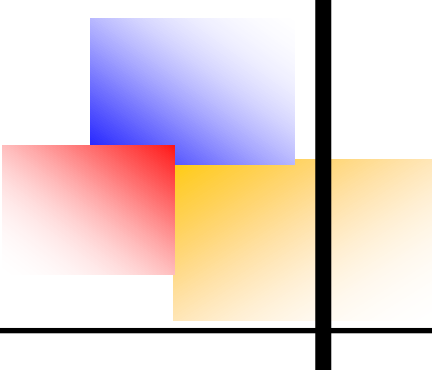




CONNECTIONS AUGUST 2026



Centerpoint Community Church
101 School Street
Salem, NH 03079
Pastor: Rev. Zach Crowell

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24 Years and Counting . . .

After 24 years, Shanna and I seek to live out our marriage with the simple biblical conviction: *both husband and wife belong first to Christ*. In Ephesians 5:21, Paul gives us this Spirit-filled command: “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” This verse opens the door to everything that follows in the passage. Marriage is a covenant with Christ where both spouses surrender self-interest and seek the good of the other.

The Apostle Paul was writing to husbands and wives in a first-century Roman world where the husband was the unquestioned master of the household (*paterfamilias*). As the *dominus* (or lord), he had authority over his wife, children, and slaves. But in Ephesians 5–6, Paul radically reshapes that reality around the gospel. Wives are called to serve their husbands *as they serve Christ*, their true Lord. Husbands are called to love their wives *as Christ loved the church* and gave himself for her. Sacrifice. Service. Submit to one another. Two become one. In other words, authority is redefined by self-sacrifice, and marriage is marked by service, love, respect, and oneness in Christ.

Practically, for Shanna and me, it means that we make decisions together under the lordship of Jesus. We pray, listen, speak truth, seek wisdom, and refuse to coerce or manipulate each other. In some areas or seasons, Shanna takes the lead because of gifting, experience, knowledge, or circumstance. In other areas, I carry the leadership and responsibility. But in every area and season, Christ—not ego, fear, tradition, or personality—leads our home.

Mutual submission also means both spouses use their strengths for the flourishing of the other. A wife’s wisdom, courage, work, care, and discernment are gifts to the marriage. A husband’s strength, provision, protection, and spiritual care are gifts of service. The biblical vision is Spirit-empowered faithfulness and strength offered by both husband and wife.

So, what does mutual submission in our marriage look like? It looks like two people, different but united, submitting together to Christ and therefore to one another. It looks like love without selfishness, respect without fear, leadership in areas of gifting without domination, and partnership without rivalry. It looks like a home where both husband and wife ask again and again, “How can I serve Christ by serving you and our family?”

Pastor Zach

Brotherhood Ministry



The Brotherhood Ministry exists to help men grow in their relationship with Christ and build meaningful connections with one another. This spring, we were blessed to host Men's Breakfast gatherings in both April and June. These events provided a wonderful opportunity for men to enjoy fellowship, worship, prayer, and encouragement while building relationships with one another.

We are grateful for all the men who attended and helped make these gatherings a success. Whether you are new to Centerpoint or have been attending for years, Brotherhood is a place where men can connect, grow in their faith, and encourage one another in their walk with Christ. We are always excited to welcome new faces and hope you'll consider joining us at an upcoming event.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." — Proverbs 27:17

Upcoming Events

- **August 1** – BBQ at Jaime Marenco's House Burgers, Hot Dogs and Chips will be provided. There is a swimming pool, please bring a towel and a camp chair. Please sign up to bring a side to share. Click [here](https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/7b1f0436) to sign up or use the link below. <https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/7b1f0436>
- **September 12** – Breakfast at Centerpoint Church
- **October 2** – Cabin Camping
- **November 7** – Bowling Night

Sign-up information for each event will be posted as the dates approach. We encourage all men to join us as we continue growing together in faith, fellowship, and service to Christ.

🎵 **GET READY TO ROCK, ROLL & REMEMBER!** 🎵
AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC & MEMORIES

Featuring Tony Funches, Former Lead Singer of The Platters

📅 October 1st, 2:00 PM



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon with Tony Funches, former lead singer of The Platters, as he performs some of the songs that have stood the test of time: 🎤 "Only You", "The Great Pretender". "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes"

Tony's personality and connection with his audience are second to none—and we promise, you won't need a time machine to take a trip down memory lane!

🎵 OPENING THE SHOW 🎵

Our Very Own Scott Johnson!

Scott will entertain us with classic country, pop, and oldies. Tony encouraged Scott to share his talent with seniors, and we're delighted to have him join us!

🎫 **TICKETS: ONLY \$10!**

Light refreshments will be served.

Because every good concert is better with a little something to snack on! 😊

🎫 See Scott Johnson or Sue Pendleton for tickets.



❤️ **COME FOR THE MUSIC...STAY FOR THE FUN...AND HELP FEED OUR COMMUNITY!**

After expenses, 100% of the proceeds will benefit Centerpoint's Food for Thought Ministry.

🎵 Great music. Great memories. Great cause. 🎵

Bring a friend—and let's make some memories together!



KIDS' CHURCH

Summer Schedule

WORSHIPING. GROWING. TOGETHER. 



IMPORTANT DATES



Last Kids' Church session before summer break:

JUNE 28

Summer break during July & August 

Kids' Church resumes:

SEPTEMBER 6

Thank You,
VOLUNTEERS! 



This summer break gives our incredible volunteers time to rest and recharge. We are so grateful for their time, energy, and love all year long!

WORSHIPING TOGETHER ALL SUMMER!

During July and August, we encourage children to join their families in the full worship service. As an intergenerational church, we value worshiping, praying, singing, and learning together as one church family.



Tools to Help Our Little Worshippers

Clipboards, crayons, and pencils will be available each week to help children engage during the service. Wiggles are welcome! 



Extra Space When Needed



The Family Room and Social Hall will remain open during worship, with the service streamed live. 

Thank You,
Families! 

Thank you for entrusting us with your children this year. It has been a joy and a privilege to teach them about Jesus and the incredible love of God. We have loved watching them learn, grow, ask questions, and build friendships within our church family. 

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORSHIPING TOGETHER THIS SUMMER
AND WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK TO KIDS' CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 6!



KIDS' CHURCH



TEACHERS NEEDED!

HELP LEAD KIDS ONE STEP CLOSER TO JESUS

KIDS CHURCH RETURNS SEPTEMBER 6

WHY IT MATTERS



Share God's Word

Encourage and welcome kids

Help children grow closer to Jesus

CHOOSE YOUR CLASSROOM!

Teachers can choose where they serve:

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

1ST & 2ND GRADE

3RD-5TH GRADE

HELP KIDS GROW IN FAITH!

You don't need to be a professional teacher. Bring a heart for Jesus, a desire to encourage children, and a willingness to serve.

Curriculum, materials, training, and support are provided.



WE'LL PROVIDE



- CURRICULUM
- MATERIALS
- TRAINING
- SUPPORT

A MANAGEABLE COMMITMENT



**ABOUT ONE SUNDAY
EVERY FOUR WEEKS**

The exact schedule depends on the number of volunteers.

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU TO INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION?

TO LEARN MORE OR VOLUNTEER

POINTS OF CONTACT: MELISSA MARENCO • MELANIE TREMBLAY

kids@centerpointsalem.org

CENTERPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH • CENTERPOINTSalem.org



AWANA Registration is NOW OPEN!!!

AWANA will be returning to Centerpoint this fall! Ashley Smith and Jess Mullen are teaming up to direct this year's AWANA clubs for **grades kindergarten through 5th grade.**

What is AWANA?

Awana is a world-wide nonprofit ministry focused on providing Bible-based evangelism and discipleship. Awana gives children the opportunity to know, love and serve Jesus, no matter their background.

At Centerpoint, our AWANA club is dedicated to providing a fun, caring, environment where children study and memorize the Word of God to equip them for living the Christian life in a fallen world. **A typical night of AWANA includes a large group meeting time with songs, small group time to study and recite scripture, and time for fun games.**

**AWANA will start September 9th
Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm
Register Today! Just use the QR Code or link below!**





Coffee Hour Team Meeting

Our Coffee Hour teams have been enjoying a summer break, and we're looking forward to restarting this ministry in early September. To help us prepare, we will be holding a brief but important planning meeting.

Meeting Details

- **Date:** Sunday, August 23
- **Time:** Right after our worship service
- **Location:** Social Hall

Who Should Attend

- Everyone who has served as a Coffee Hour **kitchen leader** is encouraged to attend.
- **Anyone** interested in becoming part of this fun and meaningful ministry, we'd love to have you join us as well!

What We'll Discuss

- What has worked well in the past
- Ideas for improvements
- Plans for restarting Coffee Hour in September

We'll gather over coffee, tea, and a light snack. **Please mark your calendar and make every effort to attend.** Your ideas and input are appreciated as we prepare for another great season of fellowship.

Welcome Team Meeting



Our Welcome Team will be meeting on **Sunday, August 30**, immediately following the service in the **Social Hall**.

This will be an opportunity for us to gather as a team, welcome our new members, and **anyone** interested in joining. 🙌

We'll discuss what's been working well, any challenges or concerns, and ideas for strengthening our ministry.

Anyone currently serving or who is interested in joining the Welcome Team is warmly invited to attend. 😊

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. We'll enjoy coffee, tea, and a light snack as we spend some time together.

Thank you for your faithful service throughout the year. Your warm smiles and welcoming hearts help make Centerpoint a place where everyone feels at home. 😊

Questions or further information email valerie.fowler@centerpointsalem.org



💙 You Don't Have to Walk Through Grief Alone 💙

Have you recently lost someone you love? Maybe it was a spouse, a parent, a child, a friend—or someone who was an important part of your life. Grief can leave us feeling lost, overwhelmed, and sometimes even unsure of where to turn. You don't have to go through it alone.

What is GriefShare?

GriefShare is a 13-week, faith-based bereavement support group for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one or friend. Each week, we watch a video presentation, spend time talking together, and use a workbook filled with helpful information and practical tools to help us better understand our grief.

Grief is hard. Sometimes we don't want to talk about it. Sometimes we don't even know what we're feeling or why we're feeling it. We may find ourselves asking, *"Why do I feel this way?"* or *"How am I ever going to get through this?"*

GriefShare offers a safe place to come just as you are—to listen, to share if you want to, and to discover that you're not alone in what you're experiencing.

The goal isn't to forget the person we've lost. We never forget those we love. Instead, GriefShare helps us learn how to live with our loss, understand our emotions, find hope, and take those difficult steps forward on the journey toward healing.

Two GriefShare Groups Starting Soon!

Mondays at 3:00 PM Beginning September 14

Tuesdays at 6:00 PM Beginning September 1

Choose the day and time that works best for you. Come as you are and take the first step toward finding support and hope.

💙 **Special One-Day Event: Loss of a Spouse**

If you have experienced the loss of your husband or wife, we invite you to join us for a special one-session GriefShare program, "Loss of a Spouse."

 **Saturday, August 29**  **10:00 AM**

This special session is designed specifically for those who have lost a spouse and offers a place to connect with others who understand the unique pain of this loss.

If you have questions or would like more information, please speak with Pam McLoughlin, Wendy Hughes, Lorraine Lindenberg, or Dolores VanBlarcom, or call the church office.

If you're hurting, we invite you to come. If you're not ready yet, that's okay, too. And if you know someone who is grieving, please share this invitation with them.

💙 You don't have to walk through grief alone. We're here to walk alongside you



What is the Food for Thought Closet?

A small food pantry for basic essentials for families who need assistance.

How does it work?

Contact the church office or a member of the FFT team to visit our food closet.

What can I do to help?

Add two or three items from the list below to add to the inventory.

Items needed.....

Ketchup
Yellow Mustard
Juice
Chicken Broth
Mayo
Mac & Cheese
Instant Coffee
Jelly or Jam

Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Tomatoes
Applesauce
Canned fruit
Tomato Paste
Snack Bars
Canned Chicken

**Household &
Personal Care
Products**

Paper Plates
Paper Cups
Plastic Utensils
Shampoo
Body Wipes

Laundry Detergent or
pods
Paper Towels
Toilet Tissue

Welcome to our food closet



Meals to cook in a to go bag.

Food assistance available – inquire at the Welcome Desk



🌞 📖 **READY, SET, CONTINUE TO READ!** 📖 🌞

👋 **HIGH FIVE FOR 5!** 👋

The Summer Reading Challenge is ON!

👑 **5 Books = 1 Prize!** 🏆

📖 **Read it. Record it. Turn it in. Pick a prize!** 🎁

Summer is calling—and there are **adventures waiting inside the pages of a book!**



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

📖 **1. Stop by the Children's Library and check out a book.**

👋 **2. Pick up your "High Five for 5!" Reading Challenge Bookmark and write down the titles of the books you read.**

📖 **3. Read 5 books!**

🏆 **4. Turn in your completed bookmark (don't forget to put your NAME on it!) and CHOOSE A PRIZE!** 🎁

🔄 **5. Grab a new bookmark and start your NEXT FIVE!**

🏆 **THE BIG QUESTION:**

WHO CAN READ THE MOST BOOKS THIS SUMMER?

Ready...Set...READ! 📖 🌞

❤️ **PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please encourage your children to choose books that are **just right for their reading level**. The goal isn't just to count books—it's to **grow a lifelong love of reading** while helping our young readers build confidence and skills all summer long! 📖 🌱

🎉 **HEY, TEENS & ADULTS—YOU'RE INVITED, TOO!** 🎉

Think the kids are going to beat you? **We shall see!** 😏 📖

Reading Challenge bookmarks will also be available in the **Church Library**.

Kids vs. Adults...WHO WILL READ MORE THIS SUMMER?

👋 📖 **LET THE READING RACE CONTINUE!** 🏆

Questions? ✉️ valerie.fowler@centerpointsalem.org



A tribute to our brother Bob Donahue, who for years had blessed us with his poetry. Thank you Bob, you will be greatly missed.
Reprint from September 2024.

A Place To Live -

Bob Donohue

If I could choose a place to live, I'd live inside a book,
A book secure from evil ways where Satan cannot look,
A sturdy book that will not fray and every word is true,
A noble book where I can learn exactly what to do,
A book that shows me right from wrong
and what is weak and what is strong,
A book that keeps me safe inside, and outside when to flee,
A book of Love, a book that heals, a book that sets me free,
A book Whose Author is Divine and dwells inside a palace,
A book that's yours, a book that's mine, a book devoid of malice,
This book where I would choose to bide, gives me gifts I shall not hide,
This Book where I long for to stay, contains The Truth, The Life, The Way.



Our Monthly Newsletter is a great opportunity to stay connected with write-ups, testimonies, descriptions, articles, pictures, news, and celebrations of ministry events.

We encourage you to take the time to share and celebrate your experience, testimonies, and blessings with the whole church community through our Connections newsletter. We are all encouraged by one

another, and by what God is doing through the many different groups at Centerpoint.

Your information is due by the 25th of each month for the upcoming month's publication.

Please E-mail your submission to Valerie Fowler at valerie.fowler@centerpointsalem.org or the church office office@centerpointsalem.org We look forward to hearing from you.