

## A Message From...



Glenn Knepp

Lead Pastor

I'm always amazed by how many people feel uncomfortable praying in front of other people. I'm not amazed because I have the benefit of any special academic training on the matter. Believe it or not, prayer is not a subject in which a lot of time is dedicated for seminary education. I'm surprised because my childhood was filled with praying people. They are all with the Lord now: Marjorie, Roy, Nina, Lorena, Harold, and so many more. From my childhood I heard the prayers of these people arise in the church in which I was raised. I was amazed by these people and their humble prayers. They changed me. They changed my life.

It was their voices that convinced me of the power of prayer. There was a trust in words and an earnestness to their approach that taught me what it was to call on God in trust.

I'm amazed that more people haven't had the same experiences. I'm amazed that more people haven't had the benefit of being shaped in that way. I'm constantly surprised at how unwilling people can be to engage in public prayer, probably because they just are not aware of how POWERFUL their prayers are and can be.

If you've been wondering how to take the next step in prayer in your life, here are a few simple ways you can take the next step:

- Talk to God like you talk to anyone else. God doesn't require any special language.
- If you feel entirely lost for words, pray a psalm. As you pray each line, pause and reflect on how those words express the experiences of your life. This will begin to teach you the words of prayer.
- Be courageous! Go to a gathering of prayer (there are many listed below starting TODAY). You don't have to be brave enough to pray. Just go and listen to other people pray. Learn from them. Learn together.
- Learn to talk to God while doing other tasks. Washing the dishes? Develop a habit of talking to God during that regular habit as a way of remembering to talk to God regularly. The habit will form your language as well.

If I'm amazed by how uncomfortable some folks can be with prayer, it is important to say that I am in AWE of what can actually be accomplished when God's people pray. It is for this reason we are beginning a season of impetuous prayer before God! **Make sure you**

**find a time to join in one of the prayer opportunities that will be pastor-led in the weeks to come!**

*Make sure as well that you tune in this Sunday to gain one more item for which to pray. I'll be presenting a plan "For the Future" in all three services that comes to you from the Church Council and a couple other lay teams. It is a dream and not at all yet decided, but also a matter which deserves much prayer! We need the clarity only traveling, persistent prayer seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance can provide.*

Let's be amazed and awed all together by what can happen when we pray together "For the Future!"

## Church Wide Announcements



### ST. JOE UMC **FOR THE FUTURE**

#### Town Hall Meetings

- January 28, 6:30p, St. Joe UMC
- February 2, 12:15p, St. Joe UMC
  - (Carry In, Childcare provided)
- February 10, 6:30p St. Joe UMC

Join Us for a Town Hall!

Be part of the For the Future Capital Campaign as we step into a season of being faithful to our history, fearless in building community connections, and fruitful in sharing the gospel. Choose from one of three opportunities to learn more:

-Tuesday, January 28th, 6:30 PM at St. Joe UMC

-Sunday, February 2nd, 12:15 PM at St. Joe UMC (Carry-in lunch;  
childcare provided)

-Monday, February 10th, 6:30 PM at St. Joe UMC

Discover how you can join this bold vision for our church and  
community. Let's build For the Future together!

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# Beyond

**Ask God to open your eyes and help you to  
see His work in the world in ways you have  
never noticed.**

Ephesians 3:14-21



As part of the For the Future Capital Campaign, we're launching a prayer initiative called Pray For The Future. This effort invites everyone to join in weekly prayer prompts and participate in dedicated times of gathering to seek God's guidance and blessings for our church. Together, we'll pray with hearts that are faithful, fearless, and fruitful, aligning our vision with God's will.

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# CULTIVATE

WINTER 2025



## New Beginnings



A Publication of the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church

Lorelei Verlee is a passionate advocate for empowering women through creativity and entrepreneurship. As the founder of Creative Women of the World (CWOW), she has dedicated her life to helping women in under-resourced communities achieve financial independence through sustainable business practices. Her impactful work extends to Haiti, where she has supported women artisans in creating and selling their products to global markets. Recently featured in Cultivate magazine, Lorelei continues to inspire with her mission to combine creativity and compassion to uplift women worldwide. To Read her article in Cultivate Magazine, click [here](#).

[Watch Past Key 3 Announcements](#)

## Keystone Seniors For the Fort



The Fourth Thursday of each month, we will offer a chance to learn something new and rotate through a wide variety of topics. For January, we will discuss ways we can be healthy and active in the winter months. We will have a special guest from our partners at the Jackson Lehman YMCA to lead the conversation. We will meet at 6pm for a time of fellowship (and snacks!) and the presentation will begin at 6:30pm. We won't just be talking, you'll also have a chance to move with some chair aerobics! Come prepared with comfortable clothes and tennis shoes.

[\*\*Education Night Sign Up\*\*](#)



[\*\*Get the Keystone Newsletter\*\*](#)

## **For Families**





**JAN 19 12:15-1:45P BISQUE IT**  
**JAN 25 1-4P CATHEDRAL & BOWLING**  
**JAN 26 12:15-1:45P MENTOR LUNCH**



# ELEVATE

## ST. JOE YOUTH RETREAT 2025

St. Joe UMC Youth Ministry will be leading an adventurous, faithful weekend in Michigan for students 6th-12th grade at Michindoh Conference Center in Hillsdale, MI on Friday, February 21, 2024 through Sunday, February 23, 2024. Sign up will close February 5th, 2025 so make sure to get your child signed up sooner than later!

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[Elevate Retreat Sign Up](#)

[Get the Families \(Children's\) Newsletter](#)

## Faith In Motion

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This week, I'd love to talk about our lovely MARAH! Marah started dancing at the age of 2.5 years old when Faith in Motion started the toddler class. She has been a part of our dance family for over 11 years! I had the privilege of being Marah's first dance teacher. I will never forget little Marah coming into class with the biggest smile on her face, and the smile never left her face! The girl LOVES being in dance class! What she loved even more than being in class was getting dressed up for the performances. I also followed Marah into her first level 1 class and choreographed her first solo with her. I have so many fond memories of watching Marah grow up through dance, so I have to share a few! I remember one of her last sessions in the toddler class when everything just "clicked" for her. Her mom dropped her off at the performance and told me that Marah discovered she could practice at home and that she had practiced quite literally ALL day leading up to the performance. I remember during the pandemic when Marah was the only dancer in our Poms class who was able to attend recital. Her instructor offered to dance with her, but Marah opted to perform alone. Throughout the performance, she kept looking over and smiling at the instructors. Working with Marah on her solo was so much fun. The girl wanted to turn, flip, split, jump, and repeat 100 times.

Over the years, Marah has tried every dance style Faith in Motion offers. In each class, she puts in 110% effort and performs each style beautifully. She is a perfectionist who truly cares about doing her best. I think I speak for every instructor when I say we thoroughly enjoy having her in class. Marah has served as an assistant teacher for the toddler class over the last year or so and eagerly reminds me that she is eligible for hire! :) The thing I love most about Marah is her kind heart. She is always the first to uplift a discouraged dance friend or make a new dancer feel included. It is no surprise Marah is so kind; her family is so loving, supportive, and faithful. They are such an integral



part of Faith in Motion. They are always willing to lend a hand and help prepare for performances. They always show up to help and support me on recital day! We are so thankful to have Marah and her family as a part of our Faith in Motion family!

[Get the FIM Newsletter](#)



[Read Most Recent Prayers](#)

## **BY THE NUMBERS**

For January 12  
Weekly Income Received: \$7,914

### St. Joe UMC

#### In Person Attendance

- 9a: 58
- 11a:141

#### Online Attendance

- 9a: 11
- 11a: 30

### St. Joe @ Y

#### In Person Attendance

- 10a: 49

#### Online Attendance

- 10a: 4

Saint Joseph United Methodist Church | 6004 Reed Road | Fort Wayne, IN 46835 US

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