



*Read on for details*

**March 25** – Palm Sunday  
**March 29** – 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service  
**April 1** – 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service  
**May 5** – Spud Night & Silent Auction  
**May 19** – Penny Pound Auction



**2018**

First Baptist Church  
581 Meriden Avenue  
Southington, CT  
06489-3901

An American Baptist Church  
ABCUSA  
Ministry Team - The Rev. Sharon R. Holt  
The Rev. Peg Lewis  
Director of Music – Les Marsh  
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Sunday Worship at 10:00am  
Sunday school Classes at 10:30am

## ***The Pastor's Lenten Ponderings***

Recently I had a call from a member of our church family. As we chatted, she said that she had a question about Lent: With Ash Wednesday being on February 14, and Lent being 40 days long, how come the math doesn't work – it's more than 40 days from February 14 until Easter on April 1? Good question! The answer is that Lent is 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, not including Sundays. Sundays are not counted because we celebrate Jesus' resurrection every Sunday. In addition, forty days are observed in the Lenten season in memory of the forty days Jesus spent being tempted in the wilderness.

This year, I invited our entire church family to join in observing Lent together. On five consecutive Wednesday's that began on February 21 and will conclude on March 21, we took a Lenten journey. Each Wednesday evening, we gathered at 6:00 PM to share soup and conversation, followed at 6:30 discussion focused on Marcus J. Borg's book *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Borg's book challenged us to examine how we view Jesus as both savior and as a historical figure.

I would like to invite you to join your church family for our Easter week observances: Our Maundy Thursday service is on March 29 at 7:00pm, Easter Sunrise service at 6:30am on Easter morning, our 10:00am Easter worship service which will be followed by our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Whether you joined us for our Lenten book study or our upcoming special services, I urge you to spend the forty days of Lent in reflection and preparation for the greatest celebration of our Christian faith – Easter, the day of the resurrection of our Lord. On Easter, Christ triumphed over the grave, leaving behind an empty tomb to forever remind us He is not dead, He does not sleep, He is alive!

Faithfully,  
***Pastor Sharon***

... be ye all of **one mind**,  
having **compassion**  
one of **another**,  
love as **brethren**,  
be **pitiful**,  
be **courteous**.

1 Peter 3:8

### **Compassion Sunday**

(fourth Sunday of each month)

**April:** breakfast items

**May:** pasta, sauce, mac and cheese

**June:** PB&J

**July:** healthy snacks

**August:** breakfast foods

**September:** cleaning and personal hygiene supplies

**October:** soups and stews

**November:** beverages (coffee, tea, hot cocoa, juice boxes)

**December:** miscellaneous



THANK YOU everyone for your generous support of our newest fundraiser! The collection drive in early March was a team effort to make it all happen from collecting items, sorting and

bagging them along with loading the trucks and vans to deliver everything to Savers. They paid us by the pound and did we have stuff.... over 2400 pounds! Thank you again for helping us raise over \$400 for our church.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper has become an annual event again! Thank you to everyone who

donated the food and to everyone who helped to set up, cook and clean up. It was so nice to see the great turnout of support for this fun night.

### From your Board of Outreach

Our church continues to provide the love and support of others through your generous contributions.

- Thank you for your donations to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. As we heard during the Sunday 'Mission Moments' and the letter we received from Rev. Swan, our remembrance of their faithful contributions to their ministry is greatly appreciated.



- An update on the collection of hygiene kits for Church World Service: They kept coming in!! "We received 78 filled kits. We beat last year's count by 3. Thank you for your ongoing support of this program.

- And speaking of hygiene kits... a big shout out to Lauren for finding a way to bring a focus on each

item during her weekly children's story!! And to Peg for delivering our kits!!

- We are taking up the America for Christ Offering in March. Thank you for your support of this very important Home Mission offering.



Our Easter offering this year will be divided between Camp Wightman and the General Fund.



What about all that great music we are blessed with each Sunday? The music committee works tirelessly to make certain we have a diversified music selection each Sunday. We are blessed with so many talented people within our congregation willing to share their talents.



The 'kitchen elves' have been busy cleaning and organizing the kitchen. The drawers have been emptied, cleaned and organized - and labeled so

you don't have to guess which drawer something is in. Thank you so much!



Has anyone been downstairs to the Sunday School (former daycare) rooms lately? If not, it's worth going to see all the great work that is underway to refurbish the classrooms. Thanks to everyone who has been putting in so many hours to give the rooms the facelift (or should I say overhaul) they needed for our young people. Along with the facelift work, there were also multiple hands (and backs) filling trucks, vans and trailers to haul broken and discarded items to the dump on March 17th. Thank you for all your hard work to get the rooms ready for our children and our new tenants.



**29 Rich & Kristen Kelly**



**16 Arthur & Mildred Pugh**



## EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter egg hunt after worship on Easter Sunday, April 1. Donations of individually wrapped candy that can fit inside the eggs are greatly appreciated. Items can be dropped off in the church office. No eggs are needed. Let's pray for "outside" weather!



**A BIG THANK YOU TO**

Linda Lamy keeps

coming up with new fund raising ideas for our church. The Savers fundraiser is just the newest idea to add to her repertoire. Thanks Linda!!

First of all thank you for coming out in the bad weather. During the week of

we served 524 meals to our seniors, shut-ins and in-



house clients. First of all thank you for coming out in the bad

weather. During the week of March 9th we served 524 meals to our seniors, shut-ins and in-house clients. This was done with the help of Walter Jones, James Steele, Pastor Sharon Holt, Ginni Butler, Darlene Steele, Barbara McKay, Sharon Kupiec, Shirley Mason and Gene Hilton. Your help is always appreciated.

Our next turn will be the week of May 29th.

May God bless us all.  
Gene Hilton

This was done with the help of Walter Jones, James Steele, Pastor Sharon Holt, Ginni Butler, Darlene Steele, Barbara McKay, Sharon Kupiec, Shirley Mason and Gene Hilton.



Your help is always appreciated.  
Zaron Boyce

## DRESS KITS

The simple dress kits are available near the coat room.

Together with your support, this ministry has donated nearly

500 dresses as we share God's love & make little girls smile!

You should have seen the precious smiles on the faces of the

little girls at the Apostles House in Newark, New Jersey when

our mission team delivered them last summer.

**Family & friends are welcome to assist with this special ministry.**

**We're asking dresses be returned by May 20.**

3be Buelis

4 Drew Michel

6han Amundsen, Roma Corrigan, Emily Oloro

8 Dame Jones



Mildred Pugh

22 JoAnn Danis, Ethan Kelly

23 no Emily turn will be the week of May 29th.

## ANNUAL

## SPUD NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION

will soon be here so mark your calendars. Invite family and friends to join us on Saturday,

May 5 from 5:30 pm to 7 pm for a wonderful event to benefit mission opportunities and our church's local ministries.

*More donated services or new auction items are always greatly appreciated. See Linda Lamy*

Also you can become a "SPUD SPONSOR" by:

- donating a few dollars towards food and supplies to make it all happen. Stop by our table Sunday,

April 22 and April 29 in the Fellowship Hall.

**\*Tickets are available at the table or at the door.\***



- 3 Abby Corrigan
- 6 Barbara Burkhardt
- 7 Charles Hilton, Liam Paulette
- 9 Claressa Maheu
- 13 Rita Cabata
- 20 Ray Callaghan
- 21 Douglas Spain
- 30 Emily Lamy



**Quilted by Martha Hyneck Gisclon, a long-time member of the church, and talented quilter.**



- 2 Sharon Boyce
- 3 Gabe Buelis
- 4 Drew Michel
- 6 Ethan Amundsen, Rona Corrigan, Emily Olore



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