



FEARLESS IN BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Praise Park Partnerships

St. Joe UMC has an opportunity to boldly expand our reach by investing in Praise Park. This space can become a hub of community life, strengthening relationships, and building bridges within Fort Wayne. Through fearless partnerships with Northeast Little League Softball (NELLS) and the Jackson R. Lehman YMCA (JRL) to enhance community opportunities in our area.

In exchange, these organizations will invest in the property's development and enter long-term agreements to ensure mutual benefit and financial stewardship. The long term use of space agreement with JRL would be in exchange for the promise of compensation for investment at the sale of the property and/or a first option to buy the property if it were sold for a specific, to be determined, number of years. A similar arrangement would be achieved with NELLS and a detailed potential contract will be available by the end of March.

An investment will also be pursued to purchase the strip of land between Praise Park and YMCA Park Drive.



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**At minimal cost to the church*

Northeast Little League Softball

We will partner with NELLs to develop athletic fields, playgrounds, and recreational spaces that will serve families and children across our city.

Jackson R. Lehman YMCA

We will collaborate with JRL to add a picnic shelter and community-use playground, creating opportunities for outreach and connection.

On January 13, the JRL Board approved to pursue fundraising opportunities to complete the picnic shelter and playground with unanimous and enthusiastic support.

These partnerships allow us to fearlessly engage with our community and extend Christ's love beyond the walls of our church.



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