

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: October 6, 2024 Sermon Series Title: Wesleyan Rooted Sermon Title: When we are Wesley rooted, we grow deeply to restore our image of God. Old Testament: Psalm 119:105 New Testament: 2 Timothy 3:14-17	Date: October 13, 2024 Sermon Series Title: Wesleyan Rooted Sermon Title: When we are Wesley rooted, we express our faith with love. Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:4-6 Leviticus 19:18 New Testament: Galatians 5:6
Date: October 20, 2024 Sermon Series Title: Wesleyan Rooted Sermon Title: When we are Wesley rooted, we serve impactfully. Old Testament: Isaiah 1:16-17 New Testament: Matthew 25:31-40	Date: October 27, 2024 Sermon Series Title: Wesleyan Rooted Sermon Title: When we are Wesley rooted, we give impactfully. Old Testament: Proverbs 30:7-9 New Testament: Mark 10:17-25 Matthew 6:24 1 Timothy 6:10

Church Contacts

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

Pastor: pastordavidc12@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant: bae_bmumc@att.net **Web Site:** 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.

*DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!*

October Birthdays:

October Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Ann Hickman	5	Little Jessica	27	Patrick & Elizabeth Frampton-Hickman	14
Gordon Quanbeck	6	Jack Grove	29	Normand & RaeLeigh Gonsalves	16
RaeLeigh Gonsalves	18				



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
October 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

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

John Wesley, the 18th 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). Last month (September) we learned about original sin. This month (October) we talk about grace. Next month (November), we'll learn about personal holiness. Then, in December, we'll learn about social holiness. So, let's continue with grace!!



Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the 'wonder' drugs of the world were free? Imagine what health care would be like if all the drugs used to treat AIDs, cancer or mental illness were free. Of course, that's not reality. The drugs we need to fight serious illnesses cost money and not all of us have enough money to purchase the medication we need. There is, however, one wonder cure that is free. This is wonderful news because this cure is so expensive that none of us could afford it. It is called grace.

Grace is the cure that frees us from sin, the worst ailment ever inflicted on humanity. Remember, sin is any attitude, thought, word, or action that is not loving towards God, neighbor, or self. As stated last month, we all have a sinful nature that causes us to sin. This results in the degradation of society. But the cure is available and free!

The Apostle Paul clearly tells us that we are saved by grace through faith. In Romans 3:21-24, he states, "But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

This passage becomes easier to comprehend if we define a few of the words or phrases. So, let's clarify them:

- '...apart from the Law...' - For us to be saved through the law, all our attitudes, thoughts, words & actions would have to be loving. So, we must be saved apart from the law.
- '...faith in Jesus...' - We trust that Jesus, as fully human and fully God, saves us from our sins. Because we trust Jesus, we want to follow Him.
- '...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...' - We all have a sinful nature.
- '...justified...' - Forgiven. It's as if we never sinned. Restores relationship with God.
- '...grace...' - God's unconditional love that is made known to us by the Holy Spirit.

Now, re-read Romans 3:21-24 while keeping these definitions in mind.

Grace, God's unconditional love that is made known to us by the Holy Spirit, frees us from both the guilt & power of sin.

It saves us from the guilt of sin by first bringing us to the point of repentance and then offering us forgiveness through faith in Jesus. Repentance is a sincere desire to change from a life of sin to a life characterized by holy love. Once people reach the point of repentance, they realize they cannot change themselves and the only thing they can do is receive God's forgiveness while surrendering to the loving authority of God. God's act of forgiving a repentant sinner is called justifying grace. When a person receives this grace and is justified, that person is no longer condemned because he/she has been forgiven. A right relationship with God is restored. At this point the person is born again or a new creation. (Both terms refer to the same thing.) In this way, God's grace saves us from the guilt of sin.

Once we are freed from the guilt of sin, grace begins the process of freeing us from the power of sin. As we walk in a relationship with the Father through faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit works to change our hearts to make us more holy and loving like Christ. This process of changing our hearts to make us more holy and loving like Christ is called sanctifying grace. As we strengthen our relationship with God through worship, prayer, Bible studies, meditation, fasting and serving others, we open our hearts to God's sanctifying grace. We gain more dominance over our sinful nature and find ourselves becoming the people God created us to be. We find ourselves sinning less and loving more. In this way, grace frees us from the power of sin.

John Newton was a pastor from 18th century England. He experienced God's grace and discovered just how amazing it is. He even wrote a hymn about it. It's called "Amazing Grace".

John Newton experienced justifying grace when he received God's forgiveness in 1748. This occurred right after experiencing a severe storm while aboard a ship. He cried out to God and God saved him and the ship from the storm. At this point, John Newton was saved from the guilt of sin. The Lord put him in a right relationship with God and treated him as if he never sinned. This is remarkable because soon after being saved from the guilt of sin, John became a Captain of a slave ship. He was actively involved in the oppressive slave trade until 1754.

Being saved from the guilt of sin happens in an instant. But being saved from the power of sin is a time-consuming process. This was true for John Newton. Sometime between 1754 and 1788 the Lord convicted him of participating in the evil slave system. Newton repented and became a staunch abolitionist. In 1788, he went public with his anti-slavery views and published "Thoughts Upon the Slave Trade."

One last thing about God's grace. It is offered to everyone, and each person can either accept it or reject it. Have you accepted God's offer of grace? Are you justified? Have you received God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus? Are you opening yourself to God's sanctifying grace so you can become more holy & loving like Jesus? If you answered no to any of these questions, what are you waiting for? It's a gift!

In Christ,
Pastor David L. Charlton



Burton will be having a potluck for ***World Communion Sunday, October 6, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center***, following the 10:00 am service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert from any country around the world that celebrates communion. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

Potluck Luncheon

Church Council

Our October Church Council dinner meeting originally scheduled for October 1 has been cancelled.



Church Council Meeting



We are encouraging all leadership and members of the church to attend our annual ***Church Charge Conference*** ***instead on Thursday, October 3, at 5:30 pm*** in the sanctuary. It will be a time of worship, prayer, communion, the Word, and looking at what God has in store for us for 2025!

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 5, for our next scheduled dinner meeting. Dinner starts at 5:15 pm with the meeting coming to order at 5:30 pm.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Since 1993, more than 220 million shoe box gifts have been delivered to children in some 130 nations. Through evangelistic materials and follow-up discipleship programs, millions of children and family members have heard the Gospel for the first time and many have made life changing decisions for Jesus Christ.

This is the twenty-fifth year that our church family here at Burton has participated in this wonderful ministry, which is a project of Samaritan's Purse. (Samaritan's Purse is a worldwide Christian relief organization headed by Rev. Franklin Graham.) Last year, we gave 94 gift-filled and love-filled shoe boxes. Here is how you can make a difference in the lives of these children.

Pray. Please pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoe box gift and that He will bring many Children and families to faith in Christ.

Pack a gift. Pack a gift-filled shoe box and bring it to the church by the **deadline, Sunday, November 17.**

Give. Please remember to give \$10.00 per box to cover shipping costs. If you need a brochure, shoe box or more information, please see Julie Ratliff at church on Sundays or call her at 305-747-6870.



Ringin' News
The bell ministry is delighted to welcome new ringer Barbara Swango! We are excited to teach her all the ringing ropes. We know God offers the BEST benefit package around. Come and join the bell choir!

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!***

Native Seeds for Planting

We are collecting native seeds, Florida avocado and mango seeds, for the upcoming Earth Day event. Every first Saturday at waste management, with Monroe County ID, we can pick up to six bags of compost for free, to use for plantings. We will be growing these seeds as best we can for the upcoming event in conjunction with silent auction tables. Let's see how far we can go this time! Please contact Ciera at church on Sunday or call or text her at 786-391-8892.

Ciera Cox, Green Team



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.***

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 August 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-Aug	\$1,790	\$4,458	-2,668	\$65,625	\$164,677	-99,052
2	11-Aug	\$2,190	\$1,076	-1,114	\$67,815	\$165,753	-97,938
3	18-Aug	\$1,265	\$7,102	-5,837	\$69,080	\$172,855	-103775
4	25-Aug	\$1,418	\$241	1,177	\$70,498	\$173,096	-102598

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.



Burton Helping with Food Distribution

On Friday, August 30, Feeding South Florida held a food distribution at Rowell's Waterfront Park at mm104.5, in conjunction with Social Services. One of our regular Thursday food pantry volunteers and our food pantry coordinator, Chris Chandler, joined in to help distribute food to the many cars lined up on US1.



God's Kitchen/Food Pantry

In September, Pastor David and Betsy visited our local Publix at mm 101 with the United Way to say thank you to Publix for their weekly contributions to our 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 Marylou Wilkinson at 305-394-3878, or call the office at 305-852-2581 to help.

Pumpkin Patch is Almost Here!

It is just around the corner - we need all hands in the patch!

After a GREAT second Pumpkin Patch organization meeting here is our 2024 Patch Schedule. Come and help with our new events and outreach opportunities!



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. Lite snacks will be provided.

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, and a story time. 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!

We are also participating in the TRUNK OR TREAT for our CDC on October 31 at 3:30 pm in the parking lot. We are asking for you to park and decorate your truck or truck bed and pass out treats for the trick or treating CDC kids. A sign-up sheet will be available in early October. The picture to the right is from last year's event.

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

To all the Ladies of the Church, I want to personally invite you to the next United Women of Faith meeting on October 28 at my house just south of Harry Harris Park, 38 E Beach Rd at 7:00 pm. If you need a ride, I am sure we can provide one for you. Please just call Mary Lout 305-394-3878 and we can figure out how to get you there. For September's meeting we had a terrific program by Kim Youngblood, the "Breaking of Bread." She even brought dinner to share with everyone. Just another reminder there are some wonderful inspirational books in the church narthex. Barbara Koch has ordered new books for the 2025 reading program. There are two books that if you read them, you only need one more book to complete the required reading for a certificate. Whether you are a member of our group or not they are available to everyone. Just please sign out the name of the book and your name and try to get the book back within a month. Barbara really picked terrific books last year. I have already finished one and it was super and am reading another one now. It is interfering with my housework, but I am sure housework never really gets done, so I will close this article and go read my book, "The Girl With The Louding Voice." It is great.

Peace, Love and Faith, Mary Louise Wilkinson, President

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Seven baby blankets were sent to the Florida Keys Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to be given for baby showers to active military in the Jacksonville area.

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



Burton Memorial CDC's Summer School Enrichment Program



Burton Memorial CDC's summer school enrichment program would not be possible without the support of the ***Ocean Reef Community Foundation's generous grant.*** With their support we were able to provide our group of children with two field trips a week. Our children genuinely enjoyed themselves this summer. We maintained exciting and creative themes that



included fun crafts and games for our children. Our participants included 20-30 school-age children, ages 5-13.

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! As your pastor, I will not endorse any political candidate or party. I do not care for whom you vote. That is between you and God. I will, however, encourage you to allow the life and wisdom of Jesus to drive your decision. So, I developed some guidance that may help you to vote in accordance with the life & wisdom of Jesus.

- Do not vote for someone just because a pastor or any other Christian leader told you to vote for that person. Who you vote for is between you and God.
- As fully God & fully human, Jesus is above human politics. Do not demote Him from his Divine status by associating him with a political party or ideology.
- Pray throughout your entire process of deciding for whom to vote.
- Align your vote with Scriptural purpose of government (Psalm 72 and Romans 13:1-7)
 - Protecting people from wrong doers
 - > Criminal justice system that shows no partiality
 - > Common defense through diplomacy & military
 - Develop the circumstances that promote prosperity for all people.
 - > Justice for **all** people
 - > Protect the weak & vulnerable members of society
 - > Assist the underprivileged
 - > Provide government services
 - > Promote wellbeing of the world through diplomacy & responsible use of military force to foster justice.
- Align your vote with Kingdom of God values (Matthew 5-7)
 - Which candidate's positions most closely conform to the life & wisdom of Jesus?
 - Which candidate best promotes justice by protecting the poor and weak members of society? (Leviticus 19:10, 15, 33, 34, 24:22; Deuteronomy 1:16, 10:18, 15:11, 24:14-15, 17, 19-21, 27:19; Psalm 72:1-20; Isaiah 1:15-17, 58:6-8; Amos 5:11, 12, 14, 15, 24; Micah 6:8 and Luke 1:46-55, 4:16-21, 6:20, 7:22, 12:33, 14:13, 21, 16:19-31)
 - Which candidate best demonstrates love for **all** people in his/her lifestyle, opinions and political ideology? Which candidate encourages us to love or hate?
- Remember: It is arguably better for a non-Christian whose positions closely conform to the life & wisdom of Christ to win an election than it is for a professing Christian whose positions do not conform to the life & teachings of Christ to win an election.

In Christ,

Pastor David L. Charlton