



Glenn Knepp

Lead Pastor

In the last few weeks we've explored what it means to 'Act Like Church' as we make our way through highlights of the book of Acts and explore some of the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. One thing that I find fascinating and important in the book of Acts is how undefined the boundary is between clergy and laity.

It has always seemed a bit incredible to me that I get paid to do what all Christians are supposed to do. It is all the more incredible when one considers that there are not a tremendous number of titles or trappings that separate laity and clergy in the book of Acts. In fact, the technical designation of clergy doesn't seem to exist yet. What does exist from the very beginning is the Call.

The truth of the matter is that while some people in the earliest church were clearly set apart by a specific call (Peter, Paul, Silas, Barnabas, Stephen, Priscilla, Aquila, and so on) there are many others who are called but in a different manner (Lydia, Cornelius, etc). The specific call to people set apart for service to God and the church can sometimes be hard to describe or define. It is a call to preach good news, to share sacraments, to serve, and to help order the life of the church. It is a call that I believe comes from God. Eugene Peterson, the author of the Message translation of

the bible, captured both the nature of the call and its dubious distinction from the normative Christian life well in many of his writings. I appreciate his definition of the call better than almost any other. In his work Under the Unpredictable Plant he wrote, "The pastoral vocation is not a glamorous career; it's a calling to live in the mess of humanity and find Christ there."

Clearly, this doesn't make a pastor any more special than anyone else. It locates us not in a place of glory, but in the midst of life's ordinary human mess. This seems to capture both my own experience, but also what we see described in the book of Acts, where distinctions between believers are dubious at best.

All that being said, I'm thankful for those who have answered that call and serve at St Joe UMC especially. Pastor Ron VerLee blesses us with his wit and woo. Pastor Luke Rumble graces us with his wholeheartedness and warmth. Pastor Ashley Moreland embraces us with her wisdom and welcome. It's a team that works well for others and fits well together (a member of the SPRC recently described the pastoral team as fitting together like the joints of well-crafted wooden furniture).

Now, I'm not the only one who is thankful for this team, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is as well too. For that reason they want you to be reminded of Pastor Appreciation Month. During October you are encouraged by them to send cards or notes of appreciation. You may also give to a love offering for the pastoral team during worship or online.

I can tell you that this kind of attention makes the pastoral team uncomfortable! At the same time, we appreciate this church. We appreciate and love you! Most of all, we appreciate the call of Christ to come find him in the midst of the human mess. He never fails to show up where he calls.

Church Wide Announcements



□□ One Sky One World □□

The annual One Sky One World event is a global celebration of unity, peace, and harmony through our shared love of kites!

Join the Hoosier Kitefliers Society at Praise Park (across from the JRL YMCA) on Sunday, October 12, for this joyful event. Whether you're flying a kite or just enjoying the view, it's always a great time.

□ Bonus: Kids can get a free kite! (While supplies last!)

Come out, bring your friends and family, and be part of this uplifting celebration as colorful kites fill the sky! □□



The Cooper House is coming to Allen County! Join us for a short presentation on their mission and plans. We'll gather for light refreshments and conversations on how we can support the children, families, and caseworkers involved in the child welfare system. Arrive by 2:15 PM to meet local expansion coordinator Jennifer Johnson.

You are also invited to bring or drop off at church an item off their Amazon wishlist -

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/9W1XZV445PI1?ref_=wl_share&fbclid=IwY2xjawNTbxZleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFkb3RPV283aklYb213S1IWAR4sEG0MWSDInYEF41jdDGBvPHRQpX_zUOzd36qca-EEi1I_TKkL4qJGFKAoRQ_aem_oG1DXFDc7khzq9DehpPz9A

You can learn more about the organization at <https://www.thecooperhouseindiana.com/>.

Watch Past Key 3 Announcements

St. Joe @ the Y



□ Being a YMCA Chaplain is Truly a Gift □

Being a chaplain at the Y is such a rewarding experience! What do the chaplains do at the YMCA? They're here to listen, pray, and support your spirit whenever you need it. Chaplains offer a judgment-free space where you can share prayer requests, celebrate life's joys, or simply take a moment to pray together.

Ruth Gerken has shared that being a chaplain at the Y has been deeply fulfilling—not only while she's there, but throughout her everyday life.

If you have a prayer request or celebration, stop by the YMCA chaplain

table or find a chaplain nearby. You can write it down, share it, or take a moment to pray together. ☐☐

Keystone Seniors For the Fort



[Lunch Bunch Sign Up](#)

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For Families





**TREATS
TRICKS
TOGETHERNESS**

TRUNK OR TREAT
Jackson R. Lehman Family YMCA

Saturday, October 25, 5:00-7:00pm
JRL Parking Lot
Free for the community!

Body text

Join us for our Annual Trunk or Treat event!

Wear your favorite costume and enjoy candy, food trucks, music and outdoor games.

Attendees will vote for their favorite trunk in our Best Decorated Trunk Contest! Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Scan the QR code to sign up. >>>>>

* Candy donations can be dropped off at the JRL YMCA.

* Follow our Facebook event for updates and more details! Scan the QR code >>>>>

For more information, contact Alesia Glaza at alesia_glaza@fwymca.org

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



A collaborative event with:



Trunk Sign Up

Contact Teah for More Information

Get the Families (Children's) Newsletter

Faith In Motion



"The Power of Prayer"

This week, I would love to share about our awesome group of dancers. At the end of each dance class, we close with a devotional lesson and bible verse tied to our session theme as well as a time of prayer. This portion of class is not something you will find at other studios. It sets us apart from the typical dance studio experience. I love it about us! This time has become endearingly referred to as "circle time." The dancers truly start to look forward to ending class this way. Historically, the lesson is read by the instructor of each class, and the prayer is led by the each instructor as well. Lately, I've noticed dancers wanting to lead parts of circle time. In some classes, dancers volunteer to lead the entire circle time! It warms my heart to see dancers grow in confidence as well as in their faith. I love that they are becoming so excited to share their faith!

Get the FIM Newsletter

United Women in Faith



United Women in Faith

Get Involved with United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith have something for everyone! Whether you enjoy knitting or crocheting, book clubs, prayer groups, or Bible studies, there's a place for you to connect and grow. Throughout the year, they also host luncheons, organize the rummage sale, and serve food at various church events.

If you'd like to get involved or stay up to date on upcoming opportunities, be sure to sign up for their newsletter so you don't miss a thing!

[Get the UWF Newsletter](#)



[Read Most Recent Prayers](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

For October 5
Weekly Income Received: \$9,989

St. Joe Attendance
In Person Attendance

- 9am:58
- 11a: 164

Online Attendance

- 9a: 19
- 11a: 18

St. Joe at the Y Attendance
In Person Attendance

- 10a: 43

Online Attendance

- 10am: 3

St. Joe UMC | 6004 Reed Rd | Fort Wayne, IN 46835 US

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