

Contact us: Office Phone: 231-773-2812 office@connectionpointmi.com

Office hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am-3pm

Lead Pastor Aaron Gregory: aaron@connectionpointmi.com

Children's Pastor Holly Hazekamp: holly@connectionpointmi.com

Youth Pastor Matthew Spear: matthew@connectionpointmi.com

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Upcoming Events!

<u>December 10: Blue Christmas</u> service will be held in the sanctuary at 5PM. This Christmas season may be a difficult one for you. Grief and loss are real. It will be a night to remember those we have lost, find hope, and work towards healing.

<u>December 12: Engage</u> - Birthday Party - Jesus Style! This Tuesday from 5:30-7. The cost is \$3/person or \$10/family. Come on out! Soup, salad, bread & cupcakes to decorate!!

<u>December 13: Women's Christmas Party</u> will be at 6PM in the Gym. Come enjoy the festive season with fellowship, games, a devotional and a cookie exchange! If you plan to bring cookies, please bring 3 dozen (2 dozen for exchange, one for tasting).

<u>December 19: MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)</u> - We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:30-11:00am at the church.

<u>December 24: Christmas Eve Services</u> will be at 10AM & 5PM. Youth Group will be cancelled that evening.

<u>December 31: New Years Eve</u> service will be at 10AM. Youth Group will be cancelled that evening.

<u>Clothing & Food Pantry Donations</u> are being accepted on Sundays or during office hours. We are in need of canned or packaged goods for the pantry and kids clothes of all sizes. The Kids Clothing Closet will be postponed until March due to low inventory.

<u>Christmas Giving</u> - If you would like to help families in need this Christmas, please see the tree in the Foyer. Unwrapped gifts can be returned to the church no later than Monday, Dec. 18th.

Year End Giving - If you are looking to make a year end gift, please do so by December 31st.

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Further Reflection for 12/10

- 1. What is your favorite Christmas memory? What is your least favorite Christmas memory?
- 2. Read Mark 1:1-8
- 3. What jumps out to you from the text?
- 4. What makes verse 1 so impactful for the entire book of Mark?
- 5. Read Genesis 1:1 and 1:31.
- 6. What connection do you see between the Genesis 1 passages and this passage from Mark? Why do you think Mark tied these things together?
- 7. John's message led to repentance and confession. Why are those integral to a life following Jesus?
- 8. Not only here in the Markan text, but all throughout the New Testament we see an emphasis on baptism. Share your baptism story and why it is powerful to you?
- 9. How has the work of the Holy Spirit impacted your life? What are ways you can be come more and more aware of the Spirit's work in the world and in you?

Further Reading: Wholeness in Christ: William Greathouse; The Holy Longing: Ronald Rolheiser

Things You Should Know!

<u>Connect Cards</u> can be found in the seat-back pocket in front of you! Please fill it out, take it to the Welcome Center in the Foyer and grab a gift! We want guests to feel welcome and we hope to see you again!

<u>Prayer Requests</u> can be submitted via the website under the Ministries tab. These prayer requests go directly to Pastor Aaron and are confidential.

The Bridge the Gap Fund sign is across from the Café. If you are interested in giving above your tithes/offerings, you may do so by putting donations in the box at the back of the sanctuary or by giving online. Please email the church office for more information.

<u>Church Directory App</u> is available now! If you need help accessing it, please contact the church office and we can work on getting you set up!

Weekly Gatherings:

Sunday Service: 9AM & 10:30AM Kids Service: Sundays during both Services Youth Group: Sundays from 6-7:30PM