

SEPTEMBER 2026

@ CONNECTIONPOINT
CHURCH





A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Faithful Today. Ready for What's Next.

Worship • Grow • Serve • Give • Go

Church family,

As we settle into the fall season, I want to remind us of something simple but important: our mission has not changed.

We continue to pray for our Pastor Search Team and trust God to lead us to our next Lead Pastor in His perfect timing. But while we wait, we don't wait on the sidelines. God has given Connection Point Church a mission to live out today.

One of the ways we stay focused on that mission is through our five ministry catalysts: Worship, Grow, Serve, Give, and Go.

These aren't simply five church programs or boxes to check. They help us live out our mission and take our next steps with Jesus and His church.

We **Worship** because God is worthy.

We **Grow** because following Jesus is a lifelong journey.

We **Serve** because God has uniquely gifted each of us to make a difference.

We **Give** because everything we have ultimately belongs to Him.

And we **Go** because Jesus has called us to take the Gospel beyond the walls of our church.

These five areas also help keep us spiritually healthy, connected, and focused on what matters most.

So, as you read through this month's newsletter and see opportunities connected to each of these ministry

catalysts, I want to encourage you to ask one simple question:

What's my next step?

Maybe God is calling you to reconnect in an area where you've drifted or take a step you've been putting off. Whatever it is, don't wait for the next season to be faithful in this one.

Let's keep worshiping, growing, serving, giving, and going together.

Blessings,

Pastor Larry

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!



Faithful in This Season

A pastoral transition naturally directs our attention toward the future. We wonder who our next Lead Pastor will be, when he will arrive, and what the next chapter will hold. Those questions matter, but they do not change the calling God has given us today.

Throughout this season, the people of Connection Point have continued to worship, build relationships, serve, give, and share the Gospel.

We have welcomed first-time guests, celebrated new members, and watched people take meaningful steps in their faith. We have also continued to hear from guests that they felt genuinely welcomed by our church family.

That is worth celebrating. It is also worth continuing.

Hebrews 10:23-25 calls us to hold firmly to our hope, encourage one another, and continue meeting together. Gathering is more than attending a weekly event. We worship because God is worthy, but we also need the encouragement, relationships, and perspective we receive from one another.

Research supports some of these practical benefits. Studies have associated regular worship attendance with stronger social connection and a substantially lower risk of deaths related to suicide, drugs, and alcohol. But long before researchers studied its effects, God designed His Church as a people who worship, grow, and walk through life together.

Whether you have belonged to Connection Point for decades or are still learning people's names, you have a place here. Keep showing up. Introduce yourself to someone you do not know. Participate in a Life Group. Encourage someone who may be carrying more than you realize. Your presence helps strengthen the church family, and the church family helps strengthen you.

Take Your Next Step Toward Membership at Starting Point

Sunday, September 13 • 11:00am-12:30pm • Fellowship Hall

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.

Pray With the Pastor Search Team

In mid-August, Pastor Search Team Chair Rob Jordan shared a brief update on the pastor search.

He explained that after interviewing three final candidates, the team agreed on a top candidate but was unable to reach an agreement with him. At that time, the team was preparing to focus on the remaining candidates.

Now, as they actively take next steps in that process, the team remains deeply committed to prayer and to seeking direction from the Lord at every step. Please continue praying with them.

Pray for the Pastor Search Team

Ask God to give each member wisdom, discernment, patience, and unity as they evaluate every conversation and decision.

Pray for our next Lead Pastor

Ask God to prepare him and his family, guide his decisions, and establish every detail in His timing.

Pray for our church family

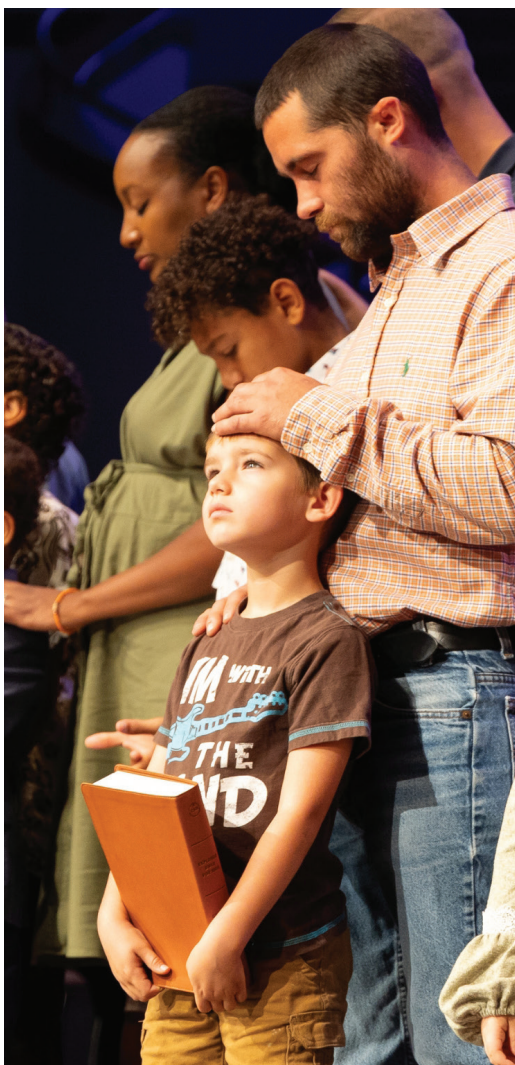
Ask God to keep us united around our mission of connecting people with Jesus and one another, faithful in this season, and ready to welcome the pastor He provides.

Pray for yourself

Ask God to show you how to encourage others, use your gifts and take your next step with Jesus and His church.

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Proverbs 16:9



Guiding Your Child's Faith Journey

Parents want their children to know and follow Jesus, but knowing how to nurture faith at each age can feel overwhelming. Connection Point's Legacy Milestones Path gives families a practical way forward and reminds parents that their church family is walking beside them.

The path begins at birth, when parents commit to make faith part of everyday family life. It continues through high school graduation, when they prepare to send a lifelong disciple into the world. Each milestone recognizes a new season and equips families for the conversations and opportunities that come with it.

This fall, we will celebrate the first two milestones on that path.



Milestone 2 Bible Discovery

Milestone 2 helps kindergarteners and first graders discover that the Bible is true, learn how to find their way through it, begin memorizing Scripture, and understand that they can talk with God themselves. On **Sunday, September 13**, we will recognize our first graders during the 9:30am worship service and present each of them with a Bible. Parents and grandparents will receive practical resources for making Bible reading, prayer, and faith conversations part of life at home.



Milestone 1 Family Commitment

Family Commitment Sunday will take place **Sunday, November 8**, for families with children from birth through Pre-K. Parents will publicly commit to raising their children to know and follow Jesus, and our church family will commit to encourage and support them along the way.

To learn more about either milestone, contact Bryan Watts and Clarisse Lewis at kids@connectionpoint.tv.



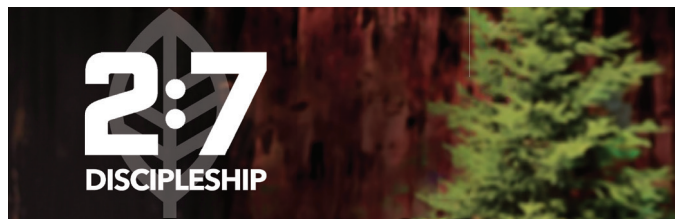
Student Fall Retreat

Students spend most weeks surrounded by noise: classes, practices, responsibilities, social pressure, and screens competing for their attention. Fall Retreat gives them room to step away, have fun, and focus on their relationship with Jesus.

From **November 6-8**, students in 6th-12th grade will head to Prairie Star Ranch for high ropes, waterfront activities, worship, and honest conversations about faith and life. They will deepen friendships, connect with trusted leaders, and be reminded that they do not have to follow Jesus alone.

For students, it is a weekend filled with experiences they will remember. For parents, it is an opportunity for your student to build healthy relationships and engage with biblical truth in a setting designed for their stage of life.

Invite a friend and register at connectionpoint.tv/events.



2:7 Series Discipleship Class

Many of us want a stronger relationship with God but struggle to turn that desire into a consistent part of everyday life. The 2:7 Series provides the structure, tools, and community to help.

During this 11-week course, you will learn practical ways to spend time with God, engage with Scripture, pray, and talk about your faith. You will also grow alongside other believers who can encourage you and help you stay committed.

The journey begins with *Growing Strong in God's Family*. Choose from sessions beginning:

Wednesday, September 9 @ 6:30pm
Sunday, September 13 @ 5:00pm

Find complete details and register at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Where We Need You the Most

Every Sunday, people walk through our doors or join us online looking for a place to worship, belong, and grow. Creating that kind of experience takes more than a few staff members or the same faithful volunteers serving week after week. It takes a church family willing to share the gifts God has given them.

Ephesians 4:15-16 reminds us that the Church grows and builds itself up in love “when each part is working properly.” That is the heart of our Serve catalyst: sharing our gifts to build the Church. Right now, three vital ministries need more people willing to step in.

Serving may require stepping beyond what feels familiar, but that is often where God shows us how He can use what we have to make a difference. If you have been waiting to find your place, consider whether one of these ministries could be your next step.



Deaf Ministry

Deaf people often encounter language and communication barriers that limit their access to worship, relationships, and biblical teaching.

At Connection Point, we want Deaf individuals and families to participate fully in the life of the church and experience worship and God's Word in their own language. We need professional ASL interpreters as well as qualified volunteers who can help strengthen this ministry.

Contact Pastor Larry:
larry.jones@connectionpoint.tv



Kids Ministry

A child's experience at church can influence how they view God, His Word, and His people for years to come. That is why reaching the next generation must remain one of our highest priorities. Kid Ministry needs consistent leaders and support volunteers serving children from birth through fifth grade at both 9:30 and 11:00am. You do not need to be an expert or have an outgoing personality. You need to be dependable, willing to learn, and ready to help children know they are safe, loved, and welcomed.

Contact Bryan Watts & Clarisse Lewis:
kids@connectionpoint.tv



Production Ministry

Before many guests visit Connection Point in person, they meet us online. Our online worship service also helps homebound members remain connected to their church family. A small, dedicated team makes that possible each week, but more volunteers are needed. Production may look highly technical from the outside, but several positions are designed for beginners. If you can listen, follow directions, and push a button, there may be a place for you. Our team will provide the training and help you learn one step at a time.

Contact Oliver Housknecht:
oliver.housknecht@connectionpoint.tv

Help Shape the Year Ahead *Annual Business Meeting*

We're excited about what God has been doing through Connection Point and where we believe He is leading us next. At our Annual Business Meeting, we'll celebrate the past year, look ahead to the next, and make important decisions together as a church family.

Join us **Sunday, September 20**, at 5:00pm in the Atrium as we worship together, share ministry highlights, and hear the vision and plans for the coming year. You'll also gain a clearer understanding of our budget, debt-management strategy, and the reasons behind important ministry decisions. Active Members will affirm the new ministry budget and vote on leaders for the Pastor Advisory Teams and Deacon Body.

Your participation matters. When you attend, you become better equipped to pray for our church, support its ministries, and take part in its future. Come celebrate, learn where we're headed, and enjoy food and fellowship following the meeting.

The Final Stretch

Our fiscal year ends September 30. The ministry budget our church affirmed last year represents our shared commitment to worship, grow, serve, give, and go together. The simplest way to help us finish well is to continue giving faithfully. If you are behind on regular giving or feel led to make an additional gift, every contribution helps fully fund the ministry God has entrusted to us and allows us to begin the new year ready for what lies ahead. Give at connectionpoint.tv/give.



400 Boxes Fully Funded

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes begin with simple gifts, but they can open the door for children and families around the world to hear the Gospel. Once again, Connection Point is partnering with Samaritan's Purse to send these tangible expressions of love to children in communities across more than 100 countries.

This year, we are approaching our church-wide goal a little differently.

In recent years, Connection Point has packed more than 800 shoeboxes, but the \$10 needed to send each box has not always been fully funded. This year, our goal is to pack 400 quality shoeboxes and provide the full \$10 for every box we send.

That means there are several meaningful ways to participate. You can pack and fund a shoebox, pack a box and contribute what you can toward its cost, or give financially to help send the boxes packed by others. Financial gifts can be designated "OCC" through any Connection Point giving method.

Return filled shoeboxes to the Connect Center in the main lobby or the reception desk in the ROC by Wednesday, September 30.

How to Pack a Shoebox

- 1 **CHOOSE YOUR BOX.** Pick up an empty box at Connection Point or use an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you wrap it, cover the box and lid separately.
- 2 **CHOOSE A RECIPIENT.** Who do you want to receive your shoebox? Select a boy or girl and an age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
- 3 **ADD QUALITY GIFTS.** Begin with one "wow" item, such as a stuffed animal or soccer ball with a pump. Then add toys, school supplies, and hygiene items.
- 4 **PRAY.** Pray for the child who will receive your box and for the Gospel opportunities it may create. You may also include a personal note and photo.
- 5 **RETURN IT.** Bring your completed box to the main lobby or ROC by Wednesday, September 30.

You can also pack a shoebox online. Choose the items, add a note, and Samaritan's Purse will pack and send it for you. Find complete instructions, give toward OCC, or pack online at connectionpoint.tv/go.

Could Guatemala Be Your Next Step?

For more than a decade, Connection Point has partnered with Casa Bernabé, a ministry bringing hope and healing to vulnerable children in Guatemala. From January 16-23, a new team will continue that relationship by supporting its children's home, transitional-living program, vocational program, school, and clinic.

Our last team saw what can happen when an entire church goes together. Connection Point members donated more than 15 suitcases of supplies, including backpacks, soccer cleats, school supplies, and gifts for staff. Financial contributions provided new textbooks for the school. In Guatemala, team members painted classrooms, distributed supplies, taught classes, served meals, encouraged staff, and spent time with children and house parents. Each person brought what God had given them, and together, they met practical needs and strengthened a ministry our church has supported for years.

The next team will serve wherever help is most valuable, from working with children and encouraging staff to completing projects across the campus. You do not need international mission experience or a specialized ministry background. You need a willingness to learn, serve, and use your abilities for others.

Could this be your next step? Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/go.



UPCOMING EVENTS



MomCo

**Tuesday, September 8 &
Tuesday, September 22**

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 The MomCo. We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 6:30–8:00pm. Email connectionpointmomco@gmail.com to learn more.

Tee Up for Hope Golf Tournament

Thursday, September 10

Join us at Adams Pointe Golf Course on Thursday, September 10, as we raise funds for Hope Network at the Tee Up for Hope Golf Tournament. Funds raised will help keep people in our community housed by supporting critical needs for food, rent, utilities, and vehicle repair. Learn more and register at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Precept Bible Study

Thursday, September 10

Discover what God's Word teaches about sound doctrine, faithful leadership, and living as the family of God. Join us for a study of 1 Timothy as we explore Paul's practical instruction for the church and how it applies to our lives today. This Precept Bible study begins Thursday, September 10, at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall or on Zoom. Learn more and sign up at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 12

Gather with other men for breakfast and encouragement at our next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 12, at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. You'll enjoy a great meal, meaningful conversation, and a message from Jacob Barlow. Jacob, who grew up at Connection Point, will share his testimony, including how God has worked in his life through 25 years of military and law enforcement service. Bring a friend and join us.

Kids & Student Choir

Sunday, September 13

Connection Kids Choir and Student Choir kick off Sunday, September 13, at 5:00pm! Children ages 3 through 5th grade will discover the joy of worship through music, rhythm, and movement. Students in grades 6-12 will grow in worship, build friendships, and develop music skills. All choirs will prepare to share worship with our church family and beyond.

Women's Bible Study

Sunday, September 13

Join us for *Friends & Sisters*, a five-week Bible study, as we explore what God's Word teaches about building Christ-centered friendships and strengthening our relationships as sisters in Christ. Join us Sunday evenings beginning September 13 at 5:00pm. Learn more and register at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Triple L

Tuesday, September 15

Enjoy fellowship, music, a devotion, a meatloaf lunch, and a program featuring music from Mark & Pam Fisher, at Triple L on Tuesday, September 15, at 10:30am in the Atrium. Cost is \$8. RSVP by calling Barbara Griffin at 816-847-7138.

Foundations Class

Sunday, September 20

New to faith, exploring what it means to follow Jesus, or ready to strengthen your biblical foundation? This six-week class offers clear, practical teaching on salvation, prayer, grace, and everyday discipleship. The next session begins Sunday, September 20, at 11:00am.

Women on Mission

Monday, September 28 &

Thursday, October 1

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.

**For more events, visit
connectionpoint.tv/events**



YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

K-3rd Grade • Co-ED

Registration Opens October 1

Give your child a place to learn basketball, build confidence, and experience what it means to be part of a team. Offered through FCA Sports and Connection Point, our Youth Basketball League welcomes young athletes of every skill level into a positive, encouraging environment where coaches develop both ability and character. Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/fca.



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

2 – Cheeseburger	23 – Alfredo Pasta
9 – Chicken Strips	30 – Meatloaf
16 – Smothered Burrito	

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

GIVING UPDATE

Total Annual Goal: **\$3,802,542.00**

Fiscal Year to Date Received: \$3,275,372.14

as of Thursday, September 3, 2026

Fiscal Year to Date Goal: \$3,510,038.88

OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP

WORSHIP UPDATE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

August Total Average: **846**

9:30 Worship Service: 694

Online: 152

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



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