

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: March 2, 2025 Sermon Series Title: An adult perspective on some of our childhood Bible stories Sermon Title: Are we the crowd? Old Testament: Genesis 1:27 New Testament: Luke 19:1-10	Date: March 5, 2025 Sermon Series Title: Ash Wednesday Sermon Title: Ash Wednesday Old Testament: Psalm 51:1-19 New Testament: Luke 13:1-5
Date: March 9, 2025 Sermon Series Title: Lenten Sermon Series: Psalm 22 and the Passion of Jesus Sermon Title: Identifying Himself as the innocent one who suffers for others Old Testament: Psalm 22:1 New Testament: Mark 15:33-34	Date: March 16, 2025 Sermon Series Title: Lenten Sermon Series: Psalm 22 and the Passion of Jesus Sermon Title: The King of kings is mocked Old Testament: Psalm 22:7-8, 12-13, 16 & 21 New Testament: Mark 15:16-20 & 29-31
Date: March 23, 2025 Sermon Series Title: Lenten Sermon Series: Psalm 22 and the Passion of Jesus Sermon Title: Jesus thirsts Old Testament: Psalm 22:15 New Testament: Mark 15:36	Date: March 30, 2025 Sermon Series Title: Lenten Sermon Series: Psalm 22 and the Passion of Jesus Sermon Title: They divide up His clothes Old Testament: Psalm 22:18 New Testament: Mark 15:24

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!*

March Birthdays:

March Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Donna Charlton	1 st	Kyle Gonsalves	23 rd		
Linda Lillo Norman	15 th	Edna Waldorf	24 th		
Carlene Jarboe	18 th	Vicky Fay	30 th		
Liz Baker	22 nd				



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
March 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

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



Two months ago, we learned about the salvation journey with a detailed analysis of Ephesians 2:8-10. It says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do".

This passage teaches that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. To understand salvation, we must study grace.

Grace is the undeserved love of God that is made known to us by the Holy Spirit. It works on our hearts in different ways, depending on where we are on the salvation journey. In other words, there are various 'works of grace': prevenient grace, justifying grace, and sanctifying grace. Last month (February), we studied prevenient grace. This month (March), we explore justifying grace and next month (April), we'll look at sanctifying grace.

So, justifying grace.

God offers us a divine pardon – complete forgiveness. We call this offer justifying grace. God forgives **all** our sins when we receive God's justifying grace.

Unlike the pardons we get from governors or presidents, there will be no public stigma attached to your divine pardon. A divine pardon leaves no paper trail reminding people of past sins. The Book of Life will have your name in it with nothing about the sins for which you received forgiveness.

Although this divine pardon (complete forgiveness) is a gift, acceptance of God's forgiveness entails an admission of guilt and sincere desire to change. This is how repentance fits into our salvation. Repentance is admitting to God that you are a sinner and expressing a sincere desire to change. It generally happens just prior to or during the time we receive God's justifying grace.

Here is the really good news: God offers everyone a divine pardon. This is good news because we all need it. We all "...have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23). We've all thought, said or done something that is unloving towards God, ourselves and others and this separates ourselves from God. So, we all need this!

We receive this free offer of forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. We do nothing to earn it. Meditate on Romans 3:21-24, Galatians 2:16 & Galatians 3:26-29. Then talk to God in your own words about receiving it. Justifying grace is that simple.

When we receive God's divine pardon and become justified, we have a new beginning as regenerated people. This is commonly known as being born again (John 3:3). There are four ways in which a justified, or reborn, believer experiences a new beginning.

The first new beginning is eternal life. Eternal life is more than simply existing forever and going to heaven when we die. It is having a never-ending love relationship with God, and it starts the moment we receive justifying grace. (John 17:3)

The second new beginning is a restored loving relationship with God as our perfect Father. Read John 1:12, Romans 8:15-16 and 1 John 3:1. As children of God, we can go to God in prayer and say: "Dad, I need your help", "Dad, I have something to run by you", "Dad, I'm hurting", or "Dad, I love you."

The third new beginning is living as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. As justified believers, we live in a sinful and fallen world, but we are not of that world. We become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Mark 1:15, Luke 17:20-21, John 17:14-16 & Philippians 3:20.

As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven, our values run counter to the world's values. The world values money, power and prestige. The Kingdom of Heaven values faith, humility and service. The world relies on might and force. The Kingdom of Heaven relies on faith, love and the Holy Spirit. The world teaches us to love only those who love us back. The Kingdom of Heaven teaches us to love our enemies.

The fourth new beginning is the process to become more like Jesus. This is what enables us to live out Kingdom of Heaven values in this sinful. As we walk in a relationship with God, the Holy Spirit changes our hearts and makes us more like Jesus. This is the goal of the Christian life. (Matthew 5:48, 1 John 3:2 & Ephesians 4:14-15) This process of becoming more like Jesus is called sanctification. The Holy Spirit's Work to bring us through this process is called sanctifying grace. This will be the topic of next week's sermon.

In Christ,
Pastor David L. Charlton

Church Council

There will not be a Church Council meeting on Tuesday, March 4, as planned.



Church Council Meeting



Potluck Luncheon

Burton will have a potluck on **Communion Sunday, March 2, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center**, following the 10:00 am service. The theme for this luncheon is "**Mardi Gras**." Please bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

Rummage Sale

We are collecting items for our annual rummage sale which will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Clean, working, not broken items can be dropped off at the sanctuary doors any day or Wednesday evening in the Narthex from 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm during music practice. Volunteers are needed for the week of March 3-7 for pricing, hanging/folding and sorting of items and for the day of the sale. Please see RaeLeigh Gonsalves after any service or call her at 305-522-9361 to volunteer! 50% of the proceeds of the rummage sale go to the Pastor's Helping Hand Account which provides assistance for things such as rent, utilities, fuel, bus tickets and other things for our congregation and our community. Come and be a part of the fun and fellowship which helps our church help our community!

RaeLeigh Gonsalves, Chair



Ringin News

The Burton Ringers are so happy to welcome new members Elizabeth Hathorn and Barbara Swango and returning ringer Gail Bamman to our group. We are so happy to have them! The handbell choir will be traveling for the annual handbell festival on March 21 and 22 in Tampa, FL, where they will ring with handbell choirs all over Florida. We are always looking for new ringers – if you have musical experience and want to see what it is all about, we rehearse Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary.



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*

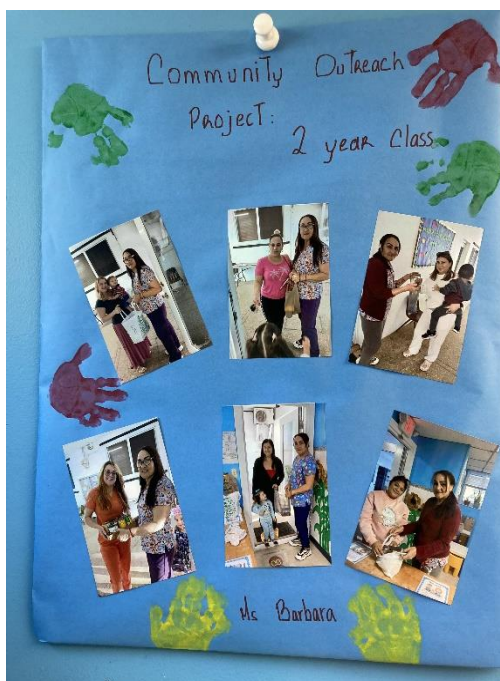
Men’s Bible Study

John Rimmel

United Methodist Men will meet in the Sanctuary on Thursday, February 27, at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact me at 443-623-8554 or email me at famrem5@aol.com.

CDC Giving to the Community

This past month the CDC focused on giving to the community with outreach projects from the CDC children, parents, and staff. Learning is not limited to the classrooms. We learn by giving and sharing what we have to the community in need! Top and Bottom Left: Canned goods were collected and donated by the students to Burton’s Food Pantry. Top Middle: Clothing was donated to the Children’s Shelter. Top Right: Beautification of the CDC with plantings. Bottom Middle: Books donated to Dr. Zumba.



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.taoisttaichi.org/> Why not start out the new year by joining this group?

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 January 2025 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	5-Jan	\$2,521	\$5,086	-2,565	\$2,521	\$5,086	-2,565
2	12-Jan	\$3,878	\$208	3,670	\$6,399	\$5,294	1,105
3	19-Jan	\$1,949	\$7,166	-5,217	\$8,348	\$12,460	-4,112
4	26-Jan	\$3,018	\$1,775	-1,242	\$11,366	\$14,235	-2,869

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 9on **Give Online** in the upper right corner of the home page to set up a payment online.

Finance Committee

RaeLeigh Gonsalves, Chair

Your committee on Finance will have its March meeting on Tuesday, March 25 at 5:00 pm in the Joy Bible Classroom. All committee members are encouraged to attend!

God's Kitchen/Food Pantry



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 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 Mary Lou Wilkinson at 305-394-3878, or call the office at 305-852-2581 to help.



United
Women
in Faith

Call To Prayer And Self Denial Program - United Women In Faith

On Sunday, March 23, Burton's United Women in Faith group will hold their annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program. All members and visitors to Burton Memorial Church are welcome to attend our free luncheon and program in the church fellowship hall after the worship service. Barbara Koch and Kim Youngblood will be coordinating this event. The March monthly meeting will immediately follow the program. All are welcome to attend the meeting as well.

This year's offering will support economic development, microenterprise projects, and vocational training internationally. It will also be used to support the work of United Methodist conference women's teams that design and lead projects that improve the lives of their local community members. Funds will also support regional missionaries who partner in this work. One hundred percent of this offering goes directly to the focus projects for this year.

In our Call to Prayer Program, we will focus on learning about just one of the supported projects. The Methodist Women's Federation of Peru is joining the United Women in Faith to empower Peruvian women through the Transformative Development Project. Education for women and girls in Peru has been an ongoing struggle for many years. This project is aimed at more than 500 women who are part of 29 women's units of local Methodist churches throughout the country.

Women in every conference of the United Methodist Church gather to pray, learn and give sacrificially to this offering. Anyone who is unable to attend our program on March 23 but would like to make a contribution to help lift women out of poverty may do so by putting an envelope marked Call to Prayer in the offering basket any time during the month of March, or by dropping a donation to Betsy in the church office, or by sending a check to United Women in Faith, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th floor, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Call to Prayer 2025.

Even though these projects are small, they have a big impact. They feed families, send kids to school and empower women to become leaders. Don't underestimate what they can do! As God's people, let us give generously to help others.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



In addition to knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, we have been making scarfs for DAR PROJECT PATRIOT - active military.

Please join us for fun and fellowship on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Joy Classroom. to knit or crochet. We teach. We have supplies. For more information, please call Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.



Green Team Upcoming Activities

As we move closer to our collective Earth Day events, we need to start gathering items for our silent auction tables as well as getting volunteers to help. We will also be getting ready for our first clean up. Be sure to bring trash picker uppers. Let's see what we can accomplish together! Thank you to everyone who has given time or effort to our events. We appreciate everyone's support.

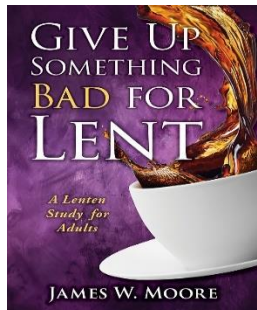
Ciera Cox, Green Team



Give Up Something Bad for Lent

Brothers and Sisters,

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



On March 5, 2025 (Ash Wednesday) we will begin the 40-day season of Lent. This is a time of self-reflection, repentance, and self-denial. These spiritual exercises prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' triumphant resurrection on Easter.

Traditionally, Christians sacrificially give up something enjoyable for Lent. Most Christians give up something like chocolate, caffeine, meat, or television – something they would really miss. This spiritual discipline imitates Jesus' own self-denial and sacrificial love. It helps us to turn toward God and the ways of God.

This year, I propose we do something a little different. In addition to giving up something enjoyable, we also give up something bad for Lent. We'll follow Rev. James Moore's adult Lenten study *Give Up Something Bad for Lent*. He challenges us to give up the actions, attitudes, habits, or sins that keep us from becoming more Christlike. Things like bitterness, apathy, gossip, self-pity, envy, or blaming. As a small group, we will pray and ask God to empower us in this endeavor. We will be successful, but only with God's grace.

Jesus instructed his disciples to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him (Matthew 16:24). Denying ourselves means that we get rid of those things in our lives that prevent us from reflecting the light of Christ. This small group Lenten study will help us to do this.

We'll meet every Monday during the 40 days of Lent to discuss how we are doing.

Here is the schedule:

- March 3, 2025 @ 6 PM in Joy Classroom – Give up something Bad for Lent
- March 10, 2025 @ 6 PM in Joy Classroom – Give up harsh, condemning judgments for Lent
- March 17, 2025 @ 6:30 PM in Joy classroom – Give up the enemies within for Lent
- March 24, 2025 @ 6:30 PM in Joy classroom – Give up running away for Lent
- March 31, 2025 @ 6:30 PM in Joy classroom – Give up a bad habit for Lent
- April 7, 2025 @ 6:30 PM in Joy classroom - Give up pettiness for Lent
- April 14, 2025 @ 6:30 PM in Joy classroom – Wrap your arms around something good for Easter

Please let me know if you want to participate, so I know how many books to order.

David L. Charlton, Pastor

Lenten Events to Mark Your Calendar



Ash Wednesday - Anointing with Ashes

Date: March 5, 2025, **Time:** 7 am to 9:30 am.

Place: Drive Thru in front of the Sanctuary

Every year, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.



Ash Wednesday Service

Date: March 5, 2025, **Time:** 6:00 pm.

Place: Sanctuary

During Mass (for Catholics) or worship service (for Protestants), the priest or pastor will usually share a sermon that is penitential and reflective in nature. After this, the congregation will be invited to receive the ashes on their foreheads. Usually, the priest or pastor will dip his finger into the ashes, spread them in a cross pattern on the forehead, and say, "From dust you came and from dust you will return."

Palm Sunday and Holy Week Worship Opportunities 2025

Easter Egg Hunt

April 12, 2025 Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

It's the Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown! No, wait....it's the ***Easter Festival*** at Burton Memorial. And what would Easter be without three Egg hunts and tons of fun? Thousands of eggs filled with Bible verses and candy will create a carpet of color all over our church campus. They may also play games, and we ***might*** have face painting this year as well. This is a wonderful community outreach event – everyone is invited. Following the hunt, hot dogs and refreshments will be provided as children read the scriptures in their eggs for Easter prizes. Volunteers are still needed – please call Julie, Donna or the church office for more information.

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025 Worship time: 10:00 am

Come and hear the Palm Sunday as told through the Word, song, and prayer and witness the transformation of the sanctuary as we celebrate the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025: Service TBD



MAUNDY
Thursday

Come on Maundy Thursday for a special service of contemplation at Coral Isles Church (MM 90, next to Coral Shores High School).

Good Friday

April 18, 2025 Worship time: 12:00 pm

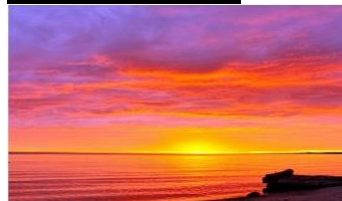
We are invited to join our UMC family at Matecumbe Methodist Church for a service on Good Friday. This service of Word, song, and prayer is a wonderful way to prepare your heart for Easter – come and bring a friend. ***Prior to the service, Spirit and Truth will be undertaking their traditional “Cross Walk”.*** This is open to any that would like to participate. They will be meeting at Venetian Shores at 9:30 a.m. and will walk the two crosses to Matecumbe Methodist Church for the Good Friday service.



There will also be a Last Supper and Gethsemane re-enactment in Burton’s Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. We will remember the night Judas, a trusted member of the inner-circle, betrayed Jesus and how the other Apostles let him down. It may not be pleasant because we might see ourselves in Judas, the Apostles or even the religious leaders who arrested Jesus and handed him over to be crucified. However, we’ll leave with hope as we look forward to Jesus’ victory over death and receive God’s forgiveness.

Easter Sunrise

April 20, 2025 Worship time: 6:45 am.



Join the Upper Keys community at the best service of the year – Easter sunrise! ***We will meet at Harry Harris Park at MM 93 O/S (follow Burton Drive right to the park) at 6:45 am for an amazing service*** – see the sunrise and hear the story of God’s gift to us all! Bring a chair and a friend! ***Breakfast will be served following the service at Burton in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!***

Easter

April 20, 2025 Worship time: 10:00 am

He has risen, He has risen indeed! Celebrate the Resurrection with your family at Burton! ***Experience the Joy of Easter with our Burton Ringers and Praise Singers as we ring and sing the Joy of the Gift of Easter!***



Holy Week