

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: January 4, 2026 Sermon Series Title: Which One Am I? Sermon Title: Holiness is a Heart Issue Old Testament: Leviticus 19:17, Deuteronomy 6:5, Ezekiel 36:24-27 New Testament: Matthew 5:8 and 15:18-20	Date: January 11, 2026 Sermon Series Title: Which One Am I? Sermon Title: Which one am I: The invited who declined, the invited who accepted, or the invited who accepted but didn't want to change? Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31-33 New Testament: Matthew 22:1-14
Date: January 18, 2026 Sermon Series Title: Which One Am I? Sermon Title: Which one am I: Nabal, David, or Abigail? Old Testament: 1 Samuel 25:1-38 New Testament: Matthew 5:9	Date: January 25, 2026 Sermon Series Title: Which One Am I Sermon Title: Which one am I: Zachaeus, the crowd, or Jesus Old Testament: Ezekiel 33:11 New Testament: Luke 19:1-10

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!*

January Birthdays:

January Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Annabelle Bricker	4	Betty Anne Gear	24	Bud & Gail Preston	17
Kay Comer	4			Gene & Virginia Spear	19
				Carol & Alan Ackenhausen	23



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
January 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

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



Welcome to part 4 of the 4-part series, "The 4 Ways to be Church". In part one (October), we looked at the church as a hospital for sinners. Two months ago (November), we looked at the church as a loving family. Last month (December), we looked at the church as a non-violent army. This month (January 2026) we end the series by looking at the church as a worshipping community. To effectively obey the great commandment (Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:28-34 & Luke 10:25-28), fulfill the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20), and meet the great expectation (Micah

6:6-8, Isaiah 1:17), the local congregation must look upon itself as a hospital for sinners, loving family, non-violent army, **and** worshipping community.

So, the church is a worshipping community.

Worshipping the Triune God who is revealed in Jesus Christ transforms us into a Christian faith community. If we are a hospital for sinners but do not worship, we are nothing more than another self-help group. If we are a loving family but do not worship, we are nothing more than another social club. And, if we are a non-violent army but do not worship, we are nothing more than another social service agency. We cannot be the hands, arms, feet, and mouth of Jesus if we do not worship. To be the church, we must be a worshipping community.

When we worship, we surrender ourselves to the loving authority of God. As stated in Romans 12:1, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—**this is your true and proper worship.**" So, when we worship, we offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God. This is a fancy way of saying we surrender our wills to God's will. We come to worship saying, "Lord, how do you want me to act? What desires and attitudes should I have?"

As we surrender our hearts to God, the Holy Spirit transforms us to become like Jesus. We develop the same attitudes, desires, and dispositions as Jesus. We learn to love the way Jesus loves us. Now consider Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will." Worship transforms us through the renewing of our minds. This is because the Holy Spirit uses worship to change our hearts.

Worship also unites us in love. Scripture has a lot to say about Christian unity. Psalm 133:1 states, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" The Apostle Paul implores us, "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." So, we worship together so we can come together in love. The Holy Spirit uses worship to help us love one another. Just as the FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT are united in unbreakable love, we become united in love.

Keep all this in mind as you approach Sunday worship, prayer meetings, Bible studies, and other worship opportunities. Expect God to speak to you through the music, liturgy, prayers, sermon, and/or Scripture readings. Also expect God's grace to transform you. Sometimes worship causes us to feel good as we remember and experience God's goodness & love. But sometimes worship causes us to feel bad as the Holy Spirit convicts us of an unloving desire or attitude. When this happens, repent, and ask God to change you. Jesus will wrap his arms around you and say, "Yes, we'll work on this together."

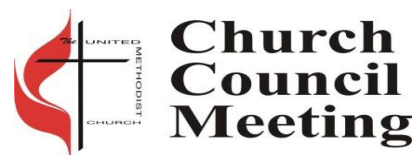
For us to be an uncommon church for common people, offering a love of neighbor without boundaries, we must be a loving family, a hospital for sinners, a non-violent army, **and** a worshipping community.

In Christ Jesus,

David L. Charlton
Pastor

Church Council

Next church council meeting is Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 5:30 PM.



Potluck Luncheon

Burton will be having a New Years Potluck on Sunday, January 4 *at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall*, following the 10:00 am service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. If you do not cook, just bring yourselves. There is always more than enough food.

Ringin' News

We are always looking for new ringers. If you are interested in joining our handbell choir, please see any ringer for more information.



United Methodist Men

John Rimmel

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be in January 2026. Stay tuned for date, time, and location. If you have any questions, please contact me at 443-623-8554 or email me at famrem5@aol.com.

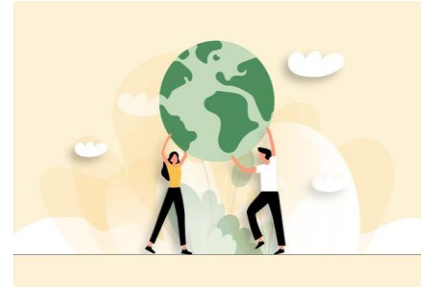


Green Team Book Review

Jack Grove, Green Team

Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change Paperback – March 23, 2023 by [Jim Antal](#) (Author), [Bill McKibben](#) (Foreword)

Rev. Jim Antal contends that climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced. Hunger, refugees, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses and war. Climate change multiplies all forms of global social injustice. Environmental advocate The author calls on the church to meet this moral challenge, to embrace a new vocation so that future generations might live in harmony with God's creation. Antal proposes how people of faith can embrace new approaches to worship, preaching, witnessing, and other spiritual practices that honor creation and cultivate hope. This revised and updated edition includes a new chapter on government policy shifts, and the current science of climate change. Published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2023.



God's Kitchen/Food Pantry



Say hello to our new Food Pantry Coordinator, Ari Poholek. He has already made some positive changes to the pantry. Instead of receiving pre-made bags of groceries, our guests can now choose what items they would like to have. This reduces waste and preserves the dignity of our guests by letting them decide what they need.



United Women of Faith Donation to Food Pantry



BMUMC Food Pantry received over \$10,000.00 from the Community Foundation.



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 Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm and Thursday evenings from 5 pm to 7 pm. Please call the office at 305-852-2581 for info 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, 305-852-2581.

Operation Christmas Child

Through your love and support we were able to send 100 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.



United
Women
in Faith

Please help us on Saturday, January 17th raise money to help vulnerable women, children and youth in America and around the world. We will be selling several types of soups as well as delicious baked goods in Burton's Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to Noon. Soups need to be preordered from a member of the UWF or by calling Mary Lou Wilkinson (305-394-3878). Members of UWF will be available to take orders after church on Jan. 4th and 11th.

Baked goods will be available on a first come first served basis. If there are any leftovers, they will be available after church on the 18th. Soup makers or bakers who would like to help us with the worthy project, please give Mary Lou a call.

This fundraiser is in lieu of our usual ladies' tea which has proven to be too difficult for our little group of ladies to continue. It is hoped that our January soup and baked goods sale will be so successful that we can continue it in February and March

CHOSEN Small group



Starting Sunday, February 1, 2026 @ 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. We will watch the latest season of the Chosen. You will be inspired by Jesus' humanity while remembering that He is also divine.

The Chosen Bible study



Starting Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6:30 PM in Joy Classroom. We will study the Bible passages upon which the previous show of the Chosen were based.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Here are just a few of our beautiful prayer shawls. **Join us Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Joy classroom for fun and fellowship.** We have supplies and we teach. We return from our Christmas break on January 8th. For more information, please call Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.



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?



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Disaster Recovery Ministry  **UMCOR PARTNER**

Support for Those in the Path of Hurricane Melissa

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica with sustained winds of 185 mph. This is the strongest storm in the island's history and is expected to be the most destructive, with neighboring countries also feeling its devastating impact.

In the early aftermath of such devastation, churches often ask how they can help. Here are some practical ways to respond:

Pray — Lift up the people and communities of Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and across the Caribbean.

Give

Support recovery efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) by going to <https://umcmmission.org>, then click the 'Give Now' button in top right-hand corner. Click

"Find an Advance Project". Click "Advance Projects" near bottom of page. In the search bar, put 982450. Then click the [982450 advance](#).

UMCOR is prepared to support the response efforts of our Methodist partners in Jamaica and the Caribbean. Funds collected will go to deliver essential supplies like food and water, support the removal of debris, and provide temporary shelter for the displaced.

Additionally, you may give to the Florida Conference's Cuba Fund to support our ministry partners directly affected by this storm.:

Donate by Check:

Payable to "FLUMC Treasurer," (Write "Cuba relief" on the memo line)

Mail to: Florida Conference Center, Attn: Molly McEntire,

450 Martin L. King Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815 *Donate Online:*

<https://florida-reg.brtapp.com/OnlineGivingCuba>