



[Read on for details](#)

**January 9 – Music Committee Meeting
January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr
January 26 – Church Board Meeting
February 16 – Church Board Meeting
February 23 – Annual Business Meeting
February 25 – Shrove Tuesday**



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
Newsletter Editor – Sharon Kupiec
Church Office Hours - please call Pastor
Sharon before coming to the church
Telephone: 860 628-8121
Email:
Pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org
Visit us on Facebook:
First Baptist, Southington, CT
www.firstbaptistchurch-southington.org

Sunday Worship at 10:00am
Sunday school Classes at 10:30am

THE PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Christmas is over, January is here. It's time to take down the tree and put all the decorations away for another year. This Advent & Christmas season was an odd one for me. I had to dig deep inside to celebrate Christ's nativity amidst other feelings of sympathy, sadness and responsibility.

Allow me to elaborate.

It all started before I left for South Africa at the end of September. Just prior to leaving, I got a telephone call from a member telling me they were going to be homeless at the end of the week. I was able to get a member of our church to take over while I was gone and get our member to Southington Community Services. Upon my return, the next month and a half was taken up with maneuvering through the complex and inadequate social services network to get suitable housing for our member. There were many challenges and obstacles, but we finally found an apartment and moved our member there.

In short order, there were two deaths of long-time members of our church, Ernie Burkhardt and Harriet Carlbert. Memorial services for Ernie were in October; Harriet's service was in early December. Memorial services always cause me to spend time pondering mortality, my own and others, as well as the truth and hope contained in the scripture.

The day before Harriet's service, a dear member of our congregation, Charles Hilton was admitted to the hospital. Day to day we didn't know if Charles was going to stay with us or go home to the Lord. On December 19, the Lord called

Charles home. During Charles' illness, I received word that a former boss, mentor and close friend had died.

By the time Christmas Eve and our service of Lessons & Carols was held, I was physically, mentally and spiritually exhausted. I didn't feel like celebrating, I felt like sleeping for about two days. Yet, as the familiar carols and readings poured forth, I found renewed strength and a stirring of joy. The celebration of Christmas is a milestone every year, a time to look back into the past and forward to the future. I left that service feeling uplifted, renewed, held in prayer by our congregation and secure in God's love; looking forward to the joys and challenges of 2020

Oh, I apologize for not sending out Christmas cards this year. I had a couple of other things going on. Please accept my prayers and best wishes for a healthy, happy 2020!

In Christ,

Pastor Sharon



- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 1 | Jason Urso |
| 5 | Devon Cunningham |
| 6 | Jesse Sewell |
| 13 | Liz Harwood |
| 17 | Phyllis Wade |
| 30 | Amanda Olore |



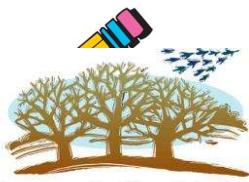
- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Phil Heim |
| 2 | Kathryn Austin |
| 3 | Julia Graikoski |
| 4 | Rudy Cabata |
| 8 | Ted Cabata, Gary Lamy |
| 12 | Warren Potter |
| 14 | Tracey Heim, Caleigh Cunningham |
| 21 | Lily Dixon |
| 22 | Sarah Strosahl |
| 25 | Shirley Mason |
| 27 | Marvin Choquette |



- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 6 | Bill & Barb McKay |
|---|-------------------|



- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 10 | JoAnn & John Myska |
| 27 | Linda & Tom Salzer |

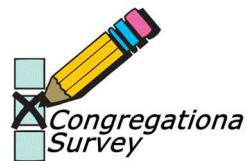


Thankful Tree

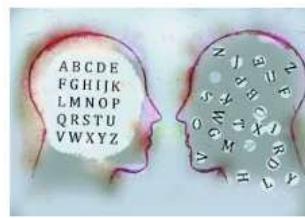
2020 SURVEY - MISSION

OPPORTUNITIES

Please take a few minutes to complete the mission survey in the hallway if you haven't already. We are gathering information as we work to offer more opportunities this year to take part in. We need your ideas as we begin planning mission projects - whether one day or several days, whether in Connecticut or beyond, suggestions of projects or if you want to take part or offer your support. Your thoughts are greatly appreciated.



The Kindness Perspective



We all live in our own worlds. It's easy to get caught up in life and forget that we are part of a polypeptide chain bonded to form one of gazillion tiny molecules that form humanity. Does that make you feel small?

Our thoughts veer off a thousand times over the course of a day. Our personalities and moods influence the way we prioritize and organize our thoughts and have a direct association on how we relate to the world (and the people in it).

Most people generally don't get out of bed in the morning thinking, "I want to personally offend someone today". Being kind to others isn't always on the forefront of our daily agenda, but maybe it should be.

Take a moment before speaking to people you encounter every day. Some comments, as unintentional as they may be, may cause hurt and embarrassment to the recipient. How well do you know this person? When in doubt, resort to small talk; it won't have big consequences. 😊

Embracing our COMMUNITY

- We mailed out 6 Love Boxes this year to children and grandchildren in college and those in military service. Thank you for your generous donations.
- We were overwhelmed with the support from the congregation willing to assist in purchasing gifts for those in need in our community. 20 gift tags from Southington Community Services and 5 for Winifred House were quickly picked up and filled. Thank you for helping to make their Christmas extra special.
- The 'Mitten Tree' will be set up in Fellowship Hall throughout the month of January for donations of mittens, hats, gloves and scarves. It is getting decorated with many colorful items already, but there is always an empty branch that could use some color. We appreciate your donations!
- The list of monthly donations for Compassion Sunday is posted on the wall near the coffee hour table. You will also find the monthly items listed in the bulletin the Sunday preceding Compassion Sunday.

How you make
others feel about
themselves,
says a lot about
you.
curtisno.com

- Santa appointed a couple of elves to give First Baptist an early Christmas present of polished floors in Fellowship Hall and the entranceways. Thank you Barbara and Bill for accepting the elf role - they look beautiful.
- Real coffee cups during fellowship hour! What a great idea to do our share and contribute to the 'save the earth' campaign!
- Thank you to all who have set up served and contributed yummy food for coffee hour.
- Thank you to Marvin and Peg who have been dropping off the Compassion Sunday donations each month.
- Our Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, parlor and bathrooms have been kept in tip top shape due to a few tireless workers in our congregation. Thank you so much for all you do!!



LOST AND FOUND

There have been a few items of clothing left behind. They are in a box in the kitchen; please see Pastor Sharon or Barbara McKay.



Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson to be featured speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr. Service

Richard A. Robinson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, will speak to the topic of "Justice for All" at the 24th annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration held at First Baptist Church of Southington on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 10 am. This event is the only celebration honoring the late civil rights leader in Southington.

Chief Justice Robinson has long served in the Connecticut judicial system in a variety of roles, since 2013 as a Justice of the Supreme Court, and was appointed Chief Justice in May 2018. He has also provided significant leadership to a number of state organizations, notably the Connecticut Council of the NAACP, the Commission on Human Rights and Responsibilities, and the Judicial Education Committee. "We look forward to hearing of his experiences and observations as one who continues to work toward 'Justice for All,'" said Phyllis Wade, member of the church's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

The Rev. Sharon Holt will lead the service. The event will also include honoring two middle school students who have been chosen to receive Martin Luther King Jr. awards on the basis of their contributions to their school communities in ways inspired by King. Town and school officials have also been invited. Special music for the worship service will be provided by the Spanish Community of Wallingford School of Music, directed by Evangeline Bourgeois, and Les Marsh, First Baptist Church music director. A reception immediately follows the service.

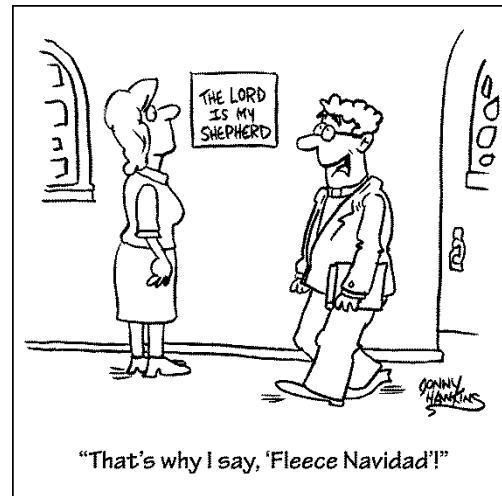


Do you have a First Baptist Church *library card?

What?? You didn't know that the First Baptist Church HAS a library??

Yup, it's there; you've walked by it many times. The library is located next to the vestibule by the front entrance to the church. It's a small room that is jam full of texts, fiction, non-fiction and other inspirational tomes. There are also electronic resources, including CD recordings of weekly sermons and special music recordings. There is a simple check-out system with library cards and a book of record for you to borrow whatever strikes your fancy. Please take advantage of this wonderful resource.

*you don't need a library card.



From a church newsletter:

~~JOIN OUR NEW-MEMBERS CLASS.~~

... explore tenants of our faith.

~~Meet other people at First Any Church~~

We hope all those residents learned the faith *tenets*.

From a church newsletter:

~~THANKS TO OUR NEW SUGGESTION BOX ...~~

... you can remain anonymous ...

~~while commenting about the church~~

Now the church mouse's identity can remain secret.



OOPS!

From a worship PowerPoint:

~~SUN OF GOD, LOVE'S PURE LIGHT~~

Radiant beams from thy holy face

~~with the dawn of redeming grace~~

This likely caused *beams* of laughter during the candlelight service!

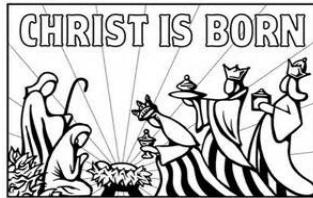
From a church newsletter:

~~JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY TEA!~~

Family photos will be taken by the Christmas tree.

~~DEAD BY DECEMBER?~~

That's one talented evergreen!



Christmas Flowers and Memorial Gifts 2019

Poinsettias

Anonymous in honor of all God's children

Aszklar and Chubet Families in memory of Lena "Nana" Dow

The Burkhardt Family in memory of Ernie Burkhardt

Jennifer Egan in memory of Florence M. Howes

Skip & Bernadette Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda Sr.

Nancy Gworek in memory of Al & Mildred Bassett and Ted & David Gworek

Sharon Kupiec in memory of Wm. "Skip" Parker

Peg Lewis in memory of Margaret & Douglas Lewis

Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams, Mason and White Families

The Myska Family in memory of Bev Tooley, "Aunti Bev"

Bill & Barb McKay in honor of our dear grandchildren with love

Neilsons in memory of Maryann and Wilda

The Olore Family in memory of Edward Schellhammer and Dr. & Mrs. Louis Olore

Nik and Stefan Paneczko in memory of Judith F. Barrows

Ron Tooley in memory of Bev

Phyllis Wade in memory of Bobby Wade and Ora, Sidney & Charles Travis

Gifts

The Burkhardt Family in memory of Ernie Burkhardt

Ginni in memory of Gert & Ken Butler

Bill & Barb McKay in memory of our loved ones

In loving memory of Lucy Lee – from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Betty & Warren Porter in memory of Emma & John Haskell and Alma & Ken Porter

In memory of Ron – Love, Lee

