Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: December 3, 2017

Title: Coming Home: COME DOWN HOME **Theme**: Sinning against God and one another.

Purpose: We begin the season of Advent acknowledging our estrangement from our Creator. We acknowledge God's anger and absence, and we confess our complicity

in the situation.

Old Testament: Isaiah 64:1-9 **New Testament**: Mark 13:24-37

Date: December 17, 2017

Title: Coming Home: JOY IS OUR TRUE HOME

Theme: Joy in the midst of difficult nights

Purpose: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give

thanks in all circumstances.

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 **New Testament**: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Date: December 31, 2017

Title: Coming Home: GOING HOME AGAIN

Theme: Meeting Christ.

Purpose: To testify about the hope of redemption we

have found in Christ to other people. **Old Testament**: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 **New Testament**: Luke 2:22-40

Date: December 10, 2017

Title: Coming Home: HOME IS WHERE WE MEET **Theme**: God is merciful and offers pardon for sins.

Purpose: Home is knowing that we are saved by the grace of God. Home is anywhere that we meet God's people and

welcome them in with the love of Christ. **Old Testament**: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

New Testament: Mark 1:1-8

Date: December 24, 2017 (**10:30 service only**)

Title: Coming Home : GOD MAKES THIS WORLD

OUR HOME

Theme: The Hope of God's salvation.

Purpose: Because in His birth (Emmanuel), a new order is called forth. Through the birth of Jesus, the whole world

is turned around.

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 **New Testament**: Luke 1:26-38

Sunday's Service Information

Traditional Service – For those that love that "Old Time Religion", we have a traditional worship service that

meets every Sunday at 8:30 am.

Blended Service – Not too bold, not too mild...just right. Our Blended service combines the best of our traditional and contemporary worship services. The Blended service

is every Sunday at 10:30 am.

Church Contact

Phone: 305-852-2581, Fax: 305-852-4917

Email: burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net, Pastor: kmf_bmumc@bellsouth.net

Web Site: www.BMUMC.net

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Friday - Office Closed.

Newsletter and Bulletin Deadlines

We have a lot of ministries and events going on at Burton and it is important to get the word out regarding them. So, please remember the *deadline for getting information into the weekly bulletin is on Wednesdays*. *The deadline for monthly Beacon articles is the 20 of each month*. Please send all information that you want placed in the bulletin or in the Beacon to the office at bae_bmumc@att.net.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

December Birthdays:

December Anniversaries:

	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
	<u>DAY</u>		DAY		DAY
Annabelle Bricker	4	Sharon Braunberns	23	Bud & Gail Preston	17
Kay Comer	4	Betty Anne Gear	24	Nathan & Catie Frier	18
Holly Holly	10	Jane Chapin	26	Gene & Virginia Spear	19
Bryella Beerkircher	21	John Holly	31	Carol & Alan Ackenhausen	23

The Beacon



a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC

December 2017

Kerry's Corner

In the United States, Christmastime and thoughts of home just go together. "I'll be Home for Christmas," and "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays," are two of the most popular holiday songs, year after year. Christmas movies and television shows regularly feature stories of people going to their family home or extended family home over the holidays.

Among the rituals we create for this darkest time of the year in the Northern hemisphere, perhaps the majority of them are associated with either going home or doing special things at home-- whether lighting candles and having a time of family prayer during Advent, or decorating a Christmas tree, or caroling through a neighborhood, or hosting festive "open house" parties for friends, neighbors, and colleagues. It's all about home.



Advent and Christmas Season are about another kind of homecoming, the homecoming of Christ to redeem and renew us, this earth, and all creation till "heaven and nature sing" with joy eternally. The Scriptures the church uses for Advent focus first on the final fulfillment, and later on the beginning of that fulfillment in Jesus. As they seek God's joyous desire, they also make plain just how far from it we have been and challenge us with just how far we have to go, ourselves, to begin to live into it.

This year's Advent and Christmas Season series embraces the secular seasonal metaphor of homecoming to wrap the challenging biblical texts this season gives us. Each week's service will invite us to "unwrap" something that leads us toward making our hearts, our lives, our families, our communities, and our world more like the home Christ's ultimate homecoming will make it to be.

I hope you will not miss any of these special Sunday's and that you will extend an invitation to your friends so they two can celebrate and unwrap this special season.

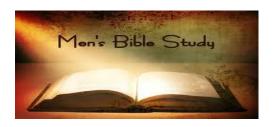
Finding Christ in Christmas Special

Come to the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 pm and see how beloved Christmas characters like Rudolph, Scrooge, and the Grinch can illustrate timeless spiritual lessons in Jason Korsiak's one-hour talk, "Finding Christ in Christmas Specials." Based on his book, The Christmas Gospels, it's an interactive celebration of all your favorite holiday films and is perfect for the whole family!



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

All men are invited to meet in the Burton Fellowship Hall every Wednesday for fellowship and breakfast from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. Pastor Kerry is the facilitator and selects pertinent topics, videos, and scriptures for discussion. Opportunities are provided for prayer requests and events of interest (football, etc.). Breakfast favorites are provided by the men and/or their wives.



Women's Bible Study Group



The Women's Bible Study Group meets on Wednesday morning 10:00 am in the Joy Classroom. We are studying the Upper Room. For more information or a ride, please call Jo Ann Waits at 305-853-9879 or Virginia Spear at 305-852-7757. All ladies are invited to attend.

Membership and Information Class

On Sunday, December 3, we will have a membership and information class in the Pastor's Office at 1:30 pm. If you would like to discover more about Burton Memorial United Methodist Church and what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church, please just show up. If after the class, you would like to become a member of Burton Memorial United Methodist Church, we can make that happen.



Flower Calendar



December is almost full. But the new Flower Calendar for 2018 is ready for you! Please consider placing flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one, in honor of someone or something (such as a ministry or event) or to the Glory of God! Cost is \$20.00 per arrangement. This is a brand new year, so please sign up! The calendar is in the Narthex or contact the church office. Only two orchids per Sunday will be purchased.

Homeless Recognition Day

Once a year, Community Health Ministries sponsors a Homeless Recognition day at Settlers Park in Tavernier. On this day, the names of the homeless that have passed away are read aloud in recognition of their importance. This year's Homeless Recognition Day will be held on December 21, 2017 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

Passionate Worship Committee Meeting

Our church is in need of help in the following areas: Greeters & Ushers, Acolytes, Liturgists, Music, Altar Guild, Children's Church, and Drama. If you can commit to any of these areas in need, please contact Carlene so she can guide you to those in charge of that area. It is important to contribute to our church family, so pick your area and get involved.

Our next meeting of the Passionate Worship Committee will be Monday, January 8, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Center. Those who are involved in this committee, please mark your calendars. Feel free to join us and share your ideas.

We welcome any new ideas you have that would improve the worship experience. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call Carlene at 301-655-0522 or email her at dcjarboe@gmail.com.



Choir News

We began practice on November 1, but it is not too late to get in on the fun, and service to the church. We are getting ready for the Christmas season, some of the best music of the year. We practice on Wednesdays from 6:00 pm until about 7:00 pm. This is an earlier time slot than our normal practice so make note of this time change. This would be a great time to try the choir out. We usually sing on the fourth Sunday of the month. However, this is subject to change. We will be singing on December 10 and 24. We are always looking for new singers. Singing is good for the body and soul. If you have any questions about the choir, please feel free to call the choir director, Carlene Jarboe, at 301-655-0522.



Ringing News



Looking for a few good ringers! The Burton Ringers are looking for new members. Ringer practice is 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm every Wednesday in the Sanctuary. Some musical experience is preferred. God offers the BEST benefit package around! Come and join the bell choir. See any bell choir member or director Raeleigh Gonsalves for more information.

KIDSRING Choir

There's a new choir in town – and it's just for kids! The KIDSRING Choir is a beginning bell choir that meets each Sunday during the first 15 minutes of Children's Church during the 10:30 am service. The choir is open to children age 5 through 3rd grade. All children who meet the age requirement are invited to join! For more information please contact the Church Office or Raeleigh Gonsalves at rgonsa2910@yahoo.com/305-522-9361.



Status of Offerings



It is important to understand that the weekly offerings through the collection plate and website are what pay the expenses of our worship services, as well as contributing to the various church ministries. Below are the offering and website collections for the past four services.

Last Four	Weeks		Year to Date				
Week	Date	Offering	Plan	+/-	Offering	Plan	+/-
45	5-Nov	\$3,749	\$2,985	764	\$119,067	\$119,835	-768
46	12-Nov	\$2,575	\$2,985	-410	\$121,642	\$122,820	-1,178
47	19-Nov	\$2,255	\$2,985	-730	\$123,897	\$125,804	-1,907
48	26-Nov	\$2,305	\$2,985	-680	\$126,202	\$128,789	-2,587

Poinsettias

We are excited to again offer you an opportunity to help make our sanctuary beautiful with our poinsettias. *Poinsettias in a pot are \$25.00 this year; this will be for 12-20 flower average per pot.* You may purchase them in memory or honor of someone or to the Glory of God. These flowers will grace our sanctuary on December 17 and December 24. Please plan to take them home on December 24 after our services. A sign up table will be available at each service. *The deadline for purchase is this Sunday, December 3.*





Christmas Luncheon

Burton Memorial will be hosting a Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 25, 2017 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends. However, in some cases families may not be able to get together this Christmas Day and some people may not have any family members to spend time with. So, we at Burton will be hosting a Christmas Day luncheon that will be open to all in the community. It will be a time in which individuals and families can come to the church and celebrate the true meaning of the season. There will be free food (turkeys / ham with all the trimmings) and wonderful fellowship.

We will need volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean. There will be a preparation day on Sunday, December 24 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. in the kitchen and the Fellowship Center. Then there will be cooking, setting up, serving, and cleaning on Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 starting at 10:00 am and going to 2:00 pm. If you would like to help Burton in providing this uplifting outreach to the community, please contact the church at 305-852-2581 or you can sign-up in the Narthex following the 8:30 am or 10:30 am worship service starting December 3, 2017.

Christmas Eve Services

The Committee on Passionate Worship would like to invite you to attend our Christmas Eve services this year. As we traditionally do, we will have two services on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017. At 7:00 pm we will have a candlelight service geared towards families. We will have free child care services for children up to 2 years old. We will celebrate with a candlelight program and sing traditional Christmas carols. If you can, please also join us for our 11:00 pm service. This is an intimate service with the addition of Holy Communion to the candle lighting. Please come and invite a friend or neighbor. Please note: Sunday Morning there will only be the 10:30 am service.



Christmas Party at the Parsonage

There will be a Christmas party at the parsonage from 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm, just prior to the 11:00 pm service. Come and enjoy some good Christmas food and fellowship after the Candlelight Service or before the Communion Service.

Christmas Gift Wrapping at Kmart



Burton Memorial will be providing free gift wrapping at K-Mart on Saturday, **December 23, from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.** This is an Act of Random Kindness provided by Burton Memorial to the Upper Keys Community. Not only will the gift wrapping services be free...but the gift wrapping paper will be too. This will be a wonderful way to show the unconditional love of Christ and practice a little evangelism with the paper we are using. If you would like to help, please contact the church at 305-852-2581 or you can signup in the Narthex following the 8:30 am or 10:30 am worship service starting December 3, 2017.



College Ministry

by Barbara Koch, College Ministry Coordinator

The end of our college students' academic term is approaching. The pressure mounts as course project deadlines and exams are just around the corner. Please pray for each and every one of the following students that they might navigate this difficult time successfully and then have a wonderfully restorative Christmas break with their friends and family.

wonderfully restorative Christr Lee, Sarah and Ryan Bowman Joshua and Sara Waits Jenna Johnson Kayla Lynn de Vroedt Reid Bennett James Kirkman Daniel Walker Shannon Premaza

Rebecca Fernandez Natasha Murphy



Church Charge Conference 2017

Our annual church charge conference meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10, at Matecumbe United Methodist Church, 81831 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, FL 33036, starting at 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. The worship service begins at 3:45 pm, followed by a 4:30 pm Church Conference.



36

Free Blood Pressure Checks

Every Sunday Monroe County Fire Rescue Department will be providing free blood pressure checks in the Fellowship Center after the 10:30 am service.

Message from the Green Team

Edith Bricker

This Christmas Season let's honor God's creation by taking steps to preserve the earth. United Methodist Women in 13 Steps to Sustainability have statements that boil down the essence of a source of pollution. If we take heed we can be better stewards of God's Creation. The following is an excerpt:

The production and use of paper has adverse effects on the environment. Deforestation contributes to climate change. Pulp mills contribute to pollution of air, water and land. Discarded paper accounts for about 35 percent of municipal solid waste (before recycling). Paper recycling can be a source of pollution due to the sludge produced during de-inking.

So, the Burton Green Team challenges you to use less Christmas wrapping paper, fewer paper plates, and cloth napkins! Re-use last year's wrapping paper. Save the bags and bows and foil from this year's tree for next year's Christmas. Get creative: Use paper bags and yarn to wrap your gifts. Have you ever wrapped a gift in newspaper and bright red bow? How about using the funny papers for the comedian in your family. Even scraps of left-over material can add variety to your Christmas packages. Rather than buying boxes, re-use the Amazon box that UPS brings to your door step. Plus, all of these options save you a trip to the store to buy wrapping paper, thus reducing your carbon footprint even more!



Your *going-green* efforts may have a miniscule effect on the environment, but it makes a statement to others that you care for God's Creation. Let's all make a statement for Christ this Christmas. It just takes intentionality and creativity...God will surely show you the way.



Local News:

Inviting all women to join the United Methodist Women for their December Christmas meeting, *Monday*, *December 18*, *at the home of Edna Waldorf at 7:00 pm*. For more information or a ride call Edna Waldorf 305-451-3753 or Virginia Spear 305-852-7757.

District and Conference News:

The Celebration of the Beloved Community is the way the South East District United Methodist Women begins the Christmas season. Together we gather in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, to show case our cultures in dance, song, music, skits, readings, and FOOD. If you want to know more about our cultural feast, ask the seven Burton members who attended in 2016. It was a culinary delight....we even had German chocolate cake and whole little crabs on top of piled-high plates of food. The South East District is like none other when it comes to diversity....maybe New York City or San Francisco compete with our SE District, but I'll take Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward and, now, the southern part of Palm Beach County any day. We even have Koreans in attendance, now. I count three races, and at least seven ethnicities....and somehow we all get along just fine. So won't you join us? Come to the United Methodist Women's South East District Celebration of the Beloved Community, December 9, at Villages UMC in North Lauderdale, 9:00 am to about 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm...and bring your children and a white elephant gift.

For more information about District and Conference UMW events, call Edith at 305-852-9259.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Join us in the Joy classroom to knit or crochet not only Prayer Shawls but also hats for the Children's Medical Center Dallas for babies-teens in treatment for cancer. Thirty hats were mailed in November. We have plenty of yarn waiting to be transformed into gifts. Come for fellowship, "learn how" or make them on your own. If you can't join us, place your hats on the altar or turn them into the office. Hats will be mailed December 14th. For more information call Virginia Spear 305-852-7757.





Prayer Bead Ministry: Handcrafted Prayer Beads are for sale for \$15.00 each. We have a lovely selection in our current inventory. We are happy to teach those who are interested in learning how to make Prayer Beads. You may borrow the book that inspired us all, *A Bead and a Prayer*, by Kristen E. Vincent. It is located in the Narthex on UMW Book Shelf. *Please contact us if you would like to purchase or learn to string your own prayer beads.* Please call or text Kim Youngblood at 443-207-4000, or email her at kyoungblood528@yahoo.com to make arrangements.

Ft. Lauderdale Christmas Pageant



OUR STORY (First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale)

FROM THE STREET CORNER TO THE CITY SQUARE, the sights and sounds of Christmas surround us during this wonderful season. We are especially delighted that you have chosen to make the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant part of your holiday festivities!

THE FORT LAUDERDALE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT features a festive opening scene with familiar carols in a turn-of-the-century setting, a concert of inspirational contemporary songs, and a musical drama of the nativity and life of Christ.

ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED ASPECTS of the Pageant is the role played by young people, featuring hundreds of children and students from weeks-old babies (in the starring role!) to high school seniors who've been part of the Pageant all their lives. For example, a young violin prodigy who grew up in our church became a teenager virtuoso and served as concertmaster for our adult Pageant orchestra before beginning his service with the Marines. In previous years, our kids performed a specially composed "Lauderdilly Christmas" recorded at Disney studios. This original mini-musical was written for the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant by composers David and Celeste Clydesdale. (The Clydesdales also wrote the new Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom parade, "Share a Dream Come True," as well as the music which serenades the park during the fireworks finale over Cinderella's Castle).



There's always something new each year that can't be missed. This year's ALL NEW Opening Number honors the way we celebrate Christmas in South Florida. With the combination of warm holiday weather and community of diverse cultures, we all know the holiday season in our part of the world is incomparable and this year we are celebrating our uniqueness and our place in the Fort Lauderdale landscape. This will be a one-of-a-kind celebration that brings together family, friends, and loved ones for one joyous afternoon of entertainment and celebration.



The 2017 season will mark the 34th year of the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Pageant, and we are excited to announce that Burton Memorial has 25 tickets to sale for the **Saturday, December 16, 2017** (2:00 pm) matinee performance. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, November 12 following the 8:30 am and 10:30 am worship services in the Narthex. We have secured a block of prime seating in the Mezzanine (the best place to view the entire performance.) Tickets cost \$44.00 each and we can accept cash, checks, or credit cards.

To help in travel expenses and enjoy the group experience, we will be renting two 15-passenger vans that will be leaving the parking lot at 10:00 am to travel to this event. We should arrive in Fort Lauderdale by 12:00 pm and there are plenty of restaurants within walking distance that you can enjoy. The show starts at 2:00 pm and lasts $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours with an intermission.

A Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas

Raeleigh Gonsalves

The Christmas holiday season is a very exciting time with our church dressed in her Christmas finery! We encourage you to join in the spirit of Advent with your whole heart. A little confused about Advent? Here are some basics about the traditions of Advent.

When. Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends Christmas Eve. If Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, Advent will last four full weeks. If Christmas Day falls on any other day of the week, Advent will last less than four weeks. If Christmas falls on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, all of Advent will be in December. If Christmas falls on any other day of the week, Advent will begin in November.

What. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers.

History. Advent began in France in the fourth century. In various times and locations of the church, Advent has been observed for three, four, and six weeks leading to Christmas

Color. The color for Advent has traditionally been purple. Some churches have adopted blue for Advent. The traditional color of purple for Advent signifies penitence and royalty and blue signifies the color of hope.

Themes, Images, Symbols, and Practices. There are a number of historic and traditional themes observed during Advent:

- Preparing to celebrate the coming of Christ:
 - o The coming of the Messiah to the Jews.
 - The coming of Jesus into the world at Bethlehem.
 - o The second coming of Jesus in final victory.
 - The continual coming of Jesus into the hearts and lives of believers.
- A time of penitence and fasting, austerity, seriousness, reading of Scripture, hearing and proclaiming the Word in sermon and song; waiting and longing for the Messiah's coming.
- Symbols: Chrismon tree with its white monograms, the Jesse tree, Advent calendars, trumpets (for Isaiah), the messianic rose, star of Jacob, and *fleur-de-lis*. Modern innovation includes the use of an Advent wreath with four candles and themes around hope-peace-love-joy, John-Elizabeth-Joseph-Mary, or some other pattern.
- The United Methodist Church calls for the following themes for the Sundays of Advent:
 - o First Sunday: the final return of Christ in victory; the Second Coming
 - O Second and Third Sundays: John the Baptist, his role, his words, his teachings.

Here at Burton, we celebrate in many ways. We light the candles in our Advent wreath each Sunday, with the four purple candles representing "Hope", "Peace", "Love" and "Joy". The center white Christ candle will be lit this year on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We decorate our Chrismon tree with the symbols of the church. We encourage you and your family to take a close look at these symbols, many of which were handmade by members of our congregation. A picture explaining the meaning of these symbols is located on each of the front wall columns. See if you can find them all on the tree!

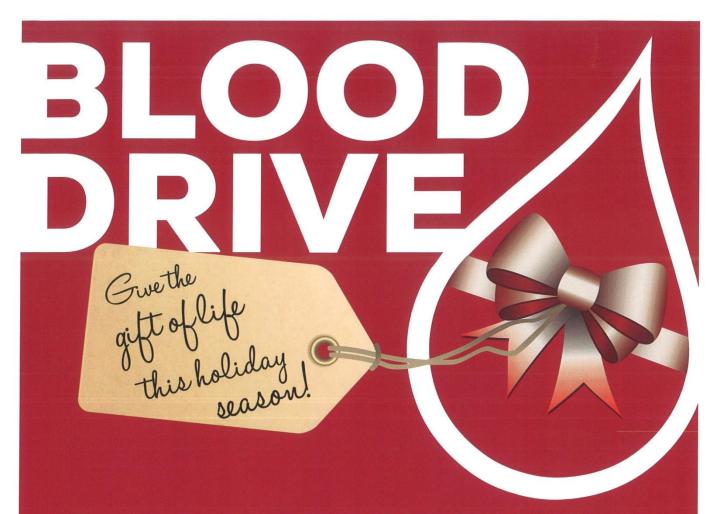
We sing the hymns of Advent like "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" and the carols of Christmas such as "Away in the Manger" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

We hang banners with the symbols of the church and Advent season such as the messianic rose, the star of Jacob, the manger, the Chi Rho, and the lion and the lamb.

We display our crèche with the scene of Nativity, complete with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, animals, and eventually – the baby Jesus!

On Christmas Eve, we join in the singing of "Silent Night" with only candle light to illuminate the church. Then we lift them together – the Light of the World has come!

This year, make Advent and Christmas a time of renewal as we await together the greatest Gift of all!



Sunday, December 10, 2017 | 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Burton Memorial United Methodist Church**

All donors will receive a FREE Fleece Blanket and a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

> Help us better serve you! Make an appointment online at www.oneblooddonor.org and use sponsor code #2815



For more information please visit oneblood.org or call 1.888.9.DONATE (1.888.936.6283).

ID REQUIRED

Less Than

38% of the population can donate blood-of that, less than 10% actually do. Blood cannot be manufactured. It can only come from generous blood donors. If every donor gave just one more time each year, there would be no more blood shortages.

Find out more at oneblood.org/JustOneMore

