

The Witness

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Newsletter

January 2026

It's Time to Change Our Clothes

A new year. What will be new for you? It's a good time to evaluate! It's time to change out our wardrobe.

Did you get any clothes for Christmas? I seldom have a problem with fit. However, Janice is not so fortunate. Too big. Too small. Shoes that slip. Shoes that pinch. Too long. Too short. Even earrings now have new sizing (Who'd a thought that an earring post might be too big!). You have to try it on and if you bought it online that is hard – you have to send it back. Trying to get the right thing is just hard / and time consuming.

With the Christian life, it is a bit different. It works in reverse. The clothes we had before, seemed to fit until you become a believer. Then they just don't fit anymore. Instead, we find that the clothes of Christlikeness are what we are really looking for. These fit. God has reshaped us so that these fit exactly right. And He is reshaping us for the better. And His new outfit for us comes premeasured exactly for us.

Scripture says: (ESV) Ephesians 4:22 ... put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

But it's a choice! We can continue to wear the clothes that no longer fit. And they look more and more inappropriate. Like me trying to continue to wear that size I wore 40 years ago – they just don't fit. Instead we can choose to put on the wonderful clothes that fit perfectly to the way we have been made afresh by God.

The choice starts in the mind. The Spirit works through the Word of God to point out truth. To show the right way. To cause us to desire the right way. To give us a new perspective. To change us from the inside out. It starts as we fill our mind with scripture that the Spirit uses to change us. We begin to think differently.

And then, as we are changed inside, we are able to make the choices to change outside. We now can say, 'No!', I do not have to engage in that sin. I don't have to react with a hateful heart. Or gossip. Or selfishness. I don't have to hold a grudge. I don't have to pursue those desires that take me away from God. We may still have the urge to hold onto the old rags, but we can choose to replace them.

It's time. Time to get rid of the old wardrobe. Several years ago, I finally discarded my Roger Stauback jersey (size small). I took my favorite sport coat to Goodwill (it was a size 38). I threw away my worn out jeans. Instead, I now put on new, in style (sort of), clothes that fit and represent who I am now.

Let's all do that spiritually as well. Did I mention that when we do, it pleases the Father who 'overnight' shipped the entire wardrobe?

Pastor Danny

January Outreach

January ahead! Is is usually a slow time in the church. Time to catch one's breath after a busy holiday season. Just a couple of things going on.

We will be providing a Ministry Interest Survey for everyone on January 11 and 18. Pray about how God has gifted you, what interests you, and how God might choose to use you. Be ready to tell us how you might be interested in participating new ways in ministry. Music. Teaching. Helping. Construction. Other ways that might even lead to new ministries.

Want to have input concerning the special events of the Church in 2026? On January 25, after the service we will have a church planning meeting. At that time we will provide a tentative plan for the events of 2026, ask for feedback about these events, and solicit other ideas for new events that we might consider.

Of course, on January 25, we will need to eat also. So we will have a soup/chili cookoff before the meeting. We will invite people to bring their favorite recipes of soup and/or chili. A prize will be awarded to the favorite in each category. And we will eat as much of the contest items as possible.

Pastor Danny

Authentic Youth update January

December was a joyful and meaningful month in our student ministry, filled with opportunities to celebrate Christ, serve others, and take steps toward deeper discipleship.

During the first week of the month, while I was out, our leaders—Wayne, Christine, Lonny, and Quata—stepped up and did an incredible job. Their leadership, flexibility, and care for our students were on full display, and I'm deeply thankful for the way they faithfully shepherd our students.

We began the Christmas season by going out caroling and bringing Christmas joy to those in our church family who needed some extra joy this season. This was a powerful way for our students to live out the heart of Christ, learning to look beyond themselves and intentionally give their time, voices, and presence to encourage others during the season.

Later in the month, we celebrated together with our Christmas party, and Flapjacks & Flannels. This lumber-jack-themed night was full of fun, laughter, and fellowship, and it was a great opportunity for students to invite friends and simply enjoy being together in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Finally, December marked the launch of a teen guys Bible study. This is an exciting step as we intentionally disciple young men and invest in their spiritual growth, with the hope that it will eventually lead to a school-based Bible study or club in the coming year.

As we begin a new semester, please continue to pray for our students, leaders, and ministry—that God would guide us, grow us, and use us to reach students with the gospel.

In Christ Alone
Dennis and Sam Wagner

At-A-Glance:

December Gifts: \$23,508
2025 Gifts : \$275,018
2025 Budget: \$286,384

Music Worship

As we begin a new year this January, I want to say how grateful I am for the journey we've already shared. These past few months have been a season of listening, learning, and growing—both musically and spiritually. Thank you to our praise team and everyone involved for helping us worship and spread such joy!

January is a time of fresh beginnings, and our music this month reflects that spirit. Through hymns, songs of praise, and moments of reflection, we'll continue to seek music that supports worship, encourages participation, and draws our hearts closer to God. I'm excited about what lies ahead and look forward to deepening our worship together in the months to come.

Thank you for your continued support of this Church and music ministry. May this new year be filled with hope, unity, and joyful song!!!

Sincerely,

Craig Ingram

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