

A woman with her arms raised in a church setting, wearing a 'Raised to Life' t-shirt. The image is overlaid with a teal tint.

OCTOBER 2025

@ CONNECTIONPOINT
CHURCH



A Note from Pastor Larry

Church Family,

Fall is officially here. The leaves are starting to turn, the mornings are crisp, and many of us are probably trying to remember where we stored our jackets.

October isn't typically when we talk about new beginnings. Nature is winding down. School is already in full swing. The pace of life tends to quicken, not slow. And yet, right here in our church family, there's something stirring.

This month, we're celebrating baptisms which represent brand new life in Christ. Starting Point kicks off. This is a chance for new folks to say, "Yes, I'm in." It's also the beginning of a new fiscal year, which may not sound exciting, but it represents fresh vision and new ground to cover. And let's not forget: every week brings the opportunity to begin again. You can choose to start a habit that leads you closer to Jesus and one another, such as showing up for worship, joining a Life Group, serving, giving, or going.

Isaiah 43:19 reminds us of God's heart for the new: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"* Even in a season where everything else seems to be slowing down or falling away, God is still at work. He is renewing, refreshing, rebuilding.

New beginnings don't wait for a calendar to say "January." They begin when God stirs your heart and you respond. So, what is He stirring in you in this season?

Let's lean in this fall. Let's be people who don't just let the season pass us by, but who wake up to the fresh work God wants to do in us and through us.

Blessings,
Larry Jones
Executive Pastor

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

Church family, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and faithfulness during this season of transition. While it may not always look like much is happening, there is a great deal taking place behind the scenes that is keeping our church moving forward. We want to share a few important updates with you.

Business Meeting Update

We had a wonderful turnout at our Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, September 21. Together, the church family voted unanimously to approve the 2025–2026 fiscal year ministry budget, which begins October 1. In addition, we affirmed new members to our lay leadership teams—including personnel, finance, trustees, and deacons—again by unanimous vote. We're grateful for your unity and commitment as we move into a new ministry year.

Pastor Search Team Update

Thank you to everyone who prayerfully submitted nominations for the Lead Pastor Search Team. We received many thoughtful recommendations and are encouraged by your participation. After closing nominations on August 31, the Transition Team spent several weeks in prayerful discussion before taking the next step.

In late September, a group of 40 nominees was contacted and invited to prayerfully consider serving by completing a questionnaire about their testimony, walk with the Lord, and sense of calling to this role. We expect to hear back from all

nominees by early October. From there, we will prayerfully assemble a Lead Pastor Search Team that best reflects our multigenerational and multicultural church family.

Our goal is to call a Special Called Business Meeting by early November, where the church will affirm the team that has been assembled. We will continue to keep you updated throughout this process.

Honoring Our Staff

This Christmas, we want to bless our staff with a gift of appreciation for their dedication and service. Our staff faithfully demonstrates a high calling to the Lord and a deep commitment to our church family, often in the midst of challenging circumstances. Would you consider partnering with us to honor them this year? You may give through any of our regular giving methods and simply designate your gift as "Staff Christmas."

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. If you have questions about the process or updates, you can reach the Transition Team at transition@connectionpoint.tv.

Steve Cox, Transition Team Chair



WORSHIP

Gathering with others to glorify God

What Baptism Really Means – and Why It’s for You

For many people, baptism can feel like a mystery. Maybe you’ve wondered: *Is it really necessary? Does it actually change anything?* Those are honest questions—and the good news is, baptism isn’t about adding a religious box to check off. It’s about identifying yourself with Jesus and publicly declaring your faith in Him.

The Bible paints baptism as both simple and deeply meaningful. It’s also the believer’s first testimony, or witnessing opportunity, to tell others of what Jesus has done in their life. When a person is lowered under the water, it represents the death of their old life. Coming up out of the water is a picture of the new life Jesus extends to us—a life marked by forgiveness, freedom, and hope (Romans 6:4). Baptism doesn’t save you—only Jesus does—but it is an opportunity to share that we belong to Him.

That’s why, throughout the New Testament, belief and baptism always go hand in hand. As soon as someone put their trust in Christ, they were baptized. It wasn’t a tradition to delay or something only reserved for the “super spiritual.” It was the very first step of obedience and a bold statement of faith.

Think of baptism as having three components: it’s a step of obedience, a symbol, and a celebration. It’s a step of obedience because Jesus commands us to be baptized. It’s a symbol because

it’s a picture of Jesus’ death and resurrection, and it’s a celebration of the new life you now have in Jesus because you placed your faith in Him. The picture of baptism is a reminder to everyone of what Jesus did for those who have put their faith in Him. There is a lot packed into this simple moment: the gospel is being preached (Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection), a life is transformed in the one being baptized, and obedience is on display. Baptism is an encouragement to not only the one being baptized, but the congregation as well!



We’re excited to be celebrating baptisms on Sunday, October 5. Going forward, we’ll be scheduling baptisms more frequently as they’re requested. That means you don’t have to wait—you can take this important step of obedience and make your bold statement of faith as soon as you’re ready.

If you’re ready to be baptized—or if you’d like to learn more about following Jesus—we’d love to help you take that step. Visit the Connect Center in the lobby this Sunday, talk with a pastor or Life Group leader, call us at 816-353-1994, or go to connectionpoint.tv/connect.

Jubilee Choir

Senior adults are invited to lift their voices in worship with the Jubilee Choir. Rehearsals meet on select Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00pm in room A222 (the Choir Room). Upcoming rehearsal dates include: October 21, October 28, November 18, and December 2. Come enjoy fellowship, music, and ministry together—no audition required!

AUGUST UPDATE

Average Weekly Worship Attendance: 814
9:30 Worship Service: 673
Online: 141

Giving: See update on the GIVE page



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 meet 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. We hope you’ll make plans to be part of this special time as we cry out to God together.



GROW

Building relationships to mature in Christ

UPCOMING EVENTS

GriefShare

Tuesdays, October 7 & 21

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. An optional workbook is available for \$15. Join us to find healing together.

MomCo

Tuesdays, October 14 & 28

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, October 21

Enjoy fellowship, music, a devotion, a Salisbury steak lunch, and a program featuring music by The Three Guys, at Triple L on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:30am in the Atrium. Cost is \$7. RSVP by calling Barbara Griffin at 816-847-7138.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, November 5

Explore freedom in Christ with *Live Free*, our next exciting women's Bible study through Galatians, beginning Wednesday, November 5, at 9:30am. Childcare available. **Sign up at connectionpoint.tv/events.**

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 15

Men, join us for the next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 15, at 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. It's a morning filled with good food, genuine conversations, and special guest speaker Tyrone Flowers. **Learn more about Tyrone at connectionpoint.tv/events.** Invite a friend to enjoy this uplifting time with you.

Why Belonging Matters

The Importance of Church Membership



The Bible makes it clear that following Jesus is never meant to be a solo journey. From the earliest days of the church, believers gathered together in local communities to worship, grow, serve, give, and go on mission. Membership is how we live out that same calling today.

Being a member of a church is more than just having your name on a roll. It's about belonging. When you commit to a local church, you're saying, "This is my spiritual family." Membership provides a place to grow in your faith, to be encouraged and held accountable, and to use your God-given gifts to strengthen others. It's also how the church fulfills its mission—because the church isn't a building, it's people working together to make Jesus known.

At Connection Point Church, membership is about being rooted in a family of faith. It's where you're known, supported, and prayed for, and where your presence and participation encourage others. Together, we live out the mission of connecting people with Jesus and one another.

If you're ready to take that step or simply want to learn more, join us for Starting Point, our new member class. It's a two-part experience where you'll spend time with our pastors, hear where we're headed as a church, and find your place here. Starting Point meets Sundays, October 26 & November 2, at 11:00am in C218. **Sign up at connectionpoint.tv/events.**

Milestone 1: Family Commitment Sunday

At Connection Point, we believe discipleship begins at home. That's why our Legacy Milestone Path is designed to help parents intentionally guide their children's faith journey. Each of the seven milestones marks a key season of growth, and Milestone 1 lays the foundation for everything that follows.

Family Commitment (Birth–Pre-K) is rooted in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, where parents are called to impress God's Word on their children. This milestone helps moms and dads embrace their role as the primary disciple makers in their homes. Through prayer, Scripture, and everyday faith conversations, parents learn to capture God moments and celebrate their child's spiritual development.

We invite you to participate in Family Commitment Sunday during the 9:30am worship service on **Sunday, November 9**. This special day is a celebration of your commitment to raise your child in the Lord and includes prayer over you and your family as we embark on this journey together.

Take your first step on the Milestone Path and register for Family Commitment Sunday at connectionpoint.tv/events.





SERVE

Sharing my giftings to build the church

Strengthening the Church by Serving Others

This summer, our deacons and their wives hosted a special evening for many of our widows and widowers. It was a night filled with laughter, encouragement, and care. The deacons served food, sat at tables for meaningful conversations, provided uplifting entertainment, and even snapped photos at a fun photo booth. While some of the honored guests have been walking the road of grief for years and others are experiencing loss more recently, every person was reminded that they are deeply loved and never forgotten.

This event is just one glimpse into the heart of our Deacon Ministry. At Connection Point, deacons embody the model we see in Acts 6—serving the church so that the Word of God can continue to spread. They care for the hurting, visit the sick, encourage the homebound, pray with members by phone, meet practical needs, support our church staff, and faithfully serve and pray for our church. Their service makes a lasting difference in the lives of countless people in our church family and community.

But serving isn't just for deacons. Scripture calls every believer to use their gifts to build up the body of Christ. You don't need a title or a position to start serving—you just need a willing heart. When you step into service, whether rocking babies in the nursery, greeting at a door, leading a group, or checking in on a hurting friend, you are reflecting the heart of Jesus and strengthening His church.

The deacons set a powerful example, but their story is really an invitation: find your place of service and see how God can use you. To explore opportunities and discover how you can make a difference, visit connectionpoint.tv/serve.



CURRENT NEEDS

Connect Team

Sunday Mornings

Join our Connect Team and help create a welcoming atmosphere every Sunday. Serve every week or on a flexible rotation. Your warmth and enthusiasm could brighten someone's day. To learn more, stop by the Connect Center on Sundays or email laura.davis@connectionpoint.tv.

Kid Ministry

Sundays and/or Wednesdays

Be part of nurturing the next generation with love and action! You can transform young lives by serving in Kid Ministry. No experience required—just a loving heart ready to guide kids in faith. To learn more, email kids@connectionpoint.tv.

Facilities Team

Choose Your Schedule

To keep our campus inviting and cared for, we need your help! You can serve in simple but meaningful ways—like picking up outdoor trash, helping with lawn care, cleaning windows, dusting, and vacuuming. To serve, email sierra.barlow@connectionpoint.tv.

Production Team

Sunday Mornings

Join our group of dedicated individuals working behind the scenes each week to bring our services to life. With positions available in audio, video, and slides, there's a space for everyone, regardless of technical expertise. To learn more, email nathalie.kuhns@connectionpoint.tv.

Parents Night Out

Connection Kids is hosting Parents Night Out on **Friday, October 17**, 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. **Sign up your kids by 1:00pm on Thursday, October 16**, at connectionpoint.tv/events.

This event is a beautiful picture of how we serve one another as a church family. Our staff and 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.





GIVE

Expressing joy through financial generosity



Joyful Generosity

"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

One of the most beautiful truths of the gospel is that God has been so generous to us. He has given us salvation through His Son, the gift of His Spirit, and every good thing we enjoy. When you give, you are responding to His generosity with your own joyful expression of gratitude and worship.

This past year, your generosity has been incredible. At the time of printing, we still had one Sunday left to give toward the close of the 2024–2025 fiscal year, but it looks like we will not only reach our goal—we may even exceed it! That means you have helped fully fund the ministries of Connection Point, and you've positioned our church to move forward into a brand-new year of worship, discipleship, service, and mission with strength and confidence. Praise God for His provision, and thank you for being faithful to give.

As we turn the page into this new ministry year, we look forward with expectation to how God will continue to show His generosity to us. We also look forward to seeing you and others in our church family respond with the same joyful generosity that has carried us this far. Every gift—whether large or small—is a reflection of your trust in God and your commitment to His mission through Connection Point Church.

Let's keep the joy alive as we begin this new year together. When you give, you're not just supporting a budget—you're fueling life change. You're connecting people to Jesus and to one another. And you're expressing joy through generosity in a way that makes an eternal impact.

Fiscal Year to Date Received:

as of Thursday, September 25, 2025

\$3,683,796.43

Fiscal Year to Date Goal:

\$3,736,391.58

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

Total Annual Goal: \$3,809,645.00

Because You Gave...

Your joyful generosity helped fuel ministry this past year! Here are just a few ways your giving made an eternal impact:

- **Kids and Students** experienced camps, choirs, and milestones that pointed them to Jesus.
- **Families in need** received food and care through Hope Network.
- **Worship ministries** were fully resourced to provide opportunities for every generation to gather in worship.
- **Discipleship ministries** were fully resourced to help every generation build relationships and grow in Christ.
- **Local missions partners** received hands-on help to reach our neighbors in Kansas City.
- **Global missions partners** were supported as they take the gospel around the world.

Thank you for being an integral part of what God is doing at and through Connection Point Church!

Meeting Needs, Sharing Hope

Thank you for your continued generosity toward our benevolence offering, which we receive each time we observe the Lord's Supper. In August, you gave almost \$1,000! So far this year, you've provided nearly \$11,000 in food and financial assistance to neighbors in need—meeting real, urgent needs and sharing hope in our community. Our next benevolence offering is scheduled for Sunday, October 19. However, you can give to this ministry at any time through any of our regular giving methods. Simply mark your gift "benevolence."



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

Take the Gospel to Kansas City

When we think about missions, it's easy to picture people traveling overseas. But the truth is, we live in a mission field every single day. Right here in Kansas City, our neighbors are facing both practical and spiritual needs. God has placed us here to be His hands and feet, showing His love in tangible ways. This fall, you'll have several opportunities to do just that. God's love was never meant to be kept to ourselves. Let's take the gospel to our city and meet needs in Jesus' name. **To learn more and get involved, visit connectionpoint.tv/go.**



Winter Hope Drive

Help our Hope Network Food Pantry prepare for the upcoming winter season by donating some of these winter essentials:

Food Items: *canned vegetables, canned soup, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, broth, cooking bags, disposable turkey pans, canned milk, cake mix and icing, breakfast food*

Cold Weather Items: *blankets, coats, hoodies, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, hand warmers, sleeping bags*

Grab an empty grocery bag on Sunday, October 5, fill it, and leave it behind your car on Sunday, October 12. Thank you for helping to provide hope to our community this winter!



GO Day Care for Our Neighbors

Spend the morning serving our neighbors by cleaning up 75th Street through the Adopt-A-Street program or helping serve local families lunch at their final day of Bitty Soccer at the ROC.

- 9:00-12:00 – Adopt-A-Street Project*
- 11:00-1:00 – Bitty Soccer Lunch



GO Day Serve the Homeless

Serve and share the hope of the gospel with the unhoused in Kansas City through Team Hope and City Union Mission. Select from opportunities for every age and schedule:

Team Hope Homeless Ministry

- 9:00-11:00 – Make lunches & load bus
- 11:00-2:00 – Distribute lunches & supplies in the Metro area*

City Union Mission – Family Center

- 9:00-11:00 – Decorate for Christmas & lead craft for kids*
- 11:00-1:00 – Serve lunch*

City Union Mission – Christian Life Program Center

- 9:00-12:00 – Decorate for Christmas**

City Union Mission – Men's Center

- 12:00-3:00 – Decorate for Christmas**
- 3:00-5:00 – Set up for dinner**
- 5:00-6:30 – Serve dinner**
- 6:30-8:30 – Lead chapel service**

* 16 & under welcome with parent

** no participants under 16 permitted

Donations Needed

- 400 adult-sized hats, gloves, socks
- 100 kid-sized hats, gloves, socks
- 500 gift bags
- toiletries and small gifts for gift bags
- 25 veteran hats, Bibles, medals
- \$2,000 to cover the meals served

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women on Mission

Thursday, October 2 &
Monday, October 28

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.

Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week

November 17-24

Connection Point Church is honored to serve as the central drop-off location for Operation Christmas Child in Kansas City during National Collection Week from November 17-24. We're expecting to receive 9,000 filled shoeboxes from churches, individuals, and organizations, with each shoebox representing at least 10 gospel opportunities—that's 90,000 gospel opportunities being sent around the world! Volunteers are at the heart of this mission, and we're calling on you to help us receive shoeboxes and load trucks, playing a vital role in this impactful outreach. There are many opportunities to get plugged in throughout the collection week. Learn more and sign up at connectionpoint.tv/go.

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. Learn more at connectionpoint.tv/go.

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

October 1 – Chicken & Rice
October 8 – Country Fried Steak
October 15 – Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
October 22 – Country Fried Chicken
October 29 – Chicken Alfredo

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.



Basketball League for ages 3-7 begins Saturday, November 1
Sign up at CONNECTIONPOINT.TV/events



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