



Press Release

8.18.25

Our Commitment to Safety, Care, and Healing

As a church, we know that sin is grievous and carries devastating consequences. For more than twenty years, our church family has walked alongside victims of sexual abuse and sex trafficking both locally and abroad. Their names and stories are real and deeply personal to us, and our hearts break with them as we have sought to provide care, support, and healing.

From the beginning, the safety of children and youth has been a priority for us. We have consistently established and upheld clear boundaries and expectations to protect those entrusted to our care. This includes clear guidelines for individuals on the sex offender registry.

We want to state clearly that Joel Waltz has never been employed by our church and has never served in any children or youth ministries. Prior to his attendance, specific boundaries and expectations were set by our leadership, board, and his parole officer. Those boundaries and expectations have remained firmly in place and he has faithfully abided by them. We cooperate fully with law enforcement in any regard they deem necessary.

Our hope is that all people who are seeking repentance, hope, and healing can find it in Christ through a church family like ours regardless of what they have done or experienced. While we grieve the harm that sin causes, we remain committed both to protecting the vulnerable and to being a community where the transforming power of Jesus is available to all.

For people who call us their church home, we welcome you to contact any one of the pastoral staff directly if you would like to have a face-to-face conversation. They would be glad to meet with you and have a dialogue around this.

Questions, including those from the media, can be directed to info@harvestvc.org.

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