



"When people are determined, they can overcome anything". –Nelson Mandela

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

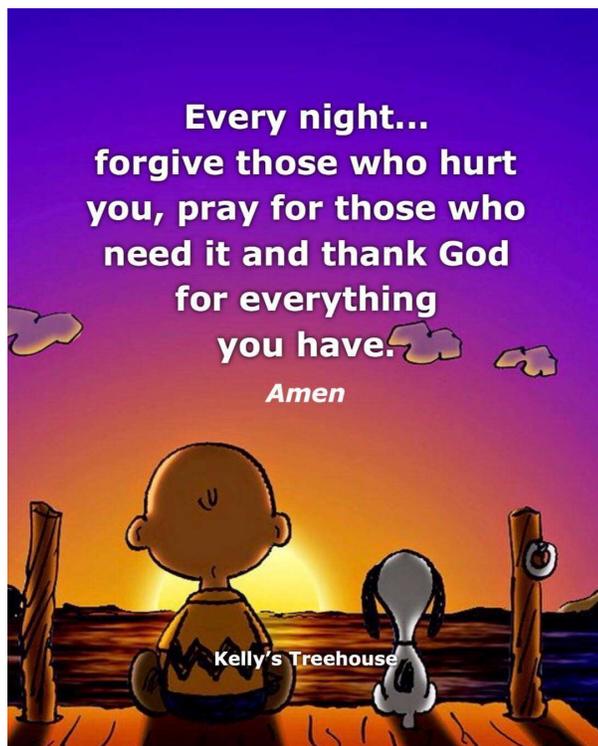
An American Baptist Church ABCUSA  
Ministry Team - The Rev. Sharon R. Holt  
The Rev. Peg Lewis  
Director of Music – Les Marsh  
Newsletter Editor – Sharon Kupiec

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 (ZOOM)  
Sunday school Classes at 10:30am



Our Lenten season was certainly an extraordinary one. It started off normally, and then on March 16 all our activities came to a grinding halt as we went into voluntary lockdown in our homes until the pandemic of Covid-19 ends. It changed the character of Lent in startling ways, it was a time spent in solitude and contemplation. I began to refer to it as “the Leniest Lent I ever Lented”. Holy Week was like none we had ever experienced; there were no congregants in the pews on Palm Sunday when we celebrated communion via our Zoom service, palms were passed out by having cars drive by in the parking lot to pick them up, there was no Maundy Thursday service, no Easter sunrise service at the Merriman cemetery, we held a Zoom virtual Easter service and, sadly, there was no Easter egg hunt out on the lawn. I wrote several pieces for our Facebook page during Holy Week, and was urged to share them in this issue of the Steeple Signal. Thank you for the suggestion, Robin, I think they do capture an important time in our journey together.

### ***The Pastor’s Palm Sunday Ponderings***

Yesterday, as we joined together in celebrating Palm Sunday and Communion as the Church scattered in the world, yet gathered together as the body of Christ, I used this chalice. It usually resides in the church office and was black with tarnish until I polished it on Friday. I was led to use it because it is one of the few items that was saved when the First Baptist Church of Southington was destroyed by fire on January 29, 1953. For me, it symbolizes the resilience of those who came before us. Generations of believers have weathered the American Revolution, the Civil War, the Spanish Flu pandemic, World War 1, the Great Depression, and World War 2 among other catastrophes great and small. Take heart brothers and sisters, we are still here, and we will continue to be here after this pandemic is over, to pass this cup on to the next generation of believers.



### ***The Pastor’s Easter Morning Ponderings***

Normally, we meet at the Merriman Cemetery at sunrise on Easter morning to celebrate the Resurrection. John Merriman was the first pastor of the First Baptist Church of Southington established in 1738. He ascended to glory on February 17, 1784. We will not gather tomorrow morning at the cemetery, but we honor & remember his legacy and the faithful women & men who have served the Lord throughout our history. We remain faithful. We will continue to proclaim the Good News. This is John Merriman’s tombstone as it exists today.



### ***The Pastor’s Easter Ponderings***

As Easter Sunday 2020 draws to a close, I cannot help but reflect upon this most extraordinary day. It was an Easter that none of us will ever forget. It was so different from Easter’s in the past, even just last year. Last April, we had a “normal” Easter which began with our sunrise service at the Merriman Cemetery. We sang, read scripture, rejoiced and shared our “communion” of Dunkin Munchkins and coffee at the conclusion. Then we all went home, changed into our Easter best and went to celebrate the Resurrection with song, celebration and hugs aplenty. We had an Easter egg hunt and fellowship. Then we scattered; we went to be with family and friends, we laughed, we ate, some even indulged in some adult beverages. Today was a lot different. There was no sunrise service, no munchkins and coffee, no joyously full sanctuary, no Easter egg hunt. Yet, quietly, persistently and joyfully the celebration of Christ’s resurrection took place while we sheltered in place to lovingly protect one another. We gathered in an “upper room”; the cloud of the internet to dispel the gloom of the pandemic and rejoice in the abundant life Christ has called us to. We were together to celebrate life, love, community and Christ’s never ending reign. After service, we lingered, talking and sharing on line. We left our Zoom room in our homes and then something amazing started happening; Easter bunnies appeared at people’s homes, acts of love were carried out through unconventional means.

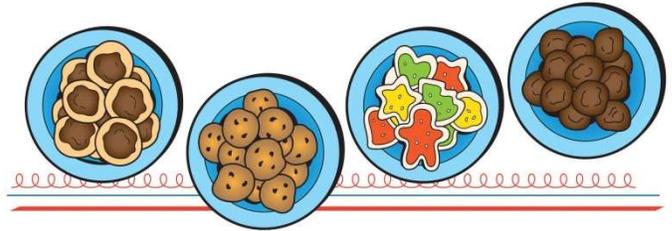
Love was shared over miles and physical distance barriers. In so many ways, this has become the Easter celebration I will remember and celebrate for the rest of my days. He is risen, He is risen indeed! God is good. We are richly blessed.



## Cookies, Cookies

Cookies, cookies, they're so yummy  
I like peanut butter,  
But just not honey.  
I put them in the oven,  
And they pop right out.  
I eat them slowly, without a doubt.  
Cookies, cookies, we'll meet again,  
But for right now,  
This is the end.

By Maya John



If you planted hope today in any hopeless heart,  
If someone's burden was lighter because you  
did your part,  
If you caused a laugh that chased a tear away,  
If tonight your name is mentioned when  
someone kneels to pray,  
Then your day was well spent



Enjoying spending more face time with my grandchildren from Rhode Island. I get to talk with them almost every day and I've even been helping Lily with her multiplication tables. I've learned that Maya is a true Uno game player. She is very lucky and is beating me often. Lauren picked up the game of flip Uno, which Maya likes even more. I got beat so many times at UNO, I suggested that we play Checkers or chess, to give Grammy a chance to win a few games. Since school is now only Monday through Thursday, I got a chance to show Maya how to use the sewing machine and she made her first face mask, from beginning to end, with very little help from her Grammy. We have many more meals together, walks and family time. I also appreciate more, all that we do have.

**Phyllis Wade**



## **“The Mystery Mask Maker”**

With hopes of helping the elderly customers at her pharmacy who were unable to make or find masks, my daughter Emily spread the word to her family and friends about her idea. This past weekend I received a text with no name. It read, “hello Grammy Lamy! I made some masks for Emily. How is your new grandson?” I was pretty sure it was someone from church since the pastor had knighted me Grammy Lamy, after my adorable grandson was born four weeks ago.

I probably should’ve asked who it was, but it was intriguing to find out who this mystery mask maker was. After several texts the person asked to meet at the church. My hunch was right. It was someone from our amazing church family! I arrived early and couldn’t wait to find out their identity. It was a beautiful sunny day so I walked up to our blossoming prayer garden while awaiting their arrival. Shortly a van that I didn’t recognize slowly drove into our parking lot. The window rolled down and a masked person said hello from a distance, although I still had no clue who this kind and generous person was. The car door opened and the driver stepped out. Lo and behold it was Phyllis! The case of the mystery mask maker was solved.

Thanks to our mask makers Phyllis, her big helper Maya, Emily’s auntie Sue and Joyce who is getting her mom’s 1966 machine up and running to help out too. One kind way that God’s hands are at work 🙏 🙏 🙏

**Linda Lamy**

## **Prayer Group**

Prayer is still being held Friday mornings at 9:15 from the home. Have a prayer request? Call or text Robin at (860) 620-2989 or email [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com); or send a message to the Facebook page First Baptist Church – Southington, CT. All requests are confidential.



**Robin Michel**

What have I been doing during quarantine?

- Growing my hair
- Working from home 32 hours a week
- Not watching the news
- Tackling an eighth jigsaw puzzle
- Embracing our new way of worship and Bible study
- Loving our family Zoom calls especially seeing my 2-year-old grandson in St. Louis

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From a church bulletin:

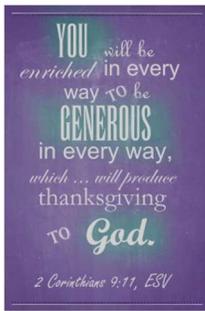
Psalm of the Day

Psalm 100 (to be read responsibly)

Offering Hymn

We're glad they take such care with *responsive* readings.





A BIG THANK YOU to all who have continued to support the Deacons Fellowship Fund which in turn supports those in our church community in need. This offering is normally collected on the first Sunday of each month.

During this pandemic of corona virus we all have been affected, some more than others. We've had to make adjustments to our routines. Until we are able to gather together in our beautiful sanctuary we suggest donations be sent to the church. Please reference that it is designated to the Fellowship Fund.

Praying all is well with each of you. Looking forward to Praising God together again for all our Blessings.

Thank you again for your generous support.

**Barbara McKay, chairperson  
The Board of Deacons**



Sheltering in place has had its struggles for me. As most of you know, I have a food addiction. I keep my food in check mostly by keeping busy. I enjoy two monthly book clubs, volunteer for AARP, Bread For Life, United Way of Southington, Church Newsletter, call Bingo at Calendar House, crochet hats and matching scarves for Southington Community Services and have wonderful adventures with my auntie, Shirley Mason.

All of these came to an abrupt halt after two weeks of self-quarantine upon returning from Australia and New Zealand. When I could finally be out and about, the governor shut the state down. I know it wasn't personal, but at times it feels like it.

So, I binged watched Ozarks, Outlanders, and McLeod's daughters; organized my adventures into albums; put away Christmas presents purchased on my trip in Ziplocs and labeled who for; tried to call someone from the congregation every day; and took walks weather permitting.

**Sharon Kupiec  
Steeple Signal Editor**





**MAY**  
Anniversaries

20 **Bonnie & Ray Callaghan**



**JUNE**  
Anniversaries

2 **Linda & Gary Lamy**  
6 **Lauren & Thomas Johns**  
14 **Betty & Warren Porter**  
19 **Joyce & Lou Olore**



3 **Skip & Bernadette Galayda**  
8 **Lisa Mason & George Graikoski**  
21 **Jamie & Paul Maheu**  
24 **Courtney & Annette Reid**  
28 **Joanna & Corey Nagle**



10 **Rona & Ken Corrigan**  
15 **Darlene & Jim Steele**  
16 **Rita & Rudy Cabata**  
18 **Jennifer & Douglas Spain**

28 **Brenda & John Myska**



**MAY**  
Birthdays

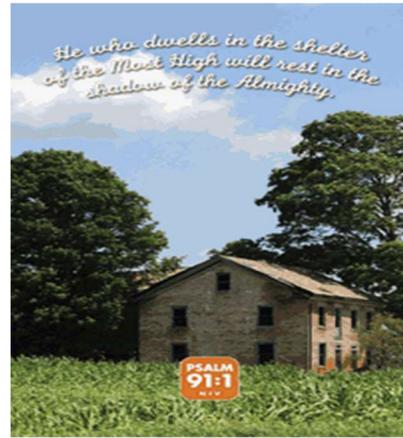
5 **Alice Bogue**  
7 **Walter Jones**  
8 **Carrie Olore**  
10 **Marissa Myska**  
11 **Aimee Cunningham, Nik Paneczko, Heidi Tata**  
17 **Peg Lewis**  
21 **Andrea Jones**  
24 **Robin Michel, Annette Reid**  
30 **Jean Chinigo**



**JUNE**  
Birthdays

1 **Sarah & Samantha Callaghan, Nathaniel Tata**  
6 **Donna Burhoe**  
7 **David Michel**  
9 **Lee Burhoe**  
14 **Kyle Chinigo, Les Marsh**  
19 **Laureen Galayda**  
20 **Maya Johns**  
23 **Darlene Steele**  
26 **Trish Griffin**





- 2 Ella Nagle
- 4 Bill Michel
- 6 Jordon Steele
- 7 Jim Steele
- 8 Sharon Amundsen, Tom Salzer
- 10 Karin Myska, Kyle & Brody Neilson, Nancy Shaw
- 13 Spencer Burdeshaw
- 14 Jared Steele
- 18 Bill McKay, Sr.
- 20 Gloria Spain
- 23 Sharon Kupiec
- 30 Ginni Butler, Stephanie Tata

### Sheltered in Place on the Farm - Peg Lewis

I feel like one of the lucky ones living on (well, right next to) a farm. For me sheltering in place has meant walking across the lawn to shelter in the greenhouses helping to seed and transplant the crops that will be sold in spring and summer CSA vegetable boxes (some of which will be donated to Southington Community Services). I get to help my nephew, just as I have in previous years, only this year I appreciate the work more than ever. I also get to pick a little kale and feed it to the rabbits and the goats, to find warm duck and chicken eggs in the hen house, and to take Rosie, my black lab, on walks through the fields finding the deer tracks, hearing the wood frogs, geese and mockingbirds. And wonder of wonders, I think the great blue herons are nesting again in the woods behind the fields. None of my activities are particularly new, but I've slowed down to notice more and feel even more gratitude for the natural world. I'm aware of living a bit more like my parents during the depression, making do, using up, being careful, and I hope also generous, with resources. God is good, creation is wonderful, and there is more than enough if we can figure out how to use only what we really need and to share more with the many folk who don't have what they need in these hard times.



- 5 Phillip Dixon, Jr., Troy Jones
- 6 John Cunningham, Lauren Johns
- 8 John Myska II
- 14 Stefanie Lamy
- 19 Brenda Myska
- 20 Tim Cabata
- 22 David-John Mikosz
- 27 Jamie Maheu, Ron Tooley
- 29 Linda Salzer, Marie Weiss

