

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: February 7, 2021 Title: Follow Me! (sermon series) Theme: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany – She Began to Serve Purpose: When we begin to celebrate the small and large acts of service of others, we find encouragement and an atmosphere for service for all of us. Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21-31 New Testament (Epistle): 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 New Testament (Gospel): Mark 1:29-39	Date: February 14, 2021 Title: Follow Me! (sermon series) Theme: Transfiguration Sunday – But Only Jesus Purpose: We are to tell anyone and everyone. We are to live our telling, walk our proclamation. Old Testament: 2 Kings 2:1-12 New Testament (Epistle): 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 New Testament (Gospel): Mark 9:2-9
Date: February 21, 2021 Title: Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise Theme: This is the Sign Purpose: Here we focus on that simple and profound truth: God is with us; we are not alone. Old Testament: Genesis 9:8-17 New Testament (Epistle): 1 Peter 3:18-22 New Testament (Gospel): Mark 1:9-15	Date: February 28, 2021 Title: Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise Theme: Walk Before Me Purpose: Testimony is a powerful way for us to hear and experience this walking before God life. Old Testament: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 New Testament (Epistle): Romans 4:13-25 New Testament (Gospel): Mark 8:31-38

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. *During the Covid-19 pandemic, the 8:30 am service will be held outside and those attending are encouraged to dress appropriately...t-shirt and shorts are acceptable.*

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. There is also Children's Church available for kids K through 5th grade and a nursery for infants and toddlers. *During the Covid-19 pandemic, the 10:30 am service will be held in the sanctuary while practicing social distancing in the pews.*

Church Contacts

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

Email: burtmemorial@bellsouth.net Pastor: pastor.foote@outlook.com

Administrative Assistant: bae_bmumc@att.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!

February Birthdays:

February Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Lucy Given	2 nd	Susan Gabler	4 th	Vicki & Richard O'Meara Gassaway	2 nd
James Kirkman	3 rd	Mark Hulsbeck	20 th	Rene & Shirley Held	27 th
Janet Atkin	4 th	Melba Benson	22 nd	Ken & Nancy Mills	27 th



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
February 2021

You might be asking why we need Lent. After all, we've been through the "lentiest Lent that has ever lented," as someone said last year. And, in fact, all of 2020 was about as Lenten as we can imagine. Sackcloth and ashes-worthy, tearing of the garments and repenting in the dust; yeah, been there, done that, still wearing what's left of the t-shirt. And self-reflection? What else were you going to do during the months' long pandemic and lock-down? Physical distancing brought out a lot of introspection, don't you think? Yeah, maybe we can give Lent a miss this year.

Except, maybe there is more to Lent than the suffering that we've endured. Maybe there is more than the reflection and analysis that we are prone to doing. Certainly, these are tools and techniques, practices that we have used and continue to use to achieve the ends that Lent calls us to claim. But as always, it is the end and not the means that defines the season for followers of Jesus.

So, what is the end of the season of Lent? Why do we have this period of preparation, of fasting and self-denial, of repentance and confession, of putting our spiritual house in order? Simply so that we can be prepared for Easter. **Lent is about embracing the Resurrected One with a whole and longing heart.**

What we discover as we make those preparations is that there are so many things that get in the way of our true embrace of the risen Christ. Some of those things are external, but many of them are internal. They are habits and preferences and inclinations that clutter our souls. So, the season of Lent comes along to give us space and appropriate reminders that we need to clean house to receive the one we call Lord.



REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE
Lent Worship Series

To do this well is both a painful and a fulfilling exercise. That is why we have two titles for this series, or, if you prefer, a title and a subtitle. You are free, however, to place the emphasis where you believe it needs to be for your faith community. Is the emphasis for this season of Lent the rending of our hearts? Or is it claiming the promise? The truth is, we need both: the rending *and* the claiming.

We need to tear out the things that are in the way of truly following Christ, which is not an easy or a simple process. Nor is it something that we can do once and then forget it. It is a constant call for us to "lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely" (Heb 12:1).

But then we also need to lean into the promise of the kingdom. We need to claim the life that Christ describes and lives out before us, to embrace the joy of the life of faith. Lent doesn't have to be a somber time; but to be effective, it needs to be intense. It needs to be taken seriously and rigorously, and we can bring our full selves to the table.

It is worth the strenuous effort, however, as we are enabled to embrace the fullness of the promise of Resurrection and live as disciples of Jesus Christ; disciples who make disciples. So, despite feeling as though we have been in a yearlong season of Lent, we need the season; we need the observance to open us to all God has in store for us. Rend your hearts, so together we can claim the promise.

Smokin Monday Adult Bible Study

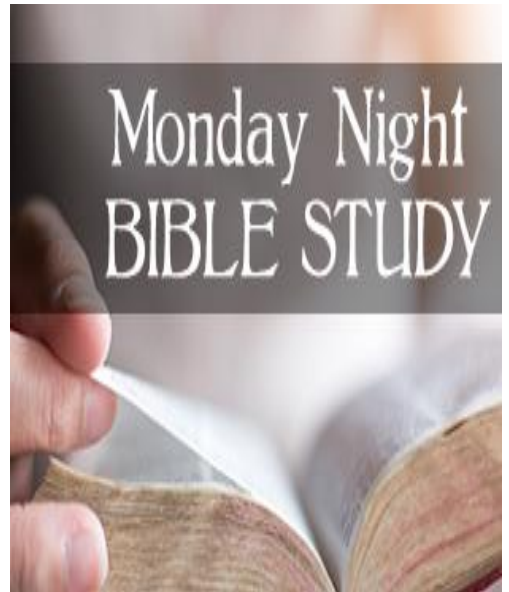
We will be hosting a Monday Night Bible study that will coincide with our sermon series “**Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise**”. The reason for the smoke, is because the pastor will be preparing meals using his Pit Boss wood pellet smoker. The evening starts at 6:00 pm with a fellowship meal. The meat will be provided by Pastor Kerry, and those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Then the Bible Study will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm.

Those that are uncomfortable meeting at the parsonage in person can attend the Bible Study via Zoom. Invites for the Zoom meeting will go out every Sunday afternoon via e-mail.

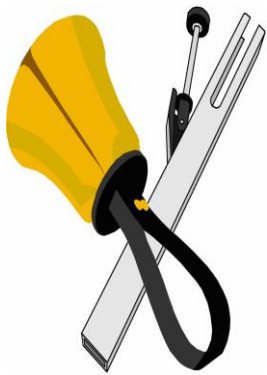
The Pastors address is: 123 High Street, Tavernier FL 33070.

If you have any questions you can call Pastor Kerry at 305-407-7040.



Choir News

We are still not singing in church due to the pandemic. The choir will start again as soon as it is safe to do so. Until then, keep singing safely, in the car, in the shower, wherever you can. “This too shall pass.”



Join us on Wednesdays at 3:30 pm in the sanctuary for beginner bells. The Baby Belles of Burton are looking for a few more new ringers! We currently have eight ringers practicing but we would love to have a few more. Ringing techniques and basic music education are provided. No experience necessary. God offers the best benefit package around! Come and join the bell choir.

The Burton Ringers are rehearsing on Wednesdays starting 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! Please see any bell choir member or director RaeLeigh Gonsalves for more information.

College Ministry

The following students are currently enrolled for this college term: James Kirkman, Kyrié Foote, Makenzie Wright, Kayla Lynn de Vroedt, Daniel Walker, Brooke Peacock, and Reid Bennett. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue with their studies. ***Please contact the church office at 305-852-2581 with any changes.***



God's Kitchen

Our food pantry is still seeing more clients each month. We are continuing to serve To Go boxes for Thursday night God's Kitchen Free Dinner. We are still looking for groups or individuals to help with our dinner, helping to cook, box and clean up on Thursdays. We can also use people to help create the grocery bags we hand out to our clients, and we can use extra help in our drive-thru pantry. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 305-852-2581.

Membership and Information Class

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 contact Pastor Kerry to set up an appointment.*** Call or text him at 305-407-7040 or email him at pastor.foote@outlook.com.

Message from the Green Team:

Climate crisis is the most critical of all our crises, according to an article in the Miami Herald, on-line edition, today, January 15, 2021. Please prioritize climate change in your prayers, and if you can, join United Methodist Women's webinars to learn more about what we can do as Christians.



You can join the United Methodist Women's monthly Just Energy for All, Strategy and Capacity Building Sessions, held every third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm. Please register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcuutpzljGtIsZee-DLtfPHwBwD1d0OS5>.

If you have any questions about these monthly strategy and capacity building sessions, please reach out to Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee of the Office of Economic and Environmental Justice, United Methodist Women, at climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Health and Wellness

Debbie Premaza, RN, BSN

"Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body." ***1 Corinthians 6:19-20.***

My Burton Fitness Sister in Christ Monica introduced Katrina of the "Health Free Life Academy" to me in a text, and after reading her words and talking with Monica, I was hooked and divinely inspired. God's time is always perfect; it was time for the Beacon health and wellness article. Thank you, Sister Raeleigh who inspired me in January (preparing the way) and I hope she has inspired you with her story.

This month Sister Monica Bankowski shares her inspirational story. "Before, I joined the Healthy Free Life Academy, a year-long program, I participated in the 40-Day Food Revival which ended just before Christmas. WOW did I learn a lot!" New Year's Resolutions are often given up by this time of year. But the key to making healthy, positive changes isn't trying harder on our own, but rather it is taking baby steps, with grace, and letting the Lord lead the way to health and fitness.



Forming new habits and breaking bad habits is another key to healthy change. Katrina Sequenzia is an RN and certified health coach and founder of *Healthy Free Life*. She offers practical strategies which deal with body, mind and spirit, to learn how to use God's glorious foods, exercise, sleep, and movement, the RIGHT WAY, to conquer cravings, lose weight, gain energy, and develop healthy habits that will last a lifetime. My experience with *Healthy Free Life* and the *40-Day Food Revival* has brought me closer to God on a daily basis while I honor Him in whatever I do, eat or drink, as 1 Corinthians 10:31 instructs.

Healthy Free Life may help you too, to discover how to put God at the center of your health journey and get the results only He can give so that you can connect with God, deepen your faith, experience peace and joy so you can fulfill your purpose.

It's time to be free- body, mind, and spirit!

God has set you free and has called you to live abundantly. We have just one life to live here on earth, and only one body to live it out in. Isn't it time to release the burden of disease, excess weight, and exhaustion so that you can fully live out your purpose? By Katrina Sequenzia,

It is possible!

by Katrina ka@healthyfreelife.com

Biggest Loser

Let's get started together.....here is an article about new year's resolutions, goals and success.

December 10, 2020 by Meghan Holohan at Today

2021 Resolution according to Erica Lugo and Steve Cook, "Biggest Loser"

"A decent one is one that's all about baby steps that (has) an end goal," Lugo said.

1. Create a schedule.

"Create a schedule that you will stick to," Cook said. "It's no coincidence that successful people follow schedules. A schedule allows you to **create habits**. Habits are important because they are something that no longer takes self-control to complete."

2. Make it reasonable.

"Is it sensible? Is it measurable? Is it achievable? Is it realistic? What's the timeline?" Lugo said. "If you can answer all those things with your New Year's resolution, then, more than likely, it's going to work out."

3. Do it with a friend.

"I've only been able to **lose the weight** because I found people who also wanted to do the same thing," she said. "I continue to keep it off because I surround myself with people who want to do the same thing."

"There is power in writing your resolution down on paper where you will see it on the daily," Lugo said.

4. Revisit resolutions.

"In the same sense, if someone stops following their resolution, it might be valuable to examine why. You only truly fail if you quit." Cook said.

5. Be mindful.

"**Being mindful** is the number one priority when it comes to attaining your goals," she explained. "I have to actually be mindful and say 'This is my goal and this is my life. This is not just for whenever it's convenient for me.'" Lugo said.



Did someone say "Biggest Losers?" Biggest Winners?" Burton Fit for Christ winners? Do you need a challenge for weight loss encouragement and healthy competition? **Join "The biggest losers" 42-day challenge starting on February 21 with weigh in on Sundays between 9:30 am and 10:30 am in the Joy Classroom.** We will end the Biggest Loser Challenge on Palm Sunday, March 25th.

Bereavement Support Group

We are providing a bereavement support group weekly at Burton on Fridays in the Fellowship Center starting at 11:00 am. For more information, please contact Cindi Miller, 786-236-6336 or cynthia651@msn.com.

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 offering and website collections for the past four services.

Last Four Weeks					Year to Date		
Week	Date	Offering	Plan	+ / -	Offering	Plan	+ / -
1	3-Jan	\$3,528	\$3,310	218	\$3,528	\$3,310	218
2	10-Jan	\$2,128	\$3,310	-1,182	\$5,656	\$6,620	-964
3	17-Jan	\$3,017	\$3,310	-293	\$8,673	\$9,930	-1,257
4	24-Jan	\$2,913	\$3,310	-397	\$11,586	\$13,240	-1,654



While our services have reopened, we are continuing with our Facebook Live service at 10:30 am, with videos posted on Facebook. If you do not feel safe at this time to come to the church, 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 and click on Give Online to set up a payment online.

Ash Wednesday Drive In Service

Ash Wednesday is a Christian holy day of prayer, fasting, and repentance. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) and falls on the first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence before Easter. We will be having a ***drive thru Ash Wednesday Service on February 17 at 7:00 pm in the parking lot of Burton Memorial UMC.***

Ashes are imposed on the heads of participants in the Ash Wednesday service as a sign of mortality and penitence. The ashes are imposed with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (BCP, p. 265). Ashes are typically imposed by inscribing a cross on the forehead. The imposition of ashes has been practiced on Ash Wednesday since the ninth century.

Instead of having the imposition of ashes in the sanctuary, we will write on a piece of paper those thing(s) we wish to give up for Lent. These papers will then be collected and burned in a pot in front of the church.



Contribution Statements

Your giving statements have been mailed or emailed if we have your email address. If you do not receive them, please call Betsy at the church office, 305-852-2581, or email her at bae_bmumc@att.net.



United
Methodist
Women
Faith • Hope • Love in Action



Well, I know we all are glad to bid 2020 good riddance. 😊 The UMW are starting out with a bang, and although the tea will not be happening this year, we are hopeful for 2022. We are holding our monthly meetings on the fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Center, always observing protocols for safety. If you would prefer, we are also doing Zoom meetings from the comfort of your home. Call Edith to get information on zoom. Her number is 305-852-9259. We still have a few ladies that aren't down here yet, and it is a great way to stay in touch. Hope you will consider joining us one way or the other. If you need any information please do not hesitate to call me, Mary Lou, at 305-394-3878. Blessings to all, Mary Lou Wilkinson (President).

Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will continue to meet on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Center using social distancing and wearing masks. Come for fellowship and come to learn. We have supplies. For more information call Virginia Spear 305-522-2978.

Prayer Bead Ministry

Prayer Beads and Love!

How better to express your love on Valentine's than through giving Protestant Prayer Beads to your loved ones! Candies are here today and gone tomorrow, but the gift of Prayer Beads will last a lifetime.

Our handcrafted Prayer Beads, made by United Methodist Women, sell for \$15.00 each. Your purchase will raise funds for our local community needs.

If you are interested in purchasing prayer beads, please contact Linda Norman at 305-393-2589. Selection may be done via FACETIME or pictures sent via TEXT. Please feel free to call or text or email lindalillonorman@gmail.com to make arrangements.



Florida United Methodist Children's Home Update

We have the end of year giving information for 2020 for our Methodist Children's Home. Our financial goal for the year was \$1,920.00 (160 members at \$12.00 per member). For 2020, we gave \$10,350.10 to the Children's Home; so, we gave 539% of our goal! We give God the glory as we thank you, each and every one of our Burton family, for your love, your prayers, and your stewardship in this mission.



In 2021 our goal of \$12.00 per member will remain the same as it was in 2020. We have four Fifth Sunday offerings this year to help us meet our goal - January 31, May 30, August 29, and October 31.

Since the Children's Home is an extension of the United Methodist churches in Florida, the goal of giving is set each year at the Florida Annual Conference in Lakeland. Also, each Sunday that we partake in Communion (the first Sunday of the month), the "Penny Jug" gladly accepts your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters.

One of the most special days in the life of the Florida United Methodist Children's Home is the annual Day on Campus. This year there will be a virtual Day on Campus on March 27 so please save the date. Plan to join this special event from the comfort of your own home. More information will be shared as the date approaches.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. It is truly an honor and a blessing to serve as your local church representative for our Children's Home. – Julie Ratliff

Thank Bank Offering

The World Thank Offering is given out of gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. Surely, we have much to be thankful for as we look forward to worldwide vaccination for Covid-19 and the control of a terrible pandemic. Individuals or families collect daily spare change in special boxes or labeled containers.

This offering collected throughout 2021 goes to support United Methodist Women's projects with women, children and youth in the United States and around the world. Many of the most vulnerable have been impacted dreadfully by the pandemic and helping organizations are all scrambling to meet the increased needs.



The United Methodist Women raise approximately \$1 million dollars through the World Thank Offering each year. We give thanks to God for this. And we especially thank God that Burton Church is truly one of a kind in that all members of our church participate in this offering rather than just United Methodist Women ladies!

There is a display with offering containers in the church narthex. Offerings may be returned to the church any time during the year. Thank you for your love and compassion for others!

Please Join BSA Troop 912 at Harry Harris Park in Tavernier from 3 - 6 PM on February 2, 2021 to Remember Pascal Weisberger by Carrying On His Legacy of Community Service and Care for The Environment.

Middle and Lower Keys Residents, Please Consider Organizing A Service Project in Your Community on 2/2.

To Follow Pascal's Way news and to post photos of activities please go to: <https://www.facebook.com/PascalsWay.org/>

