



Centerpoint  
Celebrates  
Financial  
Milestone!



**Hopefully most of you have received my email or letter** from January 8th where I shared the amazing news that Centerpoint has paid off our church's debt - the first time we have been completely debt-free since 1968. I shared that in spite of the hardships and challenges COVID-19 has brought us, we have also seen ways God has redeemed these times. This is one of them! While giving has decreased slightly, at the same time our ministries have been cut back, creating a surplus that enabled us to pay off our debt — 2½ years early. After 53 years of being in debt, we are done! Praise God!

**I assure you** that every financial promise we made to missionaries and mission organizations last year, and for 2021, has been and will be fulfilled completely. And when we can fully engage again in all of our ministries, when we can travel globally to join with our mission partners, when we no longer have to socially distance and can resume our programs and in-person events and activities, we will be ready to financially provide for them.

**You may be asking...** *"why has Centerpoint been in debt for 53 years?"* In 1968 our church (then First Presbyterian Church of Roseville) built the Fellowship Hall on the site of what is now the Family Life Center. In 1986 the present Worship Center was built, requiring further loans. As the church grew, the Fellowship Hall was replaced with the current Family Life Center and loans were taken out to complete the project. There was also debt incurred in 2010 when FPC Roseville left the PCUSA denomination and joined the EPC denomination. It was at that time that our church name was changed to Centerpoint Community Church. Throughout our history, Centerpoint has been building and moving forward to serve God's kingdom.

**I am grateful to God** for this blessing and I hope you share my joy in being a part of this historic moment in the life of our church. I am continually impressed and grateful for the financial faithfulness and generosity of the people of Centerpoint. I am also thankful for Kelly Harder, our Business Administrator, for our Finance & Administration Committee, for our Church Treasurer, John Beaber, and for our entire church staff and Session (elders) for the careful, responsible, and godly way they manage the gifts of God's people for ministry.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Jim



Centerpoint is actively involved with ministry to our local mission partner, **The Gathering Inn (TGI)**. Prior to COVID, the residents of TGI were housed and fed at Centerpoint every 5th Sunday. During 2020 our involvement increased, and in 2021 we have the blessing of hosting TGI every 1st Sunday of the month. The following is a letter received from Keith Diederich, CEO of The Gathering Inn:

Dear Friends and Supporters of The Gathering Inn,

**Why do people become homeless?** Are the homeless all just drug addicts? Do they all have mental health problems? There are a lot of homeless who choose to be homeless, right? The homeless are mostly men, right? I hear these types of questions often in my role here at The Gathering Inn (TGI). When I was hired as the CEO of TGI back in 2015, I was personally surprised to see that many of our homeless were women and children, as well as veterans or business executives. I guess at the end of the day what I learned was that the homeless do not fit the stereotypes that they are often assigned.

**True story. Gil has lived one heck of a life.** Gil served his country with the US Army during the Vietnam War. After his retirement from the military, he became a set designer, building sets for TV shows. After a series of financial setbacks, he found himself homeless at the age of 72. It was then that Gil found TGI. While staying at TGI, Gil worked diligently with his case manager, Nikki. Together Nikki and Gil addressed his financial and health issues and worked together to help him reclaim his life and save up for a place of his own. Nikki was a fierce advocate and partner with Gil during this entire process. TGI is pleased to report that Gil has found housing! Nikki will continue to follow-up with Gil over the next year to make sure that he has the support he needs to be successful.

**At the heart of everything we do** is our mission “to provide homeless women, men, and families the dignity and support they need to become active members of our community.” We fulfill our mission one person at a time. Through the generous support of people such as yourself, TGI is a beacon of hope, companionship, and accountability for the homeless here in our community so that the people that we serve, like Gil, do not need to remain homeless for long.



Centerpoint is blessed to host men, women, and children from The Gathering Inn



**A message from Pastor Bryan:**

I am grateful to share with you a letter from one of our mission partners, Pastor Ray Velasquez (see right). He is the Director of Church Relations for YUGO Ministries and a pastor in Ensenada, Mexico. At the time of this writing, the COVID-19 pandemic is ravaging the Ensenada community, home to over 550,000 residents. As you can imagine, dealing with an outbreak of COVID-19 without sufficient healthcare systems and government infrastructure is nearly impossible. Thank you to the Centerpoint community for your recent generosity in our Face Mask Drive for the people of Ensenada.

Sadly, one of our longtime partners in Ensenada, Pastor Javier Villalobos, recently lost his wife, Alba, due to COVID-19. We are grateful that Centerpoint has strong partnerships in Ensenada, to not only provide physical means (masks and monthly support), but to also mourn and grieve with our friends when they experience loss.



We mourn the loss of Alba Villalobos (pictured with Pastor Javier) who recently served at a Centerpoint-inspired Marriage Retreat

**A note from Pastor Ray at YUGO Ministries:**

Centerpoint has been sent directly from God for our family and ministry and community. The blessings God has given us through you are monumental.

We can't wait to see you again, to be able to be there and hug you and reconnect. It's my pleasure to help with the face masks. I'll find a good way to distribute these masks to serve well the churches and the community. Face masks will be a huge blessing. Masks are greatly needed in Ensenada right now. It's been a very tough and challenging time.

We are in prayer for Pastor Javier. I will be in communication with Pastor Javier in support and encouraging him.

We love Centerpoint and we are privileged to serve alongside you. We love you guys!



Pastor Ray & wife Careli serve with YUGO Ministries in Ensenada, Mexico



**Join our Samaritan's Purse Re-Building Team in La Grange, Texas, March 21-26.** Room and board are provided but airfare is the responsibility of those attending. All volunteers (18+) must provide a negative COVID-19 test upon check-in at the site and must undergo a background check. Masks are mandatory. Those from high-risk groups (65+ and/or medical issues) are encouraged not to attend. Contact Mark Janzen at 916-765-1515 for more information.



**Mission Movie Night "A Case for Christ," Friday, March 5, 6:00pm in the Family Life Center**  
 This 2017 movie is based on the best-selling 1998 book: *"Lee Strobel's award-winning, investigative reporting earns him a promotion to legal editor at the Chicago Tribune. Things at home aren't going nearly as well. His wife Leslie's newfound faith in Christ compels Lee to utilize his journalistic and legal training to try and disprove the claims of Christianity, pitting his atheism against her growing faith."*  
 This is a great film to invite family/friends who are searching for meaning during these trying times.

**A message from Pastor Nancy:**

In Acts 2:42, we see the early church including prayer as a core practice in their daily life together: "They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread **and to prayer.**" In many of Paul's letters he describes his prayers for the believers he is writing to, and also asks them to pray for specific prayer requests for him.

Is praying for one another a core part of your daily life? Are you praying for others? Are you asking others to pray for you? Do you **devote yourself** to this? At Centerpoint, many of you have devoted yourselves to prayer. Besides our Sunday prayers and prayer partners, we have teams that pray throughout the week at home. We have a team of over 100 people who receive a weekly email with the prayer requests Centerpoint receives through our app and website. We have a smaller team that prays for urgent prayer requests; another that prays for pregnancies and babies; another that prays for military personnel; and another team that prays as they crochet prayer shawls. In addition, many of you pray for one another in your small groups and ministry teams – both when you meet together and also as needs arise between meetings.

So just as in the early church, many of you have devoted yourselves to prayer. For others, it may be time to make praying for one another – and being **prayed for** by others – a core part of your daily life. I encourage you to send prayer requests both to your small group and to the Centerpoint office through our app and website. And I encourage you to pray about joining one of our specific prayer teams. Send me an email at [nduff@centerpointroseville.org](mailto:nduff@centerpointroseville.org), and I'll get you connected.



"Is praying for one another a core part of your daily life? Are you praying for others? Are you asking others to pray for you? Do you **devote yourself** to this?"

—Pastor Nancy



**Joy in Our Lives: A Virtual Women's Study**  
**Wednesdays, February 3 - March 10, 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom**

Do you feel your life is joyful? What might be obstacles to a joyful life? In this 6-week study for women led by Martha Neill, we will look at the nature of joy, as well as Biblical strategies and practices to live more joyful lives. Sign up online or contact Karen Fales in the church office.



Our first-ever **FATHER-DAUGHTER ZOOM PARTY** for girls Kindergarten through 6th grade and their special guy is scheduled for Friday, February 26 (\$10/family). Our theme is **"Teddy Bear Picnic"** and we will be delivering a bag of goodies to your home with the makings for Rice Krispies treats, a craft to make together, and info on all the fun we have planned. Games! Instant prizes! Scavenger Hunt! Sign up online starting January 31. Contact April Hayward at the church office for more information.



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Please Note: If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact the church office at [info@centerpointroseville.org](mailto:info@centerpointroseville.org) or 916-782-3186. Thank you.

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**Over the last year**, our website (along with our app) has become the hub of communication for the Centerpoint community. As our webmaster, Zoë Gibson, says: “My goal is to provide the most

current, complete information on all ministries, activities, and events at Centerpoint.” Media Director Lauren Blalock encourages everyone to visit the Media page by clicking on “**MEDIA**” in the upper right corner of the website homepage. There you will find the most recent Sunday message, along with *Sermon Notes* and *Small Group Questions*. Scroll down a little and you’ll find the most recent edition of this publication, *The Pulse!* A little further down the page is an abundance of content.. from *Christmas at Centerpoint* (including our online concert), to *Centerpoint Hymns*, as well as our inspiring *Daily Devotions*. You can also meander through past sermon series, including *The Great Race*, *Majoring in the Minors*, and over a year’s worth of *The Gospel of John!* That should keep you busy for awhile. **ENJOY!**



**A message from Lisa McGough, Director of Centerpoint Christian Preschool:**

Its hard to believe that we are already halfway through our school year. We are truly blessed to be part of this vibrant Christian community that is committed to nurturing children. One of the most important jobs we have as teachers at our Preschool is sharing with the little ones that God loves them... all the time, no matter what, wherever they go, and whatever they do.



**We still have space for the current school year and are planning our Summer Camps 2021!** In fact, we are already starting to plan for the 2021-2022 school year. If you know of anyone with a preschool age child, encourage them to contact me in the Preschool office at 916-782-9443. Thank you for letting us do what we love



to do... to teach and have fun with your children every day!  
In His love,  
Lisa