

# Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

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| <b>Date:</b> September 3, 2023<br><b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Seeing the law through the eyes of Jesus<br><b>Sermon Title:</b> The Sabbath is for our healing (Loving yourself)<br><b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 20:7-8<br><b>New Testament:</b> Luke 13:10-17          | <b>Date:</b> September 10, 2023<br><b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Seeing the law through the eyes of Jesus<br><b>Sermon Title:</b> It's what's in your heart that counts. (Loving neighbor)<br><b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 20:12-13<br><b>New Testament:</b> Matthew 5:21-26 |
| <b>Date:</b> September 17, 2023<br><b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Seeing the law through the eyes of Jesus<br><b>Sermon Title:</b> Again....it's what's in your heart (Loving neighbor)<br><b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 20:14-15<br><b>New Testament:</b> Matthew 5:27-30 | <b>Date:</b> September 24, 2023<br><b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Living our mission statement<br><b>Sermon Title:</b> We are an uncommon church for common people...<br><b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 19:1-6<br><b>New Testament:</b> 1 Peter 2:9-12                          |
| <p align="center"><b><u>Sunday's Service Information</u></b><br/> <b>Come worship with us on Sundays at 10:00 am.</b></p>  |  |

## Church Contacts

Phone: 305-852-2581, Fax: 305-852-4917

Pastor: [pastordavidc12@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordavidc12@yahoo.com)

Administrative Assistant: [bae\\_bmumc@att.net](mailto:bae_bmumc@att.net) Web Site: [www.BMUMC.net](http://www.BMUMC.net)  
 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  | Barbara Koch    | 18 | Claude & Betty Bullock | 5  |
| Sharon Albury  | 11 | Harry Forgan    | 21 | Dorothy & Larry Jarboe | 23 |
| 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 |                        |    |
| Jacob Kirkman  | 18 |                 |    |                        |    |



# The Beacon

*a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC*  
**September 2023**

Brothers and Sisters,

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

When I was a lieutenant in the Army, I spent a year in Korea. It was a wonderful and exciting time. I made many Korean friends and indulged myself in Korean culture and cuisine. I would love to go back there. There is, however, a darker side to my time in Korea. During that time, I didn't walk with the Lord like I do now. I participated in the rampant partying and drank excessively. With little self-control, I indulged my illicit desires.

Although I was participating in a lot of sin, I still attended weekly Bible study and participated in Sunday worship. There was a lower enlisted soldier (Spec 4) who also attended these Bible studies and worship services. Unlike me, he didn't participate in the partying and drinking. He lived a very Godly lifestyle that was characterized by love. He spent his free time assisting the Chaplain, helping his fellow soldiers, studying the Bible, and praying. By doing all these things, he convicted and showed me the error of my ways. There was just too much of a contrast between his lifestyle and my lifestyle. He became a light for me to follow.

This is what Jesus was getting at when he said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

The first thing we notice about this passage is that Jesus starts off, not with a command, but with a simple statement of fact. He says, "You are the light of the world." If you are a Christian, if you have repented and placed your trust in Jesus, then you are a light to the world, whether you like it or not. As you walk in a relationship with the Father through faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit changes your heart to make you more loving like Jesus. As you become more like Jesus, you will shine brighter and brighter. So, the question is not whether you are a light to the world but how bright of a light you are.

As a bright light, people can't help but notice you. The brighter you are, the more you become like a city on a hill. In Jesus' day many cities were built on high ground. This made it very easy to find them. All people had to do was point themselves in the right direction and walk until they saw the city on the hill. In the same way, people can easily spot the Christian who is living a life characterized by love.

Jesus goes on to explain that it doesn't make sense to light a lamp only to hide the light by placing a bowl over it. It only makes sense if you place the lamp on a high shelf or on a lamp stand. This way the light spreads throughout the house and enables people to avoid hitting furniture and other obstacles at night. Likewise, the light we make as Christians enables others to see the pitfalls and obstacles in their lives. Much like the lower enlisted man I spoke of earlier, it enables people to see the sin in their lives. (Without us having to judge them.)

After stating that we are light and then describing the light, Jesus gives us a command. He commands, "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Mat. 5:16). Our good deeds produce the light that enables others to see Jesus.



According to Jesus, the two greatest commandments are: 1) love God with all your heart, soul & mind and 2) love your neighbor as yourself (Mat.22:37-39). Jesus reiterated these commands when, on the night before His crucifixion, he stated, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35). Jesus didn't say that we will be known as his disciples by reciting the right creed, believing the right doctrine, going to church, or having the correct opinion about LGBTQ issues. We will not be known as Christians by any of these things. Only by our love will people truly know that we are Christians.

So, when we live a life characterized by love, our light will shine brightly, and people will see Jesus. In many ways, we are doing this at Burton Memorial UMC. We help people in need with the Daily Bread Food Pantry & God's Kitchen. We demonstrated generosity with the watermelon giveaway at the high school football practice and fifth Sunday donations to the Florida Children's home. We exhibit love for God's creation through our creation care team. We also offer the power of prayer through our Prayer Shaw ministry. Starting in October we will have a Chosen Bible Study and in December we will start 'Bible in a Year.' These two small groups will open our hearts so the Holy Spirit can make us shine even brighter.

The lower enlisted soldier I talked about earlier didn't do anything to bring attention to himself. He simply lived a Godly life that was characterized by love. His light shined brightly, and people saw Jesus. In this way he was evangelizing without even knowing it. There are times when we need to verbally tell someone the good news of Jesus. Often, however, we can tell people about Jesus simply by our actions. A quote that may have come from St. Francis of Assisi says it best, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Let's take advantage of every opportunity to love others so that our light will shine brightly, and people will see Jesus.

In Christ Jesus,

David L. Charlton  
Pastor

### **Potluck Luncheon**

Burton will be having a potluck on Communion Sunday, ***September 3, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center***, following the 10:00 am service. Please bring your favorite dish to share, including main dishes and sides, or just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.



The Praise Team is looking for new singers. Come on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm for practice in the sanctuary.

### **Praise Singers**

### **Ringling News**

Do you know how to read music? Would you like to share those gifts? Our advanced ringer group is ***looking for new ringers!*** Come and learn ringing techniques with a wonderful group of musicians. Practice is on Wednesdays from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. See any handbell member or director RaeLeigh Gonsalves for more information.



If you would like yourself, your child, grandchild, or great grandchild to be put in 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.

### **Campus Ministry**



## **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 or text Cindi Miller at 786-236-6336 to volunteer, or 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, or call the office at 305-852-2581, to get more details or to volunteer.

## **Aliens, Science and Religion, A Testimony of Faith**

Jack Stein Grove Ph.D., Burton Green Team

On July 26, three high-ranking military officers testified under oath at a House hearing on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena, commonly known as UFOs – warning that "the sightings are a national security problem, and that the government has been too secretive about them." The topic of these hearings inspired contemplation about my personal "beliefs."

Hopefully, we all become wiser with the experience of the years as mortals on this planet. The good Lord gave us the intellect to pursue the truth. It is wise to ask ourselves when making a difficult decision, What would Jesus do?

While watching the recent Hearing about UFOs on the news, I thought about Galileo Galilei and his beliefs about the universe during the first decade of the 17th century. The first primitive telescope had just been invented; imagine his conundrum when he confirmed that Nicolaus Copernicus was correct. Like Galileo, Copernicus was also a catholic, and he had to deal with the conflict of interest between his faith in God and the reality of the model of the universe that he formulated, which placed the sun, rather than the Earth, at its center.



Galileo "believed" there was only one universe and only one God. He also "knew" that the Earth was not the center of the universe. On February 26, 1616, Galileo Galilei was formally banished by the Roman Catholic Church for teaching and defending the opinion that the Earth orbits the sun.

Prof. Mark Wrathall concluded a recent lecture at the University of Oxford with the following statement. "Faith involves reliance and trust, and it endures in the face of doubts, whereas belief is simply something we take to be true. "I can have faith in things or people without a corresponding belief, and I can believe things that I don't have faith in."

*WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?*

## **Communion Stewards Needed**

***Burton needs Communion Stewards for the first Sunday of each month.*** Please call or text Cindi Miller at 786-236-6336 for details or to volunteer.



## 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/>

## 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!

## 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 2024. If you are currently in a leadership position, a member of the committee will approach you to determine if you are happy and fulfilled in that position. Members of the Nominations Committee will also approach other church members to ask if they would fill a particular leadership position.



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



United  
Women  
in Faith

This message is for everyone.

I got this “A Penny and A Prayer” message a few weeks ago and want to share it with everyone. Please read it. I hope you will find it as inspirational as I did. I wish I had gotten it when we were handing out our World Thank Offering boxes, but they are available year-round. Hint hint, and I want to thank those that took boxes and already returned them and those that are still working on filling them up, no rush.

I don't think 😞 I'll look at a penny the same again. You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I've ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, a fine home on the waterway, cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? Look at it, he said, “Read what it says.” She read the words “United States of America.” No not that, read further. One cent? “No, keep reading.” “In God we Trust.” Yes! And? “And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it. God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold....I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me.

## THE POWER OF A PENNY



Fortunately for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful. When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, “In God We Trust,” and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful, and God is patient....

***Join us for our next meeting of the United Women of Faith on Monday, September 25, at 7:00 pm at Marylou's house, 38 E. Beach Rd, Harry Harris Park, upstairs, elevator available. Call her if you need a ride. 305-394-3878.***

Have a blessed day! Mary Lou Wilkinson, President



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Our Prayer Shawl ministry is currently making a shawl and hat in school colors for a Minnesota college student.



In addition to prayer shawls, we are also currently making scarves for active military and a baby blanket for one of our church's day care teachers.

Please come and ***Join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Joy Classroom*** for fun and fellowship. We teach and we have supplies. For more information, please call Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.

## **Pumpkin Patch is Coming**

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

We need a small crew to show up the week before the pumpkins arrive, on ***Saturday, September 30, at 9:00 am***, to help set out the pallets for the pumpkins to be placed on.

The pumpkins will arrive on ***Saturday, October 7, at 1:00 pm***. 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.

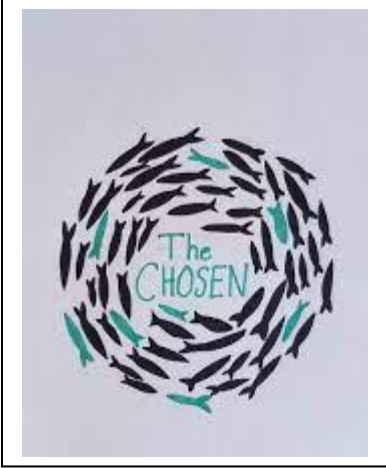
Finally, ***there will be a sign-up board located in the Narthex***, in which families and individuals can sign up to ***sell pumpkins in the patch from October 8 through October 31***. ***There will be a sign-up sheet for the fall festival and story time volunteers also.***



***The Fall Festival will be on Saturday, October 28, from 10:00am to 1:00 pm.*** There will be inflatable games, a pumpkin decorating station, a costume contest, and a story time! Local non-profits will be there to share also. Food and refreshments will be available.

***Pumpkin clean-up will be on Saturday, November 4 at 9:00 am.***

# THE CHOSEN — Bible Study and episodes starting October 1 at Burton Memorial UMC, 93001 Overseas Highway, *time to be determined.*



How to watch: Is The Chosen app for free?  
Watch free and easy in the new Chosen app.

The official new app gives you full access to Seasons 1 through 3 and exclusives like our brand-new Season 3 Insider After show with cast, Biblical Roundtables, and more.

The app is also available for free on your Roku, Apple TV, or Amazon Fire streaming devices.

OR

Stream full episodes of The Chosen for free on [angel.com](https://angel.com) or download the Angel Studios app on your iPhone, iPad, Android, Roku, or Smart TV.



## SEASON 1

EPISODE 1 “I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME” EPISODE 2 “SHABBAT”

EPISODE 3 “JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN” EPISODE 4 “THE ROCK ON WHICH IT IS BUILT” EPISODE 5 “THE WEDDING GIFT” EPISODE 6 “INDESCRIBABLE COMPASSION”

EPISODE 7 “INVITATIONS” EPISODE 8 “I AM HE”

## SEASON 2

EPISODE 1 “THUNDER” EPISODE 2 “I SAW YOU” EPISODE 3 “MATTHEW 4:24”

EPISODE 4 “THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY” EPISODE 5 “SPIRIT” EPISODE 6 “UNLAWFUL”

EPISODE 7 “RECKONING” EPISODE 8 “BEYOND MOUNTAINS”

## SEASON 3

EPISODE 1 “HOMECOMING” EPISODE 2 “TWO BY TWO” EPISODE 3 “PHYSICIAN HEAL

YOURSELF” EPISODE 4 “CLEAN part 1” EPISODE 5 “CLEAN part 2” EPISODE 6 “INTENSITY IN TENT CITY” EPISODE 7 “EARS TO HEAR” EPISODE 8 “SUSTENANCE”