

## A Message From...



# Glenn Knepp

Lead Pastor

I went to the bank recently and was surprised when, as the teller took care of my banking needs, she offhandedly referred to me as, "my love."

I don't think I'd be alone in saying this made me uncomfortable. I'm not certain I'd met her before, though maybe I had. Nonetheless, it's not a way I'm accustomed to be addressed, even by those who know me.

I must have winced because she shifted the next couple times she addressed me to "Mr Glenn." While this was awkward for other reasons I accepted it happily compared to the alternative. By the end of the transaction, however, she had reverted to a still-too-familiar-for-my-taste, "my dear." I was cordial, but walked out shaking my head.

Maybe I should I cut her some slack.

Jesus once said, referring to the words he would speak to the righteous on the day of judgement, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35). In saying this he was surely

referring to those at the margins of a society. He was also certainly referring to immigrants, migrants, and refugees, fulfilling in perfect love, an aspect of the Law spoken long before. For instance, the Lord had spoken to the Hebrew people once saying: “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 29:33-34).

Jesus’s command, imbued with love and channeling the full sentiments of the old Law is worth paying attention to in our time. As Christians it is a love to which we are still called, to extend dignity and welcome to “the stranger.”

I celebrate the ways in which we try to do this at St Joe UMC. We make a home for those who find themselves in a strange land as refugees and migrants. When others reject and dehumanize, we have resisted this path. We can and should do this and more to recognize the humanity of the people of our city.

At the same time, it seems a challenge unique to our time that almost everyone I bump into is a “stranger” to me.

Most of us don’t really know our neighbors. We don’t really know the people we go to church with. We are uninformed at the loss of a job for the person sitting next to us on Sunday morning. We are uninitiated in the tears and trials of each other’s lives even as people share more and more the meaningless details on social media.

I am constantly bumping into “strangers.” By that I mean, people I thought I knew. I discover an opinion on a politician or a policy feels a personal judgement to them. I didn’t intend that. I find my take on a cultural item or restaurant review is deemed a personal rejection. I didn’t expect that. I find people all around who turn to artificial intelligence not only for the solution to technical problems but to navigate relationships as well- and even if it will be the end of us- it’s no wonder. Suddenly, it seems my neighbors have become “strangers.” I am in a strange land. I am the “stranger”.

All of which causes me to look in a slightly different light on the designations the teller gave me. While they weren’t exactly comfortable, she was trying to treat me as something other than a stranger. I think we could use more of that.

More of that for those who disagree with us! More of that in our homes! More of that with our children! Certainly, Absolutely, Positively more of that for those whom our society treats with contempt and cruelty! More of that in podcast conversations! More of that as we greet folks on Sunday morning!

Let’s not treat each other like strangers. You don’t need to call me “love,” “dear,” or “Mr.” You can call me Glenn. I will call you friend- because a friend of Jesus can be a friend to anybody and everybody. It doesn’t have to mean we always agree, but it does mean I refuse to treat anyone like a stranger. It won’t be easy, but it will be what it means to be “For the Fort” in a time as strange as ours. I think Jesus will meet us there.

# Church Wide Announcements



**BOUNCE  
SPLASH  
LAUGH**

**the Y**  
YMCA  
FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**FUN IN THE SUN FINALE**  
**Saturday, August 23rd, 1:30-4:30pm**  
**Praise Park** (across from JRL YMCA)

Join us for a day of fun in the sun as we say goodbye to summer and hello to a brand new school year!

Bring the whole family out for an afternoon packed with excitement- featuring bounce houses, a foam pit, outdoor games, and more.

Free to the community!

We kindly ask for a donation of new underwear or gently used short or pants (sizes 5T-youth 16) to support our local elementary schools.

Scan the QR code to follow our event page for more details!

Questions? Contact Alesia Glaza at [alesia\\_glaza@fwymca.org](mailto:alesia_glaza@fwymca.org)

A collaborative event with:

**FOR**  
THE FORT  
ST. JOE AT THE Y

Our Next event is the Fun in the Sun Finale  
August 23 from 1:30-4:30pm

And we Need Some Volunteers:

**Bounce House Attendants** - Monitoring time and behavior in the bounce houses. Not a messy job.

**Foam Party Attendants** - Monitoring time and behavior in the



foam party area. Might get messy.

**Water Activity Attendants** - Monitoring water games, sprinklers, water shooters, reusable water balloons. Might get messy.

**Hot Dog Chefs** - We are providing hot dogs and water to the participants, not a messy job.

**Face Paint Artists** - Painting faces of children attending the event. Not a messy job.

**Give Away Table** - Giving out limited school supplies and collecting names for the door prize. Not a messy job.

A poster for 'Hymn Fest' on a textured, light brown background. At the top center is a decorative oval frame containing the words 'HYMN FEST' in a bold, stylized font, with musical notes and a treble clef integrated into the design. Below this, a white rectangular box contains text about the event. Underneath the text box is a musical staff with notes. At the bottom of the poster, more text provides the date, time, cost, registration link, and location. The entire poster is framed by ornate, dark brown corner decorations.

IF YOU ENJOY HYMNS AND/OR MUSIC IS PART OF  
HOW YOU CONNECT WITH GOD, YOU DON'T  
WANT TO MISS THIS. COME ENJOY HYMN  
PERFORMANCES FROM NATIONALLY KNOWN  
COMPOSERS, JOSEPH MARTIN, HEATHER  
SORENSEN, JOEL RANEY, AND MANY OTHERS.



AUGUST 22 | 7P \$22  
REGISTER [STJOEMIN.COM/EVENTS](https://stjoemin.com/events)

MEET AT SWEETWATER  
5501 US HWY 30, FORT WAYNE

**Watch Past Key 3 Announcements**

# St. Joe @ Y

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For over eight years, St. Joe UMC and the Jackson R. Lehman YMCA have shared more than just a neighborhood—they've shared a vision. What began as the Y's leadership working out of borrowed offices inside the church has grown into a multi-layered partnership that models what can happen when faith and wellness, presence and programming, worship and community, come together.

We now share space, leadership, events, and purpose:

- St. Joe @ Y meets weekly in the JRL gym for worship.
- The Y uses Praise Park for youth sports and outdoor programming.
- Both organizations co-lead some of our city's most impactful outreach events—Easter, Summer Bash, Trunk or Treat, and Christmas.
- SJ staff supports Y-driven Christian Emphasis efforts like the National Day of Prayer and chaplain ministry.
- The YMCA leads camps inside the St. Joe building. St. Joe prays, serves, and cheers them on.

Together, we embody our shared commitment to serve "For

All" (the Y's mission), and "For the Fort" (St. Joe's heartbeat). And now, in alignment with the YMCA's strategic goal to help Fort Wayne become one of the Top 10 Healthiest Cities, we're launching a new collaboration: a playground designed by the community, for the community.

This isn't just about swings and slides. It's about:

- Creating movement-friendly, accessible outdoor spaces.
- Supporting family wellness, social connection, and joyful play.
- Demonstrating what it looks like when a church and a Y don't just share turf—they share vision.

Jack & Joe: Some Assembly Required is your invitation to join us in building what's next.

Because we believe a healthier city starts with listening to our neighbors—and giving our children something beautiful to climb toward.

Take the survey **HERE!**

## Keystone Seniors For the Fort

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# Lunch Bunch



3rd Sunday  
of the Month

This Sunday after the Classic Service, the Keystones will gather for Lunch Bunch at Coyote Creek, 4935 Hillegas Rd. If you've never joined them for lunch before, now's a great time! The Keystones recently celebrated two wonderful years together, enjoying fellowship, friendship, and plenty of shared activities. Come enjoy a good meal and great company.

Please register below so we can plan for the right number of guests—we hope to see you there!

[Lunch Bunch Sign Up](#)

[Get the Keystone Newsletter](#)

## For Families





Volunteer for:

# Study Connection

Reading and Math Tutoring with  
students at St. Joe Central  
Elementary

1 Hour Every Tuesday

See Teah or Kathy  
Senesac to sign up.





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**Contact Teah for More Information**

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

**Faith In Motion**

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The fall session will begin September 7/8 and end with recital on Saturday, December 6. We will also most likely dance at the Grand Wayne Center on Wednesday, November 26.

Our theme this session is "The Night Before Christmas!" While I love the thought of sugarplums dancing in our heads, I'm talking about Jesus's night before Christmas. This is a theme we did 10 years ago and will revisit as a wonderful reminder of the reason for the holiday season. We will explore the story of Jesus's birth from different perspectives... from Joseph to King Herod, we won't leave anyone out!

[\*\*Dance Registration\*\*](#)

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



[\*\*Read Most Recent Prayers\*\*](#)

## **BY THE NUMBERS**

For August 10  
Weekly Income Received: \$7,734

St. Joe Attendance  
In Person Attendance

- 9am: 51
- 11a: 161

Online Attendance

- 9a: 25
- 11a: 12

St. Joe at the Y Attendance  
In Person Attendance

- 10a: 45

Online Attendance

- 10am: 2

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

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