

# A Message From...



Glenn Knepp

Lead Pastor

Across the last couple years at St Joe UMC and St Joe @ the Y we have been living into our vision of being "For the Fort." We determined that we believe God is calling us to be For the Fort by: Faithfully seeking, with one another, the call of Jesus Christ (through His teachings in Scripture), Fearlessly responding to the Holy Spirit with costly love in real relationships, and Fruitfully leading neighbors to the transforming grace of God in Christ.

About a year ago we also clarified specific goals aimed at increased ministry presence at Jackson Lehman YMCA with St Joe @ the Y, a continued emphasis on For Families ministries with youth and children, the development of the Canvas worship service, and the launch of a new Keystones Ministry of Seniors 'For the Fort'.

These strategic steps don't encompass all we are as a church but are rather strategic areas of focus to keep the congregation moving forward. Some areas of the church are vital and growing (like the Classic service or United Women in Faith) with robust ministry that is seasoned and steady. These strategic focuses don't distract from that or hamper those efforts but simply highlight the directions where focused growth is required.

In the midst of those strategic pieces there are celebrations! The Keystone's ministry added a new staff member this year, Pastor Luke Rumble! A new collaboration with Bethany UMC has helped us supplement this ministry. The continued focus on the ministry of St Joe @ the Y as led by Pastor Ashley Moreland has led us into conversations about how the YMCA can broaden its footprint and invest in its presence at Praise Park. In the Canvas service we have observed steady growth and For Families continues to supplement that growth with the excellent care and planning of Teah Aldred-Ash.

Of course, there are obviously areas we need to grow. The Canvas service desperately requires new worship leadership. Communication continues to need to adapt to meet the needs of this growing congregation (look for a new text communication system and tech training days by February).

As well, the physical structure of St Joe UMC requires investment. Teams of lay folks studied this problem in 2023 and 2024. The fundamental structure of St Joe UMC is quite sound, but most of the

infrastructure is aging. Roofing needs replaced across F-wing, the Gym, and the Sanctuary. HVAC needs replaced throughout. It is important to plan for these developments and not let any of them impede regular ministry. In the weeks ahead you'll be hearing of attempts at proactive solutions for ministry described in one simple phrase: "For the Future."

"For the Future" is an attempt to name the next big step into the future for this congregation. It involves a significant investment in the building at St Joe UMC. 'For the Future' will attempt to update HVAC and Roofing across the building and remodel and modernize the guest experience from the parking lot to the threshold of worship spaces. A second aspect of "For the Future" will be developing new partnerships with Northeast Little League Softball and Jackson Lehman YMCA in which those organizations may be given the opportunity to make investments at Praise Park in partnership with St Joe UMC. A third aspect of "For the Future" will be making needed investments in the staffing of the Keystone ministry and also a chaplain for Praise Park (to connect the increased foot traffic at Praise Park to Jesus and St Joe UMC).

What can you do?

- PRAY! Information about new prayer initiatives in which YOU can be involved will be communicated on *Sunday January 12, 2024*.
- PRAY! Pray for leaders! The Church Council will be charting a course 'For the Future' involving more detailed planning at a retreat on *January 11*. Pray for their discernment and wisdom.
- PRAY! Pray that hearts will be prepared as presentation of the Council's planning and more information about 'For the Future' is presented on *January 19, 2024*, in all three services at St Joe UMC and St Joe @ the Y.

## Church Wide Announcements

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HAPPY

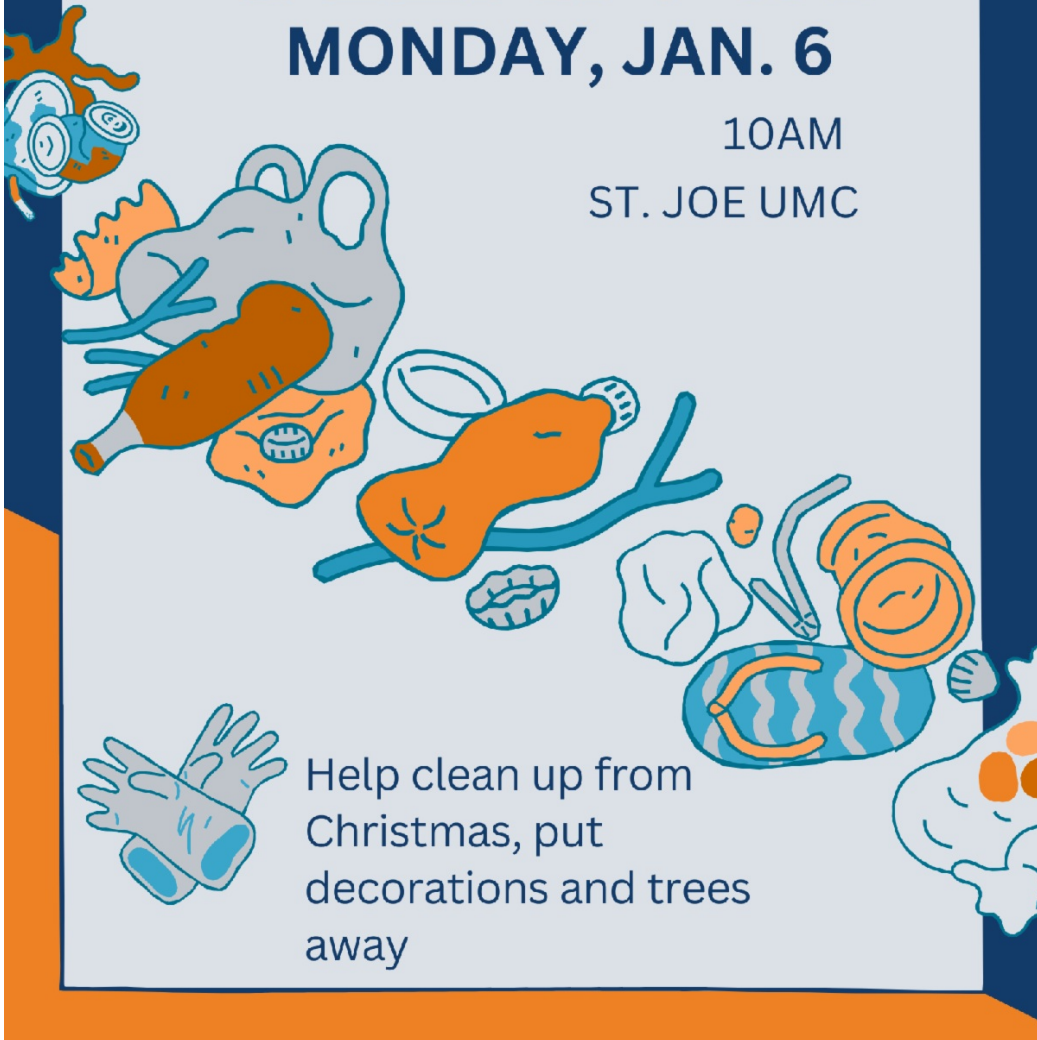
*New Year!*

FROM ALL ST JOE STAFF

2025

THE GREAT  
CHRISTMAS  
**CLEAN UP**  
**MONDAY, JAN. 6**

10AM  
ST. JOE UMC



Help clean up from  
Christmas, put  
decorations and trees  
away

[Watch Past Key 3 Announcements](#)

**Keystone**  
**Seniors For the Fort**

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# Chocolate

TOUR

At Debrand's

JANUARY 3 | 12P



The Keystone Group will be taking a tour of Debrand Fine Chocolates production facility at 10105 Auburn Park Dr, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. We'll enjoy a short video on the history of DeBrand and view the chocolate making kitchens where we can see the artisan process involved in making their coveted chocolates. There may even be a chance for some gourmet chocolate samples!

The cost of the tour is \$11 per person, but each person will get a coupon for \$10 off a purchase of \$20 or more at the end.

Our tour starts at 12:30pm. A group will meet at St Joe UMC at 12:00pm if you would like to carpool, or you can just meet us there!

[REGISTER HERE](#) to Reserve Your Space

**EUCHRE NIGHT**

THURS  
JAN 9

6P-8P

keystone  
group

REGISTRATION PREFERRED  
[stjoemin.com/events](http://stjoemin.com/events)

**Euchre Registration**

## For Families

**LEVEL UP** 24-25  
WEDNESDAY'S 6-7:30P

levelUp  
Student Ministries 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

levelUp Jr.

**FOOD, FRIENDS, GAMES, CRAFTS**

Level Up returns January 8th from 6p-7:30p. We can't wait to see all the kids back on Wednesday nights again!

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**Sunday Night Youth**  
**January 12 & 26**  
**5-7 pm**  
**Dinner, Games, Bible Lesson**  
**Enter at Door F**

**Get the Families (Children's) Newsletter**

## **Faith In Motion**

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Registration is open! The spring session will run from January 6 - May 3. This session is slightly longer due to Easter, Spring Break, and the threat of winter weather cancellations.

[Faith in Motion Sign Up](#)

[Get the FIM Newsletter](#)



[Read Most Recent Prayers](#)



# **BY THE NUMBERS**

For December 29  
Weekly Income Received: \$17,615

## St. Joe UMC

### In Person Attendance

- 10a: 136  
combined service

### Online Attendance

- 9a:
- 11a:

## St. Joe @ Y

### In Person Attendance

- 10a: Combined Service

### Online Attendance

- 10a:

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

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