



HARVEST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
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HARVEST TIMES

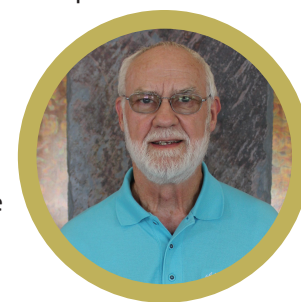
Harvest United Methodist Church | Volume 19, Issue 7 | July 2016

Greetings to the amazing people of Harvest Lakewood Ranch and Harvest Bayshore, It is with joy that I share what a privilege it has been for me to walk along side of you during these past three months as we traveled through the interim time between our pastors. It has been a great experience for me to work with Ken as co-interim spiritual leader because of his grace, experience and giftedness for ministry. The church staff and lay leadership teams of the church have continued to move the ministry forward in a positive way using their extravagant gifts and dedication to the core values of Harvest – and doing so in a way that illustrates the love of God in Jesus Christ. What a great group of people to work with in making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Last, but certainly not least, are the people of Harvest who are so positive, encouraging and loving toward each other. Ken and I have been the recipients of your Christ-like love and encouragement which makes this experience so joy-filled. We could not have asked for a more wonderful congregation to serve over these past few months.

This is an exciting time in ministry at Harvest as we begin a new chapter

under the pastoral leadership of the Revs. Michael and Katie Pestel. I look forward to seeing the ways God will touch the lives of many in this community and around our world through you all. We are all very fortunate to be part of the Harvest community. Thank you for the privilege of being one of your interim spiritual leaders.



Rev. Bob Stark



Bob and I started planning for our interim ministry in December and began attending meetings with staff and ministry teams in January. The last seven months of meeting and co-laboring with so many wonderful and amazing servants of Christ and the church leaves me deeply grateful for the gifted people through whom God blesses our congregation. Our staff and team leaders have been most supportive and have made my work so much easier. I will always be grateful for this opportunity to meet and work closely with so many of the people who help us all engage in productive ministry. I am also grateful to everyone who attended worship and listened to the messages God laid on the hearts of those of us who preached during the interim. I will treasure the experience of standing and delivering my eight messages for the rest of my life. Thanks be to God for bringing my wife and I to be part of the Harvest family.

Rev. Ken Morrison

WORSHIP AT HARVEST

LAKWOOD RANCH CAMPUS

14305 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch

Sunday 9 AM
Traditional Worship

Sunday 10:30 AM
Contemporary Worship

Sunday 5 PM
Harvest Youth HY5

BAYSHORE CAMPUS

Worshipping at Lee Middle School
4000 53rd Avenue West, Bradenton

Sunday 10:30 AM

WANT MORE?

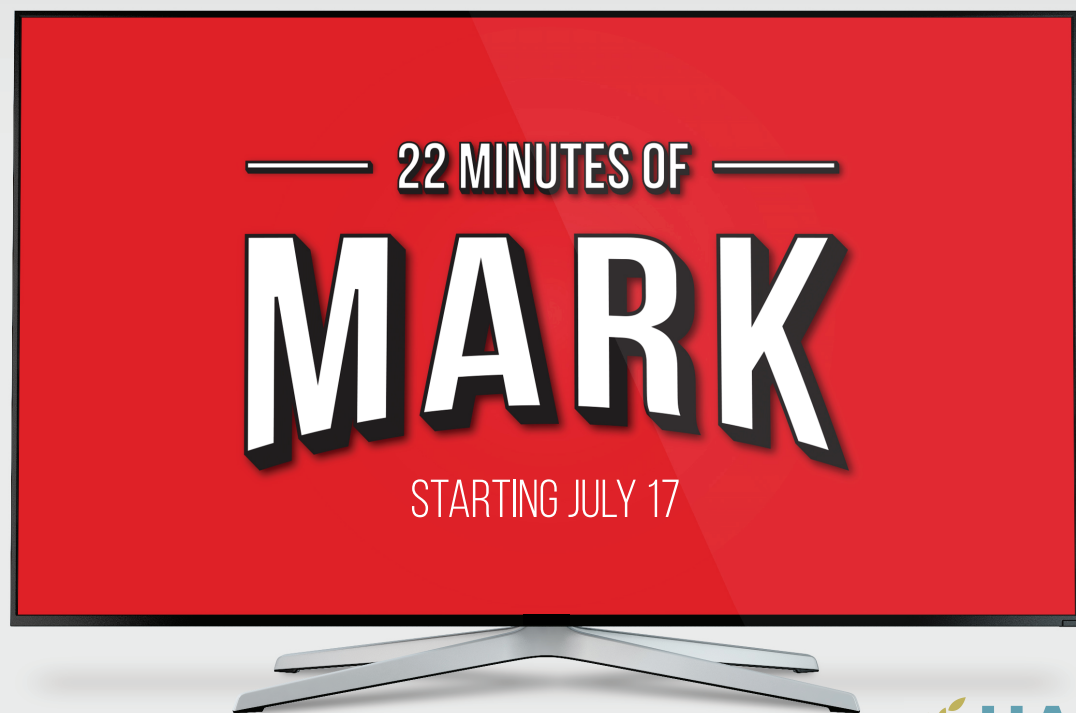
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HARVEST TEAM

Rev. Michael Pestel
Lead Pastor

Rev. Katie Pestel
Pastor

Rev. Jennifer Potter Buff
Bayshore Campus Pastor

Brad Baten
Youth Minister

Reed Conley
Director of Worship Arts

Terry Cox
Executive Assistant to the Pastors

Carin Doddroe
Operations Administrative Assistant

Dan Funk
Comptroller

Stacey Gadeken
Discipleship Assistant

Alan Hensley
Facilities Manager

Mike Kennedy
Director of Discipleship
Interim Director of Operations

Dave Lewis
Choral Music Director

Jesus Maldonado
Custodian

Robert (Bob) Migliore
Custodian

Sarah Mitchell
Communications Manager

Sid Price
Summer Youth Ministry Intern

Cindee Shevlin
Sprouts CDC Director

Catherine Sykes
Youth and Children's Ministry
Administrative Assistant

Dan Whissell
Associate Worship Leader

Brenda Wilson
Nursery Ministry Coordinator

Nadia Wood
Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Staff can be reached via email at
firstinitiallastname@welcometoharvest.org
(ex. jdoe@welcometoharvest.org)



NEW MESSAGE SERIES

The book of Mark offers an excellent gospel retelling for 21st century readers. The stories get right to the point and the action never stays in the same place for more than a few paragraphs. Your new pastors are television aficionados, and for them, Mark can feel like binge watching a season of their favorite show. We'll spend July and August exploring some of their favorite episodes of the life of Jesus found in Mark. A good twenty-two-minute episode that weaves together some plot, humor, and illumination is something we can all get down with. You won't want to miss an installment of this sermon series.

7.17 *The One Where Jesus Said, "Follow Me"*
Mark 1:14-20; 29-30

7.24 *The One with the Legion*
Mark 5:1-20

7.31 Youth Sunday

8.7 *The One with the Healings*
Mark 5:21-43

8.14 *The One with the Lake Walker*
Mark 6:45-52

8.21 *The One with the Crumbs*
Mark 7:24-29

8.28 *The One with the Money*
Mark 10:17-27; 12:41-44

9.4 *The One with the Fig Tree*
Mark 11:12-24

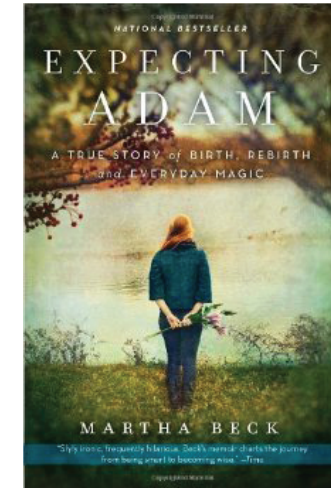


HARVEST RETURNS TO ANGOLA

For years, Harvest has partnered with our brothers and sisters in Angola to help the African country re-build after a 27-year civil war and to share Christ's love with its people. Harvest has sent four mission teams to Angola in the past eight years, and a Harvest team will return there, October 20 - November 2. Is God calling you to be part of this ministry, maybe even as a trip participant?

More Info:
Mike Baker | 941.800.8890
mikebaker289@gmail.com
welcometoharvest.org/angola

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



The book selection for July is *Expecting Adam* by Martha Beck. The discussion for this book will be Monday, July 18, 7 PM, at the home of Nancy Reed, 11210 River's Bluff Circle, Lakewood Ranch, or 11 AM at Harvest Lakewood Ranch campus.

More Info:
Nancy Castro | 941.752.7434
nar11210@aol.com

LIFT IN PRAYER

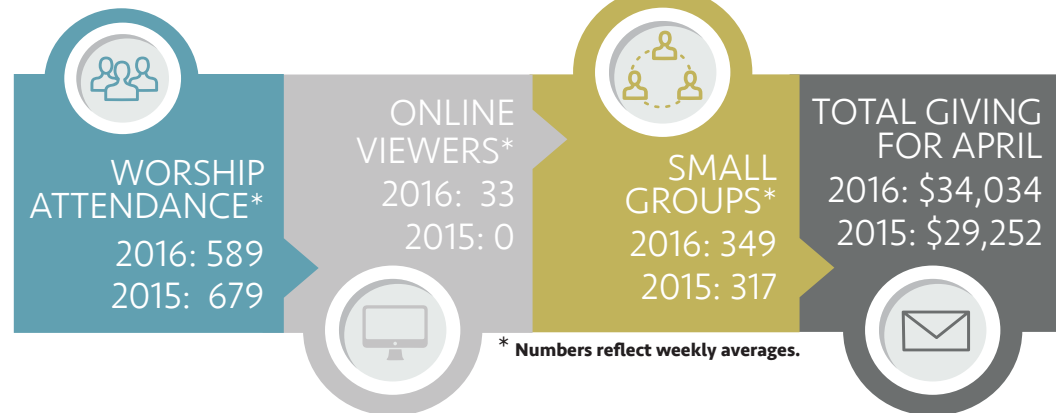
We invite you to lift in prayer the following Harvest families:

Falkner Farm - A 47 year old Falkner Farm worker passed away in June.

Jennifer Byrd - Jennifer's sister, Lynda, passed away in June.

GOD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

MAY VITAL SIGNS



TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN



Scholarship recipient Carlos Davian Jurado with his mother Irma Gonzalez.

SCHOLARSHIPS, MENTORS AND HOPE

A college scholarship for a deserving low-income student offers hope for a better life and a pathway out of generational poverty. For the third straight year, Harvest designated a significant portion of its Christmas Eve offering to Take Stock in Children of Manatee County, a non-profit that provides students with college scholarships and volunteer mentors through middle and high school. Harvest's \$20,000 gift to Take Stock was matched in full, providing two scholarships – one for a Samoset Elementary student and one for a Lee Middle student! Carlos Davian Jurado earned the Samoset scholarship and Jemmo Joseph earned the Lee scholarship. Two Harvest members will serve as their Take Stock mentors starting in September. Go online for more information about Harvest's ministry with Take Stock, Samoset and Lee.

[More Info: welcometoharvest.org/take-stock](http://welcometoharvest.org/take-stock)



Scholarship recipient Jemmo Joseph and Lee Middle School's principal, Scott Cooper.

FALKNER FARM

HARVEST TO SERVE FALKNER FARM KIDS AT MCNEAL

Harvest's long-standing relationship with the families and children of Falkner Farm will take a new step in the 2016-17 school year. In response to Harvest and Falkner Farms' desire to create year-round relationships with Falkner kids rather than just be present one day a year at the annual Christmas Party at the Farms, the people of Harvest are invited to read with Falkner kids who go to school at McNeal Elementary School. Will you commit to spend one hour – two times per week – at McNeal Elementary during the school year?

More Info/Sign Up:

Gary Hansell | 908.487.0173

gary_hansell@comcast.net

welcometoharvest.org/falknerfarm

WELCOME MICHAEL AND KATIE



REV. MICHAEL PESTEL

Michael's early career includes service at the Warren W. Willis United Methodist Youth Camp and Satellite Beach UMC as Youth Minister. Celebrating 10 years of ordained ministry this summer, Michael has served the following appointments: Sanlando UMC, Longwood (Senior Pastor, 2013-2016), Skycrest UMC, Clearwater (Senior Pastor, 2009-2013), and St. Paul UMC, Largo (Associate Pastor, 2006-2009). His ministry has been characterized by dynamic and inspirational preaching, resolving church conflict through peace-making, inspiring significant growth in the commitment of the people, in both calendar and checkbook, and providing effective and intentional pastoral care.

Recognized by the Florida Conference for his potential, Bishop Timothy Whitaker invited Michael to participate in a year-long training program created to nurture leadership in younger pastors. Bishop Ken Carter nominated him to be one of 45 pastors selected from across the country to attend the Young Pastors Network with Revs. Adam Hamilton and Michael Slaughter. He is currently enrolled in the Reynolds Program in Church Leadership and has completed both the Institute of Preaching and Courage to Lead. Michael serves the conference as a member of the East Central District Committee on Ministry. He serves the community and local schools as a member of the Seminole County School Board Faith-Based Leadership Council.

Marrying Katie in 2003 and welcoming a daughter, Jordan, to their family in 2013, Michael is excited to have the opportunity to fulfill his dream of serving in partnership with Katie in ministry with the Lakewood Ranch and Bayshore communities.

REV. KATIE PESTEL

Katie is a Local Pastor/Ordained Deacon. Ordained as a deacon in 2008, Katie's professional career has been characterized by creating new ministries to pass the faith from generation to generation, planning creative worship, effectively leading teams, developing systems and strategies for local church ministry, and connecting and equipping persons for meaningful service in the world. As an Associate Minister at St. Paul UMC in Largo (2007-2009), she created an intergenerational ministry for families with children, partnered with Michael in the creation of a fast growing college-aged/young adult ministry, and developed a church-wide system for connecting persons into ministry. In 2009, Katie had the exciting opportunity to become the Minister to Families at Anona UMC in Largo. Her time there included leading a large staff team and overseeing a \$500,000 renovation of the fellowship hall into a state of the art theater to house Anona FX, a weekly scripted experience for families with elementary children led by multiple volunteer teams. Anona FX quickly reached capacity and remains a contributing factor to Anona being one of the nation's largest and fastest growing churches in Methodism.



God gave Katie and Michael the gift of a daughter, Jordan, in 2013 and Katie entered into a season of family leave, providing her with opportunities to guest speak and preach across the Florida Annual Conference, including leading breakouts at the Real Ideas Conference in 2015, the Inspired for Life Women's Conference held in 2015 at First Church Melbourne, and annually at the Created by God retreat for 5th graders and their parents. Serving as a Family Ministry Consultant, Katie has had the privilege of lending her 18 years in the field to assist churches in renovating their ministries with families and as a founding voice of the Florida Conference Children's Ministry Table. Nominated by her young clergy peers, Katie, had the opportunity to attend the Young Clergy Leadership Forum sponsored by the General Board of Church and Society. Most recently, she has been serving Sanlando UMC as the Coordinator of Digital and Social Media, developing ways for Sanlando to have a meaningful presence in the digital world.

In this next season of life in ministry, Katie is excited to have the opportunity to live out the newest evolution of God's call on her life in ministry at Harvest, Lakewood Ranch and Bayshore.

[More Detailed Bios: welcometoharvest.org/new-clergy](http://welcometoharvest.org/new-clergy)

HARVEST KIDS

LAKWOOD RANCH CAMPUS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School Cave Quest was a hit! 266 kids and over 100 volunteer servants went underground and followed the light of God. Each day, kids participated in small groups and learned about Jesus and his word through songs, games, activities, and much more. The kids also expressed their individuality by participating in our theme days such as wacky hair day. The kids and their families donated food to Pack-A-Sack ministry and raised \$3,156.76 to help kids in Syria through United Methodist Committee on Relief. So much fun and all to praise God!



SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

This summer, we are having several themed Sunday school classes. Here are the themes and the dates for the summer:

July 3 - Wear Red, White and Blue.

July 10 - Fifth Graders (rising sixth graders) only will be starting their Stepping Up Sunday School.

July 17 - Hat Day.

July 31 - Family Worship. No Sunday School.

August 7 - Harvest Kids will be moving up to their new Sunday school rooms on this morning.

HARVEST KIDS SPOTLIGHT



My name is Madelyn Gabriel and I just turned 7. I will be a 2nd grader at Gene Witt Elementary in the fall. I have a big brother Thomas who is 12 and my mom and dad (Marcy and Mike) and a 20 year old cat named Splash. I just got glasses a few weeks ago. I like them. I like to swim and do all kinds of crafts. My

mom says I'm a good reader too. I like to be in shows, like Little Mermaid, Snow White and 101 Dalmatians. This summer I'm in Beauty and the Beast. I'm also going to horse riding camp this summer.

One of the best things about Harvest is Miss Amy. I like Sunday School with Miss Nora and Miss Kathy and Children's Time in front of the church. Jesus helps me learn new things and teaches me to be kinder to everyone. I learned that Jesus loves me and Miss Nora, my Sunday school teacher, taught me the Lord's Prayer when I was only 3 and I still know it.

Two things I remember at Harvest was the big party we had for Pastor Steve and Pastor Catherine on their last day. Also that 2nd graders get Bibles and I'm so excited to get mine. I wanted to get one last year, but I wasn't old enough, but I know I will receive my Bible on September 11 this year.

More Info:
welcometoharvest.org/harvestkids
Nadia Wood | 941.907.7333
harvestkids@welcometoharvest.org

HARVEST YOUTH

7.13 BUSCH GARDENS

A whole day of fun rides and cool animals at Busch Gardens on Wednesday, July 13! We'll meet at Harvest at 9 AM and return at 9 PM. Tickets are \$60 if at least 15 students purchase tickets, so invite your friends! Register at welcometoharvest.org/buschgardens.

7.31 YOUTH SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, July 31, at either the 9 AM or 10:30 AM worship service, as we celebrate Youth Sunday. Youth will participate in leading worship in a variety of roles. We will get to celebrate our summer and look forward to the ways that God will move in our lives this year. We will also recognize rising 6th graders as they join youth ministry at Harvest. Hope to see you there.

STEPPING UP CLASSES

Current fifth graders stepping up is the process by which rising sixth grade students transition from the children's ministry to the youth ministry at Harvest. Students will attend a special three week Stepping Up Sunday School class beginning July 10.

July 10 | 9 - 10 AM - Stepping Up Sunday School

July 17 | 9 - 10 AM - Stepping Up Sunday School

July 24 | 9 - 10 AM - Stepping Up Sunday School

July 30 | 5 - 7 PM - Stepping Up Dinner

July 31 | 5 - 7:30 PM: HY5 Youth Sunday

More Info:
welcometoharvest.org/youth
Brad Baten | 941.907.7333
bbaten@welcometoharvest.org



HARVEST YOUTH SUMMER 2016

Each week this summer is filled with Harvest Youth worship, service, and fun. Join on Sundays for HY5, Mondays for Mission and Moe's, Tuesdays for Coffee with Christ, and Fridays for Friday Frenzy. Check out hyfive.org for all of the dates, times, and locations. It's going to be a great summer!

WELCOME SID PRICE!

We are excited to welcome Sid Price as our summer youth ministry intern. Sid recently finished his freshman year at Mercer University, and will be working closely with Youth Minister, Brad Baten, to help organize events and curriculum as well as engage in relational ministry with students. We know that Sid's pre-existing relationships with many of Harvest's youth, his mature faith, and his strong leadership skills will lead to effective ministry as he explores God's call on his own life. It is going to be a great summer!

