

# Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<b>Date:</b> December 2, 2018 <b>Title:</b> The Dilemma of Doubt (Joseph) <b>Theme:</b> Trust <b>Purpose:</b> We like Joseph should trust God even when his plans do not make sense to us <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 60:2-3 <b>New Testament:</b> Matthew 1:18-25	<b>Date:</b> December 9, 2018 <b>Title:</b> The Dilemma of Saying "Yes" (Mary) <b>Theme:</b> Problems <b>Purpose:</b> We like Mary, should be prepared for problems in life as we say yes to God <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 40:1-5 <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 1:26-38
<b>Date:</b> December 16, 2018 <b>Title:</b> The Dilemma of Belief (Innkeeper) <b>Theme:</b> God's Timing <b>Purpose:</b> To understand that God's does not set his timing to our expectations and schedules. <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 35:8-10 <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 2:1-7	<b>Date:</b> December 23, 2018 <b>Title:</b> The Dilemma of Joy (The Shepherds) <b>Theme:</b> Joy <b>Purpose:</b> To understand that God's "Good News" is for all and not just a select few. <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 9:6-7 <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 2:8-20
<b>Date:</b> December 30, 2018 <b>Title:</b> The Dilemma of Obedience (The Wisemen) <b>Theme:</b> Obedience <b>Purpose:</b> To stress the importance of obeying the way of God over the ways of society and humankind. <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalms 2:10-12 <b>New Testament:</b> Matthew 2:1-12	<b><u>Sunday's Service Information</u></b> <b>Traditional Service</b> – For those that love that "Old Time Religion", we have a traditional worship service that meets every Sunday at 8:30 am. <b>Blended Service</b> – 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. There is also Children's Church available for kids K through 5 <sup>th</sup> grade and a nursery for infants and toddlers.

## Church Contacts

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

Email: [burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net](mailto:burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net) Pastor: [kmf\\_bmumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:kmf_bmumc@bellsouth.net)

Administrative Assistant: [bae\\_bmumc@att.net](mailto:bae_bmumc@att.net) Web Site: [www.BMUMC.net](http://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](mailto:bae_bmumc@att.net).

*DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!*

## December Birthdays:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Annabelle Bricker	4	Sharon Braunberns	23
Kay Comer	4	Betty Anne Gear	24
Holly Holly	10	John Holly	31
Bryella Beerkircher	21		

## December Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Bud & Gail Preston	17		
Nathan & Catie Frier	18		
Gene & Virginia Spear	19		
Carol & Alan Ackenhausen	23		

# The Beacon

*a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC*

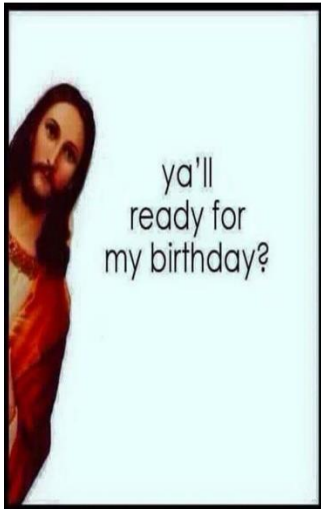
**December 2018**



As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me.

As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but now in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't seem to know the meaning of the celebration.

I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates.



The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside. They closed the door in my face..... and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth though, that didn't really surprise me that much because in the last few years it seems all are closing their doors to me.

Since I was not invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise.

I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a great time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, shouting: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus"... as if the party were in his honor!

At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and.... do you know.... no one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me.

What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties but nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart.

I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be let into the party. Those who don't answer the invitation, will be left outside.

Do you know how you can answer this invitation? It is by extending it to others whom you care for...

I'll be waiting for all of you to attend my party this year...

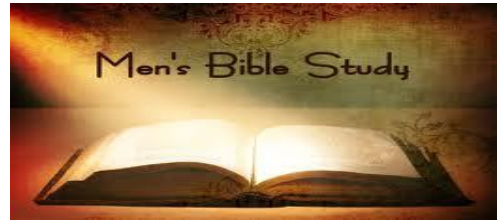
See you soon.... I love you!

-Jesus-

### **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 is still on vacation. Please contact Virginia Spear at 305-852-7757 for more information.*



### **Membership and Information Class**

*On Sunday, December 2, 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**

The new Flower Calendar for 2019 is coming soon! 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 flowers per Sunday will be purchased.

### **Homeless Recognition Day**

Each year we gather at the gazebo in Settler's Park, Tavernier, to remember our neighbors who died while Homeless in 2018. This is a brief interfaith community memorial service filled with prayers, candles, blessings, and music. Please mark your calendar to be there this year. Since Irma, the possibility of homelessness has become more real to many of us. Let us join together reaching out to God in faith, embracing our neighbors with agape and celebrating life and community. *This year's Homeless Recognition Day will be held on December 21, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.*

### **Passionate Worship Committee Meeting**

The Passionate Worship Committee is always looking for people to help the church out in any way they feel comfortable. So if you can spare some time, we are in need of volunteers in the following areas: Acolytes, Children's Church Leaders, Greeters & Ushers, Liturgists, help with the Altar Guild, and any singers and or ringers are welcome and needed. Hand bells practice on Wednesday at 6:00 pm, followed by the choir at 7:15 pm. The WOW Band practices on Tuesdays, so if you can play and instrument or want to help lead singing, come join the WOW Band. For more information call, 301-655-0522 or email me at [dejarboe@gmail.com](mailto:dejarboe@gmail.com). Thanks for your interest and support. Be of service to the church.

*Our next meeting of the Passionate Worship Committee will be scheduled by the new chairman.* Those who are involved in this committee, please watch your emails. Feel free to join us and share your ideas.



## Choir News

The choir sings once a month and we practice on Wednesdays at 7:15 pm. We are really looking for any new singers we can get, but especially men who are interested in singing along side of Brad, our token male. No experience is necessary, no tryouts, just good fun and good service to the church. Our next performance is December 16, so if you can help us out, please come at 7:15 pm.

Singing is always good for the soul and helps with lung capacity, in other words it is good for the body, mind and spirit. If you need more information, please call me at 301-655-0522 or email me at [dcjarboe@gmail.com](mailto:dcjarboe@gmail.com). Thanks again.



## Ringling News

The Burton Ringers are looking for 2 new members in mid-January. ***New ringer practice is from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm every Tuesday in the Sanctuary.*** Ringing techniques and basic music education are provided. No experience necessary. 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

We are so excited about our CHILDREN'S ARTS MINISTRIES! In November the KIDSRING handbell choir will be sharing our Children's Church time for some exciting ringing. For more information please contact the Church Office, or contact RaeLeigh Gonsalves at [rgonsa2910@yahoo.com](mailto: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. Please note the plan numbers have been revised downward to reflect the revised budget.



Last Four Weeks					Year to Date		
Week	Date	Offering	Plan	+ / -	Offering	Plan	+ / -
43	28-Oct	\$2,125	\$2,046	79	\$110,507	\$111,767	-1,260
44	4-Nov	\$2,104	\$2,046	58	\$112,611	\$113,814	-1,203
45	11-Nov	\$2,306	\$2,805	-499	\$114,917	\$116,619	-1,702
46	18-Nov	\$1,779	\$2,805	-1,026	\$116,696	\$119,425	-2,729

## Poinsettias

We are excited to again offer you an opportunity to help make our sanctuary beautiful with our poinsettias and make a donation to Coral Shores High School. ***Poinsettias in a pot are \$25.00 for a 10" flower.*** These flowers will grace our sanctuary on December 16 and December 23. Please plan to take them home on December 24 after our services. Make your check payable to Burton and indicate on the flower envelope if you are purchasing them in memory or honor of someone or to the Glory of God. ***The deadline for purchase is Sunday, December 2.***







## **Christmas Luncheon**

***Burton Memorial will be hosting a Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 25, 2018 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 Monday, 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, Tuesday, 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 2, 2018.

## **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, Monday, December 24, 2018.*** 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.***



## **Christmas Caroling at Key Largo Conch House**

On December 16, 2018 our worship band (WOW) "Walking on Water" will be playing at the Key Largo Conch House from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We will be singing Christmas Carols and playing Christmas songs and you are invited. Come and order a wonderful meal and enjoy some wonderful music.

## **Christmas Gift Wrapping at Kmart**

***Burton Memorial will be providing free gift wrapping at K-Mart on Saturday, December 22, from 10:00 am to 5:00 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 sign-up in the Narthex following the 8:30 am or 10:30 am worship service starting December 2, 2018.



## **Holiday Magic and Wonder Parade**

On Friday, December 7, at 7:30 pm, Burton will be participating in the Christmas Parade, part of the Holiday Festival that runs from 4:00 pm to 10 pm at Founder's Park. Burton Memorial will be promoting "One Starry Night."

## ONE STARRY NIGHT

Burton Memorial Methodist Church proudly presents our very first live nativity scene, Sunday, December 23 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. During this festive event, families will enjoy hands-on experiences as they enter through the Bethlehem city gate, record their names for the census, gaze at constellations in the night sky, seek lodging at an inn, enjoy treats from the marketplace, and follow the shepherds to find baby Jesus. There will even be live animals in the stable!



We are looking for members of our congregation to participate in this exciting event and are in need of 2 volunteers for each station listed below:

**Registration Station-** collect contact information and give Family Time Activity booklets.

**The City Gate-** hand out Roman Denarii and Coin pouches.

**The Inn-** decorate Room for You Lanterns as a reminder to leave a light on for Jesus.

**Stargazer Hill** (only one more volunteer needed) - make Steller Constellation Viewers and Slides to go stargazing.

**Census Taker's Office-** talk to families and guide them in signing the official census list.

**The Stable-** only need one more volunteer to help kids decorate One Starry Night Keepsake Ornaments.

**The Fields-** dressed as Shepherds, hand out Sheep roundup Game Boards.

**The Marketplace-** Shopkeepers to share treats with families.

**\*We will need extra people for Shepherds and Angels (kids and adults), as well as people to help set up and transform our church into Bethlehem.**

This is going to be an amazing event that will give you the opportunity to interact with families in our community and give them an incredible experience right here at our very own Burton Memorial!

If interested, please contact Kimmy at [jaydsjourney999@att.net](mailto:jaydsjourney999@att.net) or 305-510-3065.

## Advent Decorating Party

Yes, it's time again! The congregation is invited to participate in getting the church ready for the upcoming Advent season. This Saturday, December 1, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, you are invited to be a part of the decorating of the sanctuary. Come and join in! We promise lots to do, tons of fun and plenty of Christmas spirit, along with great breakfast foods and fellowship. Everyone is encouraged to be a part. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Finding Christ in Christmas Special



Jason Korsiak returns to Burton Memorial UMC on Sunday, December 9, for the 2018 tour of "Finding Christ in Christmas Specials," a festive, one-hour event for the whole family that explores the spiritual lessons we can learn from beloved holiday specials like *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Frosty the Snowman*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. ***There will be a potluck luncheon at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Center, followed by Jason at 1:00 pm.***

Based on his book, *The Christmas Gospels*, the 2018 presentation of "Finding Christ in Christmas Specials" is an extended multimedia drama in which Korsiak portrays an overworked elf trying to get on top of the Christmas rush, but each new gift he packs only reminds him of a different holiday film (and what we can learn from it). You'll laugh, you'll sing, you might even shed a year, but – most importantly – you'll find Christ in Christmas Specials.



## College Ministry

by Barbara Koch, College Ministry Coordinator

All fifteen of our college students are in the process of completing their course work for this term and are looking forward to a break over the Christmas holidays.

If you know of any new students who are enrolling for college courses beginning in January, please notify Betsy in the church office of their mailing addresses, 305-852-2581.



## Message from the Green Team

Edith Bricker



Burton's Green Team recommends Solar Energy to save God's Creation and save you money in the future.

**Interested in Solar?** Enabling our members to explore and implement green energy practices is always a goal at the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative. In an effort to help you, our members, have financial access to solar power generation, we are happy to introduce our Solar Loan program. Start by calling FKEC member service at 305-852-2431.

## Heart Attacks Happen by Carl Catalano

I had a heart attack on October 20, 2018. It was a beautiful day! I was out fishing, fortunately only 6 miles out. I had just brought in a nice big grouper. I started to get light headed and I was tired. Then the pain started in my neck and shoulders, and there was tremendous pressure on my chest and I knew I was having a heart attack. We rushed back to shore and the paramedics grabbed me off the boat and on to the hospital.

I have always thought that I was a healthy person. I have regular checkups, I am not overweight, I eat healthy (although, I didn't even get a bite of that grouper), I exercise regularly, and have low cholesterol numbers. Looking back, my blood pressure had been creeping up over the past couple years. I was also tiring easily and I had indigestion, which I attributed to liking hot sauce, a lot! There were plenty of signs, but I wasn't listening because I was a "healthy" person and maybe, just maybe, getting a bit older.



If this sounds familiar, and I say this from the bottom of my double stented heart, go to the doctor! I am now aware of a screening scan that can detect heart blockages for about \$65 (prices vary), but you need a prescription. Had I known this, it could have saved me from ending up in an emergency situation. May the good Lord bless you and keep you in His hands, as He has with me. Thanks for all the love and prayers.

Also, Debbie Premaza, RN, is our Health Ministry leader here at Burton, and is a great source for health information and ideas. She can be reached by phone at 305-546-6682 or email her at [snookkingB@aol.com](mailto:snookkingB@aol.com).

## Christmas Gifts for Staff

Dear Burton Congregation:

With the Advent Season upon us, we would like to present Pastor Kerry and the staff of Burton Memorial (Mary Lou Wilkinson, Sexton and Betsy Edwards, Administrative Assistant) with a monetary Christmas gift as an appreciation for all they do for us at Burton. If you would like to contribute, you may use the self-addressed envelope enclosed in the newsletter. You can either mail in your gift or put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. *(Please make checks out to Burton Memorial United Methodist Church and put "Christmas Gift" in the memo line.)*

In addition to a monetary gift, it is also important that we show our appreciation through words of thanks and encouragement. So, please send us letters, cards or notes that you would like us to direct to a specific staff person or the staff in general. We are aware that some may be experiencing economic struggles so please pray about it, and if your budget will not allow a monetary gift, a letter would be greatly appreciated.

Janet Atkin, Chair  
Staff Parish Relations Committee



**United  
Methodist  
Women**  
Faith • Hope • Love in Action



### **Local News:**

Burton Memorial United Methodist Women is a group of women, most of whom are members of Burton Memorial UMC, gathering together “to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand the concepts of mission through the global ministries of the church.” We invite the women of our church and community to our upcoming events.

***Please note: November’s monthly meeting will be held on November 26 at 7:00 pm at Edna Waldorf’s home in Tavernier. Upcoming meetings will be on December 17 and January 28, also at Edna’s home.***

Faith, Hope and Love in Action,  
Edith Zewadski-Bricker  
President, Burton UM Women  
305-852-9259/305-363-8392

### **District and Conference News:**

**2018 –**

**December 1** party with us at the **Celebrating the Beloved Community** at Miami Lakes UMC.

**December 17** is the Burton Memorial **United Methodist Women’s Christmas party** at Edna Waldorf’s home, Key Largo, 7:00 pm.

**2019 –**

**January 19** come to the special program Understanding Race, Privilege & Power: A Conversation at First UMC, Coral Gables.

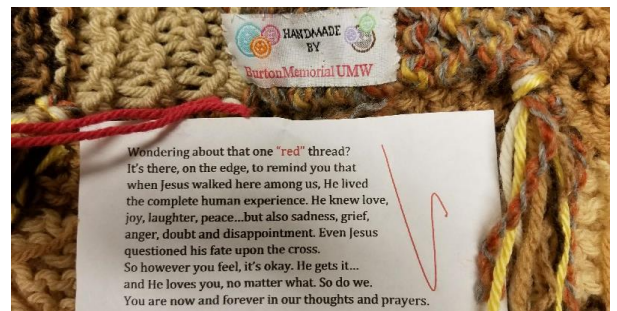
**February 17** come to UM Women’s Sunday, luncheon and Mission Study at Burton.

**March 3** is the Annual UM Women’s Tea in the Fellowship Center.

For more information or transportation, call Edith at 305-852-9259, or text to 305-363-8392.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry:**

To date we have handcrafted over 500 Prayer Shawls and have touched so many lives with the healing power that reaches the recipients with the Power of Prayer. Join the ladies who create Prayer Shawls and other blessed handcrafted items, even if you just want an evening out, on **Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Joy Classroom**. No experience is necessary. For more information call Virginia Spear 305-852-7757.



### **Prayer Bead Ministry:**



UM Women’s Handcrafted Prayer Beads make fantastic Christmas Gifts. If you would like to learn to make them for your family & friends we will teach you! Please call, text or email Mrs. Kim Youngblood at 305-852-7497, cell 443-207-4000, [kyoungblood528@yahoo.com](mailto:kyoungblood528@yahoo.com).