



The Beacon

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

So, the Recapitulation/Divinization theory.

The 'Recapitulation/Divinization theory is one of the oldest theories. It traces its origins to Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons, who lived from c. 130 to c. 202 A.D. He wrote 'Against Heresies' around 180 A.D. as a refutation of Gnosticism. In this work, Bishop Irenaeus developed what has become known as the 'Recapitulation/Divinization theory of atonement'.

In this theory, Jesus, as Fully Human and Fully God, is seen as the new Adam. The old Adam from Genesis brought sin into the world and shifted the trajectory of human development towards evil. As the new Adam, Jesus corrects the trajectory of human development towards goodness. In this way, Jesus recapitulates the genesis story and provides humanity a re-start.

Jesus tells us that if we are to follow him, we must take up our cross. (Matthew 10:38 & 16:24, Mark 8:34 & Luke 9:23) We can understand this statement through this theory of atonement. Our old, sinful, self-dependent selves die on the cross with Jesus. Our new, holy, God-dependent selves rises with Jesus' resurrection. As new, holy, God-dependent selves, we begin the process of divinization. This is a fancy way of saying that our development will progress towards Christlikeness. In this way, Jesus recapitulates our lives and gives each of us a re-start.

The following Bible passages explain the 'Recapitulation/Divinization theory'. Take the time to slowly meditate on them: 1 Cor. 15:20-23, Romans 5:12-21, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Galatians 6:11&15. Now, the 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 if we follow the example of Christ, in the end, we too will have victory.

The 'Moral example/Scapegoat theory' gives us a new way to understand Jesus' command to pick up our cross and follow Him. Picking up our crosses means that we are willing to suffer because of righteousness. We are willing to suffer for resisting oppression and standing with the oppressed. We are willing to suffer for loving the folks who are hard to love. We are willing to suffer for proclaiming the name of Jesus. We are willing to suffer because we know that we too will experience resurrection.

Jesus' death is also an example of how sinful humanity enacts violence on innocent people because we blame them for our troubles (Scapegoating). The Nazis blamed the Jews for all their problems, and they became a scapegoat. White Europeans developed racist ideology to dehumanize Africans and provide justification for their enslavement. Thus, the Africans became a scapegoat. Likewise, the religious and political leaders in the Roman Province of Judea accused Jesus of leading an insurrection and causing chaos because they saw him as a threat to their power and influence. This turned Jesus into a scapegoat. The resurrection, however, unequivocally states that God's love will always defeat humanity's scapegoating behavior. This is why the Bible ends with a new heaven and new earth. (Revelation 21-22)

The following Bible passages support the 'Moral Example/Scapegoat Theory': 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, June 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM.



Potluck Luncheon



Burton will be having Potluck on Sunday, June 7 *at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall*, following the 10:00 am service. In Honor of Pastor David, Donna & Joshua for their service & dedication. 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.



UWF Prayer Bead Ministry



The United Women in Faith have been handcrafting Prayer Beads since 2016. We continue to make and sell them and are currently offering a Summer Super Sale. Our Christian Sister Sue Peacock lovingly crafted beautiful chaplets adorned with angel wings for the wounded veterans who came to kayak in Key Largo. These special gifts were given for them to take home as a heartfelt reminder of the love and kindness they found here in the Florida Keys. Blessings, Prayers, Love & comfort to all. Call, Text or Email Mrs. Kim Youngblood Cell 443-207-4000, kyoungblood528@yahoo.com if you would like to purchase or learn how to string.

Dear Ladies of the church and members of UWF:

Our numbers are small as the summer is here. Quite a few members have headed north and we will miss them, but we will keep meeting during the summer even if there are only a few. This month's meeting will be at Mary Lou's house 38 E. Beach Rd, Harry Harris Park on June 22 at 6:30pm-8:30 pm. With the sun still up in the evening we have gone back to our usual time. This month's program will be given by Cindy Davis from our program book. Hope you will come and if you need a ride call me at (305) 394-3848 and I am sure we can arrange something. We also have the reading books at my house and if you are looking for something special, I can help you find something among the many books that Barbara Koch has bought for us over the years you need not come to the meeting to get a book. Just call to make sure I am home. Hope to see you at our meeting but if you can't make it this month our next meeting is August 24 at Kim Youngblood's house. Same time different house.

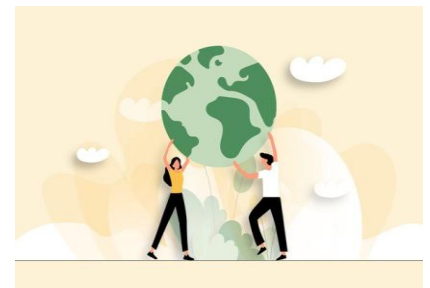
Blessings to everyone,
Mary Lou Wilkinson, President

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.

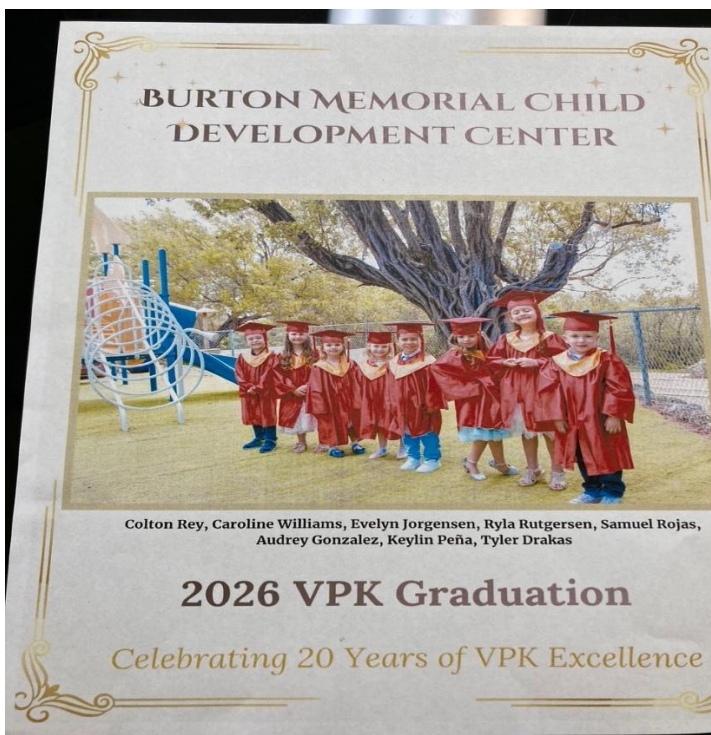
We are still looking for groups or individuals to help with our God's Kitchen Free Dinner on Thursdays, helping to cook, serve and clean up. If you can help, please call or text Mary Lou Wilkinson at 305-394-3878, or call the office, 305-852-2581.

Child Development Center (CDC)

Our 20th VPK graduates' commencement exercise on May 28, 2026!

Bravo to the graduates! We celebrate all the CDC staff in the development of their growth to become more effective and resilient in the years to come!

God Bless Burton Memorial United Methodist community!





Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Beautiful prayer shawl by Gwen. Would you like to learn to knit or crochet. Join us Thursdays 6:30 PM we have supplies. We have fun. We give for all occasions. 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?

A New Chapter At Burton Memorial UMC

Welcoming Rev. Dr. Charles Fisher:

With grateful hearts and great anticipation, Burton Memorial United Methodist Church joyfully welcomes Rev. Dr. Charles Fisher as our new Pastor beginning July 1, 2026. This is more than the arrival of a new pastor, it is the beginning of a new season of faith, fellowship, vision, and spiritual growth for the church and community. With hearts full of gratitude, expectation, and prayer, the

congregation looks ahead to a renewed season of worship, fellowship, outreach, and faithful service together. Originally from Cape Charles, Virginia, Rev. Dr. Fisher has devoted his life to ministry, education, mentorship, and leadership. Throughout his journey, he has served faithfully in churches, schools, youth ministries, and communities, helping people discover hope, purpose, and the love of Jesus Christ. His ministry is known for being Christ-centered, Spirit-led, encouraging, practical, and community-focused. Rev. Dr. Fisher comes with a heart for people, a passion for preaching and teaching God's Word, and a deep commitment to building strong

Rev. Dr. Fisher and his wife, Shirelle Fisher, along with their children Chauncie, Charles Jr., and Chanelle, are excited to become part of the Burton Memorial family and the Florida Keys community. As he steps into this new appointment, Pastor Fisher brings a vision of worship that uplifts, discipleship that transforms lives, outreach that touches the community, and ministry that strengthens every generation. Known as an uncommon church for common people, Burton Memorial UMC has long been a place where neighbors are welcomed without boundaries and where lives are touched through meaningful worship, study, compassion, and outreach. The arrival of Rev. Dr. Fisher brings fresh anticipation as the church family prepares to continue that mission with renewed energy, compassionate leadership, and a strong sense of purpose as the congregation, ministries, and community move forward together in faith. I believe God has great things ahead for Burton Memorial United Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Fisher shared. My prayer is that we grow together spiritually, love one another deeply, and become a shining light of hope and encouragement throughout this community.

His first day, July 1, 2026, will mark more than a date on the calendar, it will be the beginning of a shared journey. For members, friends, and visitors alike, this moment offers an opportunity to come together in faith, extend a warm Burton Memorial welcome, and celebrate what God will do in the days ahead through Rev. Dr. Fisher's ministry and the church's ongoing witness in the community. The church family is invited to join in prayer, encouragement, and celebration as we welcome Rev. Dr. Fisher into this exciting new chapter. Together, we look forward to what God will do through worship, service, fellowship, and faithful ministry in the months and years ahead. As plans begin for the June Beacon, this is wonderful news to share: a powerful new chapter is beginning at Burton Memorial UMC, and the future is bright with faith, hope, and expectation. Please join us Sunday, July 5, 2026, as we officially welcome Rev. Dr. Charles Fisher to the pulpit of Burton Memorial United Methodist Church. Behold, I will do a new thing... (Isaiah 43:19)

Up Coming Events

Saturday, June 20, 8 AM – Workday at Parsonage

Sunday July 5, 10 AM - Pastor Charles Fisher's first Sunday

Sunday, February 7, 2027 –United Woman In Faith Annual Call to Prayer & Self Denial Program time TBD (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 14, 2027 – 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM United Women in Faith 20th Tea (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<p>Date: June 7, 2026 Sermon Title: Let the Word Penetrate your Heart (Part 111 of “Awaken to Grace”) Old Testament: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 New Testament: Hebrews 4:12-13</p>	<p>Date: June 14, 2026 Sermon Title: Receiving Grace Through Silence (Part IV of Awakened to Grace) Old Testament: Mark 1:35-39 New Testament: Psalm 27:14</p>
<p>Date: June 21, 2026 Guest Speaker: Matt Till Sermon Title: TBD</p>	<p>Date: June 28, 2026 Guest Speaker: Amy Russel Sermon Title: TBD</p>

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 to place in the bulletin or in the Beacon to the office at bmumc_office@yahoo.com

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!