

ADVENT



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

Director of Nazarene Community Resource Center Sarah Klassen: nazcrc@gmail.com

Things You Should Know!

Connect Cards 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!

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

Text to Give is available. Please text GIVE to 231-386-0644 and then follow the instructions given! You can also give online by visiting connectionpointmi.com and click the DONATE tab for a secure transaction. Thanks for supporting our ministries here at Connection Point.

The Bridge the Gap Fund sign is across from the Café. If you are interested in giving above your tithes/offerings there is a giving kiosk at the FOR store. Please email the church office for more information.

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

Upcoming Events!

We are looking for prayer partners! If you are interested in "adopting" a child and praying for them throughout the year, contact Pastor Holly! She has cards made and ready to hand out!

Men's Study - All Men are invited to a 4-week study on "Play the Man" exploring how to be better disciples of Jesus and live out God's call on their life. Sunday nights at 8PM, January 9-30. Questions contact aaron@connectionpointmi.com

December 13: NCRC Play & Learn will be here in the KidZone at 10am.

December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be at 5pm!

January 3-7: Prayer Week - Join us nightly from 6:30PM-7:30PM for a moment of worship through song, a devotional thought, and a time of intentional prayer. Start the new year off in the right way!

January 9th Faith Promise - Our commitment to local and global missions is emphasized this day. We will be learning more about our partnership with churches in Puerto Rico.

January 16: Lunch with Leaders - If you are new to our church, or have never attended this lunch, you are invited! Please RSVP through office@connectionpointmi.com, sign up at the welcome center, or see one of the church staff. This is an informal lunch with the church staff and some other leaders of the church.

January 23: Membership Class - This class is designed to explore what our church holds to be true in terms of theology, doctrine, and what it means to be a part of the Church of the Nazarene. Please sign up with Pastor Aaron (aaron@connectionpointmi.com) or in the welcome center. Childcare is available upon advanced request.

January 30: Next Steps Class - This class is designed to help you take your next step spiritually and will meet right after church. Please sign up with Pastor Aaron (aaron@connectionpointmi.com) or in the welcome center. Childcare is available upon advanced request.

Weekly Gatherings:

Sunday Service: 10:30am

Kids Service: Sundays during 10:30am Service

Youth Group: Sundays from 6-8pm

Further Reflection for 12/12

Reflection:

1. What picture comes to mind when you think of the word "joy?"
2. How is joy different from happiness?
3. What are the circumstances in your life that cause you to worry or be anxious?

Study:

1. Read Philippians 4:4-7
 - a. What are the things that jump out to you from the text?
 - b. What do you think it means to "Rejoice in the Lord always?"
 - c. Verse 5 speaks of gentleness. What does gentleness look like in the face of adversity or trials?
 - d. Paul is literally in chains when he is writing this letter. What are those chains in your life? What is your response, or perspective when this happens?
 - e. Verse 7 says that through prayer, we will be granted peace. Do you believe that to be true? What is an instance that God has proven faithful in that promise?

Application:

1. How does your perspective on life help to shape your priorities? Is there something that needs to change or shift slightly?
2. What can you do when difficulties and struggles arise in your life?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the joy that you have made available to all people through your son, Jesus. Help me in situations where it is difficult to not worry or to find joy. Help me to trust and to know that you are always near and that you are the source of my joy. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Spiritual Practice:

- The next time a problem arises and anxiety starts to take hold, take a moment to name five blessings in your life.

Further Learning Opportunity:

- Love Does by Bob Goff
- Surprised by Joy by C.S. Lewis
- Called to Christian Joy & Maturity by Daniel Keating

Sermon Notes
