



HARVEST TIMES

HARVEST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 14305 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202 941-907-7333 | MARCH 2017

A Way Other than Our Own

I ran across a Lenten devotional by this name a few weeks ago. Lent, after all, is an invitation into a way other than our own – it’s an invitation into the way of the Kingdom of God. I was completely captivated by this phrase and I hope it will resonate in my imagination throughout this season of Lent. For I want to pursue the ways of Jesus – the ways that call me to love people. I’m interested in loving – in the ways that call me to lay aside my preferences for the sake of the body of Christ, and the ways that call me to slow, abiding presence with others – when I would rather do my own thing.

This Lent, the people of Harvest are invited into this journey of a way other than our own as we explore the stories of the Gospel in our worship series *Think Again*. Jesus never does what we expect; he’s always interested in turning our thinking upside down; Jesus is always interested in inviting us into the strange ways of his kingdom. It’s an invitation to lay aside our own assumptions, our own preferences, our own consumerism, and to instead think again about who and whose we are. So that the world might see in us something different, something strange, something new – and see in us the story of the Gospel.

You’re also invited to join us on Wednesday evenings as we pray, sing, and dialogue together using *The Shack* by William Young. The book walks through deep theological truths, stretches the imagination of who God is and how God relates to us. It should also be an invitation into a way other than our own.

No matter how you mark this season of Lent, I pray you’ll join me in this journey, this way, this path of the kingdom of God. Allow God to be at work in you, reshaping you, inviting you to think again, catching you off guard, making you new creation (1Cor 5:12). Let us together walk the way that is not our own.

God bless you,

Pastor Jennifer



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?

facebook.com/harvestumc

harvestumc

harvestumc

welcometoharvest.org

info@welcometoharvest.org

HARVEST TEAM

Rev. Michael Pestel
Lead Pastor

Rev. Katie Pestel
Pastor

Rev. Jennifer Potter Buff
Bayshore Campus Pastor

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 Youth Minister

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. jdcoe@welcometoharvest.org)

HARVEST YOUTH

Youth Ministry Staff Update

Molly Lawson will be serving as the Interim Youth Minister at the Harvest Lakewood Ranch campus, in partnership with Ginny Scott, Bayshore Campus Youth and Family Minister. Brad Baten will be on medical leave for eight weeks. We are not able to disclose Brad's medical information; however, we can tell you that he is not facing a life-threatening illness and he is not battling substance abuse. Please be in prayer for Brad and send well wishes to the church office via the USPS or email (bbaten@welcometoharvest.org). We are thankful for your continued support of the students, families, and adult volunteers of our HY5 Youth Ministry.



We Can't Wait For Summer!

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

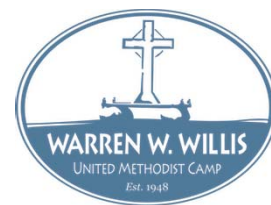
Visit hyfive.org for more info.

SAVE THE DATE

Here are some dates to put
on your calendar now.
You won't want to miss these events.

Summer Camp

Registration for Summer Camp is still open! Students who are currently in 3rd-12th grade are invited to join us at Warren Willis Camp in Fruitland Park, Florida, on July 10-15. Find out more information and register online at warrenwilliscamp.org/register. Scholarships are available through Warren Willis, and are due by April 1. Space fills up quickly, so we encourage you to register early!



SPROUTS

In February, Sprouts held its annual Trike-a-Thon, and the children learned the importance of bicycle safety and helping others, as they collected pledges for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The highlight of the event was kids bringing their bicycles and scooters to school, decorating them, and riding with friends. Over the last 11 years, Sprouts has raised over \$48,000 for St. Jude. Thanks to all who helped support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through the Sprouts Trike-a-Thon.



HARVEST KIDS

LAKWOOD RANCH

Easter Egg Hunt



Palm Sunday Picnic

APRIL 9 @ 11:30 AM

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES
EGG HUNT KICKOFF BEGINS AT 12 PM

OUTDOOR GAMES & CRAFTS
BOUNCY HOUSE
PICNIC LUNCH

COME AND CELEBRATE JESUS
WITH US AT HARVEST LAKWOOD RANCH!



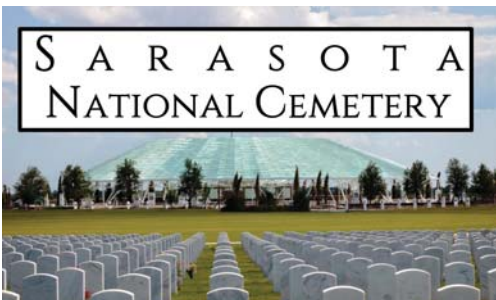
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 12-16, 9 AM to 12 PM
Online Registration Opens April 3
welcometoharvest.org/events

This Summer come learn, create, play, sing
and dance at the Maker Fun Factory!


HARVEST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
14305 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

HARVESTERS



April Tour

On Friday, April 7, the Harvesters will visit Sarasota National Cemetery. We will be given a docent-led tour of Patriot Plaza, which honors veterans, inspires patriotism, and embraces freedom – through commissioned artwork installed around the Plaza. There is no cost for the tour. Following the tour, there will be an optional 12:30 p.m. lunch.

To register go to welcometoharvest.org/harvesters. The registration deadline is Friday, March 24. If you have questions, please call Bob and Mary Stark at 231-564-0677.

THINK AGAIN

LENT 2017 MESSAGE SERIES

"The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know." Albert Einstein's words reach beyond academia, unveiling truth for those who seek deeper understanding to their faith. We encourage you to accept the invitation this Lenten season to think again about the words and actions of Jesus. Whether experiencing these gospel stories for the first or fiftieth time, we just might be surprised by what God shows next!

LENT AT HARVEST

*Wednesday Evening Midweek Services
Worship & Study based on "The Shack"*



Lent is the season in the church year that calls us to join Jesus on the path of surrender, walking through death to discover new life. Join us at the Lakewood Ranch Campus on Wednesdays during Lent – March 8 through April 12 – from 6:45 to 8 p.m. for worship and study. You'll want to purchase a copy of William P. Young's novel *The Shack* to get the most out of our gatherings. For more information go to welcometoharvest.org/events.

VITAL SIGNS

The people of Harvest are sowing seeds of faith,
growing together in Christ

- < In February, we baptized 3 babies and one adult
- < An average of 690 of us worshipped weekly
- < 118 people just participated in *Letter to My Loved Ones: An End of Life Workshop*
- < Every week we pack 143 meals for *Pack-A-Sack*, feeding hungry kids in Manatee County

People are giving generously! You can see our financial picture on March 15 at welcometoharvest.org.

For a full report of our Missional Vital Signs, go to tools.flumc.org/yearly.asp.