



The Beacon

*A monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
May 2026*

Brothers and Sisters,

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



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'. Three months ago (February), I provided a chart briefly explaining the five theories. Two months ago (March), I explained the Ransom theory. Last month (April), I explained the Christ as Victor theory. This month (May), I will explain the Satisfaction/penal substitution theory. In June, I will explain the Recapitulation/Divinization and Moral example/Scapegoat theories.

So, the Satisfaction/penal substitution theory.

The 'Satisfaction/penal substitution' theory is the most well-known theory among Western Christianity. When Christians say, "Jesus went to the cross to pay for our sins", they are referencing the 'Satisfaction/penal substitution' theory of atonement.

This theory, however, is a newer theory. It did not become an established theory of atonement until Anselm of Canterbury popularized it with his publication of "Why God Became a Man" sometime between 1094 and 1098 AD. It, therefore, did not become an accepted theory of atonement until over 1,000 years after Jesus' resurrection.

Anselm argues that God created humanity and creation without sin. Humanity disobeyed God and brought sin into creation, and, therefore, owes a debt to God. In the same way criminals owe a debt to society, humanity owes a debt to God. This created a dilemma. Humanity committed sin, so only humanity can pay the debt (penalty) for sin. God, however, is perfect. Imperfect humanity is unable to give God, a perfect being, anything worthy of a perfect being. No matter how hard we try, any debt we pay back to God, will be tainted by sin. So, humanity is incapable of paying its debt to God. Thus, the dilemma - only humanity can pay its debt to God but humanity is incapable of paying its debt to God.

The only solution is the 'God-Man', Jesus Christ. As a human, Jesus can pay the debt humanity owes God. As God, Jesus is capable of paying the debt to God. In other words, as the 'God-Man' Jesus is capable of paying the penalty for all our sins and chooses to do so.

As with all the theories of atonement, there are some weaknesses to this one.

First, it emphasizes Jesus' death at the detriment of his resurrection. It explains the significance of Jesus' death but does little to explain the role played by Jesus' resurrection in our eternal salvation.

Second, it teaches that God can forgive only after a debt (penalty) is paid. This limits God's sovereignty. The Lord can forgive whenever the Lord wants to forgive. While dying on the cross, Jesus said to the Father, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Evidently, God offers forgiveness before people even know they need to repent. (Of course, the proponents of this theory would argue that God can offer us forgiveness before we know we need to repent because God already paid the penalty for our sins in the person of Jesus.)

The strength of this theory lies in the love God shows us by becoming human and enduring the punishment we deserve so we can receive God's forgiveness and have eternal life. To describe God's love in this theory of atonement, many people use the metaphor of a judge. After finding the defendant guilty, the judge pronounces his punishment. But, instead of ordering the bailiff to take the defendant to jail, the judge orders the bailiff to free the defendant. The judge then rises, takes off his robe, and orders the bailiff to take him to jail so he can carry out the defendant's sentence.

The following Bible passages allude to the 'Satisfaction/penal substitution theory'. Take the time to slowly meditate on these passages: 1 John 2:2, 1 Peter 2:24 & 3:18, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, 1 John 2:2.

In Christ Jesus,

David L. Charlton
Pastor

Pentecost: Holy Spirit Empowerment

Brothers and Sisters,

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

IMAGINE!!! You are part of a small Jewish sect called 'The Way'. It is the day of Pentecost but, instead of celebrating, you and your fellow believers are confused, anxious, and scared. Fifty-three days ago, the Romans brutally crucified Jesus, whom you believe to be the Son of God. You believe this because of the many eyewitness accounts of the risen Jesus. Ten days ago, the Apostles saw the risen Jesus ascend into heaven, leaving you and your fellow believers alone to face the skeptical religious establishment and cruel Roman government.

Then, suddenly, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind comes from heaven and fills the whole house where you and your fellow believers are sitting. You see what seems like tongues of fire come to rest on each person. It is the Holy Spirit filling and empowering all the believers! You all begin to supernaturally speak in foreign languages and hundreds of Jews from all over the Roman Empire can understand you.

The Christian Church calls this event 'Pentecost' and you can read about it in Acts 2. It is the Birthday of the church because, on this day, the Holy Spirit started to empower the body of believers to be the church.

This year Pentecost is Sunday, May 24, 2026. We will recognize the church's birthday and celebrate the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Between now and then, I invite you to reflect on Acts 2:1-47 and

Galatians 5:1-26. Ask yourself: Am I cooperating with the Holy Spirit to receive maximum empowerment to love my neighbors & enemies, act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God?

God bless.

In Christ Jesus,

David L. Charlton
Pastor

Church Council

Next church council meeting is Tuesday, May 7, 2026 at 5:30 PM.



Potluck Luncheon



Burton will be having Potluck on Sunday, May 3rd *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 Women of Faith

Dear Ladies of Burton:

We are still meeting monthly even though our numbers are small so if you haven't come to one of our meetings the next one might be for you ✓ ✨. We had April's meeting in the afternoon, and everyone loved 🥰 the change of time, but there was one member we forgot about so we are trying a Wednesday next month and hoping it works better for her. The next meeting will be May 27, a Wednesday at 3:30pm we will be meeting at Mary Lou house 38 E. Beach Rd. If you need a ride, call Mary Lou at 305-394-3878 and we will see what we can do for you. There is a program and we discuss a book or two from our reading program if there is time, but everyone goes home feeling better for coming and sitting with sisters that we get a chance to visit with. So we hope to see you next month at our meeting. If you have any questions please call Mary Lou.

Blessings to all,
Mary Lou Wilkinson, President UWF

Residing Hope

We have the end of year giving information for 2025 for our Residing Hope (formerly known as Florida United Methodist Children's Home). Our financial goal for the year was \$2,196.00 (183 members @ \$12 per member). For 2025, we gave \$2,008.00 to Residing Hope; we were just a little short (\$188) of meeting our goal to be at

100%. We give God the glory as we thank you, each and every one of our Burton family, for your love, your prayers, and your stewardship in this ministry.

In 2026 our goal of \$12 per member will remain the same as it was in 2025. We have been working on, and we continue to work on, getting our membership records up to date to reflect a more accurate number of church members. For 2026 our goal is \$1,680.00 (140 members @ \$12 per member). Since Residing Hope is an extension of the United Methodist churches in Florida, the goal of giving is set each year at the Florida Annual Conference in Lakeland.

We have four Fifth Sunday offerings this year to help us meet our goal - March 29, May 31, August 30, and November 29. Also, each Sunday that we take part in Communion (the first Sunday of the month), the "Penny Jug" gladly accepts your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters (and paper money too!).

In addition, in honor and celebration of our church's 140-year anniversary this year, we will be purchasing a \$500 gift brick for the Path of Hope at the main Residing Hope campus in Enterprise, FL. The Path of Hope is made up of gift bricks purchased by those who want to help abused, abandoned, and neglected children and youth served by Residing Hope. It begins at the campus chapel and will eventually pave pathways throughout the campus. If you would like to make a donation towards the gift brick purchase, please make your check payable to Burton Memorial UMC and notate the memo line "Residing Hope - BRICK" and place in the offering plate any Sunday between now and July 4. This will also count towards our \$1,680 goal this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support! It is truly an honor and a blessing to serve as your local church representative for our Residing Hope.

In His service,
Julie Albury Ratliff

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.

Child Development Center (CDC)

Hello all!

This year Burton Memorial CDC has a motto "The Art of Giving through Love and Kindness". In line with this. activities as follows:

1. We started serving coffee and donuts every 2nd and 4th Sunday starting February to continue to December 2026.
2. We are sponsoring, Mini Concert Series - dubbed "Music that Heals".
One upcoming please see attached flier...
1st series - May 13, 2026
2nd series - August 2026 (date to be announced)
3rd series - October 2026 (date to be announced)
FREE ADMISSIONS - donations from the heart are accepted.
3. VPK 20th graduates homecoming on November 24, 2026 - Tuesday of Thanksgiving Week



Soli Deo Gloria!

MUSICIANS BIOGRAPHY

Alexander Straus-Fausto

He holds degrees and diplomas from the Eastman School of Music- a prestigious private music conservatory in Rochester, New York. He also graduated at the Yale University School of Music and has a degree from the Institute of Sacred Music at McGill University Schulich School of Music.

He currently serves as Organist and Associate Director at the Epiphany Catholic Church, Coral Gables and is the Artistic Director of Miami International Organ Competition, an emerging global platform for young organists.

Alexander Straus-Fausto is a rapidly rising concert organist, recognized as a rising leader in the field, was named to the Diapon's prestigious "20 Under 30" Class of 2023, and featured in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's top Classical Musicians in 2025. He has performed solo concerts at St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Coventry Cathedral, La Madeleine in Paris, Washington National Cathedral, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and will be taking a tour of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway in the summer of 2026.

He has created over fifty original transcriptions of major orchestral works, showcasing his deep affinity for the organ as a limitless medium for artistic expression. His extensive repertoire includes the complete organ works of Cesar Franck, Maurice Durufle, and Johannes Brahms.

JULIA IZQUIERDO

Julia, a soprano from Miami, Florida, is a rising young artist quickly making her mark on the operatic stage. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the University of Miami's Frost School of Music, where she also earned her Bachelor's in Music Education.

During her six years at Frost, Julia trained under the guidance of internationally acclaimed baritone Kim Josephson, refining both her artistry and technique.

This season, Julia makes her role debut as Frasquita in Gulfshore Opera's production of CARMEN. She will also cover the role of Despina in Cosi fan tutte at the Frost School of Music. In addition, Julia joins Florida Grand Opera's CANTO program, where she looks forward to combining performance with community outreach.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Prayer shawls are made for all occasions, happy times as well as sickness and distress. Join us Thursday 6:30 PM in the Joy classroom. We have supplies and we teach. A great time for fellowship. For information call Virginia Spear 305 522 2978

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 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?

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 5, 5:30 PM – Church Council Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, May 13, 6PM – A Journey in Song and Rhapsody (Sanctuary)

Monday, May 18, 6:PM – Bible Study on Romans begins

Sunday, May 24, 10:00 AM – Worship is Celebrating Pentecost

Tuesday, May 26, 5:30 PM – Finance Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday May 26, 6:30 PM – Trustee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, May 28, 5:00 PM – VPK Graduation (Sanctuary)



Notes/Commentaries from the Wesley Study Bible

Wesley Core Term: Justifying Faith (Wesley Study Bible, Page 21, Genesis 15:6)

For John Wesley, faith is a gift of God, not something that we accomplish on our own. Instead of simply being our decision or choice, faith is made possible by God's grace in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Faith is needed for our salvation, which Wesley understood as forgiveness (justification) and living a holy life (sanctification). Even though we have been sinful, God pardons us because of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus is righteous, we are considered righteous. Faith enables us to accept God's love for us and understand ourselves to be pardoned, so it is essential to God's saving work. When we are forgiven, we are also set free to be able to live a new life. So being forgiven (justified) initiates our ability to become truly holy (sanctified).



Notes/Commentaries from the Wesley Study Bible

Wesley Core Term: Sanctifying Faith (Wesley Study Bible, Page 1488, Ephesians 4:11-16)

According to John Wesley, faith in Christ is necessary not only for justification but also for sanctification. Sanctifying faith is a gift from God given to Christians as they voluntarily continue to grow in their faith. In this sanctifying process, "good works" in the life of the Christian become a lifestyle, not an obligation. Good works (works of mercy & piety) are tangible expressions of God's redeeming love working in the lives of the believers, leading them to reflect God's love in all of their actions. In this way, sanctifying faith is the essential element for holy living, which is living a life filled with love for God and neighbor. Sanctifying faith is personal and social: personal as it enables individuals to overcome private weaknesses and struggles; social as it points out the need for community in developing a healthy understanding of the Christian faith, calls for denouncing social evils, and promotes the redemption of social structures.

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: May 3, 2026 Sermon Title: Is Jesus Big Enough in my Life Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 New Testament: Romans 12:1-2	Date: May 10, 2026: Guest Speaker: Amy Russell
Date: May 17, 2026 Guest Speaker: Sheryl Marks Williams	Date: May 24, 2026 Sermon Title: God Continues to Give Grace Old Testament: Psalm 32:1-11 New Testament: Romans 5:1-5 and Ephesians 2:8-10
Date: May 31, 2026 Sermon Title: Receiving Grace Through Prayer Old Testament: Daniel 6:1-23 New Testament: Luke 11:9-13	

Church Contacts

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

Pastor: pastordavidc12@yahoo.com

Church Secretary: bmumc_office@yahoo.com 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!

