

A Message From...



Glenn Knepp

Lead Pastor

I have been a part of the church my whole life. I don't think I've ever had more than a couple consecutive Sundays without being in worship or participating in Christian community. In addition, I have spent my entire adulthood in church leadership, being foolishly but wonderfully assigned to a small, dotting, rural church when I was only 23 years old. I can't say there are many areas in life in which I have much wisdom, but when it comes to being church I have learned a bit along the way. The most important things I've learned? The basic phrases that make church work:

I don't know.

Last Sunday there were a couple questions, just before the vote to approve a merger with Bethany UMC to which I more or less had to give this answer. Someone asked, "Isn't this another financial commitment? What if there is a major crisis there, wouldn't St Joe UMC as a whole be on the hook for that cost?" In one way I wished I had pointed out how small Bethany and its liabilities are in comparison to St Joe. For instance, the total amount of Bethany's cash on hand and the total value of their property would only add up to about 60% of St Joe UMC's current capital campaign. That, however, didn't feel in the moment as honest or

authentic as admitting, "We think we've planned for that but we can't predict everything. I don't know." In my experience, people may not always appreciate the answer but people always appreciate honesty and humility. In the life of the church sometimes we just need to stop and admit we don't know the answer with certainty- though we know the ONE who does. As we step forward into the future now approved with Bethany, we can trust in both truths: We don't know. We trust the one who does.

I'm sorry.

As a child I witnessed a conflict in the life of the church. In the wake of harsh words a woman approached my dad and apologized. She cried. When we made it to his vehicle in the parking lot he cried (I may have seen him cry 3 times in these last 40 years). I asked, "Dad are you okay?" To which he replied, "Yes, she just said she was sorry. It takes a really big person to say they are sorry. It meant a lot." I will admit I have seen occasions when sorry didn't cut it! Nonetheless, they are words we can't live without as Christians.

I am praying.

This is not the same as saying, "I will pray for you" as multiple parties hasten away from each other at the close of a Sunday morning worship service. This is what is said in a phone call, a text message, a card, etc during the week for fellow members of God's household who struggle. Someone telling me they are praying for me on Sunday morning can be pleasant and sincere. I have voicemail messages I have kept for years of people telling me they ARE PRAYING. It's just as good in many cases as telling someone you love them. Without this, the church dies. It can be most powerful, incidentally, when the church deploys this tool for the sake of the world. I promise you, the church is and will only be the church, when we pray like this. We'll get to try this out in the next month as we focus our prayers on the immigrant community in our midst.

Are you saying ... ?

John Wesley advised these words as essential. If engaged in a discussion or debate can you state the other party's position back to them in terms they would approve of? Typically I have found that stopping to do this lowers the temperature of the conversation and helps the other person feel heard. It sometimes also keeps me from saying things that are unformed by a complete awareness of the facts. Its always good to stop and say, "If I understand you, this is what you are saying" Worst case scenario? The other person clarifies their point of view and feels like you are trying.

Jesus Christ is Lord

I'm not in charge here. Neither are you. I remember overhearing a couple parishioners once remark, "He (me, their pastor) needs to understand this isn't his church, this is our church." When I entered their presence and pointed out it was Jesus's church all parties were chagrined. These are not glib words, I promise you.

These words mean I don't have to get my way. These words mean I don't need everyone to agree with me. These words mean I am a part of this church less to be fed, more to feed. I am a part of the church less to be served, and more to serve. These words also ultimately make a claim about the ultimate loyalty of the church that can equip the church to weather the most dangerous storms. The church has no particular loyalty to any country, personality, culture, official, celebrity, or even particular theology. The church belongs to Jesus. He is the center. He is our focus. He alone is how we set our compass. Does the church get off track on occasion? Certainly! But with this simple phrase on our lips we maintain the capacity to find our way home again.

In the current sermon series we continue to explore the book of Acts, the life and teaching of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and what it means to 'Act Like Church.' Yet, even as we point ourselves in these directions, let us not forget what it is to SPEAK LIKE CHURCH as well. There is nowhere else I would rather be, nowhere else to which I can go. It's an exciting time to be a part of St Joe UMC! I can hardly wait to see what God will lead us to next.

Church Wide Announcements



World Communion Sunday

The first Sunday of October has traditionally been celebrated as World Communion Sunday with special offerings collected for missions around the world. This year, we celebrate how the world has come to the doorstep of St Joe UMC and our Fort Wayne community. Accordingly, a special offering will be taken to support local immigrants with whom we are in relationship. Also, a small portion of proceeds may be used to cover expenses for a community prayer gathering in the month of November around immigration, including those who are facing deportation, those who will enforce deportation, and our government officials. Pray for our world and for all who are seeking a home, safety, and belonging. As we gather this World Communion Sunday, ask God how you might give and live as a witness to Christ's love.

[Watch Past Key 3 Announcements](#)

St. Joe @ the Y



☕ Big News from "For the Love of Coffee (and People!)"
Over the past few months, we've heard the same question from Y members over and over again:
"Do you serve this coffee on Sundays too?"

Well—starting Sunday, October 26, the answer is YES!
From 9:30 to 9:55 AM, the cart will roll out into the lobby before worship, creating space for connection, hospitality, and that first (very important) cup of coffee.

But here's the thing—we can't do it alone. We need a team of friendly faces to help serve, greet, and build relationships during this new Sunday window. All training provided, so all you need is a willingness to learn and connect with people. There are also multiple openings to volunteer throughout the week through the end of the year.

Register here:

<https://stjoemin.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3045044>

Coffee Sign Up

Keystone

Seniors For the Fort



Get the Keystone Newsletter

For Families

TREATS TRICKS TOGETHERNESS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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 >>>>>



A collaborative event with:



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

[Trunk Sign Up](#)

[Contact Teah for More Information](#)

[Get the Families \(Children's\) Newsletter](#)

Faith In Motion



"Team Work Makes the Dream Work!"

This week, I would love to share about Level 3 group practice! For some reason, I struggled to motivate myself to choreograph this routine. It is very unlike me to wait until the last minute to work on something like this, but Monday morning found me in a horrible state of "choreographer's block." However, this block did not last long! On my way to work, I played the Level 3 song over and over again until an idea hit me. And an idea definitely hit me!! As soon as I had a vision, I knew exactly how to get there. I began reaching out to other instructors to help choreograph different parts and making a list of dancers to feature. As I drove from school to school on Monday, I continued to replay the Level 3 song multiple times. By late Monday afternoon, I had my plan and most of the choreography ready to teach.

As I presented the idea to my 11 Level 3 dancers, I could see the excitement build! They loved my ideas and wanted to get started right away. The first section of the dance features almost all of the dancers in small groups up and down the main aisle of the sanctuary. In their small groups, they worked together to come up with a set of four poses. As soon as I left this responsibility in their hands, I heard their excited chattering. The girls talked through potential poses, laughing and hearing each other's ideas. I told the girls they had 2 minutes, and I gave them 10. I loved the interactions that were taking place... I just couldn't cut them off! They were SO excited to show me their poses. Despite our chatter,

we made it nearly one full minute into the song. I can't wait to revisit this dance and continue to work on it!!

[Get the FIM Newsletter](#)



[Read Most Recent Prayers](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

For September 28
Weekly Income Received: \$30,336

St. Joe Attendance In Person Attendance

- 9am:42
- 11a: 183

Online Attendance

- 9a: 24
- 11a: 14

St. Joe at the Y Attendance In Person Attendance

- 10a: 41

Online Attendance

- 10am: 2

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!