



# HARVEST TIMES

Harvest United Methodist Church | January 2017

Graciously welcoming people, intentionally growing disciples, and generously serving others around the globe. These threads are woven together by Harvest to make a difference in our families, our community, and our world. It only happens by the grace of God working through each of us when we choose to be laborers in God's harvest.

Thank you, and glory to God, for all the ways that you have given of your time, talents, and gifts to bring fulfillment to the vision God has given Harvest! Numerous times during the past year, efforts were made to let the people of Harvest know that we were facing an imbalance between the ministry we wanted to provide and the resources to do it. While we are still tabulating the year-end figures, everything points to a strong finish for 2016. Our outlook shifted from having serious concern about the ability to make ends meet, to a projection that Harvest will have received enough income to match expenses.

We also wanted to focus on transparency in our preparations for 2017. The leadership of the church renewed their commitment for Harvest to live within its means, so the congregation was reminded of the critical nature of commitment cards submitted in the fall. Thank you and glory to God, once more, for the overwhelming response to that invitation! The projected giving for 2017 is such that we will not have to make any significant staff or ministry cuts.

Something that will remain the same for 2017 as it has been the last number of years is that Harvest will be budgeting to pay interest on its debt, but not principal. This is not ideal, and the Finance Team is committed to changing this for 2018. The extraordinary good news in the midst of this is that an anonymous Harvest family has made a \$1 million donation to reduce the existing debt from approximately \$4 million to \$3 million. Can you join me again in saying, "Thank you and glory to God!"

Moving forward, Harvest will remain committed to its vision and core values. That includes authenticity and transparency concerning the finances of the church. Please join us for an open invitation town hall meeting on January 29 at 2 p.m. at Harvest Lakewood Ranch – to review 2016 finances, look at 2017, and talk about debt-reduction. May we continue to ask God to send us as laborers into the harvest!

May the Lord bless and keep,

Pastor Michael



## 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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[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

Mark Bitner  
Custodian

Jillanne Conelias  
Sprouts CDC Associate Director

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

Bonnie McElravy  
Children's Minister

Molly Lawson  
Interim Nursery Ministry Coordinator

Dave Lewis  
Choral Music Director

Steve Maldonado  
Bayshore Campus Worship Leader

Robert (Bob) Migliore  
Custodian

M. E. Reich  
Accompanist

Ginny Scott  
Youth and Family Ministries Director,  
Bayshore Campus

Cindee Shevlin  
Sprouts CDC Director

Catherine Sykes  
Youth and Children's Ministry

Administrative Assistant  
Dan Whissell  
Associate Worship Leader

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

# January WORSHIP

## Sunday, January 1 | 10:30 AM | Wesleyan Covenant

We'll meet for just one service, in a unique time to reconnect to the fundamentals of our faith. With a litany of thanksgiving, beautiful music, scripture, bible stories, confession, and covenant prayer, this will be a perfect way to begin the new year. On January 1 there will be no Nursery and Sunday School on this day.

## Sunday, January 8 | A Visit from Angola

The Cuban Methodist missionaries serving in Angola and supported by Harvest will be with us. The Rev. Leonardo Garcia will preach at Harvest Lakewood Ranch and Rev. Cleivy Garcia will preach at Harvest Bayshore. After the 10:30 service at each campus, the guest preacher and a member of our recent Angola team will share more about our ministry in Angola. We'll celebrate the fruits of Harvest's Christmas Eve offering dedicated to the children of Quessua. Nursery and Sunday School ministry will resume on January 8.

## Sunday, January 15 | Guest Preacher – Candace Lewis

Join us as we warmly welcome The Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, our new District Superintendent, to preach at Harvest. Learn more about Dr. Lewis at [gcdistrictumc.org](http://gcdistrictumc.org).

## Sunday, January 22 & 29 | The Gospel According to Dogs

Whether you've been gone five days or five minutes, the tail is wagging as he eagerly greets you. When you've had a really rotten day, she is ready to love and comfort you. No matter how badly you behave, you are forgiven. Love, joy, loyalty, obedience – dogs have a lot to teach us. Whether you're a dog-lover or not, please join us as we explore important lessons from scripture, demonstrated by man's best friend.

# DISCIPLESHIP

## WINTER 2017 SMALL GROUPS

### Starting January 25

Five Marks of a Methodist by *Steve Harper*  
What's So Amazing About Grace by *Philip Yancey*  
Creed: What Christians Believe and Why by *Adam Hamilton*  
Covenant Bible Study

### Starting January 29

A Disciple's Path by *Jim Harnish*  
A Disciple's Heart by *Jim Harnish*

Visit [welcometoharvest.org/groups](http://welcometoharvest.org/groups) for more details about each group and how to join.

## TuesdayLIVE!

The spring semester of Harvest's Tuesday morning Bible study for women begins January 10 and will feature *Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent* by Beth Moore.

More Info and to Register: [welcometoharvest.org/tuesdaylive](http://welcometoharvest.org/tuesdaylive)

# new STAFF

## Harvest Welcomes Bonnie McElravy, Children's Minister

Harvest is excited to announce the hiring of Bonnie McElravy as our Children's Minister. She will start January 3. Bonnie introduces herself here:

My name is Bonnie McElravy, and I am so excited to serve with your family here at Harvest. I was most recently living in Atlanta, Georgia going to school at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. My hope is to one day become a pastor in the United Methodist Church.

Before moving to Atlanta I served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Anona United Methodist Church in Largo for five years. I organized ministry with children and helped to create and lead a family worship service. The family worship service helped parents become the spiritual leaders of their household and learn the stories of the Bible with their kids in a fun way. I attended an incredible youth group growing up, which is where I received my calling for ministry. I have a passion for serving kids and families.

I have a spectacular brand new nephew, Mason, who has turned me into an awesome aunt! My dog, Lola, is one of my favorite things.



## Harvest Bayshore Hires Youth and Family Ministries Director

Ginny Scott will come on board as a full time Youth and Family Ministries Director beginning mid-January 2017. Ginny will work collaboratively with LWR children and youth staff, will develop a youth program for our Bayshore campus, and focus on making connections and growing relationships between the teenagers of West Bradenton and Harvest Bayshore. We are ecstatic to have Ginny with all of her enthusiasm join the Harvest Bayshore community and help us in the mission of making disciples!

After graduating from Florida State University and serving as a Youth Director in Thomasville, GA for almost two years, Ginny Scott is back in the Bradenton-Sarasota area. Ginny served as a youth intern for a year at Harvest a few years back. She has a passion for youth, listening to and telling stories, and meeting people where they are. In her free time, Ginny enjoys being outdoors, wearing Chaco's, laying in her hammock, traveling, musical worship, reading at coffee shops, drinking/making coffee, and really anything coffee.



## Giving Thanks

As we welcome Bonnie McElravy as our Children's Minister, we are thankful for all those who have served the children of Harvest during the interim. Thank you to our interim Directors of Children's Ministry: Molly Lawson, Nadia Wood, and Ann Gowgiel. In addition, we are thankful for the continued strong and faithful leadership of Children's Ministry team (CMT) leader Jay Frisbie, the entire CMT and children's ministry administrative assistant Catherine Sykes. It is a joy and gift to have so many in our midst who are so willing to serve children and the church so faithfully!

We send well wishes with our current Nursery Coordinator, Brenda Wilson, and her family as they move to North Carolina. Brenda has served the families of the littlest ones of our church faithfully and we are thankful! Brenda, we wish you well and you will be missed. Molly Lawson will serve as the Interim Nursery Coordinator (beginning January 1) as we discern who God is calling to next fill this important role on our church staff. We are currently searching for our next Nursery Coordinator. For a job description and to submit a resume, please contact Terry Cox at [tcx@welcometoharvest.org](mailto:tcx@welcometoharvest.org).

## We can't wait for Summer 2017!

Here are some dates to put on your calendar now - you won't want to miss these events:

June 4-8 Youth Week | June 26-29 Middle School Mission Trip | July 10-15 Warren Willis Summer Camp  
July 22-29 High School Revive225 Mission Trip | August 6 Youth Sunday | **visit [hyfive.org](http://hyfive.org) for more info.**



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# BAYSHORE In the Community

## Giving the Gift of Christmas

In December, Lee Middle School invited Harvest Bayshore to partner with them and offer a Christmas experience for over 30 students and their families. Together with Lee, several business partners, and the people of Harvest (with particular help from the TuesdayLIVE! women), we hosted over 150 people one Saturday morning. It was an incredible day! The most impactful piece of the program was the “personal shopping” aspect. Each set of parents and kids received a shopping assistant. We walked, shopped, and chatted with the students and parents and got to know family stories, share family traditions, and laugh together.

Getting to know our neighbors, breaking down barriers, and serving together is important at Harvest Bayshore. This event opened all kinds of communication, shared laughter, and cemented bonds of joy. Thank you, Harvest, for helping to make the day possible! We can't wait to see how we'll be able to partner with Lee Middle School throughout 2017!

## NOVEMBER VITAL SIGNS

