

June  
2019

# HARVEST MONTHLY

EVERY  
SUN

PRAYER MEETING @ 9:30a

Join us in the Worship Center  
before the service to ask God to  
reveal His power through worship.

WORSHIP SERVICE  
@ 10a

Current  
Series

Welcome, Guest Preachers!



PASTOR JOHN FIECK



PASTOR  
MAC DAVENPORT



DR. DAN DORIANI

EVERY  
THUR

GIRLS' TIME OUT @ 10a - ALL SUMMER!



EVERY  
SAT

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY @ 7:30a

Meets at Harvest Café in the  
church lobby. Doors open at  
7a, study begins at 7:30a. All  
men are cordially invited to  
join us.

2  
SUN



12  
WED



16  
SUN



JULY  
3

Harvest Interns  
arrive from the  
Czech Republic!

JULY  
20



JULY  
22-26



## *Preaching Schedule*

Pastor Michael will not be preaching in June due to vacation time, as well as time needed for preparation of the advanced preaching schedule for the fall. We are excited to welcome our guest speakers, **Dr. Daniel Doriani**, the Vice-President of Covenant Seminary; **Mac Davenport**, our former student pastor, now planting a church in Cape Girardeau; and also our newly hired Family Pastor, **John Fieck**, formerly the Senior Pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel in Ogden, Utah. Please welcome these brothers and pray they will bring God's Word with power!

*June 9*

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Daniel Doriani**

*June 16*

**Pastor John Fieck**

*June 23*

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Daniel Doriani**

*June 30*

**Guest Speaker: Mac Davenport**

*July – September*



Listen to messages during the week at  
[harveststlouis.org/sermons](http://harveststlouis.org/sermons)

## **New Vision, New Name, New Place – Same God**

This is an extraordinary time at our church. In twelve years of our existence, I believe this season to be quite defining for us. Many prayers have been lifted and many discussions initiated among our leaders, but ultimately it is God's voice and direction we seek. Here is the big picture.

**New Vision** – The Bible says, “where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint.” The literal meaning of the Hebrew word “yipara” is to be out of control. It makes sense to me – without God's direction, a local church is like a ship without a rudder. After the unfortunate dissolution of the Harvest Bible Fellowship in 2017, we needed a new direction. The vision given to us at the start was a general one for a church planting movement. About a year ago, the Lord showed me 1 John 1:3 as a vision for our church. Here, the church is defined as a community bound together by the fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, hearing Him speak, watching Him work and proclaiming Him to others, so that they too may become a part.

**New Name** – Out of this verse, a new name began emerging. Our leaders have been discussing a new church name for the past two years. At last, by faith, we gleaned from 1 John 1:3 the word “fellowship” (Greek: koinonia, meaning to do life together). That's us! That's who we are! But in order to remain biblical, this fellowship cannot be based on horizontal relationships or practices. It must be first vertical, a “fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.” Church is about God. The simple and self-explanatory nature of the two pivotal words affirms our new name – Vertical Fellowship.

**New Place** – This is the part of the vision that's still uncertain. The elders believe that the current lease contract restrictions on how we may (may not) use our building play a significant role in reaching our full potential. Why pay for and maintain all the space we hardly ever use? Even as Gideon put down his fleece before God (Judges 6:36-40), we did the same by proposing two major contract amendments to the building owners. If we are to stay here, we asked the Lord to open some new doors for us to begin utilizing this facility in the best way that suits our new vision. Otherwise, we asked the Lord to lead us out to a new, more manageable place. We hope to finish our negotiations and have clear answers within a few weeks.

**Same God** – What will not change? Our unrelenting commitment to God's Word and our anchoring theological principles known as the “Four Pillars.” Likewise, the application expressed in the “Four Ws” will remain the same. In fact, our mission statement will be simplified, stating that “we exist to glorify God by our worship, walk, witness and work for Christ.” On the practical level, we hope to add some new compassion ministries (acts of benevolence and feeding the hungry), and other projects where most people can get involved and serve right away without much elaborate training.

Please join me and the elders for a **Family Chat** on **Sunday, June 16**, right after the worship service to hear more about this and ask any questions. Above all, please pray for the church and God's favor for the journey ahead.

## Change Is Inevitable!



Steve with his daughters, Jade and Mia

**For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

*Jeremiah 29:11*



With Theodore Brooks at Cardinal's game

Seasons change. If you like summer (as my family does), cooking out and getting to a neighborhood pool somewhere will be on your list of priorities. I love living in an area where seasons change.

Change is one of those unrelenting agents God has made. Some of us love change and some of us are afraid of change or maybe we are somewhere in between. You can see the importance of change in the Bible from the very beginning of time and how God turns darkness into light and day back into night. We see it in nature, from a butterfly's journey to landscapes being transformed by time. We also see it in our lives. Unfortunately, there are times we move away from our loved ones or the people we love move on themselves. Let me share with you a messy, beautiful story of changes in my life and who was there for me when I needed it most.

Pastor Michael and I will be sharing with you this weekend that I have accepted a full-time job at another church. I want to take this time to thank the leadership here at Harvest Bible Chapel and all of you. You see, I've been a worship leader for 25 years. I've had some amazing memories and experiences in my life and life was going great! Jobs fell into place, I have an amazing family. Everything was so good!

Then I became divorced. My wife of 21 years moved on. This was the hardest season of my life. I am not trying to minimize anyone else's pain who goes through a divorce, but when you are a "divorced pastor," you lose everything! You lose precious time with your children, close friends on staff, church community, and in some cases, like my own, your job. After that, I couldn't find a church that would hire me or accept a divorced pastor.

I know I never once lost God; He was with me the whole time. I'm so grateful for a church that would show God's love and give me an opportunity to restore me and allow me to use my gifts again. At the end of every service at Harvest, we hear "you are loved." For me, this is a reality I have felt here at Harvest Bible Chapel. I've enjoyed my time the last year with you all in this ministry and have so many great memories and relationships. That will never change!

Unfortunately, change is inevitable and can be bitter-sweet. I will miss you all and pray that we cross paths again soon. I pray for change in the hearts of all of us to love better and be better as we all try to look a little bit more like Jesus. It's been my honor to run the race alongside you all! Thanks for accepting me and loving me in an impossible season.

Please, stay in touch! But, if not, then inevitably, one day, we'll be all subject to the final change moving on into heaven and worshipping our Lord together again.

Steve Reischl



## *Summertime is Here!*

### High Five Vacation Bible Experience

July 22 – 26 | 9a to 4:30p | ages 4-12

Mark your calendars for summer fun with High Five! Sign your kids up for fun workshops, like karate and theatre! They'll have fun while also learning more about the Bible and God's love! RSVP at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) by searching for High Five 2019 in the St. Louis Area!

Contact Terri Shukri for more information.  
We need volunteers!



## Volunteer of the Month: Sabrina Handley!

Sabrina says, "I have been serving in Harvest kids for about 3 years now and can think of many moments that have been such a blessing to me...I think one of my favorite things is seeing the children grow in their knowledge of our Lord as well as physically. Also, I love worship time in the story room where I get to see even the youngest children find joy clapping and dancing as we worship God. It's such a reward to be a part of Harvest Kids!"

Sabrina, we are so grateful for your willing heart to serve our children in Harvest Kids. If you see Sabrina, make sure to encourage her and tell her thank you for taking care of our little ones! Sabrina, you are so loved!



**"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."**

**Proverbs 22:6, ESV**



## *Save the Date!*

### **Student Float Trip! July 28-30**

Our annual float trip is a go for this year and boy, will it be a doozy! Not only will we float together this year, but we will be extending our float trip into a short camping trip with hiking, campfire memories, and so much fun! Plus, our Harvest Interns from the Czech Republic will be joining us! Mark this one on your calendars so you don't miss a great experience!

**“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”**

**Isaiah 43:19a, ESV**

John with his wife Sarah and his 5 children: Gracelyn, Eiren, Charis, Allie, & Asher

## **New Beginnings!**

*Written by Christy Šust*

As one of the current youth group counselors here at Harvest, I can tell you how long awaited this exciting announcement has been for us! After searching and praying for God to show us the right man for the job, the elders have hired John Fieck to be our new full-time Family Pastor!

John was saved dramatically in his early 20s from a life of worldly pursuits and even illegal activity. His personal testimony is quite dramatic and not unlike our Senior Pastor's own testimony in some ways, but I will spare the details here as I'm sure John will have an opportunity to share some of it himself. After he was saved, John went on to study and receive a degree in Biblical & Theological Studies as well as in Counseling from Northland International University in 2008.

His first experience with Harvest Bible Chapel wasn't even in America but in the Caribbean at HBC in St. Vincent and Grenadines. There, he helped plant churches, lead discipleship ministries, and assist in training pastors and ministry leaders.

In 2016, John completed pastoral training at Harvest Bible Chapel in Elgin and went on to plant and pastor Harvest Bible Chapel in Ogden, Utah, which is where he and his wife, Sarah, have served faithfully since. Recently, they were required to step down from this as they felt God calling them in a new direction, leading them to our very own Harvest!

As the Associate Pastor for Family Ministries, John will be leading both the Children's and Student Ministries. He will also put his counseling certification to good use by joining Jennifer Schumacher as a Biblical Soul Care Counselor.

I don't doubt that we will all give John, his wife Sarah, and his five children a warm Harvest welcome on June 16<sup>th</sup> when he will be here to preach and meet you all in person! You are so loved, Fieck family!



## Make Me Know the Way I Should Go

*Written by: Theodore & Heidi Brooks*

Think about any time you've taken a hike on a new trail or in a new place. You may be somewhat prepared for the journey – you have a first aid kit, some water, maybe a map... but you don't quite know what the destination will look like or what kind of challenges and/or beauty you may encounter along the way. The journey is part of the wonder of it all. **"...Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul." (Psalm 143:8)**

Bringing a companion on that journey ensures you have someone to help carry the burden when your pack gets too heavy, you become injured, or you lose your way. It also provides built in accountability to stay the course when your legs get tired and to help you avoid unnecessary pitfalls that you may not see on your own.

The aim of small groups is progressive sanctification and discipleship. However, it's important to remember that becoming more like Christ doesn't happen in a vacuum or as a solo sport. We are called to journey together as we worship, walk, work and witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. The journey we find ourselves on requires faith. Much like hiking with a companion, being a part of a small group keep us from having to make this journey alone. We set out together to be more like Christ. Our provision for the journey through progressive sanctification is Jesus Christ, and we gather knowledge through time in His Word, the Bible.



Returning from a good hike, there is great joy in sharing the experience with others. Whether it is sharing photos, telling stories, or encouraging someone to join us the next time, we can't help but invite others into the joy of the journey itself.

One of the ways small groups invite others into the joy of knowing and walking with Christ is through service projects. Our Harvest small group and bible study leaders took part in a leadership retreat in May. During that time, the group agreed that there is a collective desire to find new and more collaborative ways to reach out and minister within the St. Louis community. Don't be surprised if your leaders challenge you to participate, or better yet, to identify and lead your group to seize opportunities where you can come together and serve in this area! There is no need to wait on your leaders to find these open opportunities – feel free to take charge and bring one to your group today!

*If you're not yet involved in a small group and would like to be, or even if you just want to join one of the groups to reach out to our community, please contact Theodore or Heidi Brooks to get you connected today!*



## *Mark Your Calendars!*

### **Sunday Morning Prayer Every Sunday | 9a | Prayer Garden**

Prayer for our church, our ladies and other needs in the Harvest Family. Unstructured, silent prayer. Inclement weather alternate site is conference room.

### **Girls Time Out Thursdays | 10a | Beginning June 13th**

Come for fellowship, encouragement and development in your walk with Christ. Join in sharing, caring, and discussion of the things of God over coffee with friends as well as summer sanity mom's play dates, exercise classes and more! Every Thursday this summer! It's going to be stellar!

**\*\*Childcare available, reservations required**

### **Women's Leadership Team Meeting Sunday, Aug. 4 | 12pm | Harvest Cafe**

Interested in being involved in what's happening with Harvest Women? Join us!

### **Looking for Volunteers:**

We are always looking for ladies for our team. Interested in helping plan events and activities that appeal to today's women? Contact us today!  
dbreneman@harveststlouis.org.

## **Spiritual Spring Cleaning**

*Written by Debbie Breneman*

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or illfitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to life freely and lightly."

Matthew 11:28-30, The Message

Doesn't that sound fantastic? Those are Jesus' words, offering us rest and life. Rest. And life. "Walk with me." "Work with me." "Keep company with me."

Perhaps after a long, cold winter, your house needs a spring cleaning. I know mine does! What about your spiritual life? Has your relationship with the Lord become a bit stale or out of practice? Maybe your quiet time has been pushed out of the routine with the busyness of life and you are feeling there are a few cobwebs that need to be swept away to have a clear view of God's direction for you in this season. Just like the blooming bulbs of spring, you need to feel the warmth of the Son and a renewal of His Spirit within you. Guess what! This is our awesome God calling you to Him because He loves you and He misses you. He, the God of the universe, wants a deeper intimacy with you. Relish that. Soak it in.

Join us if you can for our summer **Girls Time Out** opportunities, where discussion groups, led by some of our own Harvest Women, will discuss spiritual disciplines that, when practiced, will enable us to pursue Christ more diligently and know Christ more deeply. There will be daytime and evening opportunities, as well as girls only and family events this summer. More information to come. Let's plan to make this summer a Season of Transformation.

You are LOVED!



## Next Steps

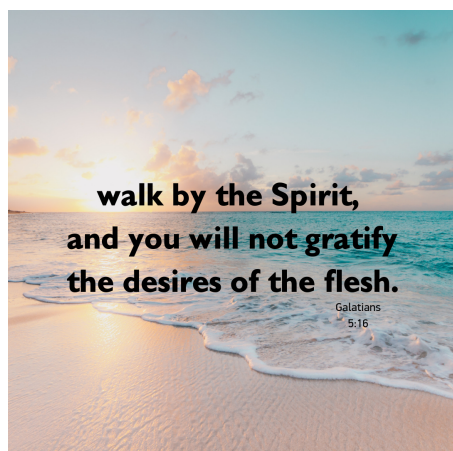
We all have needed or will need counsel at some point in our life. We generously offer an initial consultation for most directional and corrective issues free of charge. Contact Jennifer Schumacher for more information on receiving counsel or how to become a BSC Counselor.

Types of Issues we Help with:

- Addiction
- Anger
- Anxiety/Worry/Fear
- Cutting
- Depression
- Marriage conflict/issues
- Eating Disorders
- Much more...

## Referrals Welcome

Biblical Soul Care is not just for our church members; it is open to anyone. Do you know someone outside of Harvest that may need Biblical guidance facing a trial? Refer them to us.



## Is Sin the Problem?

Written by Jennifer Schumacher

Many think sin is too simplistic to be the answer to the human dilemma, but sin is far from simplistic. In Titus, Paul tells us about sin: “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, *deceived and enslaved* by all kinds of passions and pleasures” (Titus 3:3, italics added). What tends to be understood as sin is only the overt violation of God’s law - when what is right is obvious (do not steal, and a decision is made to do otherwise. But sin is more complex than that; it is deceptive and enslaving.

Sin is deceptive because it is deeply engrained in our heart. It is part of our nature: “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Cor 2:14). Our sinful nature influences our thoughts, desires, and behaviors (Eph 4:22; James 4:1-2). We desire and crave something more than God. You can call it longings, wishes, expectations, goals, felt needs, but if your desire is greater than your love for God, it is a violation of the first commandment – “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). Rather than pursuing God and His righteousness (Matt 6:33), our evil hearts are pursuing selfish goals, needs, wishes, and demands. This is the madness of our situation (Ecc 9:3; Jer 17:9).

Sin is not only deceptive, it is also enslaving. Jesus warned us: “... everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). Sin makes you feel like you cannot control your behavior, and it becomes a part of who you are. Even Paul struggled with sin in his life (Romans 7:15, 19) that led him to call himself a wretched man! (24)

Clearly, sin is a very complex issue requiring more than simply stopping the sinful behavior. We need a renewed heart and mind. We need Jesus’ mercy and grace. Only the Bible is sufficient in addressing the problem of sin, and only the Bible offers an adequate solution.

## Our freedom is in Christ.

To overcome the deceptiveness of sin, we must renew our mind with the Word (Romans 12:2). To be freed from the bondage of sin we must pursue God’s Righteousness and Holiness (John 8:36; Romans 6:18; 1 Peter 1:16). Check the Harvest Soul Care page on the next Harvest Monthly to see how Christians change, turn away from sin, and are continually sanctified.

“..put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph 4:22-24)



## *...Let there be light?*



Have you noticed when you enter the bathrooms that the lights just automatically come on? And there are no longer light switches; just the square sensor like the one above?

This is the first phase of our energy savings campaign. Don Sterner graciously installed the remaining sensors in the first floor bathrooms. The next phase is the upstairs bathrooms, staff bathroom, office copier and galley rooms, storage rooms, and maintenance rooms.



Entry ways are set for one minute while the rooms themselves are set for 15 minutes. Please let anyone on the facilities team – Scott & Susan Reynolds, Don Sterner, Robert Day, Josh Breneman, or Todd Brady, know if you are having any issues with the new sensors.

## *...And the Work Goes On!*

*Written by Scott and Susan Reynolds*

Please welcome Josh Breneman to the facilities team. He has been the one responsible for the excavation along the edge of the building and adding drainage rock to keep the monsoon-type rain from getting inside.

The finale will be a French drain along the building and under the sidewalk where we have a major water intrusion problem at the west stage door entrance. Please watch for safety cones and avoid that area as much as possible.



***You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. (Psalm 128:2)***



## Stewardship Report

May 2019

	Actual	Budget
Week 1	13,181	9,475
Week 2	4,615	9,475
Week 3	7,587	9,475
Week 4	5,493	9,475
Total	30,876	37,900

### OUR FOUR PILLARS

#### 1 UNAPOLOGETIC PROCLAMATION

Proclaiming the authority of God's Word without apology.  
*2 Timothy 4:2 | Hebrews 4:12*

#### 2 CHRIST-CENTERED WORSHIP

Lifting high the name of Jesus through worship.  
*John 4:24 | John 12:32*

#### 3 CONFIDENT PRAYER

Believing firmly in the power of prayer.  
*Ephesians 6:18 | Hebrews 4:16*

#### 4 FEARLESS SHARING

Sharing the good news of Jesus with boldness.  
*Ephesians 6:19 | Romans 1:16*

### OUR MISSION

The Church exists to glorify God through the fulfillment of the Great Commission, in the spirit of the Great Commandment.  
*Matthew 28:19-20; 22:37-39*

### OUR ELDERS

Michael Šust | Pastor  
Theodore Brooks | Elder  
Mike Breneman | Elder



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