

JANUARY 2026

@ CONNECTIONPOINT
CHURCH





A Note from Pastor Larry

Church Family,

There's something powerful about turning the page into a new year. January gives us that fresh-start feeling — a chance to realign, refocus, and re-engage. And I don't know about you, but I believe 2026 can be a year of fresh momentum for our church, our families, and our faith.

If you've been sitting on the sidelines, waiting for a new Lead Pastor to arrive, I want to lovingly challenge that thinking. The church has never been about one man. We are the Body of Christ, on mission together. This is a crucial time to lean in, not pull back.

Now is the time to re-commit to what God has called us to do: Worship, Grow, Serve, Give, and Go.

Worship – Make weekly worship a priority again. Study after study shows that regular church attendance strengthens families, improves emotional and mental health, and deepens our walk with Jesus. Let's make Sundays sacred.

Grow – Life isn't meant to be done alone. This is the year to join a Life Group. Real growth happens in community, not isolation.

Serve & Go – You were created to make a difference. Whether it's serving here at church or living on mission in your everyday life, your next step matters, and the time to take it is now.

Give – Consistent, faithful giving is what fuels the ministry of this church. As we prepare for a new Lead Pastor, it's vital that we stay financially healthy. Your generosity honors God and strengthens the foundation we're building for the future.

Prayer & Fasting – Each month, I'm inviting you to set aside intentional time to pray and fast. Stretch yourself. Get a little uncomfortable. You'll be amazed what God can do when we quiet the noise and lean in. This month's newsletter serves as a great guide for praying!

Take Your Next Step – Maybe it's saying yes to Jesus, getting baptized, joining the church, or finally attending Starting Point. Don't put it off. Start this year by moving forward.

As a church, we're stepping into a season of new beginnings. We're praying, preparing, and trusting God to lead us to the next Lead Pastor He has for us. And I believe He's preparing us as a church in the process.

Let's be faithful. Let's be bold. Let's move forward — together.

Blessings,
Pastor Larry



ACTS: A Framework for Prayer

Prayer can sometimes feel overwhelming—especially if you're not sure where to begin or how to stay focused. While there is no single "right" way to pray, one simple and meaningful approach we recommend is the ACTS method. This method provides a helpful framework to guide your time with God and create a consistent rhythm of prayer.

ACTS stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

- **Adoration** begins by praising God for who He is—His character, His faithfulness, and His goodness. Psalm 103:1 reminds us to bless the Lord with all that is within us.
- **Confession** invites honest reflection, acknowledging our sin and bringing it before God with humility and repentance (James 5:16).
- **Thanksgiving** shifts our hearts toward gratitude, expressing thanks for God's blessings, provision, and grace in our lives (Psalm 69:30).
- **Supplication** is the act of bringing our requests to God—praying earnestly for our needs and the needs of others with trust and dependence (Philippians 4:6).

As you pray this month, we encourage you to use the ACTS method as you walk through the prayer guides on the following pages. Whether your prayers are long or brief, this simple pattern can help you pray with intention, focus, and a deeper awareness of God's presence.

TRANSITION UPDATES

Keeping you informed every step of the way!

Transition Team Update

Church, thank you for your continued prayers, patience, and faithfulness during this season of transition. In recent weeks, the Transition Team has been actively engaged in supporting our staff and Lead Pastor Search Team.

As we enter the new year, we are assisting our staff as they navigate personnel changes within our administrative team. The Transition Team is also continuing to walk alongside Pastor Larry and the staff to support healthy ministry operations and provide stability for our staff and church family during this season.

In addition, our team continues to assist the Lead Pastor Search Team by responding to their requests and providing support as they carry out the important work of searching for our next Lead Pastor. We urge you to continue praying for the Lead Pastor Search Team. Please keep the flyer with their pictures somewhere that will regularly remind you to pray for them. I keep the flyer in my notebook that I use for daily notes and tasks, and it has been a simple but meaningful reminder to pray.

Thank you for trusting the Lord, supporting one another, and remaining faithful in prayer. If you have any questions, please email us at transition@connectionpoint.tv.



Steve Cox, *Transition Team Chair*

Lead Pastor Search Team Update

Church, we have been asking you to commit to praying daily for our church and for our Pastor Search Team. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer, and please do not stop. Like most situations, we are asking for God's guidance because we do not know what is going to happen. The only thing we know is that God knows what He is doing. God does not tell us what He is going to do – He reveals to us who He is. Hebrews 11:8 reminds us, *"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* We want to be a church that leans fully on the Lord.

So far, our team has met twice and is currently working to complete the Congregation Survey and the Lead Pastor Job Description. We're also gathering proposals from several outside ministry search firms so we can prayerfully with the help of the Holy Spirit determine whether to engage outside support in this process.

Please continue praying for Connection Point Church, the Pastor Search Team, and the man who will be our next Lead Pastor. If you have any questions about the process, please email us at pastorsearch@connectionpoint.tv.



Rob Jordan, *Lead Pastor Search Team Chair*

Learn more about the Pastoral Transition
and the Lead Pastor Search Process at
[CONNECTIONPOINT.TV/transition](https://connectionpoint.tv/transition)

PRAY FOR THE TRANSITION TEAM

Deacons

John Davis
Steve Yonker

Finance Team

Doug Collins
Steve Cox
Steve Haines
David Jackson
Scott Pucket
Dave Thompson

Personnel Team

Ellen Barnes
Mike Clay
Brad Drace
Clarissa Murray
Jerry Nyquist
Valorie Thompson

Lead Team

Larry Jones

PRAY FOR THE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



Kyle Barrett



Reuel Gregory



Gary Harden



Rob Jordan



Silas Mullis



Larry Myers



Cinda Rosenbaum



Maria Scifers



Don Warren



Austin Workman



Ann Yonker

DAILY PRAYERS

for our Church

As we walk through this season of transition, we want to be a church that leans fully on the Lord. We can do nothing apart from His wisdom, His strength, and His leading. To help us stay grounded in prayer, we're asking our whole church family to pray the following prayers each day of the week. As we seek, rely on, and wait upon Him, we trust that God will guide our hearts and our steps. Please commit to praying one prayer every day of the week during this transition season.



MON

Pray the pastor search period will be a time the church learns to seek God Himself more than just a new pastor.

Lord, teach us to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the head of the Church.

Jeremiah 29:13; James 4:8



TUE

Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing and renewal.

Father, please cause this to be a time of deep healing, cleansing, and renewal in our church.

Psalms 66:18; 139:23-24



WED

Pray for strong consistency and focus in the present ministry of the church.

Please grant great power to our interim pastor and to our staff. Protect us from any spirit of lukewarmness or losing our first love. Remind us that we serve Jesus, not a pastor.

Revelation 2:1-4; 3:15



THU

Pray for a miraculous sense of love and unity among all members of the church.

Help us surrender all bitterness, division, and anger within our church family. Lord, empower us to love one another with a patient, forbearing love.

John 13:34; 17:21



FRI

Pray that we will patiently await God's timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will.

God, we ask for Your mercy in giving us a true man of God and a great leader.

Hebrews 6:12



SAT

Pray that we are prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry.

Lord, we understand that a new pastor always means changes. Help us to be prepared to change and grow with graciousness and unity.

Ephesians 4:1-6



SUN

Pray for great unity in calling the new pastor.

Lord, help us to receive him and his family with deep love and renewed commitment. Grant to us a powerful sense of revival and spiritual awakening as we move into the future. Give grace, guidance, and strength to the church from which our new pastor comes.

John 17:21; 1 Corinthians 1:10

How can the church pray for you?

At Connection Point, prayer isn't just a practice—it's how a vital part of caring for one another. While we are committed to praying for our church and its leaders, we also believe it's just as important to pray for you. If there's a way our church family can come alongside you in prayer, we would be honored to do so. To leave a request for the church-wide prayer list, call 816-778-1144. If you'd prefer to share your request directly with our staff team, you can call the pastoral office at 816-353-1994 or visit connectionpoint.tv/prayer.

Pray for the STAFF TEAM

The faces on this page represent people who carry a deep love for God, for this church, and for you. We encourage you to pray regularly for our staff—asking God to grant them wisdom as they lead, spiritual strength as they serve, unity as they work together, and joy in their calling. Pray for protection over their families, clarity in decision-making, and hearts that remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Your faithful prayers are a powerful way to support and strengthen the ministry of our church.



Sierra Barlow
Facilities Team



Alyson Browning
Communications
Director



Amy Bruscato
Interim Celebration
Dance Director



Kara Clingenpeel
Preschool Coordinator/
Lead Childcare Worker



Beth Cox
Worship Ministry
Assistant



Charles Curttright
Facilities Director



Laura Davis
Interim Director of
Operations



Steve Dighton
Interim Pastor



Jim Drummond
Food Pantry Associate



Brandon Ferguson
Associate Discipleship
Pastor



Marty Heath
Executive Assistant to
the Lead Pastor



Oliver Housknecht
Technology &
Production Director



Claire Kim
Worship Ministry
Assistant



Larry Jones
Executive Pastor



Carmen Kraus
Missions Coordinator



Jake Kuhns
Security Director/
Digital Media Producer



Clarisse Lewis
Preschool Associate/
Childcare Coordinator



Rick Moore
Director of Choral
Activities



Robin Moore
Ministry Data
Coordinator



Jacque Nordhus
Hope Network
Executive Director



PJ Null
Little Learners
Preschool Director



Wabong Ozukum
Hope Network Ministry
Assistant / Chaplain



Linda Rogers
Church Hostess



Susan Runer
Food Pantry
Coordinator



Steven Scifers
Student and Family
Pastor



Whitney Supianoski
Discipleship Ministry
Coordinator



Brandon Taylor
Worship Leader



Amy Treat
Pastoral Care Assistant



Gary Treat
Financial Assistant



Victor Wagner
Production Technician/
Facilities Team



Bryan Watts
Kid Minister



Zoe Watts
Creative Arts Intern



Bernard Wesley
ROC Fitness Center
Director

FIRST & FAST

A Posture of Dependence: Prayer and Fasting

Throughout Scripture, prayer and fasting are closely connected practices that help God's people seek Him with humility, dependence, and focus. Prayer is how we commune with God—listening, confessing, thanking, and asking—while fasting is the intentional setting aside of physical comfort to heighten our spiritual attentiveness. Together, they express a heart posture that says we need God more than anything else.

At Connection Point, we practice a rhythm of these spiritual disciplines through First & Fast. Each month, we gather on the first Sunday evening to pray together, lifting a variety of needs before the Lord. Then, on the following Monday, we fast in unity and pray through a specific list of requests for our church. You'll find those focused prayer points on this page as we seek God together.

If you are reading this on January 4, you know we're beginning the year with a unique First & Fast gathering during our Sunday

morning worship service. We encourage you to join us in fasting on Monday, January 5, and praying through the prompts listed below. If you are new to fasting or want to learn more about *how* or *why* you should fast, visit connectionpoint.tv/fast.

First & Fast prayer gatherings are meaningful moments you won't want to miss. Be sure to save the dates for our winter/spring 2026 evening First & Fast gatherings and plan to join us as we seek God together throughout the year.



Fast & pray for ...

- The church and its ministries
- Grace and spiritual strength for Pastoral Leadership and Staff
- Wisdom for church leaders, the Transition Team, and our brothers and sisters in Christ
- Continued harmony and unity among our Lead Pastor Search Team
- Insight to find God's choice of a Lead Pastor for Connection Point Church.
- Encouragement and unity for the church body during this time of transition
- God's will for our growth
- Wise decision making by the Finance Team
- Wise management of the 2024-25 budget
- A clear plan to address our aging infrastructure
- The church family's continued generosity
- Your answer to "How can I help?"

We are seeing prayers answered!

- The formation of a unified Lead Pastor Search Team
- The sale of the Lee's Summit property
- Ending the 2024-25 fiscal year with a balanced budget
- 17 baptisms in 2025
- Church members continuing to step up and serve in new, impactful ways

UPCOMING FIRST & FAST DATES

January

- January 4 (AM) - Prayer Gathering
- January 5 - Fasting

February

- February 1 - Prayer Gathering
- February 2 - Fasting

March

- March 1 - Prayer Gathering
- March 2 - Fasting

April

- April 5 (Easter Sunday) - At-Home Family Prayer Gathering
- April 6 - Fasting

May

- May 3 - Prayer Gathering
- May 4 - Fasting

UPCOMING EVENTS



MIDWEEK Activities

Wednesday, January 7

Wednesday evenings are a great midweek opportunity to dig a little deeper at Connection Point. No matter your age and whether you want to learn, build community, or serve, we have a place for you at MIDWEEK at 6:30pm on Wednesdays, beginning January 7. Learn more on the next page and at connectionpoint.tv/midweek.

Women on Mission

Thursday, January 8 &

Monday, January 26

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. *WOM will meet January 8 this month.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 10

Men, join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 10, at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. It's a morning filled with good food, genuine conversations, and special guest speaker Bill Corum. Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/events. Invite a friend to enjoy this uplifting time with you.

2:7 Discipleship Class

Sunday, January 11

Are you looking to strengthen your spiritual roots and produce lasting growth? Join us for The 2:7 Series, an 11-week discipleship class that will help you strengthen your faith, enjoy a consistent Christian walk, and impact the lives of those around you. The next session begins Sunday, January 11, from 5:00-6:30pm. Learn more and sign up at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Connection Kids Choir

Sunday, January 11

Connection Kids Choir kicks off Sunday, January 11, at 5:00pm in Kid City with music and fun! 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

Sunday, January 11

Student Choir (6th-12th grade) returns Sunday, January 11, at 5:00pm in the orchestra room (A213). Students will gather weekly to worship, build friendships, develop music skills, and prepare to share what they've learned.

MomCo

Tuesdays, January 13 & 27

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.

Starting Point

New Member Class

Sundays, January 25 & February 1

Starting Point is an opportunity for new members, and those thinking about membership, to spend time with our pastors, learn more about our church, and feel more at home. Join us Sundays, January 25 & February 1, at 11:00am in C218. Let us know you're coming at connectionpoint.tv/events.

Marriage Summit

Saturday, February 27

Save the date for the return of Marriage Summit! Enjoy a night out and strengthen your marriage at this date night equipping event at Connection Point Church on Friday, February 27. Watch for more details and registration coming soon.

GIVING UPDATE

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

Fiscal Year to Date Received: \$751,504.18

as of Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Fiscal Year to Date Goal: \$877,509.72

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

WORSHIP UPDATE

Average Weekly
Worship Attendance

November Total Average: 781

9:30 Worship Service: 627

Online: 154



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



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)	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 4:30-5:55pm 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

January 7 – Spaghetti & Meat Sauce

January 14 – Chicken & Rice

January 21 – Chicken Strips

January 28 – Lasagna

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.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are now hiring for these important roles:

- **Executive Assistant to the Executive Director - Part-Time**
- **Student Ministry Associate - Part-Time**

Learn more at CONNECTIONPOINT.TV/jobs



10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138
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