

HARVEST TIMES

Harvest United Methodist Church | Volume 19, Issue 11 | November, 2016

Birth, death and the life that is lived in between. Our lives are filled with many faith milestones – specific places that we mark as sacred or set apart so as to not forget. November at Harvest brings two special milestones. On Sunday, November 6 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday and Confirmation.

On All Saints Sunday we remember those to whom we have said “good-bye” over the past year; the saints of our lives. Those we have loved and lost. We will mark this milestone with a sacred ritual involving remembering and candle lighting. In this moment we say, “I remember you, and your life made a difference in this world.”

During the Confirmation milestone, youth make the decision to claim the name “Christian” and become a member of the United Methodist Church. Taking the next step in their faith journey, confirmands stand before the church and say, “Jesus, I want to follow you.”

I am deeply thankful for the saints who have gone before, and the faithful ways in which they followed Jesus until the end of their days. I am deeply thankful for the current generation of youth and the passionate ways in which they follow Jesus at this point in their journey. Both our saints and our youth stand as testimony to the good work that God is doing throughout the whole of our lives.

God is always present, always wooing, always calling us into deeper waters of faith. May you leave worship on November 6 inspired to follow Jesus in the faithful and passionate ways in which God is calling you.

“Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

May God bless and keep you,
Pastor Katie Pestel



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?

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 welcometoharvest.org

 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

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

Molly Lawson
Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Dave Lewis
Choral Music Director

Steve Maldonado
Bayshore Campus Worship Leader

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

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

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REMEMBERING ALL SAINTS

Every year, Harvest joins other churches around the world in celebrating All Saints' Day on the first weekend in November. It is a time for giving thanks for all those Christians who have gone before us and inspired us with their faithful lives. Most people are very familiar with Halloween, but may not realize that Halloween is actually All Hallows Eve, the evening before All Saints Day, which is always November 1. We will celebrate All Saints Day in worship services on Sunday, November 6. In each of these services, we will be remembering in a special way, those members of Harvest who have died in the last year. We will share information about them on the screens and read their names aloud as we give thanks for their resurrection and pray for their families.

As we have in the past, there will be a special time for remembering, through the lighting of candles, loved ones who have passed away in the last year. We will also remember any of those who have died in the last year by silently scrolling the names of these persons on the screens during the lighting of the candles. As we prepare for those services, you are invited to submit the name of your loved one who has passed away in the past 12 months. For this time of remembrance, please submit the person's full name, their death date, and how the person is related to you (specific relative, close friend, colleague). Please submit names to be included on the screens no later than Sunday, October 30.

Submit names: tc Cox@welcometoharvest.org

Terry Cox | 941.907.7333

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Join Us Thursday, November 10

The Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, the Gulf Central District's new District Superintendent, is presiding over each of the 70+ church conferences taking place this fall and therefore has set the date for Harvest's Annual Church Conference for Thursday, November 10 at 7:45 PM. Those in attendance will hear from the pastors and the lay leadership about the State of the Church, be asked to approve the pastors' 2017 compensation packages, be provided with information about the 2017 budget and confirm the Lay Leadership Roster for 2017.

Everyone in the church is invited to join us at the Annual Church Conference. Please RSVP by Sunday, November 6 so that we may plan accordingly.

RSVP | tc Cox@welcometoharvest.org

Terry Cox | 941.907.7333

CARING FOR OUR CONGREGATION

A conversation with Melinda Cerny, leader of Harvest's Congregational Care Team

What does the Congregational Care Team do?

The Congregational Care Team is a large team comprised of many sub teams and a core team. Together, the sum of these parts provides spiritual, physical and emotional support to the Harvest community. I think of them as the “Heart of Harvest” because they care so deeply for our Harvest family.

Several ministries fall under the umbrella of the Congregational Care team. Members of these ministries pray for the congregation, prepare meals, send out cards and letters, sit with people in times of crisis and illness and provide life-saving training.

The Congregational Care Team also includes a core team that supports the sub teams in their ministries and offers special workshops to the Harvest community. Coming up in January is a six-week series called “Love Letter to My Family,” that will gently guide participants through all the preparations for end-of-life.

How do you see God at work through Harvest's ministries of Congregational Care?

All of the members of the team view themselves as Christ's hands and feet here on Earth. Whether it is praying on Monday morning, sending out a birthday card or a letter, providing food or a kind word at a funeral, training people in CPR, visiting with someone who is sick, sitting with someone as they work through a tough problem as a Stephen Minister will do, they are, indeed, showing God's love through Christian action.

How can people use their spiritual gifts to love and care for Harvest people in need of care?

If people have a desire to reach out to someone in time of crisis, chances are they have a spiritual gift that would be fed through serving in one of the Congregational Care ministries. In early 2017, training will be provided for people interested in learning about and becoming a Stephen Minister. Much more to come on that so stay tuned.

How can people learn more about God's call to serve in these ministries?

You are welcome to pick up a copy of our new brochure which contains lots of information about the Congregational Care team. Look for it at the Lakewood Ranch campus Hospitality Hubs. We also have details of the team and its ministries on the website. If you would like to discuss serving with one of our teams or have questions about the care we offer, please contact us! We would love to hear from you.

More Info:

www.welcometoharvest.org/congregational-care

Melinda Cerny | 781.718.6128 | melindacerny@gmail.com

BE A HARVEST LIFESAVER

The frequency of public-initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) has been increasing over recent years. A recent study showed that when the public performed resuscitation prior to the arrival of the EMS, survival was more than doubled and the victim had an improved chance of good neurological outcome. Wouldn't you like to join those who know how to perform these life-giving skills? Watch this 3-minute YouTube video on "Together We Can Save More Lives" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9oDbdsyjrM>).

Harvest will be holding classes to teach CPR, the use of an AED, and how to respond to choking in adults, children and infants on Sunday, November 13 from 12:30-4:30 PM and Saturday, November 19 from 9 AM-1 PM.

The American Heart Association instructor will be Harvest member, Judy Boehm, RN. Classes are limited to 8 persons each. The cost of the course is \$30 per person, or \$40 for a couple who share the reading materials. Each person will have his/her own manikins on which to practice in order to control infection transmission. Sign up in the notebook at Hospitality Hub 1. After signing up, you will be contacted to pick up a packet of reading materials. Training is open anyone 12 years of age and older.

Contact: Judy Boehm | 941.870.2259

18TH ANNUAL HARVEST HUSTLE

Join us this year for the 18th Annual Harvest Hustle on November 19th! In addition to the 5K this year, we will also have a Kids' Race for 3-12 year olds and a 1-Mile Walk. Please join us for a morning of fun and help us feed the hungry in our community. Proceeds will go to The Food Bank of Manatee and All Faiths Food Bank.

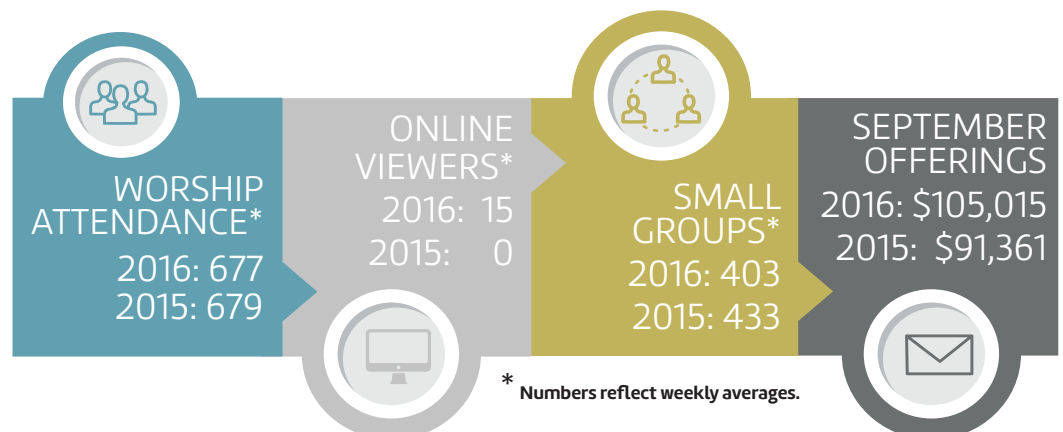
To register or for more info:
harvesthustle5k.net



AUTUMN FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Thanks be to God for the generous outpouring of food for hungry people in our community. Over 2,000 pounds of food was offered in worship on October 16 and donated to the Food Bank of Manatee, All Faiths Food Bank and Samoset Pack-A-Sack.

SEPTEMBER VITAL SIGNS



BAYSHORE COMMON GROUNDS

Bayshore Common Grounds is a program created to serve as an incubator for ideas, ministries and spiritual gifts. Each Common Grounds meeting is a way for you to learn about on-going or future ministries at Bayshore, how you can help support them, the vision for the future, and how your input, insight and experience will be beneficial to building the Kingdom in Bradenton. The meetings are intended to be a creative and free-flowing exchange of ideas and information, with a solutions-based brainstorming session at the end. The next two meetings will be held at Mountain Comforts Coffee, located in the plaza beside Lee Middle School (next to the Petland store). A dinner entree and salad will be provided by Mountain Comforts Coffee for a small fee at each of these gatherings.

November 9, 6 PM- Igniting Our Outreach

What does “community outreach” truly mean, and why do so many church-based outreach programs receive little or no support? What are ways we can develop an Outreach Ministry that serves a whole, rather than a few? Can our outreach efforts feel natural, rather than forced, sharing in the love and fellowship of Christ? Join Charlotte Wright as she shares her love and joy of outreach. Bring your good ideas to the table!



November 16, 6 PM - Christmas Fair for PAS and Community Oven

The students participating in Pack-A-Sack at Lee Middle School will be treated to a Christmas Fair where they can “shop” for gifts for their parents and families. Join Gale Whitson-Schmidt as she talks about this wonderful opportunity to serve these students and their families. In addition to the Pack-A-Sack ministry, Don Whitson-Schmidt will speak about his vision for building a community brick oven, where breads, pizzas and other baked goods can be prepared and shared for the good of the Bayshore community.

Common Grounds

For more info:

Judy Steurer | jsteurer@tampabay.rr.com | welcometoharvest.org/bayshore

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 6:30-8:30PM. 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.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors to cover the cost of food and the Harvest Choir donating their time and talents for entertainment, 100% of the cost of the \$30 registration fee will go the Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast to help families in their time of crisis.

All reservations must be received by Friday, November 25 to order food for this catered event. Table hosts are needed for approximately 30 tables. Childcare will be provided with advance registration.

More Info:

welcometoharvest.org/Samaritan

Debbie Lewis | 941.727.5142 | debbie@stonelewisfamily.com

HARVEST KIDS

LAKEWOOD RANCH CAMPUS

Harvest Kids Lock-In

The Harvest Kids 2016 lock-in was thoroughly enjoyed by the 45 children who spent the night and many awesome volunteer servants who joined in the fun. We had a survivor theme and happily, all the children survived the fun, challenging and delicious events we had planned for them! The events included acting in a survivor-themed skit that taught the children that Jesus is the ultimate survivor! The children also participated in an obstacle course, spider races and packed items in a goodie bag as a teacher appreciation gift for teachers at Lee Middle school.



Christmas Craft Day

Come make Christmas crafts and play with friends! Saturday, December 3 from 10AM-2PM. The cost is \$15 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. Ages 6 weeks to 5th grade.

HARVEST KIDS SPOTLIGHT



AUDREY WEEKS

Q. What grade are you in this year?

A. 4th

Q. Where do you go to school?

A. McNeal Elementary

Q. Have you ever gone to a lock-in before?

A. Yes

Q. What was your favorite part of the lock-in?

A. Harvest Lock In 2015 when we made the glow in the dark glue and the hungry hungry hippo (human version) game we played.

Q. Is there anything else you like about coming to Harvest?

A. I like that everyone is nice and I get to learn on the weekends, that is fun!

Q. Is there anything you would like people to know about you?

A. I don't like pizza. I am a straight A student. My favorite color is navy blue. I participate in horseback riding, recorder club, running club and gymnastics. I like to read a lot of books.



HARVESTERS GO TO CHRISTMAS TOWN

Have you ever wondered what over a million illuminated Christmas lights might look like? It is a spectacle to behold! On Saturday, December 3, the Harvesters (50+) and others that wish to join them will travel by chartered motor coach to Busch Gardens for an afternoon of fun and entertainment and evening filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas Town, Busch Garden's yearly Christmas extravaganza.

The afternoon will start with a 1:30 PM departure from Harvest Lakewood Ranch. Once you are inside the gates at Busch Gardens, you will be free to enjoy the afternoon/evening at your leisure. You may want to take in an animal show, listen to one of the animal keepers' presentations, take a behind the scenes tour (extra cost), ride one of the famous (or infamous) roller coasters, shop at the bazaar and/or enjoy a meal in one of the Busch Gardens restaurants. At dark, the Gardens are transformed into a Christmas Wonderland as huge Christmas trees, pink flamingos, cheetahs, poinsettias and other Christmas wonders all begin to appear thanks to the Christmas lights strategically placed around the Gardens. Departure from the Gardens will be at 8:30 PM with an anticipated arrival time back at Harvest at 9:30 PM.

Costs for the day are as follows:

1. Total package including motor coach transportation, driver's tip and admission to Busch Gardens for the afternoon/evening is \$94. This does not include any food, keepsakes or behind the scenes tours. The \$69 group admission price to Busch Gardens is a savings of approximately \$30 off the regular daily rate.
2. If you already have your own entrance pass to Busch Gardens, all you will need to pay is the \$25 transportation cost.

If you would like to join the Harvesters please register early. The motor coach has a seating capacity of 55 people. Deadline for registration is Sunday, November 20, and fees for the day are non-refundable.

More Info:

Register: welcometoharvest.org/harvesters

Bob and Mary Stark | 231.564.0677

harvesters@welcometoharvest.org

SPROUTS

Sprouts is buzzing with activity! Every week 127 eager children pass through Harvest's doors ready to play and learn. Their days are filled with creating, building, playing, storytelling, music, Spanish, and chapel. At the same time, 27 dedicated teachers spend their days nurturing and teaching these children while demonstrating the love of God.

In October, the "Pumpkin Fairy" brought magic pumpkin seeds to all of the children of Sprouts. After listening to a story and praying that the seeds would grow, the children had fun throwing them out on the courtyard lawn. Guess what happened! Two days later the seeds had grown into a pumpkin patch. The children were amazed and enjoyed picking out a pumpkin to take home along with a class pumpkin. The last week in October the children were seen Trunk-or-Treating. This is a favorite family event where parents decorate the trunks of their cars and the children dress up in costumes and trick-or-treat from car to car.

It has been a busy fall so far and Sprouts is looking forward to focusing on families, sharing, and Thanksgiving in November.



OF HARVEST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

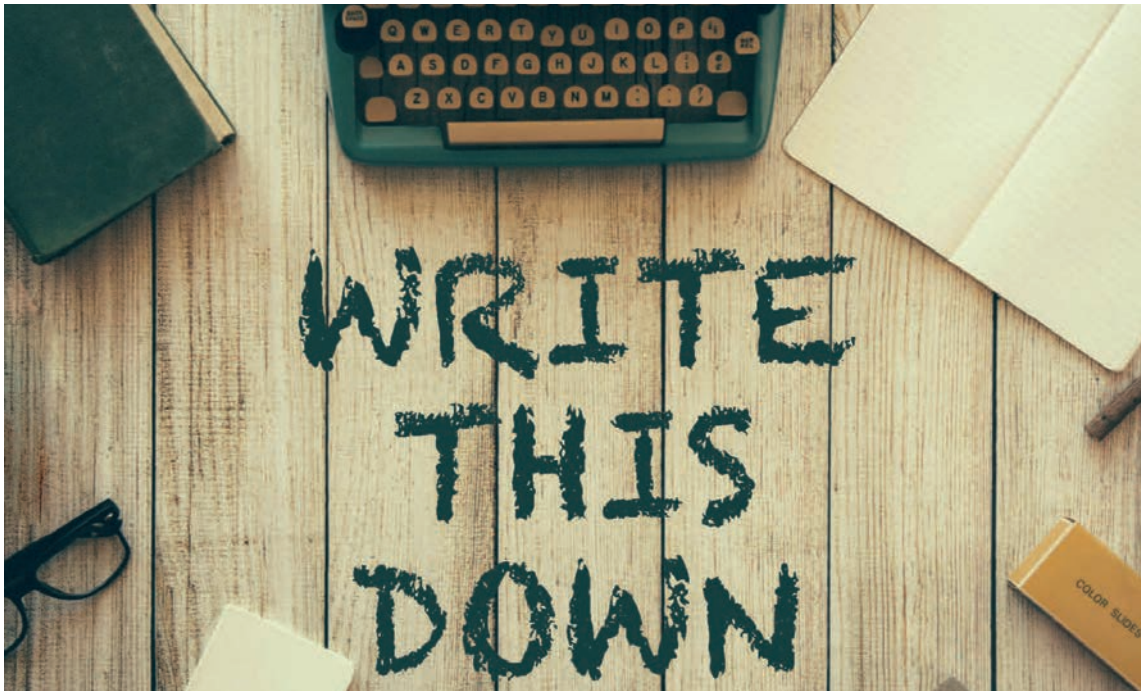


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November Message Series – Write This Down



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