

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<p>Date: January 5, 2025 Sermon Series Title: The Father prepares Jesus for His earthly ministry. Sermon Title: From refugee to Israel personified Old Testament: Genesis 46:1-7 Old Testament: Exodus 12:40-4 Old Testament: Hosea 11:1 New Testament: Matthew 2:13-23</p>	<p>Date: January 12, 2025 Sermon Series Title: The Father prepares Jesus for His earthly ministry. Sermon Title: John the Baptist prepares the people for Jesus' coming. Old Testament: Isaiah 40:3 Old Testament: Malachi 3:1 & 4:5-6 New Testament: Matthew 3:1-12</p>
<p>Date: January 19, 2025 Sermon Series Title: The Father prepares Jesus for His earthly ministry. Sermon Title: Jesus identifies with us and we identify with Jesus. Old Testament: Genesis 17:1-2 & 9-12 New Testament: Matthew 3:13-17</p>	<p>Date: January 26, 2025 Sermon Series Title: The Father prepares Jesus for His earthly ministry. Sermon Title: Jesus successfully resists temptation. Old Testament: Genesis 4:6-7 New Testament: Matthew 4:1-118</p>

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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!

January Birthdays:

January Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Cindy Davis	1 st	Daniel Walker	31 st		
Edith Bricker	18 th				



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
January 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

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



God's salvation is like a Christmas gift. We don't earn it but receive it. Once we receive it, we begin the salvation journey.

Ephesians 2:8-10 summarizes the salvation journey quite nicely. 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 makes three points about salvation. They are: 1) Salvation is a gift, 2) We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus, and 3) God saves us for a purpose.

The first point: Salvation is a gift

In verses 8 & 9, it states, "...**it is the gift of God – not by works...**"

One does not earn a gift. Otherwise, it would be a payment or reward. Also, the giver does not have to give the gift. He/she does so willingly and out of love. Salvation is a gift because God willingly and lovingly offers us forgiveness for our sins.

The second point: We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus

The first two verses also state, "...**by grace you have been saved, through faith...**"

To understand this, we must define grace and faith.

Grace is the undeserved love of God that is made known to us by the Holy Spirit.

God loves us, not because we are good enough, but because it's in God's nature to love us. We experience this love by way of the Holy Spirit. Consider Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Also consider Romans 5:5, "...God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us". Both verses describe grace.

Faith is a trust that leads to obedience. The proper object of this faith is Jesus.

We trust Jesus as Savior because we trust that Jesus faced and defeated death to give us eternal life. Only a person who is fully human and fully God could do this. (Only a human could die, so Jesus must be human. Only God could defeat death, so Jesus must also be God.)

We trust Jesus as Lord because we trust that Jesus loves us and has our best interest at heart. We want to obey Him because we trust Him.

With these definitions of grace and faith, we can re-write Ephesians 2:8-9 as, "For it is **by God's undeserved** love you have been saved, through **trust in Jesus**-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—"

The third point: God saves us for a purpose

The last verse states, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Once we receive God's forgiveness, we become God's workmanship. As we walk with the FATHER through faith in the SON (Jesus), the HOLY SPIRIT changes our hearts to make us more like Jesus. The more like Jesus

we become, the more God can use us to do good works. Thus, good works become a natural outcome of salvation.

A good work is anything we do to spread God's love and proclaim God's kingdom. The Lord already knows what good work we are to do. In other words, God has a plan for our lives

To begin your salvation journey, all you must do is admit you are a sinner and receive God's forgiveness (grace) through faith (trust) in Jesus. Have you done this? If not, what are you waiting for? Go to the Lord in prayer and start your salvation journey.

If you are already on the journey, stay on the journey. A continuing acceptance of God's grace will keep you on the journey. We accept God's grace through Bible study, prayer, worship, fasting, and looking to serve other people.

In Christ,
Pastor David L. Charlton

Potluck Luncheon



Visionary Sunday is January 5 at 11:30 am (right after worship) in the Fellowship Hall. ALL ARE WELCOME! Lunch will be provided. Please attend. The purpose of this gathering is to plan the major church events for 2025.

Church Council

We will have our first church council meeting of 2025 on *Tuesday, January 7* in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:15 pm with the meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.



Church Council Meeting

Christmas Gifts - Thank You



On behalf of myself and the staff of Burton Memorial UMC, I would like to say thank you for the generosity of the congregation for the Christmas Gift donations this year. 2024 was a very tough year for many of us. It feels so good to be recognized for the effort and hard work that was put forward to make the ministry of the church happen.

In Christ Jesus,
David L. Charlton, Pastor

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.*



The Burton Ringers will restart rehearsals on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 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.

Ringling News

The Burton Ringers would like to thank the congregation for all their support in 2024. We are excited to see where God will lead us in 2025! We are grateful for the support of our church and the commitment of our ringers. Look for our next concert in the spring. We are looking to restart the beginner ringer group – if you are interested let RaeLeigh know.

Bettering our Green Ways

We want to welcome in the new year with new opportunities for bettering our green ways. Each month at the waste station on Card Sound, on the first Saturday of the month, locals can receive six free bags of composted soil. We will be looking for donations of soil as well for the seeds we will be planting for our earth day fundraising event.

We have many reasons why solar energy for the property is needed. The most important from a team perspective is putting the funds used for utilities back into programs run by the church. We appreciate all the planning, help, and coordinating from various members of the congregation and community.

Here is to the new year putting our best efforts forward.

Ciera Cox, Green Team



CDC Holiday Events

Our Child Development Center (CDC) had their Santa Claus visit December 6 at 10 am in the playground, with gifts provided for the kids and staff.

On December 11, there was a Christmas classroom party where kids exchanged gifts with one another.

We had a surprise from the Islamorada community, to replace the missing Toys for Tots this year in the Keys. We received enough toys for each boy and girl in the CDC – see the bags of unwrapped toys to the left. Also, we received bicycles that were handed out to a few lucky children. Thanks so much to all involved.



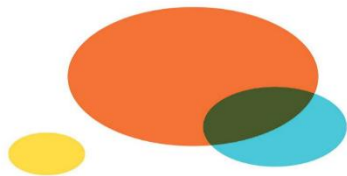
Tai Chi Open House Weekly Classes

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



I Like Giving.

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 November 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	3-Nov	\$2,831	\$10,409	-7,578	\$107,620	\$244,071	-136451
2	10-Nov	\$1,866	\$6,762	-4,896	\$109,486	\$250,833	-141347
3	17-Nov	\$2,032	\$438	1,594	\$111,518	\$251,271	-139753
4	24-Nov	\$1,575	\$5,193	-3,618	\$113,093	\$256,465	-143372

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.

Reverse Advent Food Pantry Donations

We are so grateful to the Burton family and visitors for their participation in the Reverse Advent December food donation event. Our local families are continuing to struggle to meet the rising costs of gas, food, rent, etc. These families will benefit from all this wonderful food.

Plantation Key School

Many thanks to the Student Council and Honor Society of Plantation Key School for their generous donation of food for our food pantry. Our pantry clients were helped out over the holidays with this extra amount of food.



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

Happy New Year Ladies!

We had our last meeting of 2024 at Mary Lou Wilkinson's house on Dec. 23, learning about the importance of mentoring and enjoying some Christmas refreshments. In gratitude for all the women who have mentored us in our spiritual walk, every member received a gift.

Then Virginia Spear and Sue Peacock taught members how to crochet baby hats which will be sent to sick children. Tickets for our fundraising tea on February 16 were distributed to UWF hostesses to sell. Tickets are \$25 and the money collected by hostesses is to be turned in no later than our next meeting in January.

The next meeting will be a luncheon meeting after church on January 26 at Mary Lou's house on Beach Road. This most likely will feature a soup and salad or soup and sandwich menu to be determined in the next few weeks. If you would like to make something for this luncheon or have suggestions, please contact Mary Lou at 305-394-3878.

This January meeting is our last opportunity as a group to finalize all the details for our tea on Sunday, February 16, which like last year will be held from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. There will be interesting entertainment as well as a hat contest and silent auction. The auction was such a hit last year that we are repeating it with items set up before church on Sunday and being sent to happy new homes by 5:00 pm after the tea. If you have new or like new items to donate to the auction, please call Cyndi Davis (305-509-9011) or let Mary Lou know. Edith Zewadski-Bricker has plastic bags to give to anyone who is inclined to make a basket to donate to the auction.

The United Women in Faith greatly appreciate all the men and women of Burton church who help us by donating silent auction items, buying tickets and providing baked goods for the tea which is our unit's main fundraising event to raise money for mission work with women, youth and children in the US and around the world.



Mark your calendars for our Call to Prayer program and luncheon after church on Sunday, March 23. This program focuses on projects in Peru as an illustrative example of economic empowerment projects supported by UWF around the world. All are welcome to attend. The program will be led by Kim Youngblood and Barbara Koch.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Happy New Year! A volunteer at a friend's food pantry in Broward sent us hats for some of our teenage or adult cancer patients (right.)

Not only do we make prayer shawls, hats, and blankets for the needy, we knit and crochet for any occasion.



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

A Prayerful Message from the Prayer Bead Ministry – January 2025

Happy New Year 2025... Would you believe that in February our Prayer Bead Ministry will be ten years old?



Yes, Protestant Prayer Beads were introduced to our ladies at a UWF meeting in February 2015. Where has the time gone? Over this period, we have expressed our love to many people through the making and selling of prayer beads. As in the Bible verse, Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Our Prayer Bead Ministry has been blessed two ways. Making them to give to those in need and the money we receive for selling the beads has provided monitor support to the Florida Keys Children's Shelter, Samaritans Purse, The Wesley House, the Domestic Abuse Shelter in Marathon, to name a few of those we have supported.

So, thank you all who have purchased our Protestant Prayer Beads over the last ten years... you have helped us make a difference in our community. If you would like more information or to purchase prayer beads, contact Linda Norman at 305-393-2589. Please feel free to call or text or email to lindalillonorman@gmail.com.

Operation Christmas Child

Through your love and support we were able to send 86 shoebox gifts to hurting children around the world. They will be a part of the 12 million shoe box gifts that are being distributed. Thank you for your generosity and love for all God's Children! Please continue to pray for the millions of boys and girls who will be receiving gift-filled shoe boxes and gospel literature telling the story of God's love, and for the ministry partners as they distribute the shoe box gifts and share God's love with the children and their families. Your prayers are appreciated.



Farewell to Tim and Edith

There will be a farewell get together for Tim and Edith Bricker on Tuesday, January 28 from 6 pm to 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite finger food or appetizer to share as we come together to wish them all the best.



My New Year's Resolutions!



This year I want to



This year I need to



This year I am going to start

This year I am going to stop

This year I am going to learn



Signed: _____