



HARVEST TIMES

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

My mom gave me my first bible when I was fourteen years old. She was so happy I had gone through confirmation and that I was choosing to go to church on my own. However, I wasn't choosing to church because of religious curiosity or commitment to Jesus. I was going because I felt I belonged. The people of that small United Methodist church made me feel welcome. And they told me all the while that God welcomed me just the same as they did.

Being part of the church meant reading the bible, I was told. So, I started reading it. I didn't understand most of what I read, but I believed the people who told me it was important. So, I started going to bible studies at the church. And I started watching a few of those shows on television where someone teaches what the bible means. Every now and then there would be something that clicked, but overall the journey to understanding the bible felt like a slow, arduous campaign.

This is some pitch to read the bible so far, right? For me it was a bit like learning to play guitar. You have no doubt gone through some similar process where you turned a corner -where something went from foreign to natural, practice to ingrained, from science to art. When this transition began to happen for me with the bible...POW! I have never, before or since, experienced anything like it.

It was as though a black and white silent movie started transforming. The stories of the bible started coming alive. It became even more than ultra high definition with surround sound, it became immersive. It was, and is, as though I began to find myself inside the grand narrative of the scriptures. The greatest story ever told was no longer history, but something that is still being written, and I get to belong in it! You belong in it too! Let's open up our bibles together and enter in to more than we could have imagined.

May the Lord bless and keep,

Pastor Michael



WORSHIP AT HARVEST

14305 Covenant Way
Lakewood Ranch

Sunday 9 AM
Traditional Worship

Sunday 10:30 AM
Contemporary Worship

Sunday 5 PM
Harvest Youth Group

WANT MORE?

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welcometoharvest.org

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HARVEST TEAM

Rev. Michael Pestel
Lead Pastor

Rev. Katie Pestel
Pastor

Rev. Jennifer Potter Buff
Pastor

Jillanne Conelias
Sprouts CDC Associate Director

Reed Conley
Director of Worship Arts

Terry Cox
Executive Assistant to the Pastors

Carin Doddroe
Facilities and Guest Readiness Director

Dan Funk
Comptroller

Alan Hensley
Custodial Manager

Mike Kennedy
Director of Discipleship

Molly Lawson
Director of Community Engagement

Dave Lewis
Choral Music Director

Logan Lundstrom
Accompanist

Bonnie McElravy
Children's Minister

Ginny Scott
Youth Minister

Cindee Shevlin
Sprouts CDC Director

Paul Tassler
Communications Director

Dan Whissell
Associate Worship Leader

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

HARVEST YOUTH

SEPTEMBER 10 OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday, September 10, all youth and parents are invited to attend youth group!

We will share a meal, play games, worship, and learn about new and exciting things happening in youth ministry!

Parents, by the end of the night you will receive a calendar of events from now until March, info about our curriculum and small group leaders, and much more. Click [here](#) for more info and to RSVP.

Visit hyfive.org for more info.



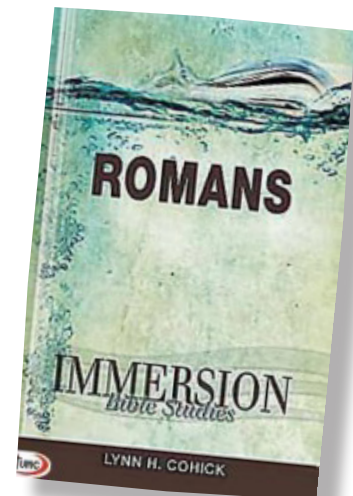
JOURNEYMEN

Breakfast & Bible Study Every Friday // 7:30–8:30 AM

Join Harvest men and their friends for our new study of the Book of Romans that will begin on September 22.

We meet weekly at Country Pancake House, San Marco Plaza, 8205 Nature's Way, in Lakewood Ranch.

Visit welcometoharvest.org/journeymen or contact Gary Lewis (g1550lewis@earthlink.net) for more info.



HARVEST KIDS

SEPTEMBER BIG IDEA

This month in Harvest Kids we are learning about friendship – using your words and actions to show others you care! Our memory verse this month comes from Proverbs 17:17, and it says “A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.” Friendship is more than just sharing, or hanging out. Friendship is love, and not mushy gushy love. To be a good friend requires action!



We will be learning about how we can be a good friend by loving one another, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and accepting one another—no matter what! God has called us to be a good friend amid good times and bad. So this month we will be lifting up prayers for the kids at Harvest and in our community to know that there is always a place at the table for them, they are welcome, and they belong, because Jesus loves them!

HARVESTERS IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 27



The Harvesters are going to the Florida Aquarium, a fantastic showcase of aquatic animals and ecosystems of Florida and around the world.

The day will begin with a behind the scenes tour at 10:30 a.m. Following the tour, we'll enjoy lunch at Café Ray at the aquarium.

Cost for the day is just \$30/person. The deadline for registration is September 20. For more info and to register, go to welcometoharvest.org/harvesters. If you have questions, contact Bob and Mary Stark at 231-564-0677.



Turning the Gem

WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

SUNDAY MESSAGES 9/10 - 10/08

BAYSHORE MINISTRY

Join the fun as we gather at our Bayshore property (5512 26th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34207) on Saturday, September 9 (and on the 2nd Saturday of every month).

We'll fire up the pizza oven, weed the memorial garden, walk the neighborhood, enjoy one another, and share in some good pizza! Bring your yard games, sidewalk chalk, and smiles. Questions? Contact Marilyn Potter at keywestconch@me.com



VITAL SIGNS

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

- < 50+ people enrolled in the Harvest Leadership Development Program
- < Sprouts Child Development Center began the school year with 150 students enrolled
- < An average of 560 per week worshiped at Harvest & online (welcometoharvest.org)
- < 30 people became 40 Weeks volunteers, committing to being present with our children in Harvest Kids for 40 consecutive weeks during the 2017-18 school year!
- < 2 babies were baptized

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

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