



# HARVEST TIMES

Harvest United Methodist Church | Volume 19, Issue 10 | October, 2016

I can hardly believe it! One year ago this month we launched a new worshipping community: Harvest Bayshore. To me, it is nothing short of a miracle that we're arriving at the one-year anniversary. Throughout this year of weekly worship, we have been transformed ourselves, we have invited others to come and see, and we have served with the people of Bradenton. It's been an incredible journey – and the journey promises to continue!

The work of planting a second campus has taken all of Harvest – from the Focus Bayshore Taskforce, to the Church Council, to August 2014's Charge Conference, to the Launch Team, to the volunteers who wake up early every Sunday to make church happen, to the prayers and participation of the Lakewood Ranch campus, to all of the staff and leaders of the church. I am deeply, deeply grateful for your participation in this kingdom work.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to make new disciples for the transformation of the world. And I give thanks for the ways we are beginning to see transformation in Bradenton! As we enter the second year of being “one church in two locations,” my prayer is that all of us commit to allow God to use us for transformation. Whichever campus of Harvest you call home, we are all part of one another. We share together in the work God is calling us towards, both in Lakewood Ranch and in Bradenton. I can't wait to see where God will bring us in this second year of Harvest Bayshore, and as we approach the 20th anniversary of Harvest Lakewood Ranch! Won't you say yes to participating in God's kingdom work?

Rev. Jennifer Potter Buff  
Bayshore Campus Pastor



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

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

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

[welcometoharvest.org](https://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

**M. E. Reich**  
Accompanist

**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)

# YOUNG MOMS CONNECT HERE!

Young moms, connect here! Moms of young children can connect with one another and grow in their faith at Where Moms Connect. Each gathering starts with coffee and snacks, and then offers parenting-focused fellowship and small group discussion. You can drop your kids off at school or in child care at Harvest.

WHEN: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, from 9:30-10:30AM.

WHERE: Room W105 right across from the Nursery where Childcare is available.

More Info:

Laura Anastasia | 203.313.0176

lmanastasia10@gmail.com

# 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.

# WELCOME TO HARVEST

## Girl Scouts and Bridge A Life

As ministries of evangelism and outreach, Harvest recently welcomed two new partners to utilize space at Harvest's Lakewood Ranch campus.

### Bridge a Life

Bridge a Life hosts "The Gathering" at Harvest on the 2nd Thursdays of every month from 6-8 PM. Their first Gathering here was September 8 and they welcomed approximately 60 adults and 70 kids.

Bridge a Life's mission is "sharing Christ-centered hope with children who have been abused, abandoned, orphaned, or neglected while supporting foster and adoptive families through awareness, training, outreach, and partnerships." To learn more about Bridge a Life and The Gathering, please visit [www.bridgealife.com](http://www.bridgealife.com).

### Girl Scout Troop 165

Harvest enjoys its long-standing relationship with Boy Scout Troop 125 and Cub Scout Pack 125. And we're now delighted to host a Girl Scout Troop 165 and the 15 girls now participating in it. Troop 165 meets twice a month on Wednesday afternoons at Harvest LWR.

A big Harvest welcome to Bridge a Life and Girl Scout Troop 165!

# HARVESTERS HEAD TO RAY JAY

For their November gathering the Harvesters (50+) will have the opportunity to tour Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. “Ray Jay,” as it is known by the local population, is the home of the NFL’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers. If you are a Bucs fan, this is your big chance to see Raymond James up close and personal. The tour is set for Thursday, November 10 at 10:30 AM. Carpooling will be arranged for the gathering.

As tour guests, the Harvesters will have backstage access to many different aspects and workings of the stadium. This hour-long guided walking journey will include a visit to the field, locker room, a private suite, and more. Due to ongoing renovations presently underway at the stadium tours may vary from what is listed. Come with the Harvesters to see Raymond James Stadium including the new renovations and be part of the action!

Cost for the tour is \$5/person. Lunch will follow the tour at a restaurant in the Tampa area.

## More Info:

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

Bob and Mary Stark | 231.564.0677

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

# HARVEST BAYSHORE

## Common Grounds

Are you a problem solver? Do you like to come up with solutions or enjoy providing new ideas? If so, please join us for Bayshore Common Grounds, a new ministry that will help us build the Kingdom of Heaven right here in our community.

We’ll meet at Mountain Comforts Coffee (located in the shopping plaza beside Lee Middle School) to listen, discuss and apply our gifts. Each meeting will have a guest speaker, then a brainstorming session for ideas and action. Food will be provided for a small cost.

## More Info:

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

Judy Steurer | [jsteurer@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jsteurer@tampabay.rr.com)

Chris Kohatsu | [chriskohatsu@gmail.com](mailto:chriskohatsu@gmail.com)

## Meeting our Neighbors in Bayshore

Did you know that a Flea Market is held near the Bayshore Campus the first Saturday of each month from October through May? It is sponsored by the Bayshore High School Athletic Department. What a great opportunity to meet our neighbors! Harvest Bayshore will participate by occupying one of the school’s parking spaces, starting October 1.

## Pack-A-Sack at Lee Middle School

This ministry is thriving! Currently, 30 students receive food to eat during weekends thanks to our volunteer servant team of shoppers, packers, deliverers and generous donors. Because fighting hunger in our schools and community continues to be a priority, Harvest Bayshore will extend Pack-a-Sack to family members of the students. Beginning in September, our monthly food drive at Harvest Bayshore will support the Bayshore Pack-a-Sack ministry. Harvest Lakewood Ranch families are welcome to participate too!

## More info and guidelines for donating food:

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

Gale Whitson-Schmidt | [gale@doorpi.net](mailto:gale@doorpi.net)



# MILITARY STAND DOWN

## Serving Homeless Military Veterans

Join Harvest's Ministry with Military team serving our brothers and sisters, including military veterans, who are experiencing poverty and homelessness, at the 18th Annual Stand Down. This will be held Saturday, November 5 from 8AM-12PM at the Manatee County Fairgrounds in Palmetto.

Stand Down, which is offered by Turning Points in Bradenton, provides food, clothing, showers, health screenings, dental services, VA and Social Security benefits counseling, and bicycles. In addition, they provide referrals to health care, housing, employment, substance abuse treatment, and mental health counseling programs and services.

Turning Point expects that approximately 500 friends in our community will be assisted at the 2016 Stand Down, so volunteer servants are essential to the success of this important event. Volunteer servants will work in shifts beginning at 6 AM and ending at 2 PM. You are welcome to work the entire event or a couple of hours - whatever time you can give will make a difference to our brothers and sisters experiencing difficult times.

Please sign up to serve at Stand Down by visiting Harvest Lakewood Ranch Hospitality Hub 1.

More Info:

[welcometoharvest.org/serve/serve-locally/ministry-with-military](http://welcometoharvest.org/serve/serve-locally/ministry-with-military)

Bob Rasmussen | 941.592.9838

[rbrasmussen1949@gmail.com](mailto:rbrasmussen1949@gmail.com)

# SAMARITAN FUNDRAISER DINNER

The people of Harvest and their friends are invited to prepare their hearts for the Christmas season by attending the Samaritan Counseling Fundraiser Dinner at Harvest Lakewood Ranch on December 1 from 6:30-8:30 PM.

This gathering gives you an opportunity for a spiritual pause before the busy holiday season.

Begin the holidays with a night of inspirational music, heartwarming stories of hope, beautiful table décor, and fabulous food, all to benefit Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast, who provides programs for women and children and families to support them in their time of crisis.

The \$30 fee for the evening includes meal, entertainment and a generous donation to Samaritan.

Reservation forms and Table Host sign-up information will be located at Hospitality Hub 1 beginning October 15. All reservations must be received by Friday, November 25 to order food for this catered event. Table hosts are needed for approximately 30 tables.

More Info:

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

Debbie Lewis | 941.727.5142

[debbie@stonelewisfamily.com](mailto:debbie@stonelewisfamily.com)

# HARVEST RETURNS TO ANGOLA

## A Special Evening: Angola Mission Trip Dinner

You are invited to support Harvest's Angola mission trip team and its ministry by enjoying a delicious dinner at Harvest Lakewood Ranch on Thursday, October 6 from 6:30-8 PM. The dinner costs \$30 per individual or \$50 per couple. Team members Mike Baker, Tracey Nickens and Tiona Wilson will share information about our Angola ministry and the team's preparation and plans for its October 20 - November 2 journey. Please RSVP by Monday, October 3.



## Help Against the Bitter Cold Winter for Quessua's Children

This winter in Quessua, Angola has been particularly bitter cold, and it has negatively impacted the health of the youngest undernourished and poorly-clothed children near Quessua. We invite you to donate small blankets, socks, sweaters and coats for children aged 12 and under, and place them in a collection bin at Hospitality Hub 1 at Harvest Lakewood Ranch.

[More Info and to RSVP:](#)

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

Tracey "Mama T" Nickens | 941.730.5998

[tnickens@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tnickens@tampabay.rr.com)

# FLOOD RESPONSE

## Help for Louisiana Flood Victims

Harvest fulfilled its mission to serve others with generous donations to those affected by the flooding in Louisiana.

Here is Harvest missions team member Gary Hansell on his way to Lakeland to deliver Harvest's 51 flood cleaning buckets as part of the Florida Conference's #floodbucketchallenge. The Conference's Flood Bucket Challenge inspired the state-wide creation and donation of over 3,000 buckets!

Harvest will also donate over \$3,000 to the Louisiana Conference's disaster response efforts, enabling them to use the money when and where it is needed most. Thanks be to God, and way to go Harvest!



## SPECIAL DATES COMING THIS FALL

Save these dates and make plans to join other Harvest families for these special times of fellowship!

Saturday, October 15 - Family Taekwondo Class: Come learn basic self-defense, stranger awareness for kids and kicking and punching drills. Ages: 6 and Up, Kids 5 and under will watch Kung Fu Panda. 4-5:30 PM.

Friday, November 4 - Game night and Pizza Party- Families with children ages 5 and up will enjoy playing a variety of fun games. Nursery care will be provided as needed.

Saturday, December 3 - Harvest Kids Christmas Craft Day. Drop your child off at church and enjoy some time to get your Christmas shopping done while the children make fun crafts!

### More Info:

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

Catherine Sykes | 941.907.7333

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

## HARVEST KIDS SPOTLIGHT



Keegan O'Reilly is a second grader who received his Bible at the 9 AM service on September 11. His mother interviewed him and here are some of his responses, straight from him!:

Mom: What grade are you in this year?

Keegan: Second grade. I go to Gene Witt.

Mom: What did you think about getting your bible on Sunday?

Keegan: I thought it was kind of embarrassing to be up on stage but I thought it was super sweet and cool that the Church gave me a bible.

Mom: What are your thoughts about your new Bible?

Keegan: I think I will be able to read it to help me calm down when I'm mad.

Mom: Is there a story you look forward to reading in the Bible and why?

Keegan: Yes, the story about when Jesus got killed and rose from the dead. It makes me feel happy because he gave his life for us.

Mom: Is there anything you would like people to know about you?

Keegan: I like building Legos and playing with my sister. My favorite sport is soccer. My favorite class in school is STEM lab. My favorite food is pizza.



# HARVEST IS HIRING: CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Harvest is seeking a full-time Children's Minister who has a love for children and a passion for working with adult volunteer servants who love working with children and families. Candidates must have a passion for creating faith formational experiences and systems that embrace and engage children in their current developmental phase, partnering with families to grow followers of Christ.

The position is responsible for ministry oversight of children birth-5th grade and their families at both the Lakewood Ranch and Bayshore campuses, including the leadership of a Children's Ministry staff team. It is a full-time salaried position with benefits. Full position description available on line.

More Info or submit resume:

[welcometoharvest.org/about-us/staff](http://welcometoharvest.org/about-us/staff)

Terry Cox | 941.907.7333

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

## HIRING: NURSERY/ CHILDCARE

Harvest is looking for multiple part-time nursery/childcare workers to care for and minister to the youngest members of our congregation (Nursery/Toddler Ages 0-5 years old and K-5th grade.) These positions will involve taking care of children during scheduled church functions. These positions are approximately 15 hours a week and primarily evenings and weekends.

More info or to apply:

[welcometoharvest.org/about-us/staff](http://welcometoharvest.org/about-us/staff)

Brenda Wilson

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

## AUGUST VITAL SIGNS

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB



The women's book selection for October is *The Secret Daughter* by Kelly Rimmer. The discussion for this book will be Monday, October 17, 7 PM at the home of Nancy Reed, 11210 River's Bluff Circle, Lakewood Ranch, or 11 AM at Harvest LWR.

More Info:

Nancy Reed | 941.752.7434

[nar1120@aol.com](mailto:nar1120@aol.com)



WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE\*  
2016: 660  
2015: 690

ONLINE  
VIEWERS\*  
2016: 20  
2015: 0



SMALL  
GROUPS\*  
2016: 325  
2015: 278

AUGUST  
OFFERINGS  
2016: \$93,499  
2015: \$89,273



\* Numbers reflect weekly averages.



14305 Covenant Way  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Manasota, FL  
Permit No. 69

## Starting October 2 – New Message Series – The Giving Tree

