERS IN MERGE
SINCE 2018



MARK AND KATHY THOMAS
LEADERS IN RE|ENGAGE
SINCE 2018



CAROLYN BROWN
LEADER ON THE SUNDAY
CARE TEAM SINCE 2019



DOMINIQUE SUNG
LEADER IN WATERMARK KIDS
SINCE 2019



RYAN CLARK
LEADER IN WATERMARK
STUDENTS SINCE 2022



CATHERINE CASHIN
LEADER IN RE:GENERATION
SINCE 2021



LAURA FREIBURG
LEADER IN WATERMARK
PRESCHOOL SINCE 2018

SENT TO THE NATIONS

Just as the Holy Spirit sent missionaries from the early church to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:2-4), he sent seven missionaries from our church family this year to Japan, North Africa, the Middle East, and beyond.

Another 134 people, including students, young adults, and families, went on short-term evangelism and teaching trips, while 335 learned about God's heart for the nations through Discover Missions.

Through our partnership with Seed Company, we've completed 34 of 69 Bible translation projects, helping more than 7.5 million people read Scripture in their heart language for the first time.

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION FROM SEED COMPANY



COMMISSIONING THE NORASITH FAMILY

ACTS 1:8 | BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU, AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.

MAKING DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Discipleship happens as followers of Jesus invite others into their lives (1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:8). As we learn God's Word, pray, confess sin, encourage one another, and take faithful steps together, we become more mature disciples.

In Re:generation, participants and leaders shared honestly about their struggles while continually pointing one another toward the hope of Jesus. In Re|engage and Merge, men and women learned from mentor couples what it looks like to follow Jesus and pursue a biblical marriage.

Every week, leaders in Watermark Kids and Watermark Students helped approximately 2,000 members of the next generation know and follow Jesus. In special seasons like Every Generation July, our church family showed the next generation what a life following Christ looks like.

In a city as large as Dallas, we recognize how rare an opportunity it is to reach and disciple so many college students and young adults. Through Rally and The Porch, we get to invest in them during formative seasons of life, encouraging and equipping them to know Jesus, surrender fully to him, and invite others to do the same.



COLOSSIANS 1:28 | HIM WE PROCLAIM, WARNING EVERYONE AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE MATURE IN CHRIST.

GROWING AS DISCIPLE-MAKERS







This year, we took steps to become even more intentional about disciple-making. In August, lay leaders from every ministry at Watermark gathered for Disciple-Maker Training to examine how the 10 markers can guide our church in discipleship.

We have also been piloting *Mature in Christ*, a new disciple-making resource, in community groups around Watermark. Organized around the 10 markers, it provides practical tools and shared language to help people recognize where they're growing, identify where they want to grow, and intentionally help someone else do the same.



DISCIPLE–MAKER TRAINING

DEPENDENT IN PRAYER

Nights of Prayer and Worship became some of our favorite evenings together in 2026 as we set aside our normal routines to pray, worship, and enjoy God's presence. Kids of all ages joined their parents, bringing all generations together to worship side by side.

In November, we introduced Recenter Days, designated times for our church family to pray and fast together, culminating in a Night of Prayer and Worship. Monthly Recenter Days are already planned for the first half of 2027!



ACTS 1:14 | ALL THESE WITH ONE ACCORD WERE DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO PRAYER, TOGETHER WITH THE WOMEN AND MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS, AND HIS BROTHERS.

UNITED FOR THE GOSPEL



CHURCH LEADERS CONFERENCE

In 2026, God gave us the opportunity to host back-to-back Church Leaders Conferences.

Over four days in April, 4,000+ church leaders, representing 523 different churches, came to Watermark to worship together and receive biblical encouragement and practical training, while our members volunteered to welcome and serve our guests.

Hosting two CLCs gave us twice the opportunity to serve and learn from other churches as we pursue the spread of the gospel together.

ADDED TO OUR NUMBER

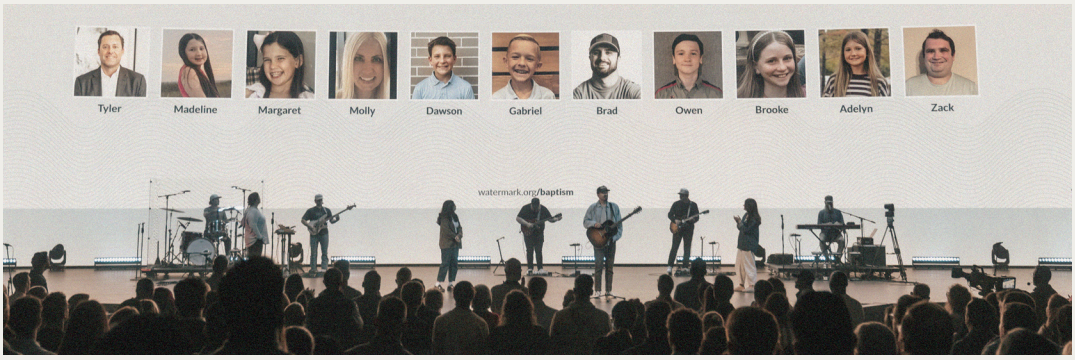
In Acts, people heard the gospel, believed, and were brought into a new community. As they lived out their faith, "the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47), and we saw glimpses of that at Watermark this year.

In 2026, 350+ followers of Jesus publicly declared their faith through baptism, including more than 100 people on one unforgettable Sunday in August.

God also continued to add to our local body as 960+ people became members of Watermark, committing to care for, serve, and help one another follow Jesus.



BAPTISM TESTIMONY



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Dear Watermark member,

Did you know that you are a priest?

The moment you put your faith in Jesus, something happened that the entire Old Testament had been straining toward: a veil was torn, an office was transferred, and a regular person became a priest. Not symbolically. Not aspirationally. Actually. Every believer at Watermark, regardless of role, life stage, or tenure in the faith, holds the same permanent access to the throne of God that the high priest of Israel could approach only once a year, and only through the shedding of blood that was not his own.

This concept is not a secondary doctrine. Your priesthood, and the priesthood of all believers, is the practical implication of the gospel itself. This changes everything about how a follower of Jesus moves through an ordinary day.

Consider three implications of your identity as a priest:

First, it means you have direct access to God (Hebrews 10:19-22). To enter God's presence, no mediator is required beyond Christ himself. Every believer can now approach God with confidence. There is a new, living, present, and permanent way to God, inaugurated through the flesh of Jesus, and applied with full assurance of faith.

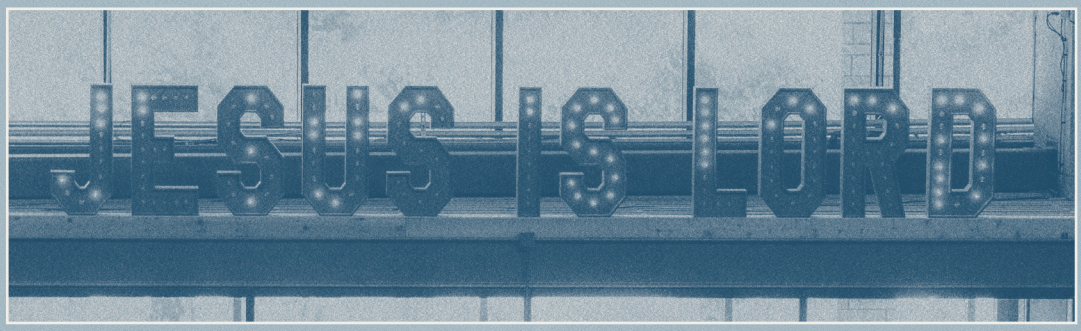
Second, it means daily sacrifice (Romans 12:1). We worship by presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. This is why we conclude Watermark services with the parting phrase, "Have a great week of worship." All of life is meant to be a sacrifice of worship. Every decision, every conversation, every hour is either withheld from God in disobedience or presented to him as worship.

Third, it means outward proclamation (1 Peter 2:9). The royal priesthood exists so that we may proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into marvelous light. Mission is not a program reserved only for a few. A life of mission is the very nature of your priestly office.

You are not only a member of Watermark Community Church. You are a member of a royal priesthood. As you reflect on the priesthood's ministry in 2026, our prayer is that you are reminded of your identity in Christ and moved by the Holy Spirit to embrace your priestly mission more and more in the year ahead.

With blessing and joy,

The Elders of Watermark Community Church



Sails up!



As we consider what God might have for us in 2027, we're grateful for all he has done in and through Watermark this year and reminded that every follower of Jesus has a role to play in what's ahead.

Through Recenter Days, we'll spend one day each month fasting and praying before gathering together for a Night of Prayer and Worship.

Our Sunday teaching will give us opportunities to invite people in as well, with expository teaching through books like Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, and James, along with series on the Lord's Prayer, the mind, and more.

For Join The Journey in 2027, member devotionals are back! We'll return to reading one chapter per day and release multiple reading plans throughout the year, beginning with Proverbs on January 1. We will also have reading plans to help us observe the seasons of Advent and Lent more intentionally as a church family. Join us as we start the year seeking God's wisdom together.

We're excited to launch *Mature in Christ* in every community group, providing shared language and practical tools to help us grow in the 10 markers, mature in our faith, and become more intentional disciple-makers.

As we look ahead, we want to live with our sails up, dependent on the Spirit, faithful to proclaim Jesus, and ready for wherever God leads in 2027.

Be part of what God is doing next at Watermark. Prayerfully consider how your generosity can help us make disciples, share the gospel, and reach more people with the good news of Jesus. Invest in what's ahead at **watermark.org/give**.

ROMANS 3:23 ROMANS 5:8 ROMANS 6:23





ROMANS 8:1

ROMANS 10:9

ROMANS 10:13

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Total 2026 – 2027 Operating Budget	$35,938,340	100%



MINISTRIES & DISCIPLESHIP

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Ministries & Discipleship		55%
Community, Equipping & Care	$10,014,794	28%
Life Stage Ministries	$5,077,435	14%
Worship, Production & Communications	$4,574,109	13%

Missions & Outreach		12%
Local & Global Missions	$2,588,395	7%
Watermark Resources	$1,141,964	3%
Watermark Institute	$544,268	2%

Facilities & Operations		33%
Facilities, Maintenance & Security	$6,640,655	18%
Operations & Administration	$5,356,720	15%

NOTE: TOTALS REFLECT A COMBINATION OF PERSONNEL AND MINISTRY EXPENSES

Financial FAQ

How is Watermark doing financially?

Watermark ended the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year on June 30, 2026, with a surplus as a result of generous giving. However, giving for this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2027) is currently behind pace to meet this year's budget by approximately **$1.2 million**.

About **20%** of our annual budget is received during December. Not only will our body's giving during December heavily impact our ability to meet our budget for our current fiscal year, but it will also determine our ability to fund the capital projects that were paused and accelerate strategic initiatives that advance our vision and 10 markers.

ACCURATE AS OF OCTOBER 20, 2026

How is the budget created, approved, and managed?

Each ministry and department builds its budget from the ground up every year, evaluating what to keep, start, and stop doing. Our internal Finance and Executive Teams then review budgets, and our lay-led Business Advisory Team and elders 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 each year by an outside firm to ensure accuracy and accountability.

What is the most helpful way to give?

Recurring donations (i.e., automatic monthly payments) help us plan better and steward our resources most effectively. You can set up or update recurring payments through our giving portal at **watermark.org/give**.

Does Watermark have any debt?

We gratefully celebrate that Watermark has never incurred any debt.

How do I get more information?

Our Finance Team is happy to meet with members to discuss our budget and answer finance-related questions. Please email **financial@watermark.org** to set up a meeting.

INVEST BY VISITING
WATERMARK.ORG/GIVE
OR BY SCANNING THE
QR CODE

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 | EACH ONE MUST GIVE AS HE HAS DECIDED IN HIS HEART, NOT RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION, FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.

Abiding in *Jesus*, we are making disciples together.

A GOSPEL-SATURATED CHURCH
A PRAYING CHURCH
A SPIRIT-LED CHURCH
A BIBLE-REVERING CHURCH

A MISSIONAL CHURCH
A MATURING CHURCH
A SENDING CHURCH

A SHEPHERDING CHURCH
A COMMUNITY CHURCH
A UNIFYING CHURCH