

# The Witness

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Newsletter

December 2025

## He Deserves the Focus

Reflecting on the birth of Christ is always a precious time. May we keep the focus. May we not get distracted. May the season be filled with our worship.

We still live in a world where globally Christmas is often associated with the birth of Christ, at least at some level. Often there is a baby in a manger. Often there are some songs that still point to a Child as more than a child. Often there are words that speak of peace available to men. While the depth of meaning is not there, people often hold the season with some level of peace, hope, and love. And yet, mostly the radical meaning is lost in the trappings of the season.

The world (and the US specifically) is quickly moving away from any consciousness of the real truth. Let's make it about toys and fun. Let's make it time focused on happiness and fun. Let's make it about family relationships and friends. Let's decorate and celebrate something. Let's feel warm and fuzzy and be nice to people. And, most importantly, let's replace any acknowledgement of the God who came to redeem us, with things that are all human focused.

And it can easily happen in our own lives as well. Where are our energies focused? Where is our time spent? Do the things of Christ get overwhelmed with the things that are secondary? What does our checkbook tell us? What does our time schedule tell us? If we recorded our thoughts, what would they tell us? Are we replacing a Christ-centered season with things that are secondary?

Let's intentionally engage with Christ this year. Let's share with others the reason for the season. Let's start with ourselves. Let's make it a priority to spend time with Him. Let's make it a point to talk to others about Christ. Let's put parameters around the chaos so that we don't get pulled into the secondary things. Let's not lose the essential for things that aren't.

Jesus left the rightful glories of heaven. He put aside His place of being worshipped. He took on human existence with its pain and suffering. He limited His privilege to exercise His rights as God. He exchanged being worshipped for being hated. He suffered rejection and abuse. He took on our sin. He suffered our punishment for sin. He died and rose to offer salvation and redemption. What honor He deserves!

He deserves our focus. How can we do anything else? Christmas is about Christ.

**Pastor Danny**

## December Outreach

Hard to believe it's already December. The end of the year is in sight. But there are many good things to look forward to before then.

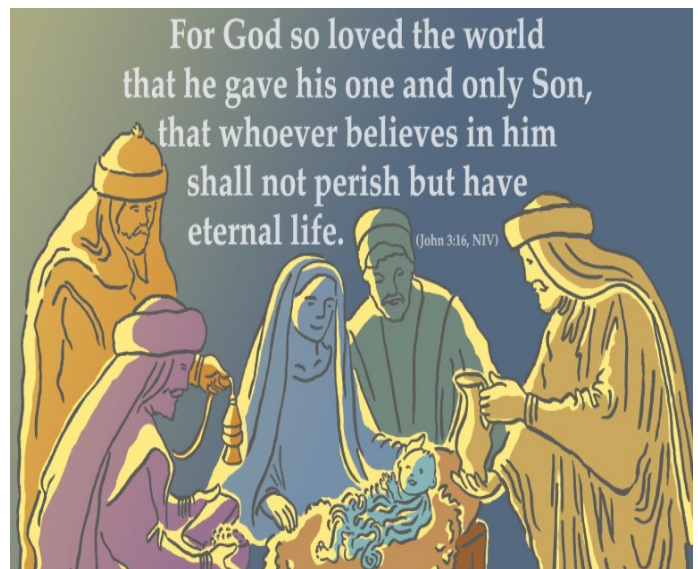
Our Christmas dinner will be Sunday December 7 at 4:30. What a great time to enjoy the season with church friends! The church will provide hams and turkeys. Volunteers will provide all the fixin's and the desserts.

The weekend after that, December 14, we will have our year-end business meeting. A time to eat a lite lunch, reflect on what God has done this year in the church, and approve next year's plans (2026 budget, workers, etc.). This is the most important business meeting of the year.

The following weekend, December 21, will be our Christmas service, focused on the coming of our Savior and celebrating this great season. That evening we will have our Candlelight Service at 6:00. Invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend this service. It will be full of Christmas music and reflections on the coming of Christ --- concluded with a moving candlelight ceremony. It is always a well-attended and a worshipful time.

Let's not get so caught up in the chaos of the season that we push aside the events that glorify Christ and His church. Let's engage in all that is going on. See you there.

**Pastor Danny**



## Authentic Youth update December

Hello Church Family

November was such a meaningful month in our student ministry. We spent the past few weeks walking through the book of Jonah, and God used it to press on our hearts in a big way. We talked a lot about surrender—laying down our plans, our pride, and our comfort—and learning to care about what God cares about. Watching our students wrestle with Jonah's story and begin to desire a heart more like God's has been one of the sweetest parts of this fall.

As we return from Thanksgiving break, we'll shift our focus toward Christmas. For a few weeks, we'll slow down and look at the hope, joy, and rescue that came to us in Jesus. And of course, we're excited to celebrate together with our upcoming Christmas party—always a highlight of the year!

Thank you for praying, supporting, and walking with us as we disciple these students. God is moving, and it's a blessing to be in it with you.

**With Gratitude**  
**Dennis and Sam Wagner**

### ***Your Church Staff...***

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## Music Worship

As I step into my second month serving as your Music Worship Leader, my heart is full of gratitude.

Thank you for the warm welcome, the prayers, and the encouragement you've generously shared. My prayer remains simple: that everything we do points people to Jesus, lifts up His name, and strengthens the body of Christ.

Our praise team and congregation has already begun building a sweet harmony—spiritually and musically—and I truly believe the Lord is preparing this church for a season of growth and renewal. Please come and share in the holiday season with us this year if possible!!

I welcome suggestions and comments

**Craig Ingram**



### **At-A-Glance:**

October Gifts: \$24,890  
2025 Gifts : \$208,995,105  
2025 Budget: \$286,384