

# Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<p><b>Date:</b> September 1, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> The self-surrendered life  <b>Sermon Title:</b> Self-assertion leads to individual and group egotism  <b>Old Testament:</b> Proverbs 16:3-4  <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 9:46-50</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> September 8, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> The self-surrendered life  <b>Sermon Title:</b> Self-assertion leads to race or class egotism  <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 37:5-6  <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 9:51-56</p>
<p><b>Date:</b> September 15, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> The self-surrendered life  <b>Sermon Title:</b> You must surrender the 'self' to follow Jesus.  <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 55:22  <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 9:57-62</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> September 22, 2024  <b>Sermon Title:</b> Voting Jesus  <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 72:1-20  <b>New Testament:</b> Romans 13:1-7</p>
<p><b>Date:</b> September 29, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> 1st sermon of the Wesleyan Sermon series  <b>Sermon Title:</b> Explore what it means to be a Methodist in the Christian church and what we can offer the church and the world.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sunday Service Information</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come join us for services each Sunday at  <b>10:00 am.</b></p>

## 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](mailto:bae_bmumc@att.net).

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

## September Birthdays:

## September Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Sharyn Bishoff	9	Jacob Kirkman	18	Dorothy & Larry Jarboe	23
Sharon Albury	11	Barbara Koch	18		
Charles Bigger	15	Jill McCauley	24		
Bill Crofts	15	Carol Johnson	25		
Mike Donovan	16	Victoria Pinson	25		
George Pinson	17	Deborah Shelley	27		
Bootsie Wells	17	Annie Mulford	30		



# The Beacon

*a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC*  
*September 2024*

Brothers and Sisters,

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



John Wesley, the 18<sup>th</sup> century leader of the Methodist revival, taught a robust and biblically based theology. This theology has three main emphases: 1) Original sin, 2) Saved by grace through faith, and 3) Holiness (both personal & social). For the next 4 months we'll explore these three emphases of Wesleyan theology. This month (September) we will learn about original sin. Next month (October) we will learn about grace and then, in November, we'll learn about personal holiness and then, in December, we'll learn about social holiness. So, let's begin with original sin!

The simplest definition of sin is violating God's law. There is, however, a more accurate definition. Jesus summarizes the law with love. If we love God, neighbor, and self, then we are automatically obeying the law (Matthew 22:37-40). Jesus also says that we obey the law not just in our actions but also in our attitudes, thoughts, and words (Matthew 5-7, 23:25-28; Mark 7:14-23; Luke 11:39-41). So, a more accurate definition of sin is: Any attitude, thought, word, or action that is not loving towards God, neighbor, or self.

The doctrine of original sin states that we all have a sinful nature, and it originates in the desires and attitudes deep within our hearts. Our sinful nature has been with us for thousands of years. It began with Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God (Gen. 3:1-24). From that point on it went from bad to worse. Cain committed the first murder (Gen 4:1-16) and humanity became so sinful that God sent a flood to stop the spread of sin (Gen. 6:1-9:28). After the flood, God disbursed humanity and confused its language because God could not allow decadent humanity to become united in sin (Gen 11:1-9). Beyond the Bible, we discover that human history is one continuous story of sin - wars, oppressive governments, murders, intrigue etc...

Sin is the root cause of our social ills. For example, it was a sinful mindset that caused the U.S. housing market crisis of 2007-08.

- Greed caused many people on Main Street to take out loans and buy houses when they had questionable financial resources. They wanted a house without having to wait until they were financially stable.
- Greed caused the banks to give these unwise subprime loans to people who were not financially ready to make mortgage payments and then sell the mortgages to major financial institutions. To get the financial institutions to buy the mortgages, they would guarantee the loans in case the borrowers defaulted on them. In this way, the banks made a quick profit.
- Greed caused the major financial institutions on Wall Street to create hedge funds that were backed by the subprime mortgages they bought from the banks. This was risky because these hedge funds would remain profitable as long as housing prices remained high and people, with questionable financial

resources, kept up with their mortgage payments. They were willing to take this risk because of the quick money these hedge funds offered.

This worked well until 2006 when the cost of houses began to decline and, at the same time, interest rates went up. For this reason, many people defaulted on their subprime loans. Due to the large amount of default loans, banks were unable to guarantee the loans they sold to the financial institutions. The actual value of hedge funds declined, and major financial institutions could no longer pay the dividends on their hedge funds. Major financial institutions and banks found themselves facing bankruptcy and begging the government for bailouts. The root cause of all this was the sin of greed.

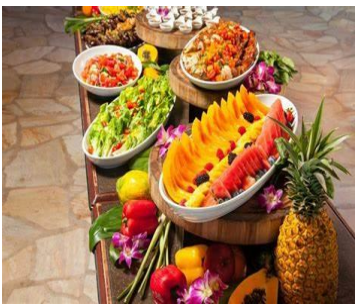
Sin is the culprit in all our social ills. Anger, jealousy, hatred, and vengeance often lead to violence & murder. Seeking an escape from pain and suffering rather than trusting in God leads to drug and alcohol abuse. Lust, sexism, and extreme selfishness feeds the sex and pornography industries resulting in the denigration of women. Racism and oppression cause the discrepancy between various ethnic groups and leads to genocide. Judgmentalism, scapegoating, and hatred foster the formation of extremist hate groups. For solid evidence of all this just watch CNN or Fox News for 20 minutes.

I am culpable. I have a sinful nature that contributes to the degradation of society. We might think of the dividing line between good and evil as being between Israel and Hamas or between Ukraine and Russia. But the real dividing line between good and evil runs down the middle of my heart. I have a sinful nature, and I'm also created in God's image. My sinful nature is evil, and God's image is good. My sinful nature has severely damaged the image of God in which I was created. By the way, everything I just said about me is also true about you and everyone else.

Now, here's the really bad news. There is nothing we can do to overcome our sinful nature. It has us and we are its slave. Our only hope of overcoming our sinful nature is God's grace. This grace enables us to take the right and loving course of action despite our sinful nature and brings us into salvation where we experience freedom from our sinful nature. Grace and how it frees us from the guilt and power of sin will be the subject of next month's article.

In Christ,  
Pastor David L. Charlton

### Potluck Luncheon



Burton will be having a potluck on *Communion Sunday, September 1, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center*, following the 10:00 am service. The theme for this luncheon is "*Luau*." Wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt or Mumu dress. Bring your favorite tropical dish or dessert. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

### Church Council

Our September Church Council dinner meeting is coming up. *Please mark your calendars for the Tuesday, September 3, dinner meeting in the Fellowship Center*. Dinner starts at 5:15 pm with the meeting coming to order at 5:30 pm. This will be a very important meeting as we look at our upcoming church charge conference, our budget, our upcoming church leadership, and plans moving into 2025.



## Voting Season

Brothers and Sisters,

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

It is voting season! Casting a vote is a great privilege and responsibility.

As your pastor, I will not endorse any political candidate or party. I do not care who you vote for. That is between you and God. I will, however, encourage you to allow the life and wisdom of Jesus to drive your decision.

In our congregation there are politically liberal and conservative members who love and respect each other. We understand that it's ok if a Christian votes one way and another Christian votes the opposite way. I love this about our church family.

During the 'Bible in a Year' class, we talked about Romans 14. In this chapter, the Apostle Paul addressed the controversial issue concerning the eating of meat that was sacrificed to idols. Some Christians argued it was ok while other Christians argued it was a grave sin. The Apostle Paul urged the Roman Christians who were involved in this conflict to love and respect each other – even when they disagreed. We can apply this chapter to political disagreements. As followers of Christ, we are to respect and love those with whom we disagree politically. I encourage you to read Romans 14. May it motivate you to do what you are already doing – loving and respecting each other even when we disagree. By doing this, we can be an uncommon church for common people, offering a love of neighbor without boundaries.

In Christ,  
Pastor David L. Charlton



**Ringing News**  
*Bells ring on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary.* We have an opening for a new ringer with strong musical experience. Is this you? Come to practice and see how much fun we have. God offers the BEST benefit package around. Come and join the bell choir!

*The Praise Singers practice at 5:45 pm following Bells practice.*

*Also, our Christmas Concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 1 at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary.* Last year we had over 150 wonderful people attend our concert, and we hope to fill the sanctuary this year. Mark your calendar and kick off your Christmas season with the sound of ***bells!***

## Nominations Committee

Brothers and Sisters,

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

As your Pastor, I am the chairperson of the Nominations Committee. The purpose of the Nominations Committee is to find and recruit church members to fill church leadership positions. Each year, the Nominations Committee submits the names for each leadership position for approval by the Charge Conference.

The Nominations Committee has already started meeting to fill the church leadership positions for 2025. If you feel God calling you to serve in a church position, please contact me. There is always something for each of us to do as we spread God's love and proclaim God's Kingdom.

God bless.  
In Christ Jesus, David L. Charlton, Pastor



## Fit For Christ Exercise Group

*The Fit For Christ weekly group, with support, education, and exercise for all ages, is still on hiatus.* Watch your bulletin or newsletter for an announcement of its return



## 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 July 2024 to date, along with the expenses for the same period. The Year-to-Date totals show our expenses exceed our offerings. The difference is funded by our Child Development Center (CDC) income. The goal going forward is to grow our church, so we are no longer dependent on this income to pay church expenses.



Last Four Weeks					Year to Date		
Week	Date	Offering	Expense	+ / -	Offering	Expense	+ / -
1	30 June	\$1,278	\$232	<b>1,046</b>	\$56,940	\$150,021	<b>-93,081</b>
2	7-July	\$3,167	\$5,371	<b>-2,204</b>	\$60,107	\$155,392	<b>-95,285</b>
3	14-July	\$1,601	\$3,707	<b>-2,106</b>	\$61,708	\$159,099	<b>-97,391</b>
4	21-July	\$1,338	\$4,311	<b>-2,973</b>	\$63,046	\$163,410	<b>-100364</b>

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](http://bmumc.net) and click on **Give Online** in the upper right corner of the home page to set up a payment online.



## Campus Ministry

This month we are honoring a senior at Coral Shores High School, Joshua Charlton, Pastor David and Donna's son, who just passed AICE, a three-year international honors program that he completed on his own after moving to the Keys. He has received recognition for "outstanding scores in the U.S." and will graduate with a special diploma which should help during the college acceptance and scholarship processes. He also passed four AP exams with very high scores and is currently taking five more.

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](mailto: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.*

## **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.

Once again, ***Coral Isles Church donated food for our pantry.*** They also cook for us on the second Thursday of each month.

Susan Ashmore, the leader of this cooking team, along with Samantha Arce and Karen Prince, all from Coldwell Bank Schmitt, presented a ***\$2,000 check to God's Kitchen from the Florida Keys Board of Realtors Charitable Trust..*** See below check being donated to our own kitchen czar, Mary Lou.



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

## **Pumpkin Patch is Coming**

It is just around the corner - we need all hands on deck!

**Our second Pumpkin Patch organization meeting is Tuesday, September 10, at 6:30 pm (immediately following the Worship Team meeting) in the Fellowship Hall. Come and help plan some new events, outreach opportunities, and even a new tradition or two!**



But here are some of things we DO know:

***We need a small crew to show up the week before the pumpkins arrive, on Saturday, October 5, at 8:00 am, to help set out the pallets for the pumpkin to be placed on and to decorate the patch.***

The pumpkins will arrive on ***Saturday, October 12 – time to be determined.*** We will need a lot of volunteers on this day to help unload around 1,000 pumpkins from the back of a semi-trailer and onto the church grounds. Those who help participate in this event will get a free pumpkin to take home to their family.

***We are hosting a community KICK OFF party on Sunday, Oct 13 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm (weather permitting).*** There will be free hotdogs and chips, fun craft opportunities, photo ops, story time and maybe even a bounce house. Mark your calendars and remember to invite your friends and neighbors!

***A NEW event this year is PARENT'S NIGHT OUT on Friday, October 25, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.*** We will be offering free childcare for three hours with fun games, great food, crafts and movies! LOTS of help will be needed – we hope you will help us make this SUPER SUCCESSFUL!

Finally, ***there will be a sign-up board located in the Narthex,*** in which families and individuals can sign up to ***sell pumpkins in the patch from October 13 through October 31.*** More plans will be announced as the details get worked out.

Donna Charlton and RaeLeigh Gonsalves will be our organizers and are excited about our 2024 pumpkin patch – they hope you are too!

***Pumpkin clean-up will be Saturday, November 2, at 8:00 am.***



# United Women in Faith

Dear ladies of the church, we are still meeting during the summer. Our numbers are small, but we are a great bunch of ladies if you would like to join us. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month, 7:00 pm, at 38 E Beach Rd, unless we change it for our breakfast meetings. **September's meeting is on Monday, September 23, 7:00 pm, at Mary Lou's house.** If you need more information about us, please call Mary Lou at 305-394-3878.

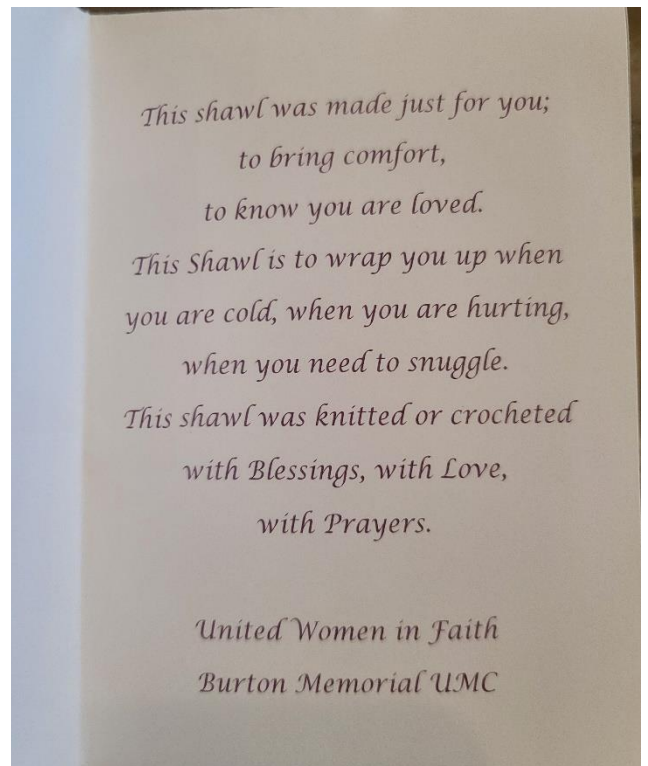
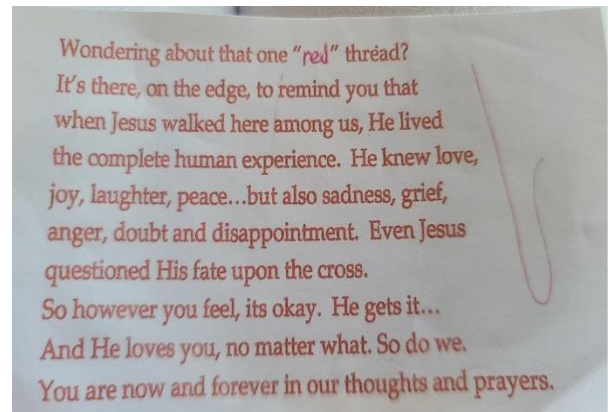
Right now, we are doing book reviews from our reading program. This year Barbara Koch has picked great books to read. They are available to anyone to read. Please just sign them out on the pad with your name and the name of the book. Bring them back and cross your name off. They are broken down into subject matter and all the new books for this year are exceptionally good. Each has a different story to tell and on these hot days it is a great way to spend the day reading a great book inside with the AC on. Hope you will join us.

Love, Hope and Faith, Mary Lou Wilkinson

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Each handmade prayer shawl (bottom left) has a label discreetly sewn on the wrong side (below) and a small red thread attached (right.) A card is also enclosed (bottom right.)

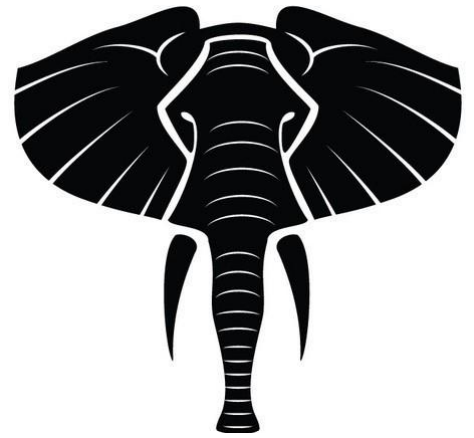
***Please join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Joy Classroom to knit or crochet.*** We always have a fun evening together. We have supplies and we can teach. For more information, call Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.



## Why Elephants Matter at Burton

It was nearly a decade ago that Pope Francis called for a crackdown on ivory trafficking, as have Buddhist leaders in Thailand and Islamic clerics in Malaysia. More recently a multi-faith coalition of religious leaders in Sri Lanka came together to ceremonially destroy 359 elephants' tusks that were destined for market. So why should we, at Burton Church, care about elephants; after all, there are none in the Florida Keys? The answer to this rhetorical question is obvious, but if you are in doubt, you will find the scripture rich with affirmations of God's love for all creation, acknowledging humanity's vital connection with all species.

Dr. Jack Stein Grove, Green Team



## CDC Celebrates Pastor David's Birthday

Pastor David received warm greetings from the children and staff of Burton Memorial CDC. May your days be filled with blessings and joy as you continue to work with the community at Burton Memorial UMC and the community here in the Keys!

