

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: May 4, 2025 Sermon Series Title: How non-violent does God expect us to be? Sermon Title: Jesus supports God's creative intent. Old Testament: Genesis 1:1 & 24-31 & Genesis 2:4-7 New Testament: Matthew 19:1-6 Luke 6:27-31 & 35-36	Date: May 11, 2025 Sermon Series Title: How non-violent does God expect us to be? Sermon Title: The Lord God fights for us Old Testament: Exodus 15:1-18 New Testament: Luke 4:14-21
Date: May 18, 2025 Sermon Series Title: Taking a break from 'How non-violent does God expect us to be?' Sermon Title: Pastor Pam Feeser is guest preacher Old Testament: Psalm 23 New Testament: John 13:31-35	Date: May 25, 2025 Sermon Series Title: How non-violent does God expect us to be? Sermon Title: Kill them all-let God sort them out? Old Testament: Joshua 6:15-17 & 21 New Testament: John 3:16-17

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!*

May Birthdays:

May Anniversaries:

<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Normand Gonsalves	9	Patricia Fincannon	25	
Elizabeth Frampton-Hickman	10	Drema Remmell	25	
Vicki O'Meara Gassaway	13	Kim Youngblood	28	
Pete Diaz	16	Sue Peacock	29	
Leslie Bennett	25	Gregory Klifman	30	



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
May 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

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



There are three phrases that summarize Christian action. Each phrase begins with the word 'great', so we can call them 'The Three Greats'. They are the: 1) Great Commandment, 2) Great Commission, and 3) Great Expectation. This month (May) we'll look at the Great Commandment. In June, we'll contemplate the Great Commission and then, in July, we'll discover the Great Expectation. So, let's get started and look at the Great Commandment.

The Great Commandment comes from Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31, and Luke 10:25-28. According to these verses, our Lord Jesus summarizes the law with love - to love God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength and to love our neighbors as we ourselves. He was quoting from Deuteronomy 6:5 (love God) and Leviticus 19:18 (Love neighbor and self.). Jewish Rabbis, before Jesus, have also identified these two verses as the summation of the law. So, Jesus was following Jewish tradition.

Let's look at the first part of the Great Commandment, which is to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5). Our hearts and souls contain our dispositions – our attitudes and desires. To love God, our attitudes and desires must conform with God's character. Since God is love (1 John 4:8 & 16), our attitudes and desires must reflect unconditional love. If we focus our minds on God through worship, prayer, Bible study, and theological reflection, our attitudes and desires will, over time, conform to God's character.

Now we can look at the second part of the Great Commandment, which is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We love ourselves by maintaining our physical, mental, and emotional health and we do this so we can help other people. We work hard to make lots of money, not to gain power or prestige, but to make this world a better place for everyone. We exercise and eat healthy foods, not to feed our ego with an impressive body, but so we are always physically ready to help people in need. We go on vacation, not just to have fun, but to also rejuvenate so we can serve other people.

To follow the Great Commandment, we must contemplate God's type of love.

God's type of love is not a warm & fuzzy feeling. We tend not to have warm & fuzzy feelings toward people who hate and hurt us. So, if love was a feeling, it would be extremely unfair for Jesus to command us to love everyone, to include our enemies.

God's type of love is a Holy Spirit empowered decision to always want what is best for everyone. It is a Holy Spirit empowered decision because some people are hard to love. (I'm not always easy to love – just ask my wife.) If you are having trouble loving a person or a group of people, ask God for help. The Lord will answer that prayer.

God bless.

Pastor David Charlton

Church Council

We will have a church council meeting on **Tuesday, May 6**, in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:15 pm with the meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.



Church Council Meeting

Potluck Luncheon

Burton will have a potluck on **Communion Sunday, May 4, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center**, following the 10:00 am service. It is Teacher Appreciation Sunday. There is no theme for the food. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

June Covered Dish

The June theme for our first Sunday of the month covered dish (June 1) is Graduation. We will be honoring our graduates and sharing a “summer” menu! Bring your favorite summer dish. Also, we would like to decorate with a copy of **YOUR graduation picture or Senior picture!** See RaeLeigh for more details.



We are headed towards our summer break! *We will be playing on Mother's Day, May 11, and then we will break until July.* August will be our mass choir kick off – and we are always looking for new ringers. If you are interested in joining our handbell choir, please see ANY ringer for more information.

Ringling News

Men's Bible Study

United Methodist Men will meet this month on Thursday, May 22, in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact me at 443-623-8554 or email me at famrem5@aol.com.

John Rimmel



Congratulations to Joshua Charlton, Pastor David's son, who is graduating from Coral Shores High School on May 28, 2025. He will be starting college in August at Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

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.*

Burton Memorial VPK(Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten)

Graduation Ceremony

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, Nilda Bernaldez and the Teaching Staff at Burton Memorial Child Development Center will be hosting a graduation ceremony in the Sanctuary, 5:00 pm. We will be graduating 8 students this year and recognizing them for all of their accomplishments. We hope you will attend and show your support for our director, teachers and students.



CDC Egg Hunting

Last month at the CDC, it was Easter Egg Hunting time. The children were outside in the playground with Ms. Lisandra, with Ms. Alma taking the photo. More children were having an after party in their classroom.



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 2025 March, 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	2-Mar	\$3,963	\$5,711	-1,748	\$26,263	\$33,806	-7,543
2	9-Mar	\$3,428	\$1,334	2,094	\$29,691	\$35,140	-5,449
3	16-Mar	\$2,297	\$5,523	-3,226	\$31,988	\$40,663	-8,675
4	23-Mar	\$3,574	\$1,135	2,439	\$35,562	\$41,798	-6,236

The above expenses does not include our insurance and workman's compensation payments to District of \$53,635. 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 on **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 May meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 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 Way of the Collier and the Florida Keys Grant

Good News! *The United Way of Collier and the Florida Keys has given a grant of \$10,000 to Burton's Food Pantry*, to help supply groceries and meals to our community for the next 12 months.



Ocean Reef Community Foundation Grant

Burton Memorial UMC wants to send a big thank you to Ocean Reef Community Foundation (ORCF) for their grant to our food pantry which pays for the refrigerated truck rental required to pick up food from Publix and Winn Dixie every week. This grant also gives us money to buy food that allows us to fill the grocery bags for our clients.

The Ocean Reef Community Foundation also granted \$15,000 for the CDC Summer Program for 2025. This grant will allow the enrichment of the Summer Program by offering weekly field trips to venues that emphasize STEM and environmental learning activities.



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women of Faith will be meeting all summer along so if you want to join us for any of our meetings you will have to read this message. We will be mixing up the time and place to accommodate the ladies, starting with the May meeting. ***We will be meeting after church in the fellowship hall on Sunday, May 18.*** We will have a lite lunch then start the meeting. Last night Elizabeth did the program for the ladies which had us drawing , reading scripture from the Bible and closing with us singing 🎵 a little of How Great thou Art. Next month Kim is doing the program from our program book so there is no telling what we will be doing. The book has so many great ideas and the ladies get to mix and match what they want to do. But we always learn more about God and how God plays a big part of our lives. We offer up prayers and hope for each other in our closing prayer until we meet again. So, I hope you will join us.

Love, Peace and Joy

Mary Lou Wilkinson, President

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come and learn to knit or crochet simple hats for cancer children. They are made from a rectangle. The hats will be sent to two hospitals in November for cancer children. We teach; we have supplies. we have fun and fellowship. Come and join us ***Thursday evening at 6:30 pm in the Joy classroom.*** For information call Virginia Spear 305-522-2978.



Revelation Study

Brothers and Sisters,

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



An exciting study of Revelation will start on Monday, May 5, at 6:30 pm in the Joy Classroom. It will continue for however many weeks it takes to finish the study, every Monday at 6:30 pm.

Discover why we should not be afraid of that weird book at the end of God's Written Word. Discover the hope in Revelation.

In Christ,
Pastor David L. Charlton

Earth Day Thank You!

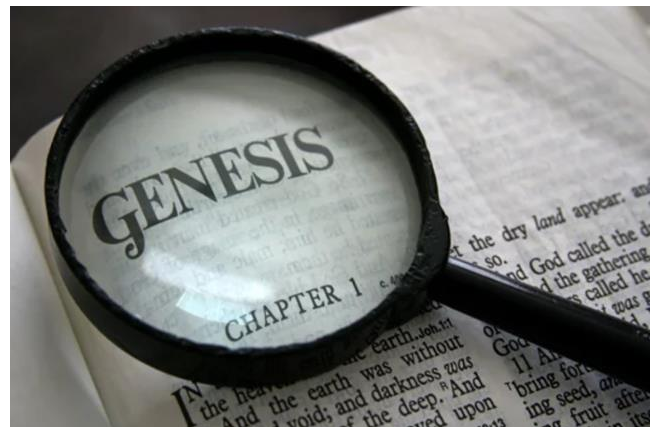
Green Team

The Green Team extends our thanks to everyone who participated in the Earth Day celebrations (April 22 & 27). It was wonderful to experience the fellowship of the congregations of Burton Memorial United Methodist Church and Coral Isles Church of Christ celebrating the creation, drawing attention to the importance of environmental stewardship. Our efforts generated lively discussions throughout the community, from medical professionals and paleontologists, to high school students and those who do not consider themselves members of the faith community. There is no question that there is a divine imperative that we respect and love the creation. The underlying question we must ask ourselves is: Is our stewardship of the environment and all living things on this planet that belongs to God, consistent with what God expects of us?

*You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures,
male and female, to keep them alive with you.*

Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.


Genesis 6:19-20 New International Version





Morning of Sharing!


SE District Beloved Community Team (formerly the Antiracism Task Force)

 Date: May 10, 2025

 Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

 5 Locations Available

 Engage in meaningful cross-cultural dialogue.

 Learn tools to foster diversity & inclusion.

 Strengthen relationships within your community.



Host Locations:

-  First - Stuart
-  Cason - Delray Beach
-  Christ - Ft. Lauderdale
-  Miami Lakes - Miami
-  Burton Memorial - Tavernier