

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: May 5, 2024 Sermon Series Title: Avoiding the temptation traps Sermon Title: The trap of power & wealth Old Testament: Proverbs 30:7-9 Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:13 New Testament: Luke 4:1-2 & 5-8	Date: May 12, 2024 Sermon Series Title: Avoiding the temptation traps Sermon Title: The trap of fame Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:16 New Testament: Luke 4:1-2 & 9-13
Date: May 19, 2024 Sermon Series Title: What the Holy Spirit empowers us to do Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit empowers us to be the church Old Testament: Joel 2:28-32 New Testament: Acts 2:1-13	Date: May 26, 2024 Sermon Series Title: What the Holy Spirit empowers us to do Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit empowers us to live as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven Old Testament: Zechariah 4:6 New Testament: Mark 1:15

Church Contacts

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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 twentieth 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!

May Birthdays:

May Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>	<u>DAY</u>
Normand Gonsalves	9	Leslie Bennett	25	
Elizabeth Frampton-Hickman	10	Patricia Fincannon	25	
Vicki O'Meara Gassaway	13	Drema Rimmell	25	
Delores Leber	16	Sue Peacock	29	



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
May 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

May God's grace give us the necessary joy, peace, and patience to love our neighbors.

We continue the five-part Beacon article series on the 'Theories of Atonement.' All Christians believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus saves us from our sins and reconciles us to God. However, there are many explanations as to **how** the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus does this. We call these explanations 'theories of atonement.' Last month (April), we discussed the 'Ransom theory'. This month (May) we discuss the 'Christ as Victor theory.' In June, we will discuss the 'Satisfaction/penal substitution theory'; in July, the 'Recapitulation/Divinization theory'; and lastly, in August, the 'Moral example/Scapegoat theory'.



During sermons, I often say something like, "Jesus willingly experienced death so He could defeat death on our behalf." This is a reference to the 'Christ as Victor' theory of atonement. This theory emphasizes the victory of the resurrection. According to it, the resurrection provides two cosmic size victories.

The first victory that the resurrection provides is the triumph of the Kingdom of God over the worldly kingdom. The Kingdom of God triumphs, not with might, power, and oppression, but with sacrificial love. Jesus went to the cross out of love for us.

When Jesus died on the cross, the Roman Emperor, religious leaders, Satan, and all the forces of evil thought they defeated God and God's kingdom. But, when Jesus rose from the dead, he showed that no one could defeat him or his kingdom! Let's remember this the next time we face a crisis or feel the weight of oppression. We may sometimes lose a battle, but we'll never lose the war!

The second victory provided by the resurrection is the defeat of death and this guarantees our eternal life. To understand this, we must first realize that we are all sinners. Every one of us has thought, said, or done something that is unloving. Sin separates us from God, who is the originator & sustainer of life. Therefore, the consequence of sin is death. The Lord, however, still loves us. It's God's nature to love us. First John, chapter 4 states that God literally is love. Our loving God does not want to see any of us get what we deserve – death. So, God offers us forgiveness and destroys death. Jesus, as fully God and fully human, allowed the religious leaders and Roman authorities to murder him so he could face death and defeat death on our behalf. With death defeated, we can receive God's forgiveness and enjoy an eternal and loving relationship with God.

To take advantage of Jesus' victory over death, we must receive God's freely offered forgiveness and repent of our sins. Once we receive God's forgiveness, we begin an eternal, loving relationship with God. Repentance is the Holy Spirit empowered decision to change. We open our hearts to God's grace so that God's grace can change the attitudes, desires, and motivations deep within our hearts. In this way, we become more like Christ and God uses us to spread God's love and proclaim God's kingdom.

The following Bible passages emphasize "Christ as Victor." Take the time to slowly meditate on these passages: 1 Corinthians 15:1-58, Hebrews 2:9 & 14-15, Romans 6:9, 1 John 5:4.

In Christ Jesus, David L. Charlton, Pastor

Church T-shirts

We are interested in getting a **t-shirt order** going for the Burton, but we need to see if anyone is interested. If you are, please see RaeLeigh Gonsalves any time before or after church!



Potluck Luncheon

Burton will be having a potluck on Communion Sunday, **May 5, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center**, following the 10:00 am service. The theme for this luncheon is **Cinco de Mayo Mexican food. We will be honoring the Child Development Center this Sunday.** Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

Status of Offerings

Please remember that the weekly offerings pay the expenses of our worship services, as well as contributing to the various church ministries. Below are the offerings and website collections for March 2024 to date, along with the expenses for the same period. The Year-to-Date totals show our expenses exceed our offerings. The difference is funded by our Child Development Center (CDC) income. The goal going forward is to grow our church, so we are no longer dependent on this income to pay church expenses.



Last Four Weeks					Year to Date		
Week	Date	Offering	Expense	+ / -	Offering	Expense	+ / -
1	3-Mar	\$2,904	\$6,579*	-3,675	\$20,210	\$35,088	-14,878
2	10-Mar	\$2,415	\$2,178	237	\$22,625	\$37,266	-14,641
3	17-Mar	\$1,477	\$10,296**	-8,819	\$24,102	\$47,562	-23,460
4	24-Mar	\$1,340	\$0	1,340	\$25,442	\$47,562	-22,120

***This number does not include the \$50,098 we paid for our property/casualty and workman's comp insurance for the year, saving 2% for paying in full by the due date. **Includes new kitchen 3-sink combination.**

We are continuing with our Facebook Live services at 10:00 am, with videos posted on Facebook. If you are not able to attend services in person, please help us by either mailing your normal donation by check to Burton Memorial UMC, 93001 Overseas Highway, Tavernier, FL 33070, or go to our website: bmumc.net and click on **Give Online** in the upper right corner of the home page to set up a payment online.

Ringin' News

The Burton Ringers are rehearsing on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. We are always seeking new ringers – if you have handbell/music experience we would love to have you! See any bell choir member or director RaeLeigh Gonsalves for more information.



Church Council Meeting

Your Church Council is hard at work taking on the issues and opportunities that church ministry brings. One of those opportunities is a chance to discuss our finances. At our next **council dinner meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Center**, we will be holding a Finance Summit as part of our regular monthly meeting. We are grateful for the church's continued support in all the wonderful ways our church is learning, serving, fellowshiping, worshipping, and planning! Don't forget to add your thoughts to our whiteboard question! Look for more information in next month's Beacon.

Church Council

Fit For Christ Exercise Group

The Fit For Christ weekly group, with support, education, and exercise for all ages, continues to **meet on Mondays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in Burton's Fellowship Center**. Exercise will help improve your balance, mobility and strength, and increase your spirits and your energy! Why not catch up on your new year's resolution by joining this group?



Tai Chi Open House Weekly Classes

Strength, Flexibility, and Stillness all in one exercise class? At Burton? Yes, twice a week!



We are blessed that **Tai Chi** is being offered here at Burton in the *Fellowship Center on Tuesdays from 9:45 am to 11:15 am, and on Monday nights from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm*, for all levels of ability. All teachers are volunteers and class costs are by donations to cover the costs of the class location. ***You can start any time.*** The benefits are amazing and the history is fascinating. I hope you will check out their web site and the classes they have to offer. <https://www.taoisttai chi.org/> Why not start out the new year by joining this group?

God's Kitchen/Food Pantry

For those of you who missed the April 14 Sunday Service, please come by and welcome our new Food Pantry Coordinator, Chris Chandler (left.) Burton's Staff Parish Relations Committee honored ***Adele Budd (right)***, who has volunteered with us since before Covid, and has worked for us since we moved the pantry back inside, with a big thank you and prayers for her new endeavors. She is moving to Colorado to be with her daughter.

Burton is still in need of help with our Food Pantry Ministry. We can use extra hands in the pantry to help with deliveries on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and to serve our clients Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm and Thursday evenings from 5 pm to 7 pm. Please call the office at 305-852-2581 to get more details or to volunteer.

We are also still looking for groups or individuals to help with our God's Kitchen Free Dinner on Thursdays, helping to cook, serve and clean up. If you can help, please call or text Marylou Wilkinson at 305-394-3878,



If you would like yourself, your child, grandchild, or great grandchild to be put our "student database," please send your request to bae_bmumc@att.net, or call the church office at 305-852-2581. We will need the name of the child, grade, and school. ***Please also let us know if someone has graduated so we can honor them here.***

Service on the Water

Burton Memorial's mission statement begins with: "We are an uncommon church for common people offering a love of neighbor without boundaries." An excellent way to exemplify this concept is the fresh expression that we are going to explore. A fresh expression is a modern, innovative method of reaching those who are not already connected to the church, and these programs typically take place outside of church walls.

We live on this beautiful island, and many of our neighbors spend their weekends on the water instead of Sundays in the pews. An idea was inspired by the song "Saltwater Gospel" by Eli Young Band and Jimmy Buffett. Aboard a boat, Pastor David will conduct a brief service over the marine radio to those who are at sea. Eventually, we'd like to encourage raft-ups for face-to-face services and even Communion. The intent is to spread the Word, providing an opportunity to worship out on the water. ***We will begin on Sunday, June 2, at 2:00 pm.***





United
Women
in Faith

Our April 22 meeting featured a Call to Prayer and Self Denial program led by Barbara Koch. UWF for years has supported Just Energy for All projects and this year's CTPSD offering is earmarked for climate justice endeavors. This year's CTPSD program is focused on helping us recognize the practices and institutions in which we participate that contribute to the exploitation of creation, the oppression of people, and the climate crisis.

The next UWF meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 pm at the home of Mary Lou Wilkinson.

Call Mary Lou (305-394-3878) for directions or a ride. Various members of our group will be presenting brief book reviews of books in the 2024 Reading Program. Books from our Reading Program are located on the shelves in the church narthex and are available to be checked out by anyone in the church. Please sign your name and contact number on the sheet in the narthex when signing out a book. Thank you and enjoy some good summer reading!

Peace, Love and Faith,

Mary Lou Wilkinson, President and Barbara Koch, Reading Program



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please join us for fun and fellowship as you knit and crochet on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm in the Joy Classroom. We can teach and we have supplies. We make prayer shawls, hats, scarves and other items for illness and all occasions. Thanks to Mary Lou's sister-in-law Carol who made the four prayer shawls in this picture. For more information, call Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.

UWF Prayer Bead Ministry Donates to Florida Keys Children's Shelter

Linda Norman

The Prayer Bead Ministry met with Ben Kemmer, the Co-Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Keys Children's Shelter, to present \$300 worth of CVS gift cards for the children. These gift cards will be given out to the children. They will then be taken to CVS to use their card to buy items that are unavailable at the shelter. Mr. Kemmer and his staff were very excited and grateful for our gifts. We raised this money through the selling of our Prayer Beads at church and at our Annual Tea. Thank you all for helping us to bring smiles to the children's faces.



United Way of the Collier and the Florida Keys Grant

Good News! The United Way of Collier and the Florida Keys has extended Burton's Food Pantry \$9,000 grant for another six months, through September 30, 2024, to help supply groceries and meals to our community for the next six months.



Ocean Reef Community Foundation Grant

Burton Memorial UMC wants to send a big thank you to Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) for their grant which pays for the refrigerated truck rental

required to pick up food from Publix and Winn Dixie every week. The grant also gives us money to buy the food that allows us to fill the grocery bags for our clients.

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation also granted \$15,000 for the CDC Summer Program for 2024. This grant will allow the enrichment of the Summer Program by offering weekly field trips to venues that emphasize STEM and environmental learning activities.



Earth Day Thank You

Our sincerest gratitude to everyone who showed up and supported our causes. We had Coral Restoration, Joy ukulele group playing, Red Cross, UF, Mote, Florida Keys History and Discovery, Florida Keys Environmental Coalition, UT services and 2 active petitions being signed. As well as Drema face painting!

Most plants and silent auction items were sold. Even with the heat we had a large gathering of community members.

Thank you to everyone who put in time and effort to help make this possible. Thank you to Dr. Jack Stein Grove for his Tuesday night presentation, and to all who helped make it possible. Thanks to Pastor David for his Earth Day sermon. And a big thanks to all the volunteers who made the event a success, including the wonderful food. This would not have been possible without the help from everyone who participated across the three-part series!

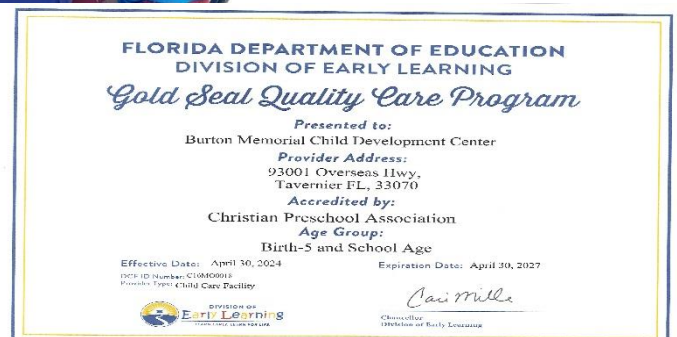
Ciera Cox cciera96@yahoo.com

Green Team



CDC Gold Seal Accreditation Again

Team Burton at the Child Development Center prepared for months and months to get ready for the assessments, observation, and evaluation for the big event that finally came on April 14-17, 2024. *The Gold Seal Accreditation team approved "team Burton" for another three years, (7th time granted as high-quality early childhood program) since 2008.*



Florida Children's Home is Now Residing Hope

Julie Ratliff

For over a century, the Children's Home has been guided by an unwavering commitment to serving children and families throughout the state of Florida with compassion, integrity and faith. Since our beginning in 1908 as the Florida Methodist Orphanage, we have expanded over the years into a diverse organization serving abused, abandoned and neglected children. That expansion has brought the realization that we have outgrown the Children's Home name and needed something that better represented the purpose we serve and the care we provide. That new name is ***Residing Hope***.

Our six-year journey to the new brand unveiling included a period of discernment, a Covid disruption, and going through the process of identification and selection. It is reflective of a time-tested ministry that has long enjoyed a strong connection with Methodist churches around the state. Our commitment to these longstanding partnerships remains steadfast.

In selecting a new name, we wanted a name that reflected the organization we have become while staying true to our history. It also reflects our steadfast mission as a faith-based organization: ***Empower children and families to experience the transforming love of Christ through evidence-based care and holistic services.***

The word ***Hope*** is commonly used to mean a wish or desire. But in the Bible, hope is the confident expectation of what God has promised and the strength of His faithfulness. ***Residing Hope*** defines us both figuratively and literally, as the place where hope lives and grows. Our new logo thoughtfully demonstrates who we are and reflects our mission and values. Each component tells part of the story of Residing Hope.

The ***cross*** in the logo represents our commitment to our faith-based values and recognizes our rich history as a methodist organization.

The ***residing heart*** reflects the love and care provided through all of Residing Hope's services.

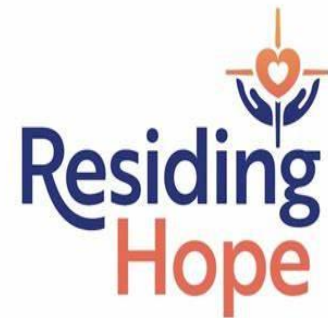
The ***sunrise rays*** are indicative of the hope found in a new day. It also speaks to the hopeful futures that our children and youth are able to find at Residing Hope.

The ***uplifted hands*** in worship demonstrate hope and the promise of transformation that can be found through faith and prayer.

Residing Hope expresses optimism and the opportunity of a better life for the children and youth we serve. It's that compassionate care that drives everything we do across all of our services and locations. Please join us as we live into our new name through our mission and purpose.

Sincerely,

Kitwana Mctyer, President and CEO & Elisabeth Gadd, MNM, CFRE, Chief Development Officer



Burton Memorial VPK(Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten) Graduation Ceremony

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, Nilda Bernaldez and the Teaching Staff at Burton Memorial Child Development Center will be hosting a graduation ceremony in the Sanctuary, 5:00 pm. We will be graduating ***11*** students this year and recognizing them for all of their accomplishments. We hope you will attend and show your support for our director, teachers and students.



Feed the Keys FOOD DRIVE



FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

Suggested Items:

Dry/Canned Beans

Canned Soups

Rice, Pasta

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese

Canned Fruits and Vegetables

Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken, SPAM)

Cereal/Oatmeal

Peanut Butter/Jelly

Individually Packed Snacks

*Donations of gift cards for local grocery stores may be included along with food donations.



Continuing the Legacy of "Mangrove" Mike Forster
A project by United Way of Collier and the Keys

DROP OFF BETWEEN 2PM & 6PM AT:

Burton Memorial United Methodist Church

93001 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier, FL 33070

KAIR (Keys Area Interdenominational Resources)

3010 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33050

SOS Callahan Community Kitchen

1020 United St, Key West, FL 33040



Join our virtual food drive!
Scan the QR code to learn more.

Share your photos of paying it forward
on social media using:

#FeedtheKeys & #BeLikeMike

For more information, visit UWCollierKeys.org/BeLikeMike



United Way of
Collier and the Keys

Pentecost: A Birthday Celebration

Brothers and Sisters,

May God's grace give us the necessary joy, peace, and patience to love our neighbors.

IMAGINE!!! You are part of a small Jewish sect called 'The Way'. It is the day of Pentecost but, instead of celebrating, you and your fellow believers are confused, anxious, and scared. Fifty-three days ago, the Romans brutally crucified Jesus, whom you believe to be the Son of God. You believe this because of the many eyewitness accounts of the risen Jesus. Ten days ago, the Apostles saw the risen Jesus ascend into heaven, leaving you and your fellow believers alone to face the skeptical religious establishment and cruel Roman government.



Then, suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind comes from heaven and fills the whole house where you and your fellow believers are sitting. You see what seems like tongues of fire come to rest on each person. It is the Holy Spirit filling and empowering all the believers! You all begin to supernaturally speak in foreign languages and hundreds of Jews from all over the Roman Empire can understand you.

The Christian Church calls this event 'Pentecost,' and you can read about it in Acts 2. It is the Birthday of the church because, on this day, the Holy Spirit started to empower the body of believers to be the church.

This year Pentecost is Sunday, May 19, 2024. After worship, we will have a birthday party in the fellowship hall. The birthday cake will have 2,000+ candles on it. (Just kidding).

Since it is the Church's birthday, we should all give a gift to the church. From now until May 19, there will be a birthday box in the sanctuary. Each person will receive a birthday card to fill out and place in the birthday box. On the birthday card, each person will write what gift(s) they will give to the church.

The following are some gift suggestions:

1. Commit to pray for BMUMC everyday at 2:13. (Why 2:13 PM? That's when Pastor David prays for BMUMC. In military time, 2:13 pm is 14:13 and John 14:13 says, "And I [Jesus] will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.")
2. Commit to pray for BMUMC everyday at a time that works best for you.
3. Volunteering at the Food Pantry.
4. Volunteering at the Child Development Center.
5. Building a compost for the church.
6. Volunteering to help Betsy in the office.
7. Making a monetary donation to the church in addition to the tithes you already give.
8. Contribute money to build a closet around the fellowship hall air conditioning units.
9. Asking the Trustees what minor repair/clean-up work they can do.
10. Volunteer with children ministry or re-start youth ministry.
11. Donate yarn for the knitting group
12. A morning of yard work at church
13. Trying a new spot in church
14. Hosting a covered dish or the after church social time.
15. Be a liturgist for the first time.
16. Purchase music in memory or honor of someone.
17. Underwrite the permit fees for the new bathrooms.
18. Start/join a small group.

19. Volunteer to cook in God's kitchen.
20. Give towards our apportionments.
21. Anything else you can think of to help the church.

The first and second gift suggestions are the most powerful gifts you can give. At the very least, commit to giving one of those two gifts.

After Pentecost, we will distribute the birthday cards to the right people so they can help you with your gift.

God bless.

In Christ Jesus,

David L. Charlton
Pastor