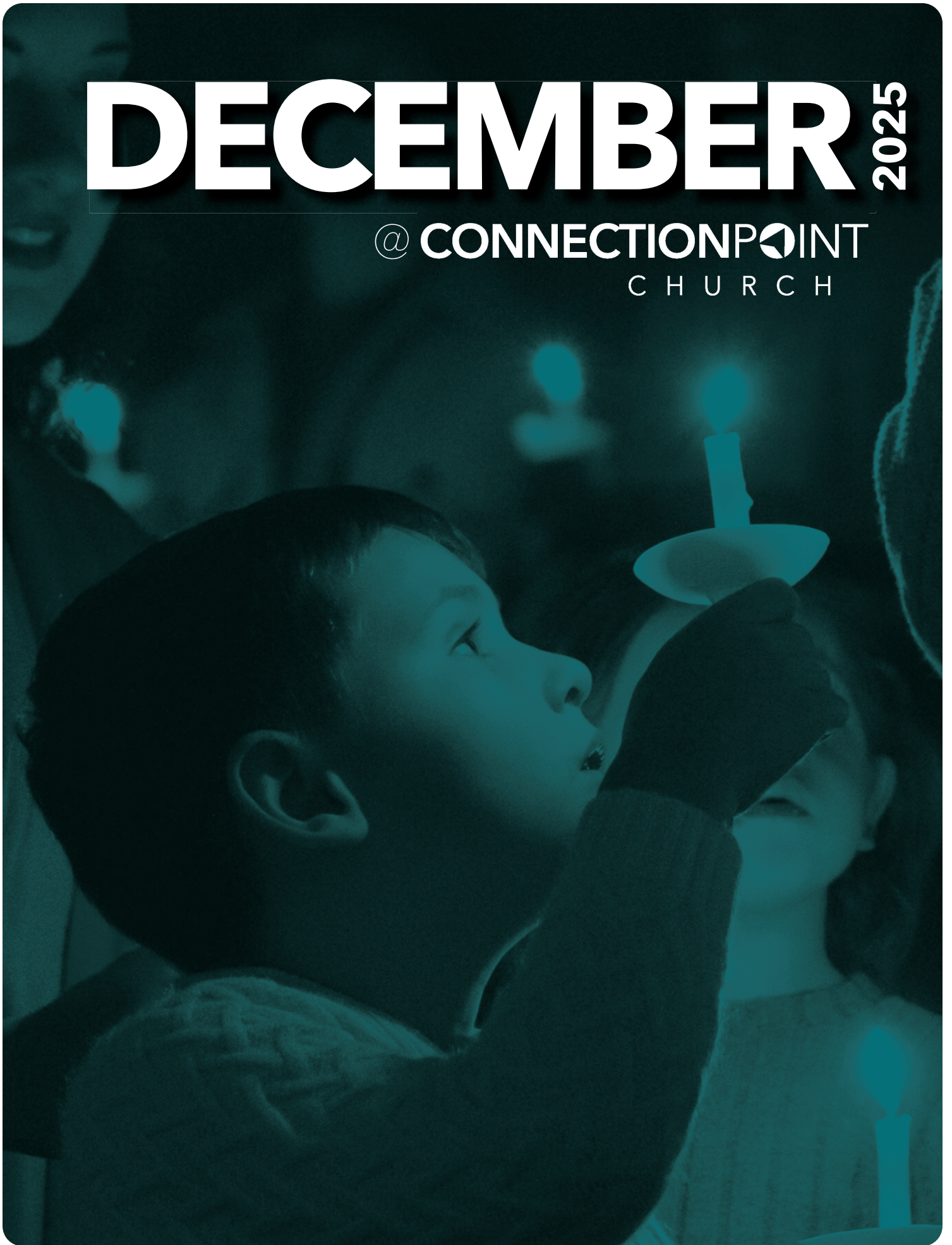


DECEMBER 2025

@ CONNECTIONPOINT
CHURCH





Merry Christmas from Pastor Larry

Connection Point Family,

As we head into this Christmas season and close out 2025, I want to take a moment to say thank you. It's been a year of transition, but through it all, you've shown what it really means to be a church family. Your faithfulness, love, and commitment to each other have been a steady light — and I couldn't be more grateful.

This Christmas, I want to encourage you: don't go it alone. Make it a point to spend time with your Connection Point family. Invite someone new to join you. Share a meal. Share a moment. Let's make this season a time of joy, togetherness, and simple reminders of why Jesus came — to be *with* us.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being part of Connection Point this year. It's an honor to serve as your Executive Pastor, and I'm excited for what God has in store for us in 2026. The best is yet to come.

Merry Christmas — and we'll see you soon,
Pastor Larry

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Keeping you informed every step of the way!

Church family, now that the Lead Pastor Search Team has been formed and has begun meeting, the Transition Team is continuing to focus our attention to advising Pastor Larry as he leads our staff and to being proactive in the areas of prayer, personnel, and finance. God continues to show His faithfulness in this season, and we're grateful for your continued prayers and support. Here are a few current initiatives we'd like to share with you.

Supporting Our Staff

The Personnel Team is working closely with Pastor Larry to identify meaningful ways to support, equip, and encourage our staff as they continue to serve faithfully. We're also grateful for your generous response to the special Christmas offering. Because of your giving, we will be able to provide each staff member with a Christmas bonus as a tangible expression of gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for loving and caring for our staff so well!

Pastor Search Update

Our Lead Pastor Search Team has already begun meeting, and they are taking their first steps in the search process. They have prepared an update for you, which you'll find on the Serve page of this newsletter. Their update will help you understand more about the process, what to expect in the coming months, and how you can participate. We encourage you to take a few moments to read their update so you can be prepared for the days ahead.

Alternative Year-End Giving Opportunities

As we approach the end of the year, the Finance Team would like to make you aware of some alternative ways to give that may have some tax advantages for you. These ideas certainly may not apply to everyone, but they can be meaningful options for those looking to maximize generosity or plan their giving wisely. Some year-end strategies you may want to consider include:

- Appreciated Stock
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from an IRA for those age 70½ and older
- Pre-giving 2026 gifts ahead of upcoming tax code changes

If you want to learn more, we encourage you to reach out to Pastor Larry at larry.jones@connectionpoint.tv or 816-778-1115. We're here to help you navigate these opportunities in whatever way serves you best.

As always, the Transition Team remains committed to keeping you informed and engaged throughout this season. We continue to see God's hand at work and trust Him to guide each step forward. For ongoing updates, visit connectionpoint.tv/transition or contact us at transition@connectionpoint.tv.

Steve Cox, Transition Team Chair



WORSHIP

Gathering with others to glorify God

The Power of Gathering Together

God designed His people to gather—regularly, joyfully, and expectantly. Hebrews 10:24-25 urges us not to neglect meeting together but to encourage one another. When we come together on Sunday mornings, we experience something we can't get anywhere else. We're strengthened in our faith, grounded in God's Word, and reminded that we're not walking with Jesus alone.

Every Sunday at 9:30am, our church family gathers across generations to worship, learn, and realign our hearts with the Lord. These weekly rhythms shape us, steady us, and help us follow Christ more faithfully. Whether you've been here for years or are just beginning, your presence matters—for your own spiritual growth and for the encouragement of others.

Sunday worship is more than a service; it's a weekly reminder of who God is, who we are in Him, and how much we need the body of Christ.



Just as weekly worship anchors our discipleship, First & Fast helps anchor each new month in prayer and dependence on God. When we gather to pray and fast, we choose unity over isolation and dependence over self-reliance. We declare that our requests before God are more important than our appetite or convenience—and we trust Him to move when His people seek Him together.

Our next First & Fast gathering is at 5:00pm on Sunday, December 7, in the Atrium. We'll pray for our church, our community, and the mission God has given us. The next day, we'll fast individually, continuing to seek Him in unity. If you're new to prayer or fasting, this is a simple next step. Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/fast.

Let's not neglect to gather—and let's continue seeking the Lord together.

Christmas

@CONNECTIONPOINT

Christmas Worship Service

Immerse yourself in the spirit of the season with a blend of new music, beloved classic songs, and engaging storytelling at our special Christmas Worship Service on **Sunday, December 14**, at 9:30am. Our 100-voice choir, full orchestra, as well as our kids and student choirs, promise a worship experience like no other, and Interim Pastor Steve Dighton will share a meaningful Christmas message. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community, and we encourage you to bring a friend to share in this special morning.

Christmas Eve Service

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with your Connection Point family on Christmas Eve! Join us at 5:00pm on **Wednesday, December 24**, for a special service featuring beloved songs, candle lighting, and a special Christmas story. This meaningful experience is designed for the whole family and all generations. We invite the entire community to be part of this rich tradition. Make plans to join us and bring a friend along to share in the true spirit and joy of Christmas.



OCTOBER UPDATE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 800

9:30 Worship Service: 667

Online: 133

Giving: See update on the GIVE page





GROW

Building relationships to mature in Christ

UPCOMING EVENTS

GriefShare

Tuesdays, December 2 & 16

GriefShare offers a caring community for navigating loss, with meetings held on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00pm in C218. This supportive group is free and open to all. Join us to find healing together.

Parents Night Out

Friday, December 5

The next Parents Night Out is on Friday, December 5, from 5:30-8:00pm for kids birth-5th grade. They'll enjoy food, games, a movie, and plenty of fun while you enjoy some time to yourself. Sign up your kids at connectionpoint.tv/events.

MomCo

Tuesday, December 9

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.

Triple L

Tuesday, December 16

Enjoy fellowship, music, a devotion, a ham lunch, and a program featuring music by our Jubilee Choir, at Triple L on Tuesday, December 16, at 10:30am in the Atrium. Cost is \$8. RSVP by calling Barbara Griffin at 816-847-7138.

No Life Groups

Sundays, December 28 & January 4

There will be no Life Groups for birth through adults during the 11:00am hour on Sundays, December 28 & January 4. Kid City Jr. for birth-5 years will still be available during the 9:30am worship hour. Life Groups for all ages will return on Sunday, January 11.

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.

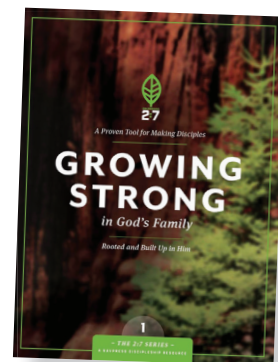
For Katie Pucket, 2:7 was about preparation: "I just wanted to be ready to disciple others in my life—my children, and anyone else God brought along." The course gave her practical tools and confidence to pass along her faith.

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.

If you're ready to grow deeper and experience lasting spiritual change, join us for the next session of 2:7, beginning **Sunday, January 11**, at 5:00pm. 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.



Tinsel & Tea

Join us for Tinsel & Tea, a special event for mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and all the women in your life. Come and delight in a morning of holiday cheer with breakfast, games, prizes, and the warmth of lasting connections on **Saturday, December 6**, from 9:00-11:00am in the Atrium. This free event offers a meaningful pause in the busy season to connect and strengthen bonds with those we cherish across generations. With limited space, we encourage you to register early for yourself and your loved ones. Register at connectionpoint.tv/events and celebrate the joy of Christmas with us.



Family Christmas Party

Join our Kid Ministry for our annual Family Christmas Party! This event, held on **Sunday, December 14**, from 11:00am-12:30pm in the Atrium, is designed for families of birth-5th graders, including parents, children, grandparents, and extended family members. Enjoy a festive brunch, sing along to heartwarming Christmas carols, engage in fun games, and have the chance to win fantastic prizes. This party is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones, connect with other families, and emphasize the true meaning of this special season. Register at connectionpoint.tv/events.





SERVE

Sharing my giftings to build the church

Pastor Search Update: Laying the Foundation

Though our team just began meeting the week before Thanksgiving, we wanted to go ahead and provide an update to give you a clear overview of the search process, what to expect in the coming months, and how you can get involved.

How Does the Search Process Work?

Before we begin accepting resumes or reviewing candidates, we're taking time to lay the right foundation. Here's what the process looks like:

- **Seek the Lord** – We begin by praying together and asking God to show us what kind of man He is calling to lead our church.
- **Conduct a congregational survey** – Then we will gather information from the church body on priorities, spiritual strengths, and expectations of our church's next Lead Pastor.
- **Write a job description** – With that clarity, we will craft a job description for our next Lead Pastor.
- **Decide how to search** – We will then determine whether to lead the search ourselves or partner with a search firm.
- **Receive and review resumes** – Once the role is posted, we will begin evaluating applications and conducting video and in-person interviews.
- **Present a candidate** – When the team is unified around a candidate, he will be invited to preach in view of a call—giving the church the opportunity to meet him and, ultimately, vote to call him as our next Lead Pastor.

What to Expect in the Coming Months

As someone who has been in your shoes during previous pastoral transitions, I know it can sometimes feel like nothing is happening behind the scenes. That's why we want to set clear expectations:

- The next update will include details about how you can participate in the congregational survey.

- Following the team's review of the survey results, we will update you when the job description has been finalized and the role is being promoted.
- Once that happens, we'll enter a season of receiving and reviewing candidates—another period that may seem quiet from the outside, but is full of activity internally.
- When we are ready to present a candidate, the church will be informed and invited to participate in the process.

We'll continue to share updates at every major milestone, but please know that progress is being made, even when it's not immediately visible.

Your Role

Your role in this process is vital. The work of the Search Team means nothing without the power and presence of the Lord. Here's how you can help:

- Pray daily for our team, our church, and the man God is preparing to call.
- Pick up a daily prayer guide at the Connect Center or download it at connectionpoint.tv.

Thank You

Thank you for entrusting our team with this great responsibility. If you have any questions about the process, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out anytime at pastorsearch@connectionpoint.tv. We are grateful for your prayers and support in this season.

Rob Jordan
Lead Pastor Search Team Chair

The Quiet Work That Builds the Church

When we think about serving the church, we often picture teaching a class, greeting at a door, or volunteering in Kid Ministry. But Scripture reminds us there is a form of service available to every believer—one that doesn't require training, availability, transportation, or a particular personality. Prayer is the most foundational way we serve the body of Christ. It is, in many ways, the baseline of Christian service.

Through prayer, we strengthen our church far beyond what our hands alone can accomplish. When you pray for your church family—for wisdom for leaders, unity among believers, protection for ministries, and spiritual growth across every generation—you are actively building up the body of Christ. Your prayers reach places you may never go and accomplish things you may never see.

In this season of transition, we are asking our church family to commit to praying regularly for Connection Point. Lift up our lay-led teams, our staff, our ministries, our unity, and our mission to connect people with Jesus.

You can also join us for First & Fast each month as we pray together. And don't forget to pick up the new daily prayer guide—available at the Connect Center and at connectionpoint.tv—to help you pray faithfully and intentionally in the days ahead.





GIVE

Expressing joy through financial generosity



Support Missions Around the World

Every December, our church joins believers around the world in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, an offering dedicated entirely to international missions. What makes this offering so special is that 100% of every dollar goes directly to support missionaries on the field—missionaries who are sharing the hope of Jesus with people who have never heard His name.

This offering carries the legacy of Lottie Moon, a courageous missionary who spent nearly 40 years in China, sharing the gospel with boldness and sacrificial love. Her persistent letters home sparked a movement of prayer and generosity that continues today. Every year, Southern Baptist churches unite to send and sustain more than 3,500 missionaries and their families, ensuring that the good news of Jesus is taken to the nations.

And God is using these gifts in powerful ways. Last year alone, missionaries saw thousands of people profess faith in Jesus, tens of thousands baptized, and hundreds of new churches planted among unreached peoples. These are not just numbers—they represent real people hearing the gospel, many for the very first time.

Through your regular giving, our annual ministry budget supports missionaries and mission partners we're connected to as a church family. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a special opportunity to come alongside all IMB missionaries serving around the world, extending that impact far beyond our regular partnerships.

This year, our church's goal is to give \$20,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. If God leads you to give above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, you can do so by envelope or at connectionpoint.tv/give.

Let's honor Lottie's legacy—and more importantly, the mission of Jesus—by praying, giving, and helping send the gospel to the ends of the earth.



Christmas Cards to Support Missions

Send Christmas cards to your church family for only 25¢ per card and support international missionaries. Cards may be dropped off and picked up at the Lottie Moon Post Office in the lobby on Sundays in December. Address each card with the recipient's first and last name and Life Group name (if known). The money raised from the Lottie Moon Post Office will help our church reach our goal for the 2025 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Contact carmen.kraus@connectionpoint.tv for more information.

Close the Year with Generosity

As we approach the end of the year, it's a great time to pause, look back on God's blessings, and consider how we can respond with generosity. If you feel led to give above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, a year-end gift is a meaningful way to support the Kingdom work happening through Connection Point. Every gift helps people encounter Jesus, find hope, and grow in their faith. If you'd like to make a special year-end contribution, you can give at connectionpoint.tv/give. Thank you for being part of what God is doing at and through Connection Point Church.

Fiscal Year to Date Received: \$407,798.94

as of Thursday, November 20, 2025



Fiscal Year to Date Goal: \$511,880.67



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

Total Annual Goal: \$3,802,542.00

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





GO

Taking the gospel to the world around us

A Night of Dodgeball and Life Change

Every fall, our Student Ministry hosts its annual Dodgeball Tournament—a night that, on the surface, looks like pure, fast-paced fun. And it absolutely is. But this event is so much more than a youth group game. It's an intentional opportunity for students to invite their friends to church for a night of connection, community, and the hope of the gospel.

This year, our students showed up big. We welcomed 12 guests, many of whom were stepping into our Student Ministry for the very first time. Even more exciting—one of those students accepted Christ! What a powerful reminder that God uses simple moments, open doors, and willing hearts to draw people to Himself.

The Dodgeball Tournament continues to be a night filled with energy, laughter, and genuine connection. But most importantly, it's a night where young people hear the gospel and are invited to respond. Thank you, church family, for supporting a ministry that creates space for life-changing moments like these.



GO Day: Serving Our Neighbors with Compassion

On November 8, our Connection Point family stepped beyond the walls of our building and into our city for our biggest GO Day of the year. It was a day marked by compassion, presence, and the desire to bring the hope of Christ to some of Kansas City's most vulnerable neighbors.

The morning began with Team Hope, our church's outreach ministry to the homeless. Volunteers gathered early to prepare lunches to deliver to local homeless camps. Along with food, they distributed blankets, gloves, socks, and other essential items to help individuals stay healthy and warm as winter approaches. But the heart of Team Hope goes far beyond meeting physical needs—our volunteers were intentional to listen, encourage, pray, and remind our neighbors that they are seen and loved.

The rest of the day was spent serving across several City Union Mission locations. At the Family Center, a team split between two buildings to help decorate for Christmas and spend time with the women and children living there. They served lunch, washed dishes, helped with Christmas crafts, and shared meaningful conversations with residents facing difficult seasons.

At the Christian Life Center, a small team set up Christmas trees and hung garland for men in a long-term program designed to promote lasting transformation. The decorations serve as a reminder that there is joy and a better life ahead.

Another team served at the Men's Center, decorating the dining room and chapel for Christmas and preparing a special Veterans Day dinner. They stayed to serve the meal and hosted a chapel service afterward—honoring veterans but ultimately pointing hearts to Jesus, who laid down His life for us all.

The holidays can be especially heavy for the homeless and hurting. On this GO Day, our church family brought joy, dignity, warmth, and the hope of Christ to people who desperately need it.

GO Days matter. They remind us that the mission field is right here—beyond our comfort, beyond our routines, and beyond our walls. This is what it looks like to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our city.

Watch for more GO Day opportunities coming in 2026!



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.

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.**

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.

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.

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

December 3 – Cheesy Sloppy Joe

December 10 – Meatloaf

December 17 – Chicken Alfredo

No MIDWEEK activities on December 24 & 31

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.

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.

Holiday Schedule

With Christmas approaching, please note our holiday hours listed below. While the office will be closed for the holiday, we are still here for you! If you or a loved one needs care, please use one of the contact methods listed above.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES

Last MIDWEEK of 2025 – Wednesday, December 10

First MIDWEEK of 2026 – Wednesday, January 7

LIFE GROUPS

No Life Groups on Sundays, December 28 & January 4

SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Last Day in 2025 – Sunday, December 7

First Day in 2026 – Sunday, January 11

CHURCH OFFICE

Closed December 24 (at 12:00pm) through January 4
Regular office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00am-5:00pm.

HOPE NETWORK FOOD PANTRY

Last Food Pantry of 2025 – Tuesday, December 23
First Food Pantry of 2026 – Saturday, January 10

ROC FITNESS CENTER

Closed December 24-26 and January 1



10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138
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