

# Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<p><b>Date:</b> April 7, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Salvation by Faith, works, or both  <b>Sermon Title:</b> Salvation by faith  <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 32:1-11  <b>New Testament:</b> Ephesians 2:8-10  <b>New Testament:</b> Romans 1:16-17 &amp; 3:21-24 &amp; 4:1-3</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> April 14, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Salvation by Faith, works, or both  <b>Sermon Title:</b> Salvation by faith and works?  <b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 19:5-6  <b>New Testament:</b> Ephesians 2:8-10  <b>New Testament:</b> James 2:14-24</p>
<p><b>Date:</b> April 21, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Earth Day  <b>Sermon Title:</b> We are stewards, not owners, of creation  <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 8:1-9  <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 24:1-2  <b>New Testament:</b> Hebrews 11:3  <b>New Testament:</b> Romans 1:20</p>	<p><b>Date:</b> April 28, 2024  <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Avoiding the temptation traps  <b>Sermon Title:</b> The trap of self-reliance rather than God reliance  <b>Old Testament:</b> Proverbs 3:5-6  <b>Old Testament:</b> Deuteronomy 8:3  <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 4:1-4</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!

## April Birthdays:

## April Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Anita Simpson	16	Doratheia Tewes	20	David & Donna Charlton	4
Claude Bullock	17	Anne Dunn	24	Sharon & Larry Albury	11



# The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC  
April 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

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

We continue the five-part Beacon article series on the 'Theories of Atonement'. All Christians believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus saves us from our sins and reconciles us to God. However, there are many explanations as to **how** the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus does this. We call these explanations 'theories of atonement'.



Here is the schedule: April (This month) - Ransom theory, May - Christ as Victor theory, June - Satisfaction/penal substitution theory, July – Recapitulation/Divinization theory, and August – Moral example/Scapegoat theory.

The ransom theory posits that Jesus was the ransom that God paid to redeem us from sin. Some of the Scripture passages that refer to Jesus as a ransom are Mark 10:45, Matthew 20:28, 1 Timothy 2:6, Hebrews 9:15.

To understand Jesus as being the ransom to redeem us from sin, we must ask: To whom did God pay this ransom?

Did God pay this ransom to Satan to free us from Satan's dominion? I believe the answer is no. If Satan demanded a ransom from God, then God would not really be sovereign or more powerful than Satan. So, it's not Satan or any created being.

What if God paid a ransom, not to a personal being, but to a reality that our sin created? The reality I am thinking of is evil and death. This would make the ransom not merely a payment but a required sacrifice to free us from sin. Jesus had to die so he could face and defeat death. His resurrection proved that he defeated death and the evil that led to his death. In other words, Jesus was the required sacrifice – the ransom. This understanding of the 'Ransom Theory of Atonement' naturally leads to the 'Christ as Victor Theory of Atonement', which I'll discuss in the May issue of the Beacon.

Remember, there is no 'correct' theory of atonement. They all have their strengths and weaknesses. As we contemplate each theory, may the Holy Spirit bring us into a deeper appreciation of what Christ has done for us.

In Christ Jesus,  
David L. Charlton, Pastor

## Potluck Luncheon



Burton will be having a potluck on Communion Sunday, **April 7, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center**, following the 10:00 am service. The theme for this luncheon is **Cuban**. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

## Pentecost: A Birthday Celebration

Brothers and Sisters,

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

IMAGINE!!! You are part of a small Jewish sect called 'The Way'. It is the day of Pentecost but, instead of celebrating, you and your fellow believers are confused, anxious, and scared. Fifty-three days ago, the Romans brutally crucified Jesus, whom you believe to be the Son of God. You believe this because of the many eyewitness accounts of the risen Jesus. Ten days ago, the Apostles saw the risen Jesus ascend into heaven, leaving you and your fellow believers alone to face the skeptical religious establishment and cruel Roman government.



Then, suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind comes from heaven and fills the whole house where you and your fellow believers are sitting. You see what seems like tongues of fire come to rest on each person. It is the Holy Spirit filling and empowering all the believers! You all begin to supernaturally speak in foreign languages and hundreds of Jews from all over the Roman Empire can understand you.

The Christian Church calls this event 'Pentecost' and you can read about it in Acts 2. It is the Birthday of the church because, on this day, the Holy Spirit started to empower the body of believers to be the church.

This year Pentecost is Sunday, May 19, 2024. After worship, we will have a birthday party in the fellowship hall. The birthday cake will have 2,000+ candles on it. (Just kidding).

Since it is the Church's birthday, we should all give a gift to the church. From April 7 to May 19, there will be a birthday box in the sanctuary. Each person will receive a birthday card to fill out and place in the birthday box. On the birthday card, each person will write what gift(s) they will give to the church.

The following are some gift suggestions:

1. Commit to pray for BMUMC everyday at 2:13. (Why 2:13 PM? That's when Pastor David prays for BMUMC. In military time, 2:13 pm is 14:13 and John 14:13 says, "And I [Jesus] will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.")
2. Commit to pray for BMUMC everyday at a time that works best for you.
3. Volunteering at the Food Pantry.
4. Volunteering at the Child Development Center.
5. Building a compost for the church.
6. Volunteering to help Betsy in the office.
7. Making a monetary donation to the church in addition to the tithes you already give.
8. Contribute money to build a closet around the fellowship hall air conditioning units.
9. Asking the Trustees what minor repair/clean-up work they can do.
10. Volunteer with children ministry or re-start youth ministry.
11. Donate yarn for the knitting group
12. A morning of yard work at church
13. Trying a new spot in church
14. Hosting a covered dish or the after church social time.
15. Be a liturgist for the first time.
16. Purchase music in memory or honor of someone.
17. Underwrite the permit fees for the new bathrooms.
18. Start/join a small group.
19. Volunteer to cook in God's kitchen.
20. Give towards our apportionments.
21. Anything else you can think of to help the church.

The first and second gift suggestions are the most powerful gifts you can give. At the very least, commit to giving one of those two gifts. After Pentecost, we will distribute the birthday cards to the right people so they can help you with your gift.

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

## 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 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	4-Feb	\$2,139	\$5,559	<b>-3,420</b>	\$11,689	\$22,543	<b>-10,854</b>
2	11-Feb	\$2,443	\$2,178	<b>- 265</b>	\$14,132	\$24,721	<b>-10,589</b>
3	18-Feb	\$2,938	\$4,734	<b>-1,796</b>	\$17,070	\$29,455	<b>-12,385</b>
4	25-Feb	\$1,428	\$915	<b>513</b>	\$18,498	\$30,370	<b>-11,872</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.

## The Monthly Question & Answers from February 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

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

We encourage each other to think and pray about how God can use Burton Memorial United Methodist Church (BMUMC) to spread unconditional love and proclaim the Kingdom of God. Every month, we display a dry erase whiteboard in front of the Sanctuary with a provocative question. We urge everyone to write an answer on the dry erase board.



At our monthly church council meetings, we review the answers. Over the course of the year, we will discern what new thing(s) Jesus wants us to do.

Last February, the question was: In what ways will God use BMUMC to spread His love over the next 5 years?

- Expanded children's ministry
- Money saved from solar panels can go back into programs
- Sunday school
- Bus
- Spanish language ministry
- Youth group
- No gossip

**IF YOU FEEL GOD TUGGING AT YOUR HEART TO IMPLEMENT ANY OF THESE IDEAS, TALK TO ME ABOUT IT AND GO FOR IT!!!**

In Christ Jesus,  
David L. Charlton  
Pastor

## Ringling News

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



## Church Council Meeting

A reminder that the Church Council will hold its *monthly dinner meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Center.* Dinner will be provided. All leadership of the church is encouraged to attend.

## Church Council

## 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?

## Fit For Christ Exercise Group



The Fit For Christ weekly group, with support, education, and exercise for all ages, continues to *meet on Mondays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in Burton's Fellowship Center.* Exercise will help improve your balance, mobility and strength, and increase your spirits and your energy! Why not catch up on your new year's resolution by joining this group?

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

*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,



## 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](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 here.



United  
Women  
in Faith

March 17 was a great cause of celebration for our little unit of women at Burton. Linda Lillo Norman and Barbara Koch, co-chairs of the St Patrick's Day fundraising tea, announced that this year was the most successful fundraiser ever. Many people contributed to the success of this event. The table hostesses (Virginia Spear, Edith Bricker, Cindy Davis, Sue Peacock, Mary Lou Wilkinson, Linda Lillo Norman, Barbara Koch, Naomi McCurdy and Norma Warrington) did a wonderful job decorating their tables for the holiday. The fellowship hall has never looked better thanks to all the painters who gave the hall a fresh coat of paint. Cindy Davis did a masterful job coordinating the silent auction which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who donated items for the auction and/or bought some treasures from us. A special thank you to all the bakers for this event, especially those who are not in our UWF unit or even members of our church but still want to support this very worthwhile cause. Finally, we would like to thank Betty Ann Gear for her tireless work in the kitchen. She is a true servant behind the scenes, never seeking honor or recognition.

In addition to having great refreshments and learning a great deal about Irish saints, we were treated to a wonderful demonstration of Irish dancing by the Upper Keys Irish Dancers (Melanie Valle, Lindsey Crews, Lu Dodson, Laura Bauman, and Gabrielle Dante.) God truly blessed us with every kind of abundance at this year's tea!

***Our April meeting will be the usual 7:00 pm meeting time on April 22 at Mary Lou's house.*** Barbara Koch will be presenting the 2024 Call to Prayer and Self Denial Program which this year will go toward Climate Justice projects.

Now with the season winding down is a good time to check out books from our Reading Program on the shelves in the church narthex. We have some absolutely fascinating and inspirational books to help you deepen your faith as well as grow in your understanding of world problems. Please be sure to sign your name and phone number on the sign out sheet along with the title of the book that you are taking. For those of you who have books checked out for more than a month, PLEASE return them so that other ladies have a chance to read them.

Peace, Love and Faith,

Mary Lou Wilkinson, President and Barbara Koch, Reading Program

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

***Please join us on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm in the Joy Classroom*** for lots of fun as we knit and crochet. We have supplies and we teach, or you can teach us. We knit and crochet all kinds of items, shawls for sick college students and others, hats for cancer children, baby blankets, cross bookmarks, and lots of other items. For more information, call Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.



## Children's Home Thank You

We have the end of year giving information for 2023 for our Methodist Children's Home. Our financial goal for the year was \$2,364.00 (197 members @ \$12 per member). For 2023, we gave \$5,465.42 to the Children's Home; so we gave 231% of 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 ministry.

In 2024 our goal of \$12.00 per member will remain the same as it was in 2023. We have four Fifth Sunday offerings this year to help us meet our goal - March 31, June 30, September 29, and December 29.

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.

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

In His service,  
Julie Ratliff



## Earth Day

Green Team

Over one billion people celebrate Earth Day globally every year on April 22. Burton United Methodist Church will celebrate creation in two separate events, on April 16 and 21, for church members and the community, to recognize Earth Day and thank God for our awesome blue planet. What would we do without it?



First, on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary, Burton UMC will present "*Sanctuaries in Nature: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth*," a lecture by our resident Marine Biologist, Jack Stein Grove, PhD, senior author of *Fishes of the Galapagos* (Stanford University Press, 1997). Our church is fortunate to have this opportunity. Almost every year Jack lectures at Pennekamp State Park to a standing-room-only crowd. To understand why, go to <https://www.jacksteingrovephd.com/> You will not only be awed by his impressive bio, but also by his incredible photography. Jack's presentation will embrace the philosophy that the faith community and the science community can work together to preserve God's creation, or what a biologist might call the preservation of biodiversity.

Second, on Earth Day, Sunday, April 21, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, Pastor David Charlton will present a Creation Celebration worship service at Burton United Methodist Church, both live and on Facebook.

Then, also on Earth Day Sunday, April 21, 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM, Burton UMC will host a community Creation Celebration 2024. This event is spearheaded by Ciera Cox, Burton's youngest adult member and most assuredly our most enthusiastic environmentalist. Ciera has over 80 seedlings, primarily avocado and mango plants, to sell to benefit Burton's solar panel project. The festival will include information booths from local NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) representing a dozen of our community environmental nonprofits, a silent auction to benefit Burton's solar project, hot dogs, and activities for all ages.

Don't you dare miss these meaningful Earth Day celebrations!

Ciera Cox [cciera96@yahoo.com](mailto:cciera96@yahoo.com)

## St. Patrick's Day at the CDC

The Child Development Center (CDC) children got all decked out in their finest green for St. Patrick's Day. And someone celebrated his first ever St. Paddy's Day. There was also a parade!



## Publix Feeding More Together Thank You

*Burton Food Pantry wants to send a big thank you to Publix for their Feeding More*

*Together program again. Once again, customers' donations at the register were awarded to us*

*as approved partners in the form of shelf stable products. We received peanut butter, jelly, chicken, tuna, mac & cheese, tomato sauce, mashed potatoes, Chef Boyardee, rice, canned vegetables, pasta, cereal bars, etc.*

*We also want to thank Native Construction who volunteered their truck, trailer and driver to pick up this food and deliver it to Burton from our Publix store at mm101. It was quite the project to move these huge pallets. When they arrived at Burton, the food pantry volunteers had to break the two large pallets into smaller loads to bring them into the Fellowship Center. And a big thank you to Normand Gonsalves for arranging this trailer and to all the volunteers who showed up to help.*





Southeast District Spring Gathering

# Breakthrough PRAYER INITIATIVE

Every church recognizes prayer as important. But what happens when a congregation unites to pray collectively and consistently for God to break through in new and miraculous ways?

This training is for ministry leaders, members and pastors who long to lead and guide your church to put prayer asking for new possibilities and open doors at the center of everything, ongoing. And when you do, the entire atmosphere will begin to shift. Your congregation will notice a new sense of spiritual expectancy and hope, as everyone's focus moves from inward to up-and-outward. You'll find yourselves following God's divine guidance forward into a new future!

A Breakthrough Prayer Initiative is simpler than you think –and the result will be an exciting next chapter in your church's story– as well as in your own faith.

**LED BY REV. SUE NILSON KIBBEY**

This training will help you understand how a simple, additive component of "breakthrough prayer" can be incorporated into what already happens in the daily and weekly prayer life of your congregation –plus how to create and introduce it.

You will also be provided many stories, practical examples and ideas from other clergy of how their congregations across the country have incorporated a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative with innovation and impact. A whole fresh new season of hope and opportunity for your church will unfold.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024  
9AM-1:30PM**

Bring a team of 5 or more leaders/members (plus your pastor) from your church to this training, in order to have excellent momentum to launch this together when you return to your church afterwards. Check-in/Fellowship time begins at 8:30AM.

**CHRIST CHURCH FORT LAUDERDALE**  
4845 NE 25th Ave, Fort Lauderdale

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED - \$10 PER PERSON**

Please register to attend for space preparations and food headcount.

# Celebrate Creation 2024

Burton UM Church - MM 93 Oceanside

Tuesday, April 16, 7 PM

**Jack Stein Grove, Ph.D.**

*Senior Author of Fishes of the Galapagos (Stanford University Press)*

*Presents*

## ***Sanctuaries in Nature: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth***

Sunday, April 21

10 AM-11 AM - **Worship Service**

**Creation Care** - Reverend David Charlton

11 AM-2 PM - **Earth Day Celebration**

**Ciera Cox**, *Burton Green Team Coordinator*

**Native Plant Sale\***

**Silent Auction\***

**Community Information Booths**

**Activities for All Ages**

*\*Proceeds to be used for  
solar panels at Burton UM Church.*

*For more information, call 305-852-2581.*