CONNECTIONS
OCTOBER 2026



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

Web:wwwcenterpointsalem.org
E-Mail: office@centerpointsalem.org
Tel: (603) 893-9191

Pray for & Invite a Friend — Sunday, October 25th

Fall Festival, Chili Cookoff & Pumpkin Carving Message!



My best guess is that I've shared the same Pumpkin Carving sermon on the last weekend of October for the past 10 years. And every fall, I wonder whether I should do it *again*. I ask myself questions like: *"Isn't it getting old? . . . Hasn't everyone heard it about 10 times already? . . . Will people still chuckle at the power saw joke? . . . Is it even OK for a Christian pastor to carve a pumpkin?"*

Every year, I come back to the same reason for sharing the pumpkin carving message: evangelism. My goal is to share Christ—and to encourage people to invite a friend or family member to church. Pumpkin Carving Sunday makes that first invitation feel easy. It's a fresh, creative, and engaging way to share the gospel with someone who may not yet know Jesus. By the grace of God, we see that happen every year—and so we press on!

We'll also celebrate fall with our annual **Harvest Festival & Chili Cookoff** at church. Although many of us enjoy going for the gold, it's not really about the chili—or the prize. It's about gathering around the table, sharing a meal with glad and sincere hearts, praising God, and enjoying fellowship with one another. *"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46–47)*

Think of someone you can invite on October 25. Start praying for them—and then take the bold step of asking. A simple, "Would you come with me?" could make all the difference.



Each year, our hope is that Centerpoint's fall activities stay focused on proclaiming Jesus and advancing His Kingdom. When people come to Centerpoint this fall, we pray they'll be encouraged by His people, touched by His Spirit, and moved by His gospel. We hope you'll join us for the Fall Festival and Chili Cookoff—and bring your family, friends, and neighbors—as together we seek to *Love People One Step Closer to Jesus* this October.

Pressing onward in the gospel,

Pastor Zach

CENTERPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

- Chili Cookoff
- Bonfire
- Lawn Games
- Face Painting
- Music

25 OCTOBER

11:30AM - 1:30PM



1st Sunday Prayer Gathering 6pm in the Sanctuary

As we focus on prayer this Fall, we are starting a 1st Sunday 6pm prayer hour. This will be a simple and reflective time of individual and corporate prayer, interspersed with worship singing. This prayer hour will also begin our *One Church One Day* of prayer each month. Unplug from the world and enter his house of prayer: Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6



We Need Your Picture! We're putting together our **church directory**, and we'd love to include a current photo of you!
There are several easy ways to participate:

- **Have a friend take your picture** and send it to us.
- **Take a selfie**—yes, those work too!
- **Choose a favorite recent photo** and send it along.

You can use the **link to send us your photo directly from your phone**, or simply **email it to the church office**. https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/83cc854985

We need **individual photos as well as family pictures**. We realize getting a great family shot may be the hardest part—after all, kids don't always smile, look at the camera, or cooperate at the same time! 😁 But we know you can do it!

The only request? **Please don't send us a photo from 20 years ago!** We want the directory to help us recognize one another *today*.

Thank you for helping us put **faces with names** and making our church directory complete!

🎶 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"

🎟️ TICKETS: ONLY $10! – You can still join us and pay at the door.
Light refreshments will be served.
❤️ 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.

🗓️ UPCOMING EVENTS — MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

There's lots happening at Centerpoint this fall! Be sure to save these dates and join us for fellowship, fun, food, music, and ministry.

- **October 1 – 🎶 Concert Featuring Tony Funches & Scott Johnson**
- **October 2 & 3 – 🏕️ Brotherhood Camping Event**
- **October 18th – Church Business Meeting after service**
- **October 25th – Pumpkin Carving Sermon followed by Harvest Fest & Chili Cookoff.**
- **October 31st – American Red Cross Blood Drive**

Mark your calendars — you won't want to miss all that's coming up!



Give the Gift of Life This Halloween!

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY **OCTOBER 31, 2026**	**9:00 AM** **TO 2:00 PM**	**CENTERPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH** **101 School Street, Salem, NH**

Help save lives by donating blood at our community blood drive this Halloween. Every donation can make a difference for patients in need.

Bless Our Donors

We are looking for volunteers and homemade treats to encourage those giving this lifesaving gift.

To volunteer or bake, email
dawn.knight@centerpointsalem.org

SCAN TO SCHEDULE

The Gifts of Christmas Variety Show

Save the date: Saturday, December 12, at 6 p.m. — Come celebrate Christmas with Centerpoint at our classic, family-friendly variety show—a joyful evening filled with faith, hope, and love! This year's festive lineup will feature Christmas worship songs and carols, holiday favorites, instrumentals, dance, comedy, and more. We'll also enjoy **Desserts from Around the World** and a **Hot Cocoa Bar.**



Bring a neighbor, friend, or family member—it's the perfect night to celebrate the Joy & Meaning of Christmas together!

Get Involved:
We're looking for solo acts, duos, small groups, large groups—you name it! We also need teams to help with setup, Desserts from Around the World, the Hot Cocoa Bar, and background media production. Contact the office, reach out to Matthew Jones about acts and production, or connect with Pastor Zach with questions about serving.

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.

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

- October 2 – Cabin Camping at TL Storer
- November 7 – Bowling Night at Lakeside Lanes

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.
For more information, contact Ray Tremblay at **brotherhood@centerpointsalem.org**.

Sisterhood: Wherever You Go



We had a wonderful start to our new Sisterhood season! A big thank-you to everyone who made our kickoff such a great night. Thank you to everyone who brought food, helped behind the scenes, or came ready with a hug, a smile, and some encouragement. With a Nor'easter in the forecast, we weren't sure what the evening would look like, but we were so glad to see so many women come out!

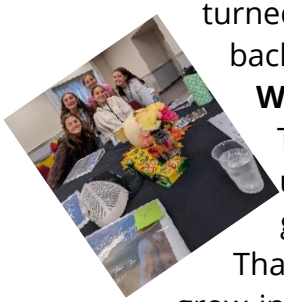


This year, we're exploring the theme **"Wherever You Go"** and reflecting on the journeys we take through life and how to discern God's voice along the way. At our kickoff, we explored the story of two disciples walking to Emmaus after Jesus' death and resurrection. They felt discouraged and disappointed because things hadn't gone as they expected. Maybe we can relate.



Sometimes, the journey we're on isn't the one we expected, wanted, planned, or imagined. We face disappointment, doubt, difficult decisions, and uncertainty about where to go next.

But as the disciples walked, Jesus came alongside them - even though they didn't recognize Him. He listened, opened the Scriptures, broke bread with them, and helped them see their circumstances differently. When they finally recognized Him, things changed. Their disappointment turned to hope, their confusion to understanding, and they turned around and headed back to Jerusalem.



When we encounter and recognize the risen Jesus, things change.

That doesn't mean every difficult path suddenly becomes easy or that we always understand what God is doing. But we don't walk alone. God meets us on the road, gives us His Word to guide us, and gives us one another to walk alongside us.

That's what we hope to experience together in Sisterhood this year: opportunities to grow in our faith, try new things, build connections, and develop deeper friendships with women we might not normally spend time with.

We may not always know where the road will lead, but we can know who goes with us.

We hope you will join us for our upcoming events:

October 24, 5:30–7:30 PM

We'll gather again for another large-group Sisterhood evening as we continue our "Wherever You Go" theme with worship, learning, connection, and encouragement.

November 15th, afternoon, "Gather & Go Group"

In November, Sisterhood is hitting the road (or just heading down the church hallway!). Instead of one large gathering, choose your own adventure with one of three "Gather & Go" Groups:

- Mystery Ride
- Games Afternoon
- Axe Throwing

These smaller gatherings will give us a chance to try something new, meet new people, and spend time together outside our usual Sisterhood setting. To learn more about each opportunity and sign up for one of the three activities, visit the Welcome Desk in the entryway.

We're excited about this year and where our journey together will take us. We may not know exactly what's ahead, but we know who goes with us.



Wherever you go, He is there.

With love,

The Sisterhood Team



FaithCrafting Crazy Crafting Weekends

A Weekend of Creativity, Fellowship & Encouragement for Women

Looking for uninterrupted time to work on your favorite craft projects while enjoying fellowship with other women? Join us for **FaithCrafting Crazy Crafting Weekends** at **Centerpoint Community Church**!

Bring your quilting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, card making, painting, or any creative project and enjoy a relaxing weekend filled with crafting, friendship, laughter, encouragement, and faith-centered fellowship. Whether you're a seasoned crafter or just getting started, you'll find a welcoming community of women to support and inspire you.

Special October Feature

At our October weekend, participants will have the opportunity to create a beautiful **fabric-backed glass cutting board** during an instructor-led craft session for an additional **$5 supply fee**.

Upcoming Crazy Crafting Weekends

October 16-17, 2026

Friday, October 16 | 5:00 PM
Saturday, October 17 | 3:00 PM

January 29-30, 2027

Friday, January 29 | 5:00 PM
Saturday, January 30 | 3:00 PM

April 9-10, 2027

Friday, April 9 | 5:00 PM
Saturday, April 10 | 3:00 PM

June 18-19, 2027

Friday, June 18 | 12:00 PM
Saturday, June 19 | 3:00 PM

August 20-21, 2027

Friday, August 20 | 12:00 PM
Saturday, August 21 | 3:00 PM

💲 Registration Options

Full Weekend Pass - $20

✓ Friday evening crafting
✓ Saturday crafting
✓ Friday evening snacks
✓ Saturday breakfast, lunch, and snacks
✓ Option to stay for the **ladies-only sleepover** Friday night or return home and come back Saturday morning

Friday Night Only - $5

✓ Friday evening crafting
✓ Friday evening snacks

Saturday Only - $15

✓ Saturday crafting
✓ Saturday breakfast, lunch, and snacks

Location

Centerpoint Community Church
101 School Street
Salem, NH

Why Attend?

- Complete unfinished projects without distractions
- Learn from and encourage fellow crafters
- Build new friendships with women of faith
- Enjoy delicious food and refreshments
- Relax, recharge, and be inspired

Whether you join us for one weekend or all five, we would love to welcome you to the FaithCrafting community. Come create, connect, and be encouraged!

Questions?

For more information, contact:

dawn.knight@centerpointsalem.org

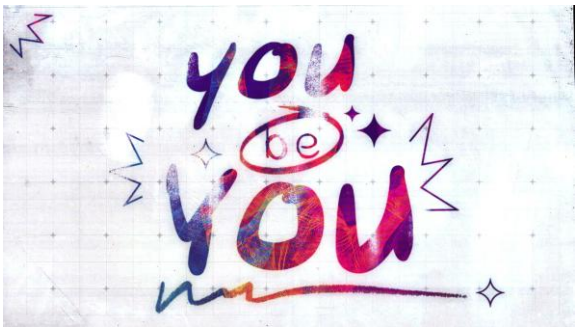
Youth Group for our Middle and High School students is off and running this fall! We had a great start to our year beginning with a Kickoff Amazing Race event at the end of August. Regular Friday Night youth group has begun and students have been challenged by the topic of "You Be You". We are looking forward to some amazing events in October!



The Fall Retreat is Almost Here! We will be heading to Camp Berea October 9th-11th. This is an amazing time for the youth of our church, one event that should not be missed! Be sure to sign up today!
https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/8c6671



NEW!!! Our new Youth Bible Study has begun! Our first series will be taken from the Alpha Series, a program designed to give young people a space to explore their questions about life, faith, and purpose. Join us Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm!





Youth Group Every Friday Night 6-8:30pm!

In October we will wrap up our series of You be You with the topic "Becoming Who You Already Are". The week after our Fall retreat weekend, we will be starting a new series called Closer. This series looks at the spiritual practices of Bible Study, meditation and prayer, giving us practical ways to grow a more intimate relationship with God. Join us and Bring a Friend!

👀Keep an eye out for a Special Event coming up November 6th. It is sure to be a super fun night that will be a great opportunity to bring your friends. More information is coming soon!

Our new year of AWANA has begun!
The program runs weekly on Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm.
****Parents should arrive at 7:25pm for our closing program, awards and announcements****

This program is open to children in grades kindergarten through 5th grade.
New members are always welcome! Register Online Today!
https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/2602d17099256268

Highlights from September!

- We started our year strong with 14 clubbers and 13 volunteers! We definitely have room to grow!
- Sparks learned John 3:16 and got their new red uniforms!
- T&T went through a short study on the Gospel and Bible Basics. They even had a visit from Moses to teach them more about some cool facts about the Bible!











Make a Difference in a Kid's Life...

Awana clubs

VOLUNTEER IN AWANA!

Would you like to help out in AWANA but cannot commit to coming every week? That's ok! We are always looking for an extra set of hands (and ears) that are willing to love these children and help them as they memorize and recite God's word. If you are interested, please contact the Centerpoint Church Office for more information.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered to serve in our Welcome Team, Preschool & Nursery, and Coffee Hour Ministries!

Your willingness to give your time, share a smile, care for our children, welcome newcomers, and keep the coffee flowing makes a wonderful difference at Centerpoint. We are so grateful for each of you! Thank you for being part of what makes our church feel like home. 💛



Role	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Welcome Desk	Tremblay, Melanie	Levesque, Jamie	Brown, Rosanne	MENARIO, LAURA	McLoughlin, Pam
Front Walkway	Riccardi, Shawn Riccardi, Mandy	Rose, Beverly Fowler, John	Spencer, John Spencer, Jill	McLoughlin, Pam Marenco, Melissa	Artz, Steve Artz, Jerie

If you are interested in volunteers for the welcome team, please see Valerie Fowler or email her at Valerie.Fowler@centerpointsalem.org

Role	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Kids' Church Nursery & PS Teacher	Smith, Ashley	Mullen , Jessica	Smith, Ashley	Reilly, Amy	Knight, Dawn
Kids' Church Nursery & PS Assistant	Smith, Jeremiah	Mullen, Naomi	Smith, Jeremiah	Waterhouse, Carrie	Pedro, Lilliana
Kids' Church K to 2nd Teacher	Spencer, John Spencer, Jill	Tremblay, Melanie	Spencer, John Spencer, Jill		Moriarty, Linda
Kids' Church K to 2nd Assistant	Crowell, Jonathan	Tremblay, Ross	Crowell, Allie Brown, Rosanne		Gabriele, Grace
Kids' Church 3rd - 5th Teacher	Riccardi, Mandy	Marenco, Melissa	Tremblay, Ray		McGowan, Becky
Kids' Church 3rd - 5th Assistant	Riccardi, Donovan	Marenco, Lucas	Tremblay, Ryan		Gabriele, Macy

Nursery and Preschool helpers are always needed speak with Carrie Waterhouse for additional information.



Role	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Coffee Hour Team Leader	Nickerson, Melissa Linehan, Loretta Dunkley, Katie	Spaulding, Melissa Pendleton, Sue Pedro, Miguel Pedro, Jennifer	Smith, Jeremiah Smith, Caleb Fowler, Valerie Fowler, John	Shibel, Carol Nadeau, Jean Leriche, Rita	Stacy, Flo Russell, Leslie Mailhiot, Frances Gioia, Donna
Coffee Hour Food	O'Rourke, Evie Murray, Cathy Marenco, Melissa Campbell, Nelda	Rose, Beverly Passler, Dorayne Ferron, Celena Crowell, Shanna	Smith, Ashley Reilly, Amy Patrakes, Sherry Patrakes, Jeffrey Maranto, Joyce Haynes, Gerry	York, Joanne Nicatra, Pat Koury, Mischele Dittrich, Jan	Tremblay, Melanie Spencer, Jill MENARIO, LAURA Ellis, Joan

Want to be part of the Coffee Hour or Food Team? Additional help is always needed. See Valerie Fowler or email her at Valerie.Fowler@centerpointsalem.org

Coffee Hour is off to a great start! ☕ 🫖



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to be part of our Coffee Hour teams. We appreciate your help making this time of food and fellowship possible! 💗

We also have some beautiful new glass dispensers for serving our cold beverages. A special thank-you to Dawn Knight, who graciously purchased and donated them to Coffee Hour. Thank you, Dawn! 👏



Food for Thought

🛒 **OUR FOOD CLOSET IS BUSY!**

Our Food Closet has been incredibly active, providing nonperishable food items to individuals and families who need a little extra help putting food on the table. The need continues to grow, and we can barely keep the shelves full!

Faith and Jeffrey DiMario have also been creating **"Meal Ideas in a Bag"** — convenient bags filled with ingredients and meal suggestions that families can grab and take home. You may see these available on our rolling cart in the hallway on Sunday mornings.

More information is available at the **Welcome Desk**, or feel free to speak with **Jeff or Faith**.

Items needed.....

- Bottled Water
- Juice
- Canned Cheese
- Queso Cheese
- Taco Meat in Pouches
- Canned Ready to Eat Pasta
  Ex. Chef Boyardee, Beef-a-Roni

Household & Personal Care Products

- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent or pods
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue
- Dish Soap
- Napkins
- Toothbrushes

🥓🍔 FOOD FOR THOUGHT TAILGATE LUNCHEON

The September FFT Tailgate Luncheon was a wonderful way to begin our new season! Our talented and hardworking team gathered to prepare a delicious **breakfast brunch** for everyone to enjoy.





Carol's famous French toast was a favorite, while Jeff, our resident chef, kept busy flipping eggs to order. The menu also featured pancakes, bacon, sausage, cider, orange juice, and cocoa.

A special **thank-you to our dedicated FFT team** for all their hard work in making the luncheon such a success. From cooking and serving to making sure everyone had plenty to eat, our team certainly kept things moving!

We also want to thank our wonderful **church family**, who help make these gatherings so special. Your warm welcomes, friendly conversations, and willingness to visit with our guests are just as important as what comes out of the kitchen—and, thankfully, no reservations are required!

Your time, kindness, and fellowship are truly appreciated. Together, you help make every FFT gathering a place where good food, good conversation, and good company come together

Blessings,
Sue







Bone Builders Program at Centerpoint

Thursdays in October: 8, 15, 22, and 29

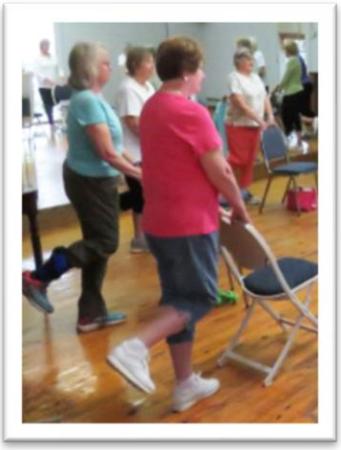
9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall

Instructor: Dorayne Passler, dorayne@myfairpoint.net

To RSVP, contact the church office or Dorayne directly.



This program is designed to increase bone density and improve balance, circulation, muscle strength, and overall health. It combines weight-bearing and balance exercises with education on nutrition and healthy habits to help prevent and manage osteoporosis and other health risks. The exercises strengthen muscles, improve posture, protect against fractures, and build the leg strength and balance needed to help prevent falls. Proper strength training places healthy tension on bones, stimulating bone cell growth and increasing bone density.



Each one-hour class includes a warm-up, balance exercises, weight-bearing exercises using hand and leg weights, and a cool-down with proper stretching. Congregant Dorayne Passler, a certified Bone Builders instructor trained through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), leads the class. The class is free, and donations to the church are always welcome. Please bring 1–5 lb. hand and leg weights if you have them.

The class will run through October and resume in December or January, depending on interest.

From the Library 📚



We are continually adding new books to both of our library collections! Here's a sample of some of the newest titles available. Stop by and take a look or for more information check out the online catalog.
In the **Children's Library**..
Thank you to Jerie Artz who generously donated this book;

"Little Briana and Her Big Light" was written by a Ukrainian pastor's wife, Maia Mukhaluk who dedicated this book to the children of Ukraine and their families. ❤️‍🩹 This gentle picture book celebrates family resilience and the light that helps children feel safe, even when the world is not.

"Sing the 50 United States"

With this **newly discovered** and never-before-seen picture book by Dr. Seuss himself, celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America! From Alabama to Wyoming, learn the names of all 50 states with a little help from the Cat in the Hat.

At the end of the book you'll find a Publisher's Note about how this project came to be, including archival images of the original text and sketches by Ted Geisel—a.k.a. Dr. Seuss!

**Remove the book's jacket to a complete map of the United States on the back, perfect for readers to test their own state-naming skills.

Church Library;

"The View is Worth It; Unlocking the Beauty in Life's Peaks and Valleys". The author Victoria Arlen bravely shares her untold journey from silent suffering to genuine healing. Victoria discovered that the climb out of "Rock-Bottomville" is steep, but the view from a place of faith, hope, and healing is always worth it! 🙌

*If you haven't read "**Theo of Golden"** yet, and would like to, please send me an email to have it put on hold for you.

Our libraries are open anytime the church doors are open and books are always available for self check-out.

Questions, requests, holds, please email Valerie.fowler@centerpointsalem.org

🍁"Fall" Into A Good Book! 🍂





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.