

# SEPTEMBER 2025

@ CONNECTIONPOINT  
CHURCH





## A Note from Pastor Larry

Church Family,

As we step into this new ministry season together, I want to encourage you to keep leaning into the rhythms that God has given us as His people. Hebrews 10 reminds us to *"hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together... but encouraging each other."* When we worship together, grow in God's Word, serve one another, give faithfully, and go with the gospel, we are not just maintaining activity—we are building our lives on Christ and strengthening His church.

One of the things I love most about Connection Point is how God has been writing a story here that reaches beyond any one season. Philippians 1:6 gives us confidence: *"He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* That promise is true for you personally, and it's true for us collectively as a church. Even in times of transition, God is at work. He is not finished with us, and His plans are good.

This is not a season to pull back but to lean in with faith and expectation. Worship keeps our hearts anchored in His presence. Growing in Christ keeps our lives rooted in truth. Serving puts our gifts to work for the good of others. Giving fuels the mission God has placed before us. Going ensures that the good news of Jesus Christ reaches beyond these walls into our community and around the world. Every time you live out one of these rhythms, you are stepping into God's story and helping shape the future of our church family.

So let's not grow weary. Let's not drift into passivity or sit back as if we're waiting for "the next thing." God is already at work in the present moment. He is with us. He is guiding us. And He will continue to use this church for His glory and for the good of our community.

Church family, I am grateful for you. I am grateful for the way you continue to press forward in faith, even when the road feels uncertain. My prayer is that this month—and every month—we would stay engaged, stay prayerful, and stay faithful. Together, let's keep moving forward, confident that the Lord is doing more than we can see.

Blessings,  
Larry Jones  
Executive Pastor

### TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

#### *Lead Pastor Search Team*

Thank you to everyone who has prayerfully submitted nominations for the Lead Pastor Search Team. We've received many thoughtful recommendations, and we're encouraged by the strong response from our church family.

If you're reading this on August 31, there's still time! You can submit nominations through the end of today by emailing [transition@connectionpoint.tv](mailto:transition@connectionpoint.tv).

In the month of September, the Transition Team will spend time in prayer and discernment as they form a Search Team that reflects the heart and generational and cultural diversity of our congregation. Once the team has been finalized, it will be presented to the church.

Please continue to pray for the Transition Team as they seek God's wisdom in this important next step.

As we walk through this season together, our desire is to keep the church informed every step of the way. We'll make announcements as they become available, but for the most up-to-date information, visit [connectionpoint.tv/transition](https://connectionpoint.tv/transition). If you have questions about the process or updates, you can reach the Transition Team at [transition@connectionpoint.tv](mailto:transition@connectionpoint.tv).

### Help Shape the Future of Our Church

#### *Annual Business Meeting*

We are excited to share the vision, funding, and leadership planned for the new year at the Annual Business Meeting on **Sunday, September 21**, at 5:00pm in the Atrium. Come celebrate the previous year, hear the vision and plan for the coming year, gain an understanding of our budget and debt management, and affirm the new ministry budget and new leadership for the pastor advisory teams and deacon body.

This meeting is also an opportunity for you to take part in shaping the direction of our church. As we hear from staff and lay leaders about the future of our ministries, you'll have the chance to engage, affirm, and take ownership in where God is leading us.

*Everyone is welcome to attend, and Active Members may vote. This meeting will not be streamed online or recorded; you must be present to participate.*

### JULY UPDATE

**Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 813**

9:30 Worship Service: 673

Online: 140

**Giving:** See update on the GIVE page







# WORSHIP

*Gathering with others to glorify God*

## Shaping Hearts for the Next Generation

At Connection Point, we believe worship is more than music—it's a lifestyle of honoring God with our voices, our gifts, and our hearts. That's why we're committed to instilling a heart of worship in the next generation. From Sunday mornings to Wednesday evenings, kids and students gather to lift their voices, learn new skills, and discover what it means to glorify God in every part of life.

This fall, your children and teens have exciting opportunities to grow in their love for the Lord through music and the arts.



### Connection Kids Choir

Connection Kids Choir kicks off **Sunday, September 7**, at 5:00pm in Kid City with food, fun, and music! In Kids Choir Jr. (3 years-K) and Kids Choir (1st-5th grade), kids will discover the joy of worship through music, rhythm, and movement.

### Student Choir

Student Choir for 6th-12th graders also launches **Sunday, September 7**, at 5:00pm in the Student Auditorium with food, fun, and music. Students will gather weekly to worship, build friendships, develop music skills, and prepare to share worship with our church family and beyond.



### Celebration Dance & Music

Celebration Academy of the Arts is the umbrella ministry for both Celebration Music and Celebration Dance (formerly A Time to Dance). Its purpose is to provide excellent fine arts education in a Christ-centered environment—equipping students to glorify God with their talents and to serve the church and community. Celebration Music currently offers private lessons in piano, with additional instruments available by request. And Celebration Dance teaches accurate technique in an atmosphere of worship, guiding students to praise God through movement. The Celebration Academy of the Arts semester begins **Tuesday, September 2**.



We are passionate about raising up worshippers who know how to glorify God with their talents and their lives. Together, let's teach the next generation to praise Him with their voices, their instruments, their movements, and their hearts.

Find more information about these opportunities online at [connectionpoint.tv/events](http://connectionpoint.tv/events).

## FIRST & FAST

*Gather to pray. Fast in faith.*

Our next First & Fast gathering is coming up on **Sunday, September 7**, at 5:00pm in the Atrium. This is a time for our church family to come together in worship and prayer as we start the month with our eyes fixed on the Lord. The next day, we'll fast individually, continuing to seek Him in faith throughout the day. That's the heart behind First & Fast: Gather in prayer. Fast in faith. This is an evening designed for the whole family. While adults meet in the Atrium, childcare will be available for little ones, and our kids and student choirs will be kicking off at the same time. If you're new to prayer and fasting, this is a great opportunity to join in and take your next step. You can learn more about what fasting looks like at [connectionpoint.tv/fast](http://connectionpoint.tv/fast). We hope you'll make plans to be part of this special time as we cry out to God together.

### Sing a Joyful Noise

Lift your voice in worship with our adult choir! The choir leads in worship every Sunday and rehearses **Wednesdays** from 6:30-8:00pm in the choir room (room A222, located behind the Worship Center). You'll rehearse music for the coming Sunday and work ahead on upcoming special music. No audition is required—just a willing heart to sing for the Lord. For more information, contact Rick Moore at 816-778-1142 or [rick.moore@connectionpoint.tv](mailto:rick.moore@connectionpoint.tv).



### Praise Him with the Strings and Flute

Use your musical gifts to glorify God in our orchestra! Open to musicians ages 14 to 99 with at least three to four years of experience, the orchestra rehearses **Wednesdays** from 6:30-8:00pm in the Worship Center and plays in Sunday worship. You'll rehearse music for the coming Sunday and work ahead on upcoming special music. For details, contact Larry Jones at 816-778-1115 or [larry.jones@connectionpoint.tv](mailto:larry.jones@connectionpoint.tv).



# GROW

*Building relationships to mature in Christ*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, September 3 &  
Sunday, September 7**

Discover how to hold on to joy—even when life feels messy. You are invited to join our fall Bible study, *Daring Joy*, on Wednesday mornings at 9:30am or Sunday evenings at 5:00pm. Find details and sign up at [connectionpoint.tv/events](http://connectionpoint.tv/events).

### MomCo

**Tuesday, September 9 &  
Tuesday, September 23**

Mothering is complicated, but it doesn't have to be lonely. If you have a child birth through high school, MomCo at Connection Point is for you. MomCo meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, September 13**

Join us for the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 13, at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy great food, real conversation, and encouragement to help you live out your faith boldly.

### Foundations Class

**Sunday, September 14**

If you want to strengthen your understanding of foundational biblical truths, the Foundations Class is a great place to start! The next session begins Sunday, September 14, at 11:00am in B218. Don't miss this opportunity to build a firm foundation for your faith!

### Triple L

**Tuesday, September 16**

Enjoy fellowship, music, a devotion, a Salisbury steak lunch, and a program featuring music by David Jackson, at Triple L on Tuesday, September 16, at 10:30am in the Atrium. Cost is \$7. RSVP by calling Barbara Griffin at 816-847-7138.



## Growing Strong in God's Family

At Connection Point, we believe discipleship is more than a class—it's a way of life. That's why we offer the 2:7 Discipleship Course, a proven training series designed to help you grow deep roots in your walk with Christ and equip you to impact others.

For Katie Pucket, 2:7 was about preparation: "I just wanted to be ready to disciple others in my life—my children, and anyone else God brought along." The course gave her practical tools and confidence to pass along her faith.

Larry Myers shared how the Holy Spirit nudged him to join: "I felt the urging that I needed to go deeper into the Scriptures, as well as into a more intimate walk with my Lord." Through 2:7, Larry found that intimacy with Christ became more real and personal. He now describes his walk as "drastically changed," marked by assurance that God hears him when he prays.

Dave Wilson experienced a renewed hunger for daily time with God: "I just have a deeper understanding of how much He desires to spend time with me each day—and it's grown my desire to spend time with Him."

Each story reflects the heart of 2:7: to become rooted in Christ, strengthened in faith, and overflowing with thankfulness. Over 11 weeks, participants walk together through Bible study, Scripture memory, prayer practices, and sharing their faith stories—all in a small group setting that encourages accountability and growth.

**Two new sessions are launching soon:**

- Wednesdays, beginning September 3, from 6:30-8:00pm in B222-224
- Sundays, beginning September 14, from 5:00-6:30pm in B222-224

If you're ready to grow deeper and experience lasting spiritual change, join us for 2:7. You'll find it's more than a class—it's a step toward a stronger, more fruitful walk with Christ. Sign up today at [connectionpoint.tv/events](http://connectionpoint.tv/events).







# SERVE

*Sharing my giftings to build the church*

## Step In. Serve Faithfully. Shape the Future.

Every Sunday and Wednesday, our volunteers create a safe, joyful environment where kids experience God's love. Kid Ministry doesn't exist without them—it's completely run by people just like you who are willing to care, encourage, and show up faithfully.

Maybe you've wondered if you'd be a good fit. The truth is: you don't need special skills or years of experience. You just need a heart to love kids and point them to Jesus. Our volunteers lead games, greet families, teach lessons, rock babies, and so much more. Every role matters, and every role makes a difference.

All Kid Ministry volunteers complete a background check, and those working with infants-2 year olds must be 18+. Volunteers with kids 3+ can begin serving at age 13.

We'd love for you to be part of the team that makes Kid Ministry possible! To find out more or get started serving, call the church office at 816-353-1994, email [kids@connectionpoint.tv](mailto:kids@connectionpoint.tv), or stop by the kids check-in area in the west lobby.



## Parents Night Out

Go out for a night to take a well-deserved break, knowing your kids are safe and having fun! Connection Kids is hosting Parents Night Out on **Friday, September 12**, from 5:30-8:00pm for kids birth-5th grade. They'll enjoy food, games, a movie, and plenty of fun while you enjoy time to connect with other parents, a date night, or even just a chance to run errands kid-free.

Parents Night Out is a beautiful picture of how we serve one another as a church family. Our Kid Ministry staff and Student Ministry volunteers serve families by making this event possible. In return, your \$10 per child registration directly helps send students to summer camp—a week that impacts their walk with Jesus and their friendships for years to come.

Register by 1:00pm on Thursday, September 11, at [connectionpoint.tv/events](http://connectionpoint.tv/events).

## A Legacy of Faithful Service: Honoring Miss Wilma

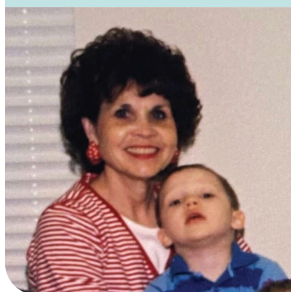
For 45 years, Wilma Calhoun—affectionately known as “Miss Wilma”—has been faithfully serving the youngest members of our church family. Married to our former long-time Worship Pastor, Gene Calhoun, Wilma began teaching in our preschool ministry and joined the Little Learners Preschool staff in 1980. Since then, she has taught alongside more than 100 teachers and poured into the lives of well over 1,000 children and their families.

Her service has never been about filling a role; it has been a calling. Week after week, she has welcomed children with joy, singing to each one by name and reminding them that Jesus loves them. As Kelli Jordan shared, “The kids’ faces light up each week when Miss Wilma sings, ‘I’m so happy, I’m so happy, you are here today.’ They know Miss Wilma loves them and she has made sure every child knows how much Jesus loves them, too.”

Her impact stretches across generations. Sarah Workman reflected, “From caring for me when I was a baby to now watching her hold and love on my own baby girl, her kindness and faithfulness have been a constant blessing. Miss Wilma, we are forever thankful for the joy, wisdom, and love you’ve poured into our family and so many others!”

Even while giving her energy to raise three sons and love on her many grandchildren, she has continually given herself to care for the children of our church. In doing so, she has set an example of what it means to use your giftings to build the church.

While Miss Wilma is stepping back from serving in Kid City Jr., her legacy reminds us that the church thrives because of faithful servants who give their time and love so that young families have a place where their little ones are cared for and taught about Jesus. May we follow her example—seeing needs, stepping in, and serving faithfully for the glory of God.





# GIVE

*Expressing joy through financial generosity*



## Strong Finish → Strong Start

Church family, our fiscal year ends September 30. As we approach the close of this ministry year, we want to pause and talk about why this season matters. We often hear questions like, "Why does the church focus on giving at year-end?" or "Why is it important to finish strong?" Let's walk through a few answers together.

### Why do we talk so much about the fiscal year-end?

Every September, we wrap up the budget the church voted on at last year's business meeting. That budget wasn't just numbers on paper—it was a prayerful plan to fund the ministries that help us worship, grow, serve, give, and go. By voting, our church family agreed to support that plan through faithful generosity. Talking about the fiscal year-end isn't about pressure—it's about faithfulness and stewardship.



### How does giving reflect good stewardship?

Scripture reminds us that giving is not about obligation, but about joyful participation in God's work. When we give, we're not just meeting a budget—we're demonstrating trust that God will use our gifts for His glory. As stewards, we get to invest in eternal things, knowing that every dollar represents changed lives and transformed futures.

### How can I participate?

The simplest way is to continue giving faithfully and prayerfully. If God leads you to make an above-and-beyond gift before September 30, you can do so at [connectionpoint.tv/give](http://connectionpoint.tv/give). Every gift helps us close the year strong and step boldly into the next.

Together, let's finish well—not just for the sake of numbers, but so we can fully fund the mission God has entrusted to us.

#### Fiscal Year to Date Received:

**\$3,279,384.62**

#### Fiscal Year to Date Goal:

**\$3,443,341.26**

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

**Total Annual Goal: \$3,809,645.00**

### Why is it important to end the year fully funded?

When we finish the year strong by September 30, we launch into the next year ready to pursue ministry with confidence. If we end with a deficit, we start the new year focused on catching up rather than moving forward. A strong finish allows us to run ahead into all that God has called us to do—whether that's discipling the next generation, supporting missions, or caring for those in need right here in our community.

### What if I want to give above and beyond?

Many people look for opportunities to express their joy through generosity, especially in seasons like this. An above-and-beyond gift—beyond regular tithes and offerings—makes a tangible impact. It helps ensure every ministry at Connection Point begins the new year fully resourced to connect people to Jesus and one another.



## Create-A-Campers Raised \$1,017 for Hope Network

This summer, our Create-A-Camp kids and families reminded us that generosity knows no age limit! Each year, the boys and girls compete in a fun penny challenge—and this year they gave an incredible \$1,017! Every dollar went directly to benefit boys and girls in our community through the ministry of Hope Network. What began as a lighthearted competition has an eternal impact, as it helps meet real needs and, just as importantly, instills a spirit of generosity in the next generation.

## 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](http://connectionpoint.tv)
- **TEXT** the word GIVE to 816-306-1994
- **MAIL** to 10500 E 350 Hwy, Raytown, MO 64138







# GO

*Taking the gospel to the world around us*

## Send the Gift of the Gospel

We are partnering once again with Operation Christmas Child (OCC) to share the love of Jesus with children around the world. Every year, shoebox gifts packed by families like ours open doors for the gospel in communities across more than 100 countries. What begins with a simple box filled with toys, hygiene items, and school supplies becomes an opportunity for children and their families to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.



Here at Connection Point, our church family comes together to provide hundreds of shoeboxes each year. We encourage every family to fill at least one shoebox and return it to the Connect Center in the main lobby or the reception desk in the ROC by Sunday, September 28.

### How to Fill a Shoebox

- **CHOOSE YOUR BOX.** Start with an average-size cardboard or plastic shoebox. If you wrap it, be sure to cover the lid and box separately.
- **SELECT BOY OR GIRL.** Decide whether your gift is for a boy or girl, and choose an age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
- **FILL WITH GIFTS.** Include one "wow" item like a soccer ball with a pump or a stuffed animal, then add other fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items.
- **PRAY.** Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your box. You may also include a personal note and photo.
- **FOLLOW YOUR BOX.** For a \$9 donation online, you'll receive a tracking label to discover the destination of your shoebox.
- **DROP OFF.** Return your box to the church lobby or ROC.

### Pack a Shoebox Online

If you can't make it to the store or would prefer a contact-free option, you can still take part in Operation Christmas Child by packing a shoebox online. Choose the items you'd like to include, add a personal note, and Samaritan's Purse will pack and send it for you. It's a simple way to ensure a child receives a tangible gift and the hope of the gospel. Learn more and **build your shoebox today at [connectionpoint.tv/go](https://connectionpoint.tv/go).**

### Learn More

To learn more, visit [connectionpoint.tv/go](https://connectionpoint.tv/go) or email Carmen Kraus at [carmen.kraus@connectionpoint.tv](mailto:carmen.kraus@connectionpoint.tv).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Guatemala Mission Trip January 2026

We're taking a team to Guatemala in January to support the Casa Bernabé children's home, transitional living program, vocational program, school, and clinic. This opportunity will include working with children, encouraging the staff, completing projects around the campus, and more. **Submit your deposit to secure your spot by September 15!** Learn more at [connectionpoint.tv/go](https://connectionpoint.tv/go).

### Women on Mission Thursday, September 4 & Monday, September 23

You are a woman on mission! 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.

### Tee Up For Hope Thursday, September 11

Join us on the beautiful Adams Pointe Golf Course on Thursday, September 11, 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](https://connectionpoint.tv/events).**

### Fill Pantry Shelves

Local food pantries, including Hope Network, are facing a difficult season as shelves remain hard to keep stocked. As a church family, we want to continue being a place of hope for our neighbors. You can help by bringing donations of non-perishable food items to the church or by making a financial contribution online at [connectionpoint.tv/hopenetwork](https://connectionpoint.tv/hopenetwork).

# Find Connection This Week

## 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](http://connectionpoint.tv/connect).

## 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](http://connectionpoint.tv/lifegroups).**

## Sunday Resources Email

We want to send you a weekly email with resources to help you live out your faith at home, including the Faith Talk sermon discussion guide. If you don't already receive our weekly church-wide emails, sign up at [connectionpoint.tv/email](http://connectionpoint.tv/email).

## MIDWEEK - Wednesday Activities

Wednesday evenings are a great midweek opportunity to dig a little deeper at Connection Point. No matter your age—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](http://connectionpoint.tv/midweek).

Childcare (ages 0-3)	Bible Study for Adults
Preschool (ages 3-5)	2:7 Discipleship
Kids (K-5th grade)	Choir Rehearsal
Students (6th-12th grade)	Orchestra Rehearsal

## 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 4:30-5:55pm before activities begin. Cost is \$6 per person. Call 816-268-1534 and leave a message by 2:00pm each Wednesday to reserve your spot.

### Upcoming Menu

**September 3** – Cheeseburger  
**September 10** – Beef Nachos  
**September 17** – Lasagna  
**September 24** – Meatloaf

## Prayer Requests

How can we pray for you? To leave a prayer request for the church-wide prayer list, call 816-778-1144. Or if you'd just like to share your request with our staff team, call the pastoral office at 816-353-1994 or visit [connectionpoint.tv/prayer](http://connectionpoint.tv/prayer).

## Pastoral Care Line

Please call 816-778-1110 when you or a loved one is in the hospital or if death is imminent. Someone from our Pastoral Care Team would be honored to call and pray with you and arrange a visit, if possible.



**Soccer League for ages 3-7 begins Saturday, September 6**  
Sign up at [CONNECTIONPOINT.TV/events](http://CONNECTIONPOINT.TV/events)



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