

# HARVEST TIMES

Harvest United Methodist Church | Volume 19, Issue 9 | September, 2016

*"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:28-30*

SEED Groups and Bible studies have started and you can still join! Some people wonder how they can fit yet another obligation into their schedules. Others are overwhelmed by the enormity of the Bible and can hardly imagine starting to explore it in earnest. There are still others who might view joining a discipleship group like attaching a spiritual ball and chain to their fun and freedom.

If you resonate with any of the above, or had no problem coming up with your own rationalization for skirting around being in a SEED Group, I have a message for you: I feel you.

Plenty of us know what it is to answer Jesus' call to small-group discipleship in our best Meatloaf: "I would do anything for love...but I won't do that." And still, I can tell you from my experience that being part of formational small groups hasn't weighed me down, it has lifted me up. Talk to someone who has decided to intentionally put on the yoke of Jesus and learn about him with brothers and sisters. See if they don't also tell you that it is the opposite of a burden, it is freeing!

I'm not big on guilt, but I believe in the conviction of the Holy Spirit. I don't find coercion to be very convincing, but an invitation to a journey is something that intrigues me. Maybe you've never been part of a small group, but you're feeling a nudge today. I want you to know that there is a place for you, if you're willing to take the plunge. No one will push you in. But if you listen closely enough you can hear your SEED Group friends calling, "Come on in, take a load off!"

You won't regret it.

May the Lord bless and keep,

Pastor Michael

For Group Info: <http://welcometoharvest.org/seed/>

**SEED** **Groups**  
Supporting Each other Every Day



## WORSHIP AT HARVEST

### LAKEWOOD 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?

 [facebook.com/harvestumc](https://facebook.com/harvestumc)

 [harvestumc](https://www.instagram.com/harvestumc)

 [harvestumc](https://twitter.com/harvestumc)

 [welcometoharvest.org](http://welcometoharvest.org)

 [info@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:info@welcometoharvest.org)

# 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

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)

## SERVE CHILDREN IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Our community's kids returned to school last month. Harvest offers love and hope to children in our community by serving them at their schools.

Samoset Elementary School in Samoset

Pack-A-Sack for hungry kids, weekly reading, teacher support, book fair.  
Karen Arnold | 941.360.8376 | mkmkarnold@gmail.com

Lee Middle School in Bayshore

Pack-A-Sack and teacher support.  
Chris Kohatsu | 202.270.7186 | chriskohatsu@gmail.com

McNeal Elementary School in Lakewood Ranch

Read weekly with migrant students from Falkner Farm families.  
Gary Hansell | 908.487.0173 | gary\_hansell@comcast.net

Take Stock in Children mentors at various area schools.

Mentor a student who hopes for a better future through a college scholarship.

Stacey Gadeken | 941.907.7333 | sgadeken@welcometoharvest.org

Learn more at [welcometoharvest.org/schools](http://welcometoharvest.org/schools).

## SAMARITAN FUNDRAISER DINNER

### Save the Date!

Advent Dinner returns to Harvest - Mark your calendar to join us on Thursday, December 1st at our Lakewood Ranch campus for a fundraiser to support Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast. In addition to dinner and a musical program, we will learn how Samaritan provides counseling services for individuals and families in the midst of their own personal crises. Check the October Harvest Times for more details.

## NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD DRIVE RETURNS

### Feeding Hungry Neighbors

Harvest's annual Neighborhood Food Drive will return in October. Stay tuned for details on how we'll invite folks in our lives to provide food for hungry neighbors and then offer the food to God in worship on October 16th.

# HARVESTERS

## Harvesters Go On Tour at The Van Wezel in September

Have you ever wanted to know just how all that stage scenery gets to where it belongs at just the right time? Well on Wednesday, September 28th, the Harvesters (50+) will have the opportunity to find out as you participate in a Backstage and Art Tour at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota. The approximately one-hour tour will include the art collection of the Fine Arts Society which is on permanent exhibit at the Van Wezel. Tour guides will walk the Harvesters through the gallery of paintings and sculptures of Florida's most renowned artists.

The guided tour also offers the opportunity to go behind the scenes of the Van Wezel for a look at the workings backstage. View the myriad of ropes, pulleys and flies for creating scenery and special effects, the movable orchestra pit, dressing rooms, hydraulic lifts, rehearsal rooms and the Green Room where performers relax between shows.

Comfortable low-heeled shoes and sweaters are suggested for the tour.

The tour will begin at 10 AM at The Van Wezel. Cost for the tour is \$5.00/person. The cost of the tour is non-refundable. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 21st.

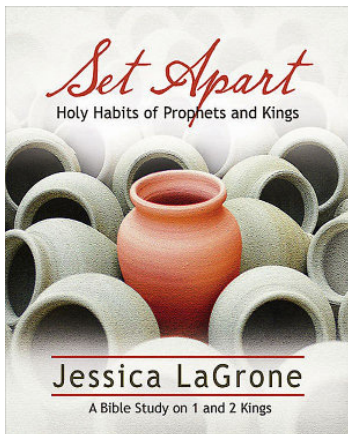
Following the tour, the Harvesters have 11:45 AM lunch reservations at Der Dutchman restaurant on Bahia Vista in Sarasota. The Harvesters have a reserved room and you will be enjoying the daily luncheon buffet. Cost of the buffet lunch will be \$16.75 per person which includes beverage, tax, gratuity and even a piece of pie.

### More Info:

Bob and Mary Stark | 231.564.0677  
[harvesters@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:harvesters@welcometoharvest.org)

Register: [welcometoharvest.org/harvesters](http://welcometoharvest.org/harvesters)

## TUESDAYLIVE! FALL SEMESTER



TuesdayLIVE! women meet every Tuesday morning, from 9 - 11:30, during the school year to study a deeper meaning of the Bible and to learn from each other, to support and care for each other and ultimately to grow closer to God. TuesdayLIVE! is open to all women, so your friends and family members are welcome to share this experience with you!

This Fall's study, *Set Apart: Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings*, involves 12 weeks of study with lessons led by a DVD series with the author Jessica LaGrone. DVD lessons occur every other week with weekly lessons focusing on Scripture and lessons in our workbook. After completing the lessons at home, our small group discussions help us learn more deeply about God's message.

Preregistration is open now. You may sign up at Hospitality Hub 1 at the Lakewood Ranch campus. At that time you may pick up a registration sheet and return it along with payment at anytime. Childcare is also available with advance sign-up and payment.

Our first TuesdayLIVE! meeting will be on September 13. If you have not registered, please arrive at 8:30 AM. If you are preregistered, please arrive at 8:45 AM to pick up your materials. A prayer will begin at 9 AM and then we'll have brunch. Sessions continue through December 13.

We hope that you can find time to join us for this incredible experience. If you have questions about TuesdayLIVE! please contact Melissa Gurchiek.

### More Info:

Melissa Gurchiek | 812.890.1069  
[gurchiekm04@gmail.com](mailto:gurchiekm04@gmail.com)  
[welcometoharvest.org/tuesdaylive](http://welcometoharvest.org/tuesdaylive)

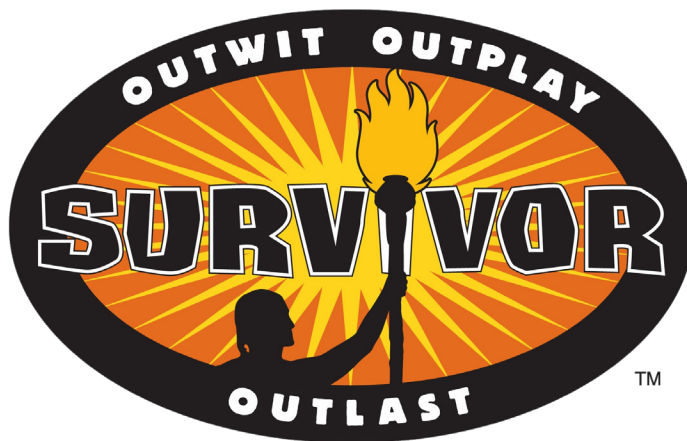
# HARVEST KIDS

LAKEWOOD RANCH CAMPUS

## HARVEST KIDS LOCK IN 9.30

All kids grades 1st-5th see if you can survive...the lock-in!!

Here is your first challenge! The tribes will meet at 6 PM on Friday, September 30 until 8 AM on October 1. Activities will include supper, survival skill training, obstacle courses and a fun family movie. We will have fun learning about teamwork and have an opportunity for a mission project. Survivors should come prepared by bringing a sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, pajamas, a change of clothes and any medication (with written instructions and parent signature). Please label all supplies! The cost is \$12 per child or \$30 per family for families with three or more children. We can't wait to see you!



**More Info:** Nadia Wood | 941.907.7333

[harvestkids@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:harvestkids@welcometoharvest.org)

[welcometoharvest.org/harvestkids](http://welcometoharvest.org/harvestkids)



## HARVEST KIDS SPOTLIGHT

My name is Caleigh Patterson and I am in 5th grade at Wakeland Elementary School. I just turned 10. I am on the news crew as a tri-caster. I have a big brother Jonah who is almost 12 and a dog named Tiger who I absolutely adore. My mom and dad are Caryn and Steve. My favorite sport is soccer. I have been playing competitive soccer for 4 years at the Braden River Rage and I made the

A team this year. I am crazy about dogs and wolves and I study them all the time. I also love to hang out with my family and go on vacations where it is cold. It is too hot in Florida!

Some of the best things about Harvest are learning about God and Jesus and going on the mission trip to Miami. We have gone on the mission trip twice and love to help the homeless people.

## SECOND GRADE BIBLES 9.11

If you have a 2nd grader, please let us know! 2nd graders will receive their very own Bibles from our pastors during September 11 worship services. Submit your child's name and which campus service you will attend to Nadia Wood at [nwood@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:nwood@welcometoharvest.org).

**More Info:** Nadia Wood | 941.907.7333

[harvestkids@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:harvestkids@welcometoharvest.org)

[welcometoharvest.org/harvestkids](http://welcometoharvest.org/harvestkids)

# HARVEST YOUTH

## CONFIRMATION 2016

We are excited to offer Confirmation classes this fall! Students will spend time with families, church leaders, and each other as they explore the fundamentals of our shared faith. Ultimately students will be offered the opportunity to claim church membership through a profession of faith as a part of our worship services on November 6. Confirmation at Harvest is open to any student 7th grade or older.

- Registration Deadline is September 16.
- Mandatory brief parents' meeting September 18 from 10 – 10:15 AM.
- 2016 Confirmation Retreat: September 30-October 1 at Warren W. Willis Camp in Leesburg, FL. The cost for the retreat is \$90 per youth, which includes transportation, meals, lodging and all materials for the retreat.

- Confirmation classes: Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 AM at the Harvest Lakewood Ranch campus on September 25 and October 9, 16, 23 & 30.
- Community Service: The confirmation class will participate in a community service project together on November 5.
- Confirmation Sunday: November 6 at the 9 or 10:30 AM worship service.

### More Info:

[welcometoharvest.org/youth](http://welcometoharvest.org/youth)

Brad Baten | 941.907.7333

[bbaten@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:baten@welcometoharvest.org)

# FAMILY FESTIVAL

## SEPTEMBER 11

Join us on September 11th from 12 to 2PM at Harvest Lakewood Ranch for a Family Festival. Come see what is coming up for families at Harvest! We will provide lunch and fun activities for the whole family. Kona Ice and Hahn's Kettlecorn will be available for purchase to satisfy your sweet tooth.



 **HARVEST**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14305 Covenant Way | Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202  
941.907.7333 | [welcometoharvest.org](http://welcometoharvest.org)

## BLESSING of the BACKPACKS

On August 7th, children brought their backpacks to worship. Our pastors prayed over our children as they prepared to begin the new school year. The children also received a flashlight keychain and special prayer to remind them that their Harvest family is praying for them. Families also brought in boxes of pencils for Samoset elementary students.



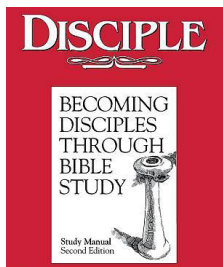
# FALL SEED GROUPS

SEED Groups are small groups that meet regularly and Support Each other Every Day, with a strong emphasis on spiritual formation. No matter where you are your faith journey - from exploring questions about your faith to wanting to deepen your relationship with Christ - Harvest has a group for you.

More Info: Stacey Gadeken | 941.907.7333 |  
sgadeken@welcometoharvest.org | [welcometoharvest.org/seed](http://welcometoharvest.org/seed)

**SEEDGroups**  
Supporting Each other Every Day

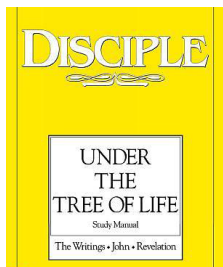
## Disciple I



*Disciple I: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study* is the initial study that gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

Leader: Mark Burling | Wednesdays | 6:30-9 PM | September 7 - May 31 (35 weeks)

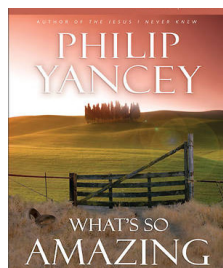
## Disciple IV



*Disciple IV Under the Tree of Life* is the final study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. The study concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads naturally to an emphasis on worship in the study. Present through the entire study is the sense of living toward completion - toward the climax of the message and the promise, extravagantly pictured in Revelation. The image of the tree and the color gold emphasize the prod and promise in the Scriptures. The word "under" in the title is meant to convey invitation, welcome, sheltering, security, and rest - home at last.

Leaders: Diane McCoy and Kurt Harriman | Wednesdays | 6:30-9 PM | September 7 - May 17 (33 weeks)

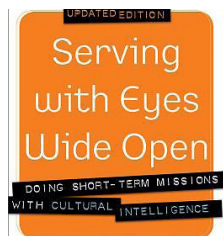
## What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey



It's one thing to talk about grace; it's another to taste its power. *What's So Amazing About Grace?* The study takes you and your study group for interactive, gut-level encounters with radical, life-changing grace. Through candid video interviews, Philip Yancey integrates true-life faces and experiences with 10 powerful sessions that will rock your preconceptions, get you thinking and talking, and help you discover together why grace is more amazing than you've ever dreamed.

Leader: TBD | Wednesdays | 6:45-7:45 PM | September 7 - November 16 (10 weeks)

## Serving With Eyes Wide Open by David Livermore

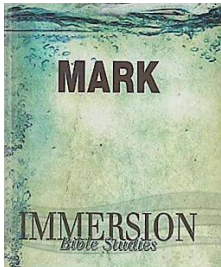


Short-term mission trips are great ways to impact the kingdom. Yet they can lack effectiveness because of mistakes or naiveté on the part of participants. In this insightful and timely book, David A. Livermore calls us to serve with our eyes open to global and cultural realities so we can become more effective cross-cultural ministers. *Serving with Eyes Wide Open* is a must-have book for anyone doing a short-term mission or service project, whether domestic or overseas.

Leader: TBD | Wednesdays | 6:45-7:45 PM | September 7 - December 14 (14 weeks)

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# FALL SEED GROUPS CONTINUED

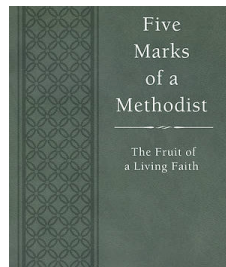


## *Immersion Bible Studies: Mark* by Emerson B. Powery

Journey inside the pages of Scripture to meet a personal God who enters individual lives and begins a creative work from the inside out. Shaped with the individual in mind, *Immersion* encourages simultaneous engagement both with the Word of God and with the God of the Word to become a new creation in Christ.

Leader: TBD | Wednesdays | 6:45 - 7:45 PM

September 7 - November 2 (9 weeks)



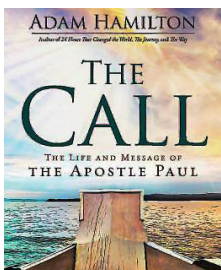
## *Five Marks of a Methodist* by Magrey de Vega, Steve Harper

This small-group study is based on Steve Harper's book *Five Marks of a Methodist*.

Six sessions provide extended reflection for adults on the five identifiers that Wesley sets forth in "The Character of a Methodist," which he published in 1742.

Leaders: Ken Morrison and Dick Smith | Wednesdays

6:45 - 7:45 PM | September 7 - October 19 (7 weeks)



## *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul* by Adam Hamilton

From the road to Damascus to the sun-drenched lands of modern-day Greece and Turkey to a Roman prison, go with Adam Hamilton as he follows the journeys of Paul in this six-week DVD study about Christianity's greatest teacher and missionary. You'll see exactly where some of the most dramatic events in the spread of Christianity took place, and through Hamilton's insightful and colorful teaching style, you'll quite probably likely gain a better understanding of Paul's missionary travels than if you had covered the many miles in person.

Leader: Michael Corley | Wednesdays | 6:45 - 7:45 PM

September 7 - October 19 (7 weeks)

## LIFT IN PRAYER


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

Jim and Judy Mercer - Their daughter Melody passed away in August after a long fight against cancer.


**GOD OF MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS**

## JULY VITAL SIGNS

  
WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE\*  
2016: 595  
2015: 570

  
ONLINE  
VIEWERS\*  
2016: 27  
2015: 0

  
SMALL  
GROUPS\*  
2016: 230  
2015: 236

  
TOTAL GIVING  
FOR APRIL  
2016: \$121,928  
2015: \$223,879

\* Numbers reflect weekly averages.



14305 Covenant Way  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

941.907.7333  
[welcometoharvest.org](http://welcometoharvest.org)

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## Starting September 11



[welcometoharvest.org/message-series](http://welcometoharvest.org/message-series)

