

OCTOBER²⁰²⁶

@ CONNECTIONPOINT
CHURCH





A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Trusting God with What Comes Next

A word about patience, faith, and the ministry before us

Church family,

I know many of us hoped that by now we would be preparing to welcome our next Lead Pastor. The recent update from our Pastor Search Team was not the news we hoped to hear. After months of prayer, interviews, and careful discernment, hearing that the search must continue can feel disappointing.

But disappointment does not mean God has disappointed us.

Nearly a year ago, our church family began praying that we would “patiently await God’s timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will.” Those words may carry even greater meaning today than when we first began praying them.

Recently, the Gospel Project reminded us, through the story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee, that difficult seasons test whether what we say we believe about God is what we actually believe. It’s easy to trust God’s goodness and sovereignty when the path ahead is clear. Faith calls us to trust Him when it isn’t.

Church family, the path may look different than we expected, but God has not changed. He is still good. He is still sovereign. He still loves His church, and His timing is still worthy of our trust.

And while the Lead Pastor position is incredibly important in the life of our church, ministry at Connection Point has not stopped. God has blessed us with faithful interim and regular staff members, dedicated lay leaders, and countless volunteers who continue to serve with excellence. Lives are being changed, people are taking their next steps with Jesus, and the mission continues.

So let’s remain patient. Let’s remain faithful. Let’s keep praying and serving. And let’s remain expectant.

We may not know when or how God will answer our prayers, but we can trust the One to whom we are praying.

Let’s settle for nothing less than His perfect will.

Blessings,

Pastor Larry

We may not know when or how God will answer our prayers, but we can trust the One to whom we are praying.

Starting Point

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, November 8

11:00am-12:30pm

Fellowship Hall

connectionpoint.tv/events

Church membership is more than adding your name to a list. It is a commitment to belong to a local church family as we worship together, encourage one another, serve side by side, and carry out Christ’s mission.

We have discovered that some people intended to become members but never completed Starting Point to become an Active Member. Completing Starting Point is required for Active Membership at Connection Point. Active Members age 16 and older will also have the opportunity to affirm the Pastor Search Team’s eventual recommendation for our next Lead Pastor.

Are ready to officially make Connection Point your church home? **Register for Starting Point at connectionpoint.tv/events.** Questions? Contact Marty Heath at 816-353-1994 or marty.heath@connectionpoint.tv.

Our Pastor Search: Where We Are and What's Ahead



Our Lead Pastor Search Team continues to meet, pray, and pursue next steps in the search. While we do not yet have a candidate to present to our church, the team remains committed to finding the man God is calling to lead Connection Point.

In the update shared September 20, Search Team Chair Rob Jordan explained that the team had finished meetings with the third and final candidate under consideration during the first week of September. After those meetings, the team was not unified about moving forward and did not sense that he was God's best fit for our church.

That decision means the search continues. It does not mean we are starting over. From its first meeting, the team has sought God's will and timing, and that commitment continues to guide its work.

The Search Team, church staff, and Transition Team remain encouraged. We hope you will be encouraged, too. As we seek our next pastor, people still need to hear the gospel, find community, and grow in faith. Our church family continues serving those needs, and your involvement matters in this season. Please keep praying for the team's wisdom, discernment, and unity, and for the man who will become our next Lead Pastor.

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

Pastor Steve Dighton continues serving as our Interim Pastor, with some planned time away in the weeks ahead. Pastor Steven Scifers and guest preacher Dr. Wes Fowler will preach on those Sundays. We're grateful for the pastors who care for our church and the opportunity to hear from a ministry leader who serves churches across Missouri.

OCT 4	Steven Scifers
OCT 11	Steve Dighton
OCT 18	Steve Dighton
OCT 25	Steven Scifers
NOV 1	Wes Fowler

Meet Our Guest Preacher

As Executive Director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Dr. Wes Fowler helps churches reach people with the gospel through evangelism, missions, church planting, and church renewal. Before stepping into this role, he spent 12 years pastoring First Baptist Church in his hometown of Mayfield, Kentucky, the same church where he grew up. That experience brings a personal understanding of the relationships and faithful service at the heart of a local church. We look forward to welcoming him on Sunday, November 1.



First & Fast Prayer Gatherings

Praying for our next pastor is something we can all do, and October 4 is an opportunity to do it together. At First & Fast, we'll spend time worshipping and praying specifically for our Search Team and the man who will become our next Lead Pastor.

Come add your voice to those prayers. As a church family, we'll ask God to give the team wisdom and unity, guide their next steps, and prepare both our church and our next pastor for the season ahead. Gathering together reminds us that we share this responsibility and can encourage one another as we trust the Lord.

We'll meet **Sunday, October 4**, at 5:00pm in the Atrium. Childcare is provided. Then, on Monday, we'll fast individually and continue seeking God through prayer.

First & Fast is part of how we begin each month with our attention on the Lord. We gather on the first Sunday for worship and prayer, then fast on Monday. Whether you've participated before or this will be your first time, you are welcome to join us.

Next month's gathering will be on Sunday, November 1.

Learn more about prayer and fasting at connectionpoint.tv/fast.



What You May Have Missed at Our Annual Business Meeting

Our Annual Business Meeting gave us a chance to see how much has happened in the life of our church over the past year. People came to know Jesus, followed Him in baptism, joined our church family, and grew in their faith. Throughout our pastoral transition, our church has continued doing what we are here to do: connecting people with Jesus and one another.

That work has taken place across generations and throughout our community. Children and students attended camps, families celebrated faith milestones, and adults studied Scripture and built relationships through Life Groups. Hope Network continued meeting our neighbors' needs, while GO opportunities and partnerships with ministries such as SOAR and First Priority extended our reach. Staff and volunteers worked together to keep these ministries moving forward and our campus ready to welcome people.

Caring for that campus also meant addressing needed repairs and improvements. We got a new roof, rebuilt the southeast parking lot through our partnership with Spire, and updated the Worship Center sound system. A refresh of the Kids Ministry area is also in progress. These investments help us care for the facilities entrusted to us and the people who use them.

Your giving helped make this work possible. Our 2025-2026 ministry budget required \$3,802,542, and our church gave \$3,624,873. Although we finished \$177,669 below the budget goal, we ended the year without a deficit. Our staff carefully managed spending within the giving we received, keeping expenses low while continuing ministries, maintaining facilities, and supporting staff. Thank you for giving faithfully and helping us finish the year in a good position.

Building on that work, the church affirmed a similar budget for 2026-2027, with \$3,813,349 needed to fund our ministries. Consistent giving will help us meet that goal and continue caring for our church family and reaching our neighbors.

The church also affirmed the deacons, trustee, Finance Team members, and Personnel Team members who will help guide and support that work. The full leadership list is included separately. We are grateful to those beginning or continuing their service and to those completing their terms. Your time, wisdom, and faithful care have strengthened our church.

As we enter this ministry year, we have much to be thankful for and meaningful work ahead. Whether you are a longtime member or just finding your place, you can help carry that work forward as we worship, grow, serve, give, and go together.

OUR LAY LEADERS

Finance Team

Doug Collins*
Steve Cox
Steve Haines
David Jackson
Scott Pucket
Wayne Swisher**
Dave Thompson*
Missy Wilson**

Personnel Team

Ellen Barnes*
Mike Clay
Brad Drace*
Mike Jurgeson**
Clarissa Murray
Jerry Nyquist
Jason Powell**
Valorie Thompson

Trustees

Tony Barnes
Doug Collins**
Steven Cox Jr. *
Della Damon

* Term ends December 31, 2026

** Three-year term begins January 1, 2027

OUR DEACONS

2027 Associate Deacons

Zachary Gipfert
Bob Johnson
Russ Mayo
Bruce Stickler

2027-2029 Active Deacons

Aaron Bachmann
Kyle Barrett
Jeff Brundage
Allen Dierking
Gary Harden
Steve Heath
Larry Myers
Jeff Rudloff

The full list of active deacons is available at connectionpoint.tv/deacons.

A Christmas Thank-You for Our Staff

Throughout the year, our church staff pour their time and care into serving our church family. They walk alongside us, help us grow, and take care of countless details that make ministry possible.

The Personnel Team invites our church family to contribute toward a special gift that will be presented to our staff at Christmas. If you'd like to participate, gifts above and beyond regular giving can be made at connectionpoint.tv/give by selecting "Staff Christmas Appreciation," or in person with an offering envelope marked with the same designation.

Contributions are needed by Sunday, November 15, so the team can prepare the Christmas gifts. Thank you for considering this opportunity to encourage our staff and express your appreciation for their faithful service.





Let's Love Our Neighbors

Saturday, October 31 • 11:00am-1:00pm

Loving our neighbors starts with paying attention to what matters to them. For families with young children, that can be as simple as finding a safe place to trick-or-treat, enjoy time together, and feel welcome.

Many of you will remember welcoming families to Fall Fun Fest years ago. That same opportunity is still here. On Saturday, October 31, we're hosting our first Trunk or Treat, and we need our church family to help make it a time our neighbors will enjoy.

Our parking lot will be filled with decorated trunks, treats for kids, and friendly faces. We'll also serve a free corn dog and chips lunch. Everyone is welcome, and costumes are encouraged. Keep costumes and decorations family-friendly, with nothing too spooky or scary.

Jesus calls us to "love your neighbor as yourself" in Matthew 22:39. This is one way we can put those words into practice. We can give parents a place where they feel comfortable bringing their children and take time to get to know the families who come.

A conversation beside your trunk or a warm welcome while serving lunch could be someone's first connection with our church. We hope those connections continue long after the candy is gone, helping families find a church home and, ultimately, come to know Jesus.

Find your way to get involved:

HOST A TRUNK. Decorate your vehicle's open trunk with a fun theme and hand out candy or other kid-friendly treats. Host individually or with friends, family, or your Life Group.

VOLUNTEER. Help serve food, direct parking, replenish candy, assist with setup and cleanup, or support activities.

DONATE CANDY. Bring donations to the main lobby or ROC lobby on Sundays or during the week. You can help make our neighbors feel seen and loved even if you cannot attend.

INVITE. Ask a neighbor, coworker, or friend to come, and consider meeting them here. A familiar face can make a new place feel welcoming.

Sign up to host a trunk or volunteer at
connectionpoint.tv/events.



+



YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Registration Is Open!

Your child doesn't need basketball experience to enjoy being part of a team. Our co-ed league for K-3rd grade welcomes beginners and kids who already love the game.

Through our partnership with FCA Sports, caring coaches will help kids learn basketball, build friendships, and grow in confidence. Weekly practices and Saturday games combine skill development with teamwork, sportsmanship, and opportunities to learn about Jesus.

Season: January 4–March 6 at Connection Point

Cost: \$95 per athlete (\$10 sibling discount)

Registration deadline: December 11

Register now at connectionpoint.tv/fca.

Have a child, grandchild, or neighbor who would enjoy playing? Share this opportunity with their family. You can also donate at the same link to help support the league and its mission to connect athletes and families with Jesus and His church.



GO Day: Put Your Faith into Action

Spend a few hours helping a neighbor feel seen, cared for, and loved on **Saturday, November 7**, when our church family will partner with ministries across the Kansas City area to serve people experiencing homelessness.

As winter approaches, a meal, warm clothing, and essential supplies can meet immediate needs. Taking time to listen, share a conversation, and pray with someone offers another kind of care. GO Day brings those opportunities together, giving us practical ways to share the hope of Christ with our neighbors.

Last year, our volunteers served meals, helped children with Christmas crafts, and decorated City Union Mission facilities for the holidays. Those ordinary tasks created opportunities for connection with people walking through difficult seasons. This year, there is a place for you to contribute, too.

Choose an opportunity that fits your schedule:

- **8:00-10:00am** – Begin the day with prayer and pack gift bags at the church.
- **9:00am-1:00pm** – Prepare kits for neighbors experiencing homelessness and serve in our Hope Network pantry.
- **10:00am-12:30pm** – Decorate for Christmas, help resident children with a craft, and serve lunch at City Union Mission Women & Family Center.
- **12:00-3:00pm** – Travel by church bus to ministries serving unhoused neighbors and pray for their work and the people they serve.
- **3:00-7:00pm** – Decorate for Christmas, serve dinner, and participate in chapel at City Union Mission Christian Life Center and Men's Center. (Must be 18 years or older.)

Sign up to serve at connectionpoint.tv/go.

If you cannot attend, you can still help. Donate socks, hats, gloves, travel-size personal care items, small toys, activity supplies, or emergency blankets. Financial gifts will help cover two meals at the mission. Contact Carmen Kraus at carmen.kraus@connectionpoint.tv to coordinate donations and financial gifts.

Winter Hope Drive A Few Extra Items. Meaningful Help.

When you shop for your household this month, add a few essentials for a neighbor's household, too. A few extra dollars spent on groceries or warm clothing can make a substantial difference for families who turn to Hope Network for help.

Our food pantry serves hundreds of people each month. The Winter Hope Drive helps prepare its food and clothing resources for the colder months ahead.

Pick up an empty grocery bag at church or use your own. Then fill it with canned foods, instant potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and breakfast items, along with coats, hoodies, hats, gloves, socks, blankets, and sleeping bags. Find a full list at connectionpoint.tv/go.

Return filled bags Sunday, October 11. Leave them behind your car for volunteers to collect during the worship service, or bring them to the main lobby or ROC lobby. You may also bring donations to either lobby through Sunday, October 18.

Every contribution helps. Together, we can help our neighbors face winter with food on their shelves, clothing to keep them warm, and the care of a church family willing to respond.



UPCOMING EVENTS



First & Fast Gathering

Sunday, October 4

Gather with your church family on 1st Sundays at 5:00pm. First & Fast is a powerful time to seek the Lord, realign our hearts, refocus our faith, and remind ourselves that our strength comes from Him alone. Brandon Taylor will lead us in worship as we pray with unity and expectation for what God wants to do in and through our church. *Next month's gathering will be on Sunday, November 1.*

GriefShare

Tuesdays, October 6 & 20

Our GriefShare support group is led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. GriefShare meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month in room C218 at 6:00pm.

MomCo

Tuesdays, October 13 & 27

Mothering is complicated, but it doesn't have to be lonely. Moms of children from birth through high school can find friendship, encouragement, and support at MomCo. We meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm. To learn more, email connectionpointmomco@gmail.com.

Triple L

Tuesday, October 20

Enjoy fellowship, music, a devotion, a spaghetti and meatballs lunch, and a program featuring music from Dennis Dittamore and Debbie Erikson at Triple L on Tuesday, October 20, at 10:30am in the Atrium. Cost is \$8. RSVP by calling Barbara Griffin at 816-847-7138.

Women on Mission

**Monday, October 26 &
Thursday, November 5**

Learn how others are living out the Great Commission and how you can too. Women on Mission meets monthly in the Fellowship Hall. Choose from two sessions: 1st Thursdays at 9:30am and 4th Mondays at 6:30pm.

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 31

Help us welcome our neighbors for free, family-friendly fun from 11:00am-1:00pm in our church parking lot. Families will enjoy decorated trunks, treats, and a free lunch. Host a trunk, volunteer, donate candy, or invite friends and family. Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Fall Retreat for Students

November 6-8

Give your student a weekend to step away from everyday pressures, build friendships, and grow closer to Jesus. Students in 6th-12th grade will head to Prairie Star Ranch for fun activities, worship, and honest conversations about faith alongside trusted leaders. Learn more and register at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 7

Gather with other men for breakfast and encouragement at our next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 7, at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. You'll enjoy a great meal, meaningful conversation, and a message from Marcellus Casey, who grew up in our church and now serves as a chaplain to the Kansas City Chiefs. Bring a friend and join us.

GO Day

Saturday, November 7

Help a neighbor feel seen, cared for, and loved at our next GO Day. Serve our homeless neighbors through meal service, Christmas decorating, preparing essential supplies, or prayer. Choose an opportunity that fits your schedule and sign up at connectionpoint.tv/go.

Milestone 1: Family Commitment Sunday

Sunday, November 8

Parents of children birth through Pre-K are invited to participate in Family Commitment Sunday. As Milestone 1 on our Legacy Milestone Path, this is an opportunity to commit to discipling your child as our church family celebrates with you and prays for your family. Sign up at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Starting Point Membership Class

Sunday, November 8

Ready to make Connection Point your church home? Join us for our Starting Point membership class from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Register at connectionpoint.tv/events.

FCA Youth Basketball League

Registration Is Open

Help your child learn basketball, build friendships, and grow in faith through our co-ed K-3rd grade league with FCA Sports. The season runs January 4-March 6, with weekly practices and Saturday games at Connection Point. Cost is \$95 per athlete, with a \$10 sibling discount. Register by December 11 or support the league at connectionpoint.tv/fca.

Christmas at Connection Point

Save the Dates

Make room on your calendar now for a Christmas season of worship, connection, and sharing hope with our neighbors. Save these dates and start inviting friends and family to join you. We'll share more details in the coming weeks. For now, make plans to spend this meaningful season with your Connection Point family.

Gifts of Hope Christmas Adoptions
November 1-29

Tinsel & Tea Women's Event
Saturday, December 5

Christmas Worship Service
Sunday, December 13

Family Christmas Party
Sunday, December 20

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24

For more events, visit
connectionpoint.tv/events

what's next?

Whether this is your first visit or you've been attending for years, you may be asking yourself, "Where do I go from here?" You're ready for your next step. Maybe you'd like to talk to someone about following Christ, joining a Life Group, becoming a church member, getting baptized, or something else. Stop by the Connect Center to talk with us or visit us at connectionpoint.tv/connect. If you are looking for consistent opportunities to stay connected with the Connection Point family, be sure to join us every Sunday:

Sunday Morning Worship Service

Join us for a powerful, multigenerational worship experience **every Sunday at 9:30am** in the Worship Center. You'll hear biblical teaching that speaks to real life and experience dynamic music led by our choir and orchestra, all in a welcoming atmosphere for every age. ASL interpretation is available for the deaf and hard of hearing, and Kid City Jr. provides nursery care for children from birth through age five. Come just as you are and discover a place where you'll be encouraged and equipped to grow in your faith.

Connect with a Life Group

Life Groups are a great opportunity to meet new people, build friendships, and grow in your faith and knowledge of God's Word. Each group is made up of people just like you! Find the group that is right for you based on gender, age group, life stage, and schedule. Life Groups meet on Sundays at 8:15 am, Sundays at 11:00am, and during the week. **To find your group, stop by the Connect Center this morning or visit connectionpoint.tv/lifegroups.**

MIDWEEK - Wednesday Activities

Wednesday evenings are a great midweek opportunity to dig a little deeper. Whether you want to learn, build community, or serve, there's a place for you at MIDWEEK on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/midweek.

Childcare (ages 0-3)	Bible Study for Adults
Preschool (ages 3-5)	Choir Rehearsal
Kids (K-5th grade)	Orchestra Rehearsal
Students (6th-12th grade)	

Come Early for MIDWEEK Dinner

Bring your whole family or come on your own—there's a seat for you! Dinner is served in the Atrium from 4:30-6:00pm before activities begin. Cost is \$7 per person. Call 816-268-1534 and leave a message by 12:00pm each Wednesday to reserve your spot.

Upcoming Menu

7 - Pasta & Meatballs	21 - Pulled Pork BBQ
14 - Salisbury Steak	28 - Lasagna

Find events, resources, and more ways to get connected at connectionpoint.tv

scan to connect

FIRST-TIME GUESTS • PRAYER • LIFE GROUPS
EVENTS • GIVE • SUNDAY RESOURCES



Stop by the Connect Center in the lobby so we can say hello!

WAYS TO GIVE

"Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver." – 2 Corinthians 9:7

- **IN PERSON** via offering plate or giving box
- **ONLINE** at connectionpoint.tv
- **TEXT** the word GIVE to 816-306-1994
- **MAIL** to 10500 E 350 Hwy, Raytown, MO 64138



10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138
816-353-1994 • CONNECTIONPOINT.TV

