



CONNECTIONS



APRIL 2024

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

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MISSIONS

FROM MISSIONS-- NEW GOALS FOR 2024 WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our Missions Team has decided to change things up this year with a goal of having a church wide packing party for OCC next fall.

- ✓ Each month we will advertise items to focus on purchasing each month of the year
- ✓ Shop the sales, discounts & seasonal items all year round with us.
- ✓ Bring your items to church through the year and we will store them
- ✓ In the fall, we will sort the items for a packing party event



APRIL ITEM OF THE MONTH FOR OCC SHOEBOXES –STUFFED ANIMALS

Suggested places to purchase:

- Shop Easter clearance
- Beanie Babies (facebook MP)
- Dollar Tree
- Walmart
- Target
- Amazon
- Dollar General

Amazon items:

[Teddy Bears](#)
[Elephants](#)
[Stuffed animals](#)
[Finger puppets](#)

[Teddy Bears 2](#)
[Jungle Animals](#)
[Puppies](#)
[Cats](#)
[Stuffed animals 2](#)

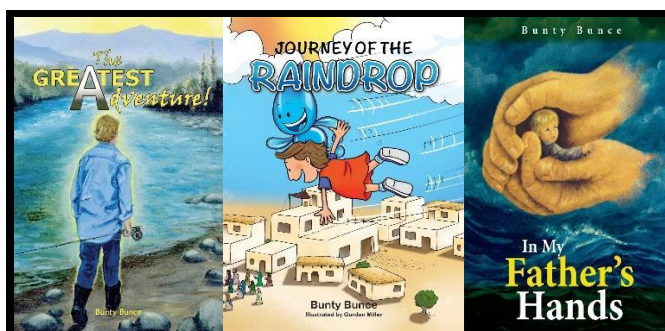
[Lambs](#)

LOOKING AHEAD...



MISSIONS - From the Global Outreach Committee

Centerpoint welcomed **Bunty Bunce of Bunce Ministries** and **Tim Hafner from InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** on March 10 to our Sunday service.



Looking for an additional way to support Bunty Bunce? She has written 3 books available on Amazon—order your own copy or visit the Church Library. We have ordered 2 copies of each.

Who do we support as a church? Centerpoint financially and prayerfully supports 12 Outreach Partners/organizations across the globe. They are connected to us in some way personally or have been referred to us personally over the years by you, our congregation, and we consider them an extension of our church. We support them believing in the importance and urgency of missions and trusting that God will use these organizations to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. A portion of our tithes and offerings goes to these individuals/organizations as financial support. We thank you for your faithful stewardship.

Name	Mission	2024 Support
Samaritans Purse	Operation Christmas Child	\$800
Steve Cullum	National Network of Youth Ministries	\$1500
Jeff Anderson	Beyond	\$3000
Bunty Bunce	Bunce Ministries -Louisa Bunce (Bunty)	\$3000
Andy & Mary Ellen Faust	Wycliffe Bible Translators	\$1500
Jonathan and Susan Kopf	Ethnos360	\$2800
Josh & Janelle & family	Overseas	\$3800
Bruce & Miriam Saldi	World Outreach Ministries	\$3500
Dave & Robin VanFleet	Street Life Ministries	\$3200
Grace Rosado & Team	New Life Home for Women & Children	\$2500
Prabina Subedi & family	YWAM- Nepal / Word By Heart School	\$3800
Tim Hafner	InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA	\$2300
Miscellaneous	Speaker gifts, Streetlife support, OCC back up funds, one-time gifts, events	\$2500

Why are we changing the word “Missionary” to “Global Outreach Partner” here at our church? We have learned over the years that being a *missionary* can be a forbidden career in many countries. Today, nearly 40% of the countries in the world reject Missionaries and no longer grant religious Visa’s. Because Missionary carries meaning that we don’t intend, you will see *Global Outreach* in our media channels and print.

How can you help beyond financial support? Continue to pray for these individuals and their families as they serve in many ways around the globe. To learn more about our Global Outreach Partners and their work in 2024, feel free to take a 2024 Directory and/or bookmark located in the rack outside of the restrooms and/or visit the Missions wall in the hallway.

“Address the Stress” Anxiety Workshop

Salem Kid Start Kindergarten will be sponsoring an hour-long workshop on anxiety and stress in children on Thursday, April 11, 2024, from 6:00-7:00 pm in the church social hall. Amber Iller, LICSW, a clinical counselor experienced in working with children with anxiety, will be speaking on how anxiety manifests itself in children and what children and parents can do to manage it.

Joanna Vorce has attended this presentation twice and we wish to make this valuable presentation to the school and church families.

Amber is a highly recommended local clinician with a proven track record with children. Specializing in working with children from ages 4 to 11, her practice is called Sandbox Therapy. She works with families and individuals in that direct and empathic style, identifying strengths and building on them. She uses a variety of approaches, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Play Therapy, Narrative Therapy, Solution Focused Therapy as well as Relaxation Strategies and Emotions Regulation Skills.

The pandemic beginning in 2020 created distress for all individuals and families in one way or another. This distress became a catalyst for Amber to explore how she could diversify her services and offer as much support as she could to families in her community. She offers individual and family therapy as well as additional services including workshops, presentations and consultations. Amber’s approach is strength based, child centered, and varied in approach. Her presentation is sure to offer practical information for any who have or work with children, whether we navigate day-to-day or more extraordinary stress.

It is essential that we talk about these difficult and complex topics. We want to partner with families, equipping parents and caregivers to manage stress in the lives of our children and families during challenging times.

This presentation is being offered at no cost to families.



The American Red Cross announced a huge blood shortage emergency. The shortage of blood products is beyond critical. You can help with this shortage by taking an hour or so and donating blood. There is an upcoming blood drive at the church, and someone out there could really use your blood to help them get better.

Someone close to you may need it. I personally know of two individuals in this church that need blood and/or blood products on a regular basis and are dependent on volunteers like you to donate their blood so they may live.

So, will you consider giving? You can start by signing up for the blood drive at Centerpoint Community Church on **May 4th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Location is 101 School Street Salem NH. You can sign up at redcrossblood.org.

Please know that saving a life starts with you and your willingness to give... thank you ahead of time... the blood you give could be the blood needed to save your life.

Jeff Vorce

Sunday Message Series April-May, Romans 9-16

Last Fall we journeyed together for 8 weeks through the book of Romans chapters 1-8. That was an incredibly fruitful time as we uncovered the theme 'From Enemies to Adoption'. Each Sunday we followed Paul's argument in the first half of Romans that brought us from enemies of God in chapter 1 to life in the Spirit as adopted children of God in chapter 8.

Starting in April, we will continue our Journey through the Book of Romans chapters 9 – 16. We will see many individual themes in these last chapters: the sovereignty of God, salvation for the world, God's faithful promise, God's election, a faithful remnant of believers, overcoming evil with good, true love, Christian submission, accepting diverse beliefs, liberty in the non-essentials, living in unity & harmony in the church, incredible coworkers, and divisive people.



I hope that you will get excited with me to jump into the last half of Romans during April and May! I am confident that our lives and our church will be transformed each week as we focus together on this rich letter.

Pastor Zach, 



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Nursery

The Nursery for infants/toddlers, ages 0-3, is available with volunteer childcare coverage for the entire service. Also feel free to use our family room down the hall—our service is livestreamed for you.

Please reach out to Carrie Waterhouse at carw80@hotmail.com with any questions about our Nursery program.

April			
Date	Lead	Co-Lead	Co-Lead
April 7	Amy Reilly	Christina Cianci	Abby Reilly
April 14	Dawn Knight	Lillana Pedro	Eliana Fulgieri
April 21	Carrie Waterhouse	Jessica Mullen	Lexi Riccardi
April 28	Tracy Poteat	Lorraine Lindenberg	Bekah Georgy

KIDS CHURCH



Need to register your child/children?

<https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/12a82029>

April Kids Church Teacher Schedule

DATE	Teacher	Assistant	Teacher	Assistant	Teacher	Assistant
	Preschool/K	Preschool/K	1st-2nd	1st-2nd	3rd-5th	3rd-5th
4/7/24	Melissa Marengo	EJ Kanu	Melanie Tremblay	Ryan Tremblay	Becky McGowan	Laura Preston
4/14/24	Melissa Spaulding	Samantha Marengo	Jill Spencer	John Spencer	Carmen Frederico	Kim Frederico
4/21/24	Jamie Levesque	Amanda Slaven	Maya Elkhoury	Ben Elkhoury	Shanna Crowell	Allie Crowell
4/28/24	Amanda Riccardi	Bella Schreiner	Joan Ellis	Eliana Kanu	Shanna Crowell	Allie Crowell



We are looking for volunteers! If you are interested, please reach out to Melissa Marengo:

mmarengo@centerpointsalem.org or Amanda Riccardi: ariccardi@centerpointsalem.org

You don't want to miss it!



Coming up in our Studies:

High School -- They will be using the Lifeway Devotional called "Peace: Fighting Anxiety God's Way." Their next study will be "Truth and Love," a study of 1-2-3 John.

Middle school ---Over the past few weeks, our focus has been on faith. Most recently we have been exploring topics like

How can I grow closer to God?

How do I trust God with all my heart?

How do I do what God wants me to do?

This week we started a 3-week series called Closer, as in growing closer to God. At the end of our evening, Mike challenged the group with the Devotional Dare, which is to spend quiet time each day with God. See Mike if you like a printed copy! **See the March 14th email from Mr. Mike with the attachment for the *Devotional Dare*. Parents, feel free to follow along and encourage your students to dive in!**

Is your teen registered for Youth Group? Use this link to register today.

<https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/12a8202994>

Wednesdays, Youth Group

- Every Wednesday, 6pm at the church
- Friends are always welcome.
- Games, Worship, and Teachings

In March, a few of our Youth kids joined Ms. Cyndi at Salem Woods. Our youth group made a craft during their SALSA night in March and a few of our youth delivered them and played trivia with the residents at Salem Woods. Here are a few of our youth group kids at Salem Woods being a blessing to our community.



COMING UP

.... Youth continued.

April 5th—Deadline to sign up for WorkCampNE.

- WorkcampNE will be close to home this year in Derry, NH--July 7-13th.
- This trip is open to all incoming 7th-12th graders.
- The cost is \$325 for the week. The cost includes all programs, meals and housing location for the week.
- \$100 deposit is due by April 5
- Register here: <https://centerpointsalem.breezechms.com/form/a03d3513>
- Speak to Mike Smith with questions.

April 13th-- Youth Group Spring Clean Up Fundraiser—see below for details.

April 21st—High School, Sunday's Best after church

April 24th —NH April Vacation week—**No Youth Group**

May 4th-- Next SALSA (Salt + Light Serving Ambassadors) night at Ms. Cyndi and Mr. Al's house in Methuen-- 305 Hampshire Rd, Methuen MA.



<https://www.instagram.com/centerpointyg/>

MATTHEW JONES
ALBUM RELEASE EVENT

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ERIC LEE BRUMLEY

2 NIGHTS 7:30 PM

FRI 4/5 - CAFÉ AT THE MILL, MILLBURY MA
SAT 4/6 - CENTERPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH, SALEM NH

Congratulations to Matthew Jones on his newest release.

Matthew served as Music Director at Centerpoint for several years. He has just released his newest album and will be performing it at Centerpoint on **Saturday, April 6th at 7:30 p.m.**

He would love to see you there.

Good afternoon Centerpoint parents, teachers, and children's ministry volunteers!

As you know we love kids at Centerpoint and we've intentionally created programs and spaces for kids to learn, grow, play, and enjoy. We have a large group of caring and committed parents, teachers, and volunteers who sacrifice themselves weekly for this task! Thank you for making Centerpoint an awesome place to raise up the next generation in Christ.

We've updated the *Kid's Zone* play area on the right side of the social hall which is adjacent to the *Kid's Game Room*. This week we've added several new games to this area to create a space for kids to constructively play and enjoy Sunday mornings during coffee hour.

We'll also take this opportunity to refresh our community guidelines for kids. Parents, please review these with your kids:

1. No running in the halls or through the church building. We are concerned especially for our elderly who could easily be knocked down and injured.
2. Children should not be upstairs or in other areas of the church unattended by a supervising adult.
3. Play games with self-control. This is a confined & sometimes crowded indoor space where flying balls, paddles, etc. can injure someone.
4. No rough-housing even among siblings. Wrestle at home but not at church.
5. Inappropriate language, gestures, or innuendos are not befitting a follower of Christ, and are not allowed.
6. Always see how you can include the outsider, the lonely person, or the newcomer. This is befitting a follower of Christ!
7. Treat others with love, respect, and kindness. Do to others as you would want done to you.
8. Treat games, equipment, and church property respectfully and responsibly. Especially do not sit on the game tables.
9. Clean up your mess, trash, and spills; and put away game equipment when you are done. We now have wood cup holders for the stage area in the social hall.
10. Parents are responsible for their children during coffee hour. Parents don't need to 'hover', but they should be aware of where they are, how they are conducting themselves, and be ready to redirect or correct behavior.

Thank you for taking time to review these good community guidelines with your children and to equip them to lead in Christ among their peers. We all work together to create a great kingdom environment at Centerpoint where all kids can play, learn, grow, and thrive!

Pressing Onward Toward the Goal,

Pastor Zachary Crowell



The Lord is Risen!

THE MIRACULOUS FIND

-BOB DONOHUE

The sun rose again over the city on the hill, but it hadn't felt the same since a couple days before, and no one could have prepared for what the new sunrise had in store.

Many were still waking in disbelief, many more awoke weeping tears of sorrow. For The One they so loved was still fallen asleep, and they feared for what might be in the morrow.

While the disciples sat lamenting with the crucifixion still fresh in their mind, the Marys ran to the tomb and into the midst of a miraculous find.

They found that the grave's massive, stone lid had been rolled aside; and they felt the Glory of Heaven in what they discovered inside.

They discovered that Jesus Christ had risen, just as He said He would. And today, the Sun is still rising and The Way of the Cross is, as always, still good.



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: Brenda Dunkley, (dunkleybrenda485@gmail.com), Amy Reilly, (sreilly@aol.com), or the church office, office@centerpointsalem.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

