

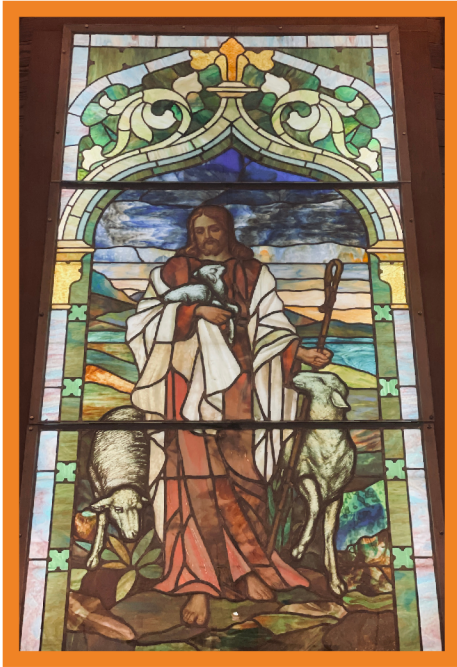


ST. JOE UMC **FOR THE FUTURE**

Capital Campaign 2025



INVESTING IN OUR MISSION



Since the days of Johnny Appleseed, St. Joe United Methodist Church (UMC) has been a beacon of faith, hope, and love. What started on the banks of the Saint Joseph River grew into a small, white, wooden church. Flourishing, the church grew to need a new building where the presence of the stained glass Gentle Shepherd was raised. The Gentle Shepherd glass journeyed with the congregation as it grew fruitfully for the future to yet another building on the corner of Reed and St. Joe Center Road. St. Joe and St. Joe @ Y continues to prosper as it now does ministry at Praise Park, the YMCA, and beyond, as a testament of God's love in our community. To remain a vital and vibrant witness for generations to come, we must boldly invest in our facilities, ministry partnerships, and guest experience. The For the Future Capital Campaign calls us to address critical infrastructure needs at our 6004 Reed Road campus, enhance our ministry at Praise Park, and create welcoming spaces that inspire connection and growth. Together, we can ensure that St. Joe UMC remains "For the Fort"—faithfully, fearlessly, and fruitfully
For The Future.



HISTORICAL SITUATION

In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, denominational dysfunction, political upheaval, and culturally long term declines in worship attendance, there was some question by 2022 of the viability of the St Joe UMC congregation. The fiscal picture of 2022 would ultimately reveal a deficit in spending of \$112,000. Worship attendance marked its lowest ebb in 2022 in the modern life of the congregation. The building had become increasingly quiet and vacant during the week.

In light of these realities and an awareness of aging infrastructure, Rev. Mark Fenstermacher and Greg Friend led a team through 2023 discerning the viability and needs of the building at 6004 Reed Road at the request of the Church Council. Architectural audits were conducted by MartinRiley Architects which revealed that the overall structures of the facility were sound and well maintained, but that some of the internal infrastructure was in need of replacement soon. It was determined by recommendation of that team and decision of the Church Council that renovation and investment in the current building at 6004 Reed Road was both more affordable and in line with the emerging vision of the church rather than the construction of a new structure at Praise Park.

It was determined that increasing facility usage also merited this investment as the building was becoming more fully active again.

HISTORICAL SITUATION

In 2024, a Facilities Renovation Team was convened by the Church Council to be led by Rev. Glenn Knepp and Barry Davis. This team has secured scope and bids which are attached. At the request of the Church Council, this team has not neglected to consider the development of further partnerships at Praise Park and investment in new ministries.

It is the hope of the Facilities Renovation Team that this proposal is received in light of the current moment of St Joe UMC in which the congregation seems hopeful of the future again. The building is bustling with activity including the Faith in Motion Dance Ministry, Suzuki Strings, Keystone Ministry, YMCA Summer Camps, Youth Ministry, Level Up Kid's Ministry, Chancel Choir and Handbells, Women in Faith, multiple knitting, sewing, and crochet groups, while also continuing as the vanguard host of connectional events in our area of the United Methodist Church once again. Worship attendance increased in 2023 and 2024, with new members being added in the double-digits both years. Budget Surplus was experienced in 2023 (\$34,791) and in 2024 (\$67,907). Even more, however, it is the hope of the Facilities Renovation Team that this proposal matches our vision and values of being "For the Fort" by living our shared life "Faithfully, Fearlessly, and Fruitfully" as an enduring witness of Jesus Christ found faithful *For The Future*.

CASE FOR SUPPORT



FAITHFUL

Critical infrastructure renovations to honor our church's legacy and care for the sacred spaces entrusted to us.



FEARLESS

Boldly investing in Praise Park to build connections and partnerships within the Fort Wayne community.



FRUITFUL

Developing new ministries to share the gospel and foster discipleship, ensuring lives are transformed through Jesus Christ.



FAITHFUL TO OUR HISTORY

Facilities Renovation

St. Joe UMC's campus at 6004 Reed Road has been a cornerstone of worship, ministry, and fellowship for generations. To honor this history and faithfully steward our resources, we must address critical infrastructure needs.

These renovations are a faithful response to our calling to maintain spaces where people can encounter God and experience transformation through worship, prayer, and fellowship.

Roofing:

\$177,150-\$237,150

- Replacement of the roof over the gym, sanctuary, and F-Wing.

HVAC Systems

\$318,979-\$416,760

- Replacement of these systems in the sanctuary, hallways, offices, gym, and new entry.

Bids were collected from two sources for roofing and three sources of differing scopes for HVAC.



FAITHFUL TO OUR HISTORY

Facilities Renovation

Rooted in the observation that St. Joe UMC has no clear, single visitor entrance and informed by the assessment of the first Facilities Team and MartinRiley Architects that current furnishings in the B Hallway and bathrooms were nearly at the end of their functional use, the Renovation Team sought a proposal for renovation of the entryway, remodel of B Hall and restrooms, relocation of the offices to C Hall, and rehoming of the choral ministry to E Hall adjacent to the sanctuary. The following proposal came from TK Ladd and Associates for the demolition of the offices and the consideration of the following structure.

The total cost for the *demolition and new construction* of an entry space by demolishing the current office space and part of B-Hall was estimated by Shawnee Construction to be \$959,000. *To gut and remodel* the existing offices operating to achieve the same concept of a new entry/welcome space, removing interior walls, and adding the portico would be \$645,500. The remodel is recommended by the Facilities team and Church Council.



FAITHFUL TO OUR HISTORY

Facilities Renovation

Parking Lot: \$34,511-\$51,264

- At 6004 Reed Road
 - Bid 1: \$21,866 (Ranger Materials)
 - Bid 2: \$38,619 (Asphalt Care, Inc)
- At Praise Park
 - \$12,645 (Asphalt Care, Inc)

Total Facilities Investment • \$1.3M-\$1.5M

Guest Experience & Worship Enhancements: \$779,450- \$1,092,950

- New Entry & Welcome Space & Relocation of Offices to C Hall
 - Option 1 (New Structure, Not Recommended): \$959,000
 - **Option 2 (Remodel, Recommended): \$645,500**
- Main Hallway Furnishings
 - \$30,000
- B-Hall Restroom Renovation
 - \$28,050
- Sanctuary Sound System
 - \$50,000
- Flooring
 - \$25,900

FAITHFUL TO OUR HISTORY

Facilities Renovation

Option 2 (Remodel Floor Plan)





FAITHFUL TO OUR HISTORY

Facilities Renovation
Option 2 (Remodel Rendering)





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.



FEARLESS IN BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Praise Park Partnerships

**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.

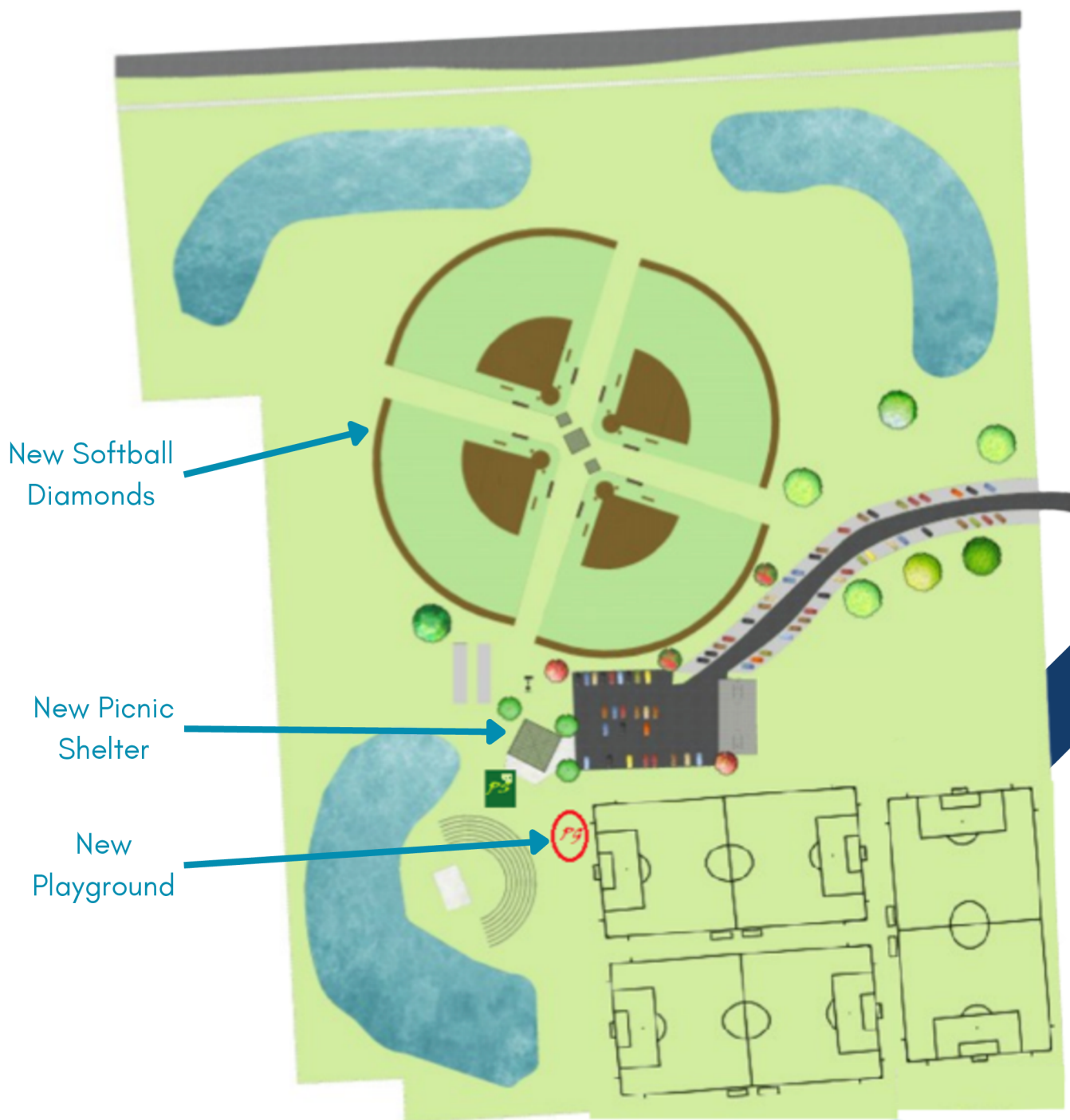
On January 13, the JRL Board approved to pursue fundraising opportunities to complete the picnic shelter and playground with unanimous and enthusiastic support.

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



FEARLESS IN BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Praise Park Partnerships





FRUITFUL IN SHARING THE GOSPEL

New Ministry Horizons

As we renovate our facilities and build community partnerships, we also look to the future of ministry such as a **Praise Park Chaplain and Keystone Ministry.**

These projects create new opportunities to:

- Launch outreach programs that meet the needs of our neighbors.
- Develop discipleship pathways that equip individuals and families to grow in faith.
- Create welcoming, accessible spaces where people can encounter the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

Our investment today (a percentage of the final total raised to be decided upon after the feasibility study) will yield fruit for generations to come as we boldly live out our mission

For the Fort and share the gospel in
transformative ways.

PARTNER WITH US



PARTNER WITH US

The *For the Future* campaign is about more than buildings, it's about lives transformed through Jesus Christ. By investing in our facilities, community partnerships, and new ministry opportunities, we ensure that St. Joe UMC remains a vibrant, welcoming church that serves "For The Fort" with faith, courage, and purpose.

FAITHFUL

Honoring our history and stewarding the spaces entrusted to us.

FEARLESS

Building bold partnerships to connect with our community.

FRUITFUL

Spreading the gospel and fostering discipleship for generations to come.

We invite every member of our congregation to prayerfully consider how they can partner in this effort. Your commitment will lay a foundation for ministry today and for years to come.

Together, let's build For The Future.

POTENTIAL TIMELINE

DATE	ACTION
2025	
January-March	Praying For The Future
January 11	Council Retreat Approving Presentation of <i>For The Future</i> for the Congregation
January 19	Presentation of <i>For the Future</i> and path forward in all three services
January 19–February 5	Town Hall Meetings sharing <i>For the Future</i>
February 6–March 15	Feasibility Study Conducted Regarding Fundraising Potential of St. Joe UMC
April 7–13	Potential Church Conference to approve <i>For the Future</i>
April 13	Launch of <i>For the Future</i> Campaign
May 18	Commitment/Celebration Sunday
2026	
January	Church Conference Required for beginning of renovation (date dependent on campaign income)
February–March	Construction plans begin to be implemented

WHILE WE PRAY AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE,
WE CELEBRATE THE MANY PARTNERSHIPS AND
MISSIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH CONTINUE FOR
THE WORLD, FOR THE FORT, AND FOR PEOPLE.



FOR THE WORLD:



PARTNERSHIPS WITH:



FOR PEOPLE:





NEED MORE INFORMATION?



www.stjoemin.com/forthefuture

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