The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
March 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

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

We are in the Lenten season! During this season, 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 have started 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. We call these explanations 'theories of atonement'. Last month (February), I provided a chart briefly explaining the five theories. This month (March) I explain the Ransom theory. Next month (April) I will explain the Christ as Victor theory. Then, in May, I will explain the Satisfaction/penal substitution theory. In June, I will explain the Recapitulation/Divinization theory. Finally, in July, I'll describe the Moral example/Scapegoat theory.

So, the Ransom Theory of Atonement.

The ransom theory posits that Jesus was the ransom that God paid to redeem us from sin. Some of the Scripture passages that refer to Jesus as a ransom are Mark 10:45
Matthew 20:28, 1 Timothy 2:6, Hebrews 9:15.

To understand Jesus as being the ransom to redeem us from sin, we must ask: To whom did God pay this ransom?

Did God pay this ransom to Satan to free us from Satan's dominion? I believe the answer is no. If Satan demanded a ransom from God, then God would not really be sovereign or more powerful than Satan. So, it's not Satan or any created being.

What if God paid a ransom, not to a personal being, but to a reality that our sin created? The reality I am thinking of is evil and death. This would make the ransom not merely a payment but a required sacrifice to free us from sin. Jesus had to die so he could face and defeat death. His resurrection proved that he defeated death and the evil that led to his death. In other words, Jesus was the required sacrifice – the ransom. This understanding of the 'Ransom Theory of Atonement' naturally leads to the 'Christ as Victor Theory of Atonement', which I'll discuss in the April issue of the Beacon.

Remember, there is no ‘correct’ theory of atonement. Thay all have their strengths and weaknesses. Just trust the mystery and know that the grace we receive through faith in Jesus saves us from sin. As we contemplate each theory, may the Holy Spirit bring us into a deeper appreciation of what Christ has done for us.

In Christ Jesus,

David L. Charlton
Pastor

Church Council

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

Potluck Luncheon

Burton will be having a Potluck on Sunday, March 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.

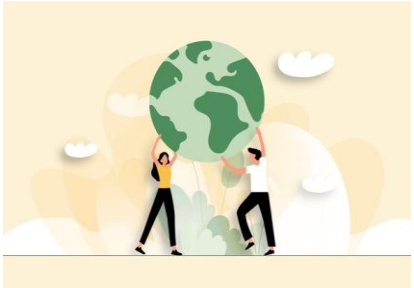
United Methodist Men

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be March 17, 2026. 5:00 pm At Dillions Restaurant. If you have any questions, please contact me at 443-623-8554 or email me at famrem5@aol.com. – John Remmell

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

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.

Burton's United Women in Faith – Call to Prayer and Self Denial

Our group is having a small soup/baked goods sale on March 21st and 22nd for our Call to Prayer and Self Denial Offering. One hundred percent of this year's offering is going to **National** Mission Institutions in the United States that serve vulnerable women and children. Sixty percent of these institutions have experienced serious funding cuts from the federal government this year. Hence our group decided to make the biggest donation that we could in such trying times.

Our previous soup fundraiser went to fulfill our pledge to mission to help women and children around the **World** and we appreciate everyone who helped us make that fundraiser such a success. We are a tiny group of women but with the help of the church and all our friends, we are able to accomplish more than we could on our own.

The current soup sale is specifically targeting the 90+ mission institutions in America that are scrambling to maintain their services this year. We are making 4 different kinds of soup which are expected to be sold out at the time the Beacon goes to press. We will try to have a few extra quarts of soup available for sale after church on March 22nd as well as a few baked goods and an offering basket for those who want to help without purchasing food.

Those who have preordered soup may pick it up in the fellowship hall on Saturday, March 21st from 9:30 to noon along with having the first choice of baked goods. All quarts of soup which sell for $20 will include either corn bread, cheese biscuits or two cookies as a free thank you for your purchase. And we are very thankful to all of you who support us.

All members of UWF as well as any interested members of the congregation are free to remain after church for a soup and salad luncheon followed by a brief informative program about our national mission institutions.

Child Development Center (CDC)

Attention To All:

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday after church service, the CDC sponsors Free Coffee and Donuts to church goers!

In conjunction with the 20 years of our VPK program, VPK graduates from our school will have Homecoming in the week of Thanksgiving - November 2026 on a Tuesday, 24th.

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.

Tai Chi Open House Weekly Classes

Strength, Flexibility, and Stillness all in one exercise class? At Burton? Yes, once 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 facinating. 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

Saturday, March 28, **10:00 AM** Easter Festival

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 PM - Maundy Worship at Coral Isles Church

Friday, April 3 9:30 AM - Cross walk starts at Venetian Shores

Friday, April 3, 12PM - Cross walk ends at Matecumbe Methodist Church with Good Friday Worship.

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: Fall of Humanity
(Wesley Study Bible, Page 7, Genesis 2:5 – 3:24)

This is how John Wesley, the leader of the 18th century Methodist revival in England, writes about the fall: (1) "Unbelief begot pride": Eve thinks that she is wiser than God and capable of finding a better way to happiness than that taught by God. (2) "[Pride] begot self-will": Eve is determined to do her will and not the will of God, who made her for holiness and happiness. (3) "[Self-will] begot foolish desires": Eve sins outwardly by taking the fruit and eating (Sermon 62: "The End of Christ's Coming") She gives the fruit to Adam, and he eats. In that moment he dies; "The life of God was extinguished in his soul." God's glory departs, and the human moral image is lost, rendering humankind no longer "capable of God", that is, able to know, love, and obey God as we were made to do. We thus became dead to God. Our refusal to return God's love is at the heart of Wesley's description of the fall of humanity into sin.

Notes/Commentaries from the Wesley Study Bible

Wesley Core Term: Original sin
(Wesley Study Bible, Page 11, Genesis 5:3 – 9:17)

"We are not able to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps." "We are not masters in our own house." These statements illustrate the basic concern of the doctrine of original sin. Original sin is a reality that is bigger than we are and from which we cannot liberate ourselves. It is "the state of every 'natural man': whether he be a gross, scandalous transgressor, or a more reputable and decent sinner, " says John Wesley (Sermon 9: "The Spirit of Bondage and Adoption") Sin distorts our whole being, our relationship with God and other people, our ideas of success, and even our relation to wealth. There is no hope for transformation except by the grace of God. When viewed from the perspective of original sin, salvation becomes a crucial concept. It implies resistance to the sinful conditions of our time, liberation from the structures of sin at every level, and new relationships.

In the April issue of the Beacon, I will present God's remedy for original sin – Grace. (Grace is the unconditional love of God that is made know to us by the Holy Spirit. We receive grace through faith in Jesus.)

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: March1, 2026 2nd Sunday of Lent **Sermon Series Title:** Lenten series: The I AM statements of Jesus **Sermon Title**: Jesus said "I am the light of the world" **Old Testament**: Isaiah 42:6 **New Testament:** John 8:12	**Date:** March 8, 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent **Sermon Series Title:** Lenten series: The I AM statements of Jesus **Sermon Title**: Jesus said "I am the bread of Life **Old Testament**: Deuteronomy 8:3 Psalm 78:23-25 **New Testament:** John 6:35
Date: March 15, 2026 4th Sunday of Lent **Sermon Series Title:** Lenten series: The I AM statements of Jesus **Sermon Title**: Jesus said "I am the true vine" **Old Testament**: Isaiah 27:2-6 **New Testament:** John 15: 1-6	**Date:** March 22, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent **Sermon Series Title** Lenten series: The I AM statements of Jesus **Sermon Title**: Jesus said "I am the way, truth & life" **Old Testament**: Exodus 26:33 **New Testament:** John 14:6

Date: March 29,2026 Palm/Passion Sunday **Sermon Series Title:** Lenten series: The I AM statements of Jesus **Sermon Title:** Jesus said "I am the gate & good Shepard" **Old Testament**: Psalm 118:20 **New Testament:** Psalm 23:1	

Church Contacts

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Pastor: pastordavidc12@yahoo.com
Church Secretary: 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 **bmumc_office@yahoo.com.**

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

March Birthdays:

	DAY
Donna Charlton	1
Bud Preston	1
Sharon Plezia	5
Shannon Premaza	6
Lou Ward	14
Linda Lillo Norman	15
Dorothy Jarboe	18
Lawerence Beerkircher	20
Rachel DeLaOsa	20
Liz Baker	22
Kyle Gonsalves	23
Katie Holly	23
Dennis Ellis	27

March Anniversaries:

DAY