

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<p>Date: June 4, 2023 Title: When God Came Down Like Fire (Go Therefore) Theme: Trinity Sunday Main Theme: Trinity Sunday is about God and not about us. And yet, because we can know God only in relationship, it has to be about us too. Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-28 New Testament (Epistle): 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 New Testament (Gospel): Matthew 28:16-20</p>	<p>Date: June 11, 2023 Title: Shalom Theme: Making a graceful exit. Main Idea: In Paul's farewell address he spoke of the past, the present and the future. 1- His past work 2- His present commitment 3- His future concern. Old Testament: Jeremiah 29:11-13 News Testament: Acts 20:18-31</p>
<p>Date: June 18 Title: "Guest Speaker"</p>	<p>Date: June 25 Title: "Guest Speaker"</p>

Sunday's Service Information
 Currently, we have switched over to one worship service on Sundays, and it is at 10:00 am.

Church Contacts

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

Email: burtonmemorial@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 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!

June Birthdays:

June Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Mark Bricker	6	Julie Ratliff	19	Paul & Renee Sebastian	6
Tama Hamburg	16	Patricia Cummings	27	George & Victoria Pinson	7
Delaney Barry	17	George Leber	28	Anne Dunn	16
				Barbara & Gregory Koch	27



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
June 2023

Saying Goodbye Shalom

As I sit in the early morning silence in my office at the parsonage, I am experiencing a flood of emotions as I struggle with what to say. This will be my last Beacon article as pastor of Burton Memorial UMC.

I have lived in the Tavernier community and have been the pastor of Burton Memorial for 17 years. Right now, the parsonage is packed with boxes stacked up all around, waiting for the movers to load them in a truck coming June 15. Tiffany and I will be starting out on a new adventure but saying goodbye to a wonderful past.

If we could take a snapshot of the congregation (and pastor) in July of 2006 and hold it alongside today, we would see a church we recognize, but also a church that has been transformed. I vaguely remember that 37-year-old man that arrived here fresh out of seminary to serve at this church called Burton Memorial UMC filled with excitement and a head full of ideas for ministry and outreach. Many of these ministries came true and I have been blessed to be a part of them.

I remember my first sermon here at Burton and how I introduced myself to the congregation. One thing that I will never forget on that day was when I said that I plan on serving at Burton “for a really long time.” After that comment, the congregation applauded. It would appear that statement I made was very true. I can proudly say that in the 135 history of Burton Memorial there has never been a pastor that has had a longer appointment...THANK YOU!

Know I am looking at a 54-year-old man with a heart full of great memories of a wonderful church that truly made a difference in the community and to those that attended. How do I say goodbye to that?



Maybe I don't have to. Maybe I should say **Shalom** rather than goodbye. The Hebrew language has a wonderful word that they use when saying; “hello” and “goodbye”. That word is **Shalom**. It means both “hello” and “goodbye.” It is in the “goodbye” that I think fits with what I am experiencing. The “goodbye” in the word Shalom does not have a sense of finality to it. It is actually translated as: “Goodbye and peace be with you until we meet again.”

What a wonderful way to say goodbye. To wish someone peace until you meet again. I truly believe that is what will happen with us. One way or another on this earth or in the heavens...we will meet again.

SHALOM – PEACE BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN. – Rev. Kerry Foote

Potluck Luncheon and Farewell Celebration

Burton will be hosting a potluck on **June 4 at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center** following the 10:00 am service. We will seat Kerry and Tiffany at the head table, as we first break bread in worship, and then share culinary fixings in community. Bring your favorite dish, or just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food, and you'll want to be a part of this occasion.



Pray For Me

There is a special song that I wanted to sing to the congregation on my last Sunday preaching on June 11, 2023. Just reading these lyrics has me crying and I simply know there will be no way that I would be able to get through the song without breaking down. But I would like to post the lyrics in the Beacon and as you read them, you will see that “Pray for Me” by Michael W. Smith fits well with my article titled “Saying Goodbye Shalom.”

Here is where the road divides / Here is where we realize / The sculpting of the Father’s.

great design / Thru' time you've been a friend to me / But time is now the enemy / I wish we didn't have to say goodbye / But I know the road he chose for me / Is not the road he chose for you / So as we chase the dreams we're after

(Chorus) Pray for me and I'll pray for you / Pray that we will keep the common ground / Won't you pray for me and I'll pray for you / And one day love will bring us back around / Again

Painted on a tapestry / We see the way it has to be / Weaving thru' the laughter and the tears / But love will be the tie that binds us / To the time we leave behind us / Memories will be our souvenirs / And I know that thru' it all / The hardest part of love is letting go / But there's a greater love that holds us

(Chorus) Pray for me and I'll pray for you / Pray that we will keep the common ground / Won't you pray for me and I'll pray for you / And one day love will bring us back around / Again



Do you know how to read music? Would you like to share those gifts? Our advanced ringer group is **looking for new ringers!** Come and learn ringing techniques with a wonderful group of musicians. Practice is on Wednesdays from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. See any handbell member or director RaeLeigh Gonsalves for more information.

Ringling News

Campus Ministry

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.



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. Please call or text Cindi Miller at 786-236-6336 to volunteer, or call the office at 305-852-2581, to get more details or to volunteer.

The Food Pantry has changed its serving dates, removing Tuesday nights from the schedule. For a long time, we have had very few people come on Tuesday night. We advised our clients throughout March of this change.

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, or call the office at 305-852-2581, to get more details or to volunteer.

God’s Kitchen/Food Pantry

Good News for Creation

Green Team

Jesus read in the temple from Isaiah 61:1, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, the Lord has sent me to bring good news...”

Good news is as important today as it was in Christ’s time... especially when we consider the consequences of the climate crisis if the world fails to address global warming. The doomsday scenarios are depressing. So, we tune out the dire predictions for the future and fail to name weather events in the present...the more frequent and more destructive hurricanes, fires, floods, tornadoes, and drought... as *climate* disasters.



But, praise God, there is good news for our world; news that reassures me that God is in control. Right here in Florida, \$451 million dollars have been invested in renewable energy just since August creating 1500 new jobs in clean energy projects. Over these past seven months our nation has seen 191 new clean energy projects in 41 states totaling an investment of \$242 billion dollars. “Clean energy companies have announced or moved forward with projects accounting for more than 142,000 new clean energy jobs for electricians, mechanics, construction workers, technicians, support staff, and many others,” according to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. “This report analyzes public announcements from the private sector to demonstrate the breadth and scale of the clean energy economic boom across the country between August 16, 2022, to March 31, 2023.”

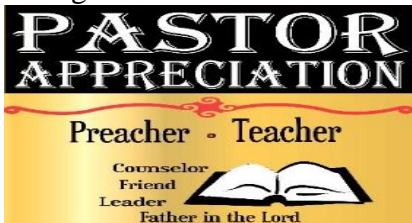
Products now being *made in America* range from iron-air batteries to efficient semi-conductors to electric vehicles (EV’s). In addition, plans have been announced for a mega scale green hydrogen production plant, improved electric grids, EV (Electric Vehicles) production expansion, and expansion of residential solar module factories...just to name a few.

All-in-all this represents the largest investment in climate change adaptation ever in the United States. Thank you, God!

Pastor Appreciation and Farewell

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Though our walk with Christ continues, we will go on from this point without Pastor Kerry as our shepherd.



After seventeen years, June 11 will be Kerry’s last Sunday at the Burton pulpit.

We will be taking time during the worship service to share stories about our friendships with this man, and the memories we will keep with us as he, and Tiffany, depart for new horizons.

We will also present Kerry with cards and letters, as well as a monetary gift, all as gestures of our love and appreciation. If you’d like to contribute to this gift, please mail or deliver it to the church office, in care of Betsy Edwards, Burton Memorial UMC, 93001 Overseas Hwy., Tavernier FL 33070. Please put “pastor appreciation” in the memo line of your check. You can use the enclosed “Pastor Appreciation” envelope for your donation. If you won’t be attending the service that morning, cards and letters can be sent to that address as well.

Our first Sunday covered dish luncheon, on June 4, will seat Kerry and Tiffany at the head table, as we first break bread in worship, and then share culinary fixings in community. Bring your favorite dish, or just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food, and you’ll want to be a part of this occasion.

I am sure you will join me in prayers for safe travels, good health, and God’s continued blessings for Kerry and Tiffany.

Sincerely,

Tim Bricker, Chpr., Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

Health and Wellness – Health Coping for Christians

Debbie Premaza, RN, BSN

<https://psychcentral.com/stress/spirituality-and-stress-relief#spirituality-defined>

Even the person who often appears to be calm and collected isn't immune to the long-term effects of stress. Tensions from work, finances, friendships, and family life can feel like a permanent weight on your shoulders, affecting your mind and body. Over time, chronic stress can make you more vulnerable to mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety. Safe, healthy coping mechanisms to regulate stress can make a huge difference in your long-term health. Spiritual practices — such as prayer, chanting, and reading spiritual texts — can be used as coping strategies.

How can spirituality relieve stress?

Spiritual practices may help relieve [stress](#) because of how these practices frame your life in the context of meaning and a Higher Power. Some spiritual traditions emphasize forgiveness, compassion, and humility — all of which may help mitigate certain stressors. A [2020 study](#) of social workers and social work students showed that trained social workers who practiced spirituality had less stress and fewer [post-traumatic stress disorder \(PTSD\)](#) symptoms after giving assistance to trauma victims. The same study discussed how practicing [forgiveness toward yourself](#) and others can be an effective coping mechanism for exposure to trauma. Spirituality may also provide you with a set of supportive people who are seeking purpose in their lives in similar ways, according to a [2019 study](#) [Trusted Source](#). Traditional churches can provide this sense of community, as can gathering like-minded people who are seeking to access a Higher Power in less traditional settings. A [2017 study](#) [Trusted Source](#) showed that people who attended church at least once a year had a lower allostatic load, which is a measure of stress in your body. Spirituality encourages private practices, such as charitable giving, caring for the needs of others, and volunteering in your community. These practices facilitate community connections. They can also help foster a spirit of gratefulness for the life you have. A [2018 study](#) [Trusted Source](#) of adults in Texas showed that volunteering for the sake of improving other people's lives had significant long-term health benefits.



How does spirituality affect mental health?

A growing body of research shows a connection between spirituality and better mental health outcomes. According to a [2021 review](#), people who practice spiritual coping mechanisms may have lower rates of depression, [suicidal ideation](#), and substance use disorder than people who don't. [Depression](#) and [anxiety disorders](#) can be the result of unresolved, long-term stress. So, this review suggests that embracing spirituality may help you manage stress, which can lower your chances of a mental health condition. Keep in mind that spirituality isn't proven effective as a substitute treatment if you currently have a diagnosed or suspected mental health condition. In your embrace of spirituality, remember that it isn't safe to swap out your prescription medication or therapy appointments for spiritual practices. If you're concerned or your stress is affecting your daily life, consider reaching out to a healthcare or mental health professional. They can help rule out any underlying conditions that may be causing your symptoms and recommend treatment if needed.

There are several ways you can begin to cultivate spirituality, including: attending spiritual gatherings, reading spiritual texts, [practicing mindfulness](#), finding a spiritual director, planning a pilgrimage to a religious, sacred, or ancient place, AND participating in online forums where people are discussing spiritual topics. Pursuing your spiritual life might feel different or even a little bit silly at first. But for many people, establishing a firm connection between your body and your soul can be a rewarding and lifelong experience.

A healthy mechanism to cope with stress is just one of the many benefits a rich spiritual life can give you. If you'd like to get started with a more spiritual approach to life, ask your local librarian or bookseller to recommend a book in the spirituality section for you to read. You may also consult with a trusted friend or loved one to see if they can recommend spiritual practices to you. Spirituality doesn't cost anything, and you can try different strategies to see what works for you. Many faith traditions that are centuries old imply that whoever sincerely seeks out God and spirituality will find the thing they're looking for.

Psalm 34:18-20 NIV ¹⁸ **The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.** ¹⁹ **The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;** ²⁰ **he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.**

People can call or text [988](#) or chat [988lifeline.org](#) for themselves or if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support 24/7. If you have questions, please contact me at [305-546-6682](#).



United Women in Faith

Dear United Women in Faith,

Summer is here and a number of our members have left Paradise to head back home for a few months of cooler weather and family. We will miss you, but we will keep you in our ❤️ hearts and prayers 🙏 as we continue to meet during the summer. Hope you can attend by doing zoom, and remember, ladies of the church, you can zoom as well. Ask Edith for the code so you can see what we talk about. Sorry 😞 you won't be able to have dessert 🍰 with us, but maybe next time you will attend our meeting in person. We meet the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm, unless we decide to do something different, Sometimes we do, so you need to read this article monthly to keep in the loop. Hoping to make a trip up to Edna's new house in Homestead. Maybe we could hold a monthly meeting there when she gets all settled in. Stay tuned. 😊

Many of us get the Response magazine, and the first article I read was about "Names may change. Needs may change." But our commitment to doing good remains strong. And I think that is so true as we have just changed our name from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith. We can now invite any woman of Faith to join our group and you know what that means, more hands make the world 🌍 go round. We all want better lives for women and a better world for all. So please think about joining this wonderful group of ladies as we continue moving forward in our quest for doing good for children and women here and throughout the world.

In Peace, love and Hope,
Mary Lou Wilkinson, President

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Please come and join us for fun and fellowship ***Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Joy classroom.*** Several ladies have moved from the Keys, so we can use some help making prayer shawls. We will teach and have yarn and supplies. Hope you will join us or make shawls at home. Six shawls were prayed over on the altar this past Sunday and three went home that day.

We supply Hospice with prayer shawls as well as individuals all over the US and the world. For more information, please call Virginia Spear at 305-522-2978.



Prayer Shawl ladies having fun.



Burton Memorial CDC 2022 VPK Graduation

On Thursday, May 18, 2023, Nilda Bernaldez and the Teaching Staff at Burton Memorial Child Development Center hosted a graduation ceremony in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm. They graduated **11** students this year, recognizing them for all of their accomplishments with praise and gifts.

Communion Stewards Needed*Burton is in need of Communion Stewards for the first Sunday of each month.* Please call or text Cindi Miller at 786-236-6336 for details or to volunteer.

SOUTH EAST DISTRICT OF THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



News Brief

May 2023

OUR PURPOSE:

We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

OUR MISSION:

To connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Our South East District's first ever Soul Care Retreat was a fabulous success. We had so much fun being together in person and sharing a day of reflection and joy. Special thanks to our team who planned and led the retreat: Angela Kim, Dreena Robinson, H. Leigh Toney, and Marva Franklin; our generous and gracious hosts: Rev. Ruben Velasco and the UWFaith unit of Kendall United Methodist Church; and the 80+ women who attended. See photos of the event at our South East District website.

We are so grateful to our South East District Treasurer, Kim Youngblood for her faithful service over the past 3½ years. Kim will be leaving her position effective July 1st and we are asking unit treasurers to please submit their 2nd quarter remittances to her before then. Additional information regarding this transition will be sent to the units via email.

Mission u is July 14-16 in central Florida. Join us for this exciting mission education experience. **Registration closes on June 9th,** and that is right around the corner! Visit our South East District website for more information and details on how to register.

The national United Women in Faith office is now conducting its Unit Survey for 2022. We need one officer per unit to complete the online survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Florida_Conference before August 30th. Let's aim for 100% response from our SE District units!

Unit officers can visit the South East District website for all of the forms needed to fulfill the responsibilities of their office.

Your South East District Leadership Team is always available to answer questions and to provide support.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DISTRICT & CONFERENCE:

- September 8-10, Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, Leesburg
- Saturday, September 16th, South East District Climate Justice Work Day
- Sat., October 28th, South East District combined Annual Meeting and Building the Beloved Community event
- Saturday, November 4th, Conference Annual Meeting, Lakeland

South East District Website Address: www.southeastdistrictuwfaith.org

Office of the Treasurer

450 Martin L King Jr Ave
Lakeland, FL 33815



May 11, 2023

Burton Memorial UMC
93001 Overseas Hwy
Tavernier, FL 33070-2828

Dear Pastor Kerry Foote:

I am writing to thank you for your faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ by giving 100 percent of your apportionments for 2022. Apportionments are your church's share of the funding of the budgets of The United Methodist Church around the world, the Florida Conference, and your District.

When every congregation contributes 100 percent of its apportionments, the entire church is able to meet its many commitments to mission and ministry. In short, lives are changed because of your stewardship.

- Children are fed at feeding programs around the world.
- Young men and women receive financial assistance towards their calling to become ordained clergy serving the church.
- Retreat and camp settings help grow and make disciples of Jesus by offering invitations to go further in understanding of being a Christian.
- New churches are planted.
- Existing churches are transformed to better meet the needs of the communities where they are planted.

Local churches in 2022 were challenged in many ways. You succeeded in reaching out and ministering to your congregation and community in new and amazing ways. Florida Conference churches met and rose above these challenges and were able to contribute \$13,992,894 in apportionments. This was not done without sacrifice.

I believe a sign of a healthy congregation is full support of the rest of the connection. You are the ones who have a joy in God's gifts, given in abundance, and who are practicing a spirit of generosity that points to a larger vision of the Church as a communion of congregations in common mission and ministry to the world. We appreciate your continued support and pray that you and your congregation continue to thrive.

I hope you will pause in one of your worship services and share this letter with the people who made this 100 percent level possible. It truly is a sign of the living God at work in your midst. May the Spirit of God continue to illumine, guide, and empower you to be God's own people.

Sincerely,

Craig Smelser
Treasurer – Florida Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church