



# The Beacon

*a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC*  
**February 2026**

Brothers and Sisters,

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



Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026. It is the start of the Lenten Season. During Lent, we fast, attend small groups, and participate in special worship services to contemplate the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior & Lord, Jesus. So, in the spirit of Lent, I am starting a 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. These explanations are called 'theories of atonement'. I will introduce you to five common theories. Here is the schedule: February (This issue) – A chart briefly explaining the five theories, March - Ransom theory, April - Christ as Victor theory, May - Satisfaction/penal substitution theory, June – Recapitulation/Divinization theory, and July – Moral example/Scapegoat theory.

As you contemplate these theories of atonement, remember that there is no 'correct' theory. They all have their strengths and weaknesses. You are free to choose which theories or parts of theories make the most sense to you. Exactly how the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus atones for our sins is a mystery. Just trust the mystery and know that God saves us by grace through faith in Jesus.

<u>Name of the Theory of Atonement</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Ransom theory	<p>Jesus was the ransom that God paid to redeem us from sin. Did God pay this ransom to Satan, death, or evil?</p> <p>Since Jesus is God &amp; human, you could say Jesus gave Himself as a ransom. The question is, to whom did Jesus give Himself to?</p>	Emphasis on Jesus' death	Mark 10:45 Matthew 20:28 1 Timothy 2:6 Hebrews 9:15
Christ as Victor	Jesus faced death and defeated death on our behalf. By defeating death, Jesus also defeated sin and evil.	Emphasis on Jesus' resurrection	1 Corinthians 15:1-58 Hebrews 2:9 &14-15 Romans 6:9 1 John 5:4
Satisfaction/Penal Substitution Theory	Jesus took our place & endured the punishment we	Emphasis on Jesus' death	1 John 2:2 1 Peter 2:24 & 3:18

	deserve. We can receive forgiveness because Jesus endured our punishment.		2 Corinthians 5:21 Galatians 3:13 1 John 2:2
Recapitulation/Divination Theory	Jesus lived the perfect life and became the new Adam – the new man. Jesus reversed the course of humankind from disobedience to obedience. With God's grace, we too can become part of new humanity, where sin no longer reigns.	Emphasis on life & resurrection of Jesus.	1 Cor. 15:20-23 Romans 5:12-21 2 Corinthians 5:17 Galatians 6:11&15
Moral example/scapegoat theory	Jesus gave us the supreme moral example of love & justice. This example inevitably led Him to the cross. His resurrection affirms that His life was the supreme moral example for us to follow.  Jesus' death was an example of how sinful humanity enacts violence on innocent people because we blame them for our troubles (Scapegoating). The resurrection repudiates this behavior.	Emphasis on life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.	Matt. 10:38 & 16:24 Mark 8:34 Luke 9:23 1 Corinthians 11:1 Philippians 2:5 1 Peter 2:21 1 John 2:6

In Christ Jesus, David L. Charlton, Pastor

## Church Council

Next church council meeting is Tuesday, February 03, 2026 at 5:30 PM.



Burton will be having a Valentine Potluck on Sunday, January 1 **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.

## Ringing 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

*The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be February 26, 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](mailto:famrem5@aol.com). – John Remmell



## Green Team Book Review

**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.

Jack Grove, Green Team



## God's Kitchen/Food Pantry

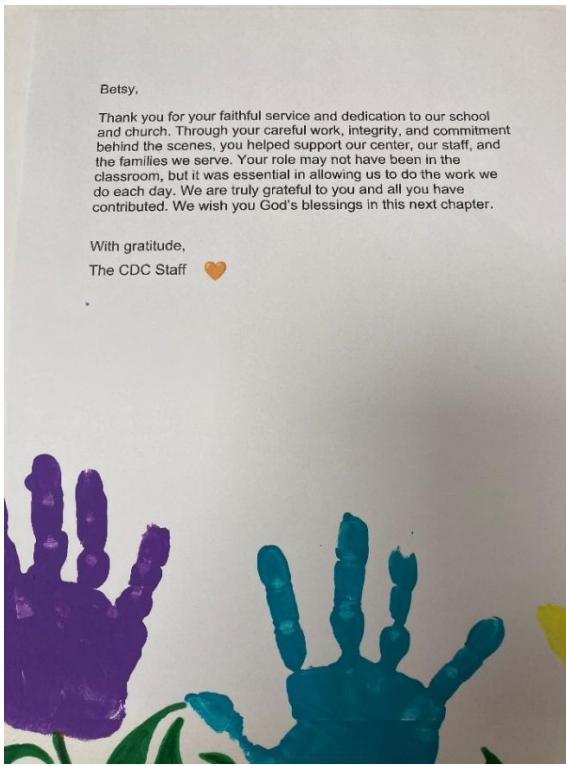


**Burton is still in need of help with our Food Pantry Ministry.** We can use extra hands in the pantry to help with deliveries on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and to serve our guests Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm and Thursday evenings from 5 pm to 7 pm. Please call the office at 305-852-2581 for 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.

## Child Development Center (CDC)

On January 15, the last work day of Betsy, the CDC made a card with handprints of the children. The CDC thanks her 12 years of unwavering service to the church and the CDC.



## 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.

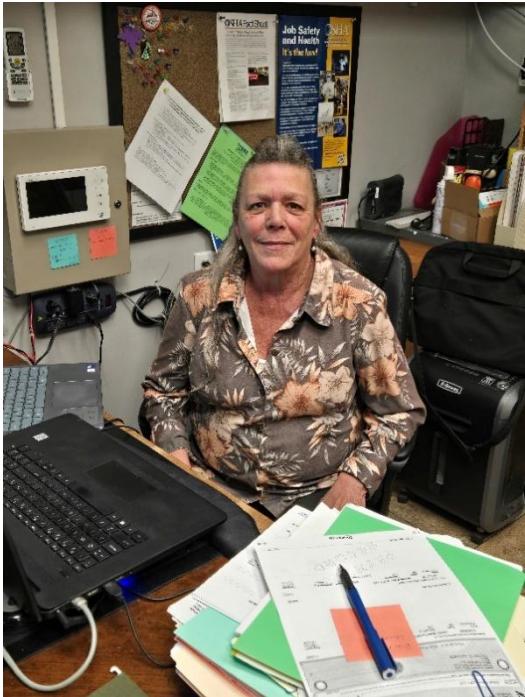


## Prayer Shawl Ministry

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Come and join us Thursday evenings 6:30 in the Joy Classroom for fun and fellowship. We have supplies and yarn and we can teach. We make prayer shawls for all occasions, weddings, happy occasions, illness, deaths, hats for cancer children, blankets and hats for in collage colors for collage students, baby blankets, items for military, scarfs, baby blankets for military showers, shawls for military children in trauma and other occasions. for more information call Virginia Spear 305-522-2978 Hope you will join us.





**Welcome Jill Fraka** – Our new Church Secretary. She is excited to be here and we are blessed to have her. Come by the office to introduce yourself.

### **Tai Chi Open House Weekly Classes**

Strength, Flexibility, and Stillness all in one exercise class? At Burton? Yes, twice a week!

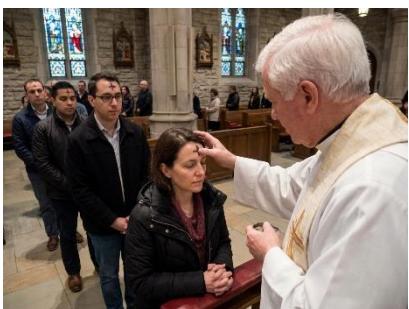


We are blessed that **Tai Chi** is being offered here at Burton in the ***Fellowship Hall Monday nights from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm***, for all levels of ability. All teachers are volunteers and class costs are by donations to cover the costs of the class location. ***You can start any time.*** The benefits 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?

# Lent/Easter Worship



**Ash Wednesday Drive up Anointing  
Wed., Feb. 18 @ 7-9 AM in Parking Lot**



**Ash Wednesday Worship  
Wed., Feb. 18 @ 6PM in Sanctuary**



**Fri., April 3 Good Friday Worship  
6PM – Soup and bread dinner in  
Fellowship Hall  
6:30 PM – Go to outdoor sanctuary and  
contemplate the 7 phrases spoken  
by Jesus while suffering on the  
cross.**



**Easter – Celebrate the resurrection!!!!  
6:30 AM – Sunrise Service at Harry Harris  
10 AM – Celebration Service at BMUMC**



## Notes/Commentaries from the Wesley Study Bible

### Wesley Core Term: Ethics

#### (Wesley Study Bible, Page 1140, Amos 5:16-6:1)

Engraved on the fountain outside of the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery Alabama, is Martin Luther King Jr.'s paraphrase of Amos 5:24: "Until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." King, like Amos before him, reminded believers that faithfulness requires more than beautiful worship and fervent prayer. A faithful life is a just and righteous life. John Wesley was known for his rigorous schedule of prayer, Scripture reading, and worship. But for Wesley, when someone was in need, helping

that person took priority over prayer and other works of piety. Wesley wrote that a Christian, however zealous for works of piety, should be more zealous for works of mercy. "Whenever, therefore, one interferes with the other, works of mercy are to be preferred [over works of piety]. Even reading [Scripture], hearing [the Gospel], prayer, are to be omitted, or to be postponed, 'at charity's almighty call' – when we are called to relieve the distress of our neighbor, whether in body or soul" (Sermon 92: "On Zeal" Section II.9)

# Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<b>Date:</b> February 1, 2026 <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Our Ministry of Reconciliation <b>Sermon Title:</b> We wrestle with God to Reconcile with God <b>Old Testament:</b> Genesis 32:22-32 <b>New Testament:</b> 2 Corinthians 5:18-21	<b>Date:</b> February 8, 2026 <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Our Ministry of Reconciliation <b>Sermon Title:</b> Reconciliation with other people <b>Old Testament:</b> Genesis 33:1-17 & Proverbs 15:1 <b>New Testament:</b> Matthew 18:15-20
<b>Date:</b> February 15, 2026 <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Our Ministry of Reconciliation <b>Sermon Title:</b> Reconciliation with ourselves <b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 20: 8-10 & Leviticus 19:18 <b>New Testament:</b> Mark 2:27-28 & Mark 12:31	<b>Date:</b> February 22, 2026 <b>Sermon Series Title:</b> Lenten series: The I AM statements of Jesus <b>Sermon Title:</b> Jesus is I AM <b>Old Testament:</b> Exodus 3:13-14 <b>New Testament:</b> John 8:58

## Church Contacts

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

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

Church Secretary: [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!

### February Birthdays:

Janet Atkin

DAY  
04

### February Anniversaries:

DAY