

# First Baptist Church of Southington

581 Meriden Ave.  
Southington, CT 06489-3901

*An American Baptist Church ABCUSA*

Telephone: (860) 628-8121

www.firstbaptistsouthington.org

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Sharon R. Holt, *pastor*

The Rev. Peg Lewis, *associate pastor*

Director of Music: Les Marsh

Newsletter Editor: Robin Michel

Church Office Hours - Please call Pastor Sharon before coming to the church

Email:

Pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org

Visit us on Facebook:

First Baptist Church - Southington, CT

Sunday Worship at 10am: in-person, on Zoom and on Facebook Live



July-August 2023



## Looking Ahead in July & August



### July

July 2 Communion Sunday  
10am

July 9 Worship 10am and Celebration  
Sunday

July 16 Worship 10am

July 23 Worship 10am

July 30 Worship 10 am

### August

Aug. 6 Communion Sunday 10am

Aug. 13 Worship 10am and Celebration  
Sunday

Aug. 16 Outreach 11am

Aug. 20 Worship 10am, church board after  
worship

Aug. 27 Worship 10am

**Note:** The Board of Deacons and Music  
Committee will not meet in July or August.  
Next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at  
3pm and 4pm.

**Save the date!**

Sept. 10 Rally  
Day cookout -  
more details to  
come!



## The Pastor's Ponderings

Like everyone else, I was horrified to see the blanket of smoke engulf the Northeast from the wildfires in Canada. It almost looked like fog, but the odor of burning brush confirmed it was smoke. We were warned to stay indoors if possible, and to at least limit our time outside and curtail exercise. Particularly at risk were the elderly and those with respiratory conditions like asthma. It lasted about three days in Connecticut, and we all took a deep, refreshing breath on June 9 when we could finally see the blue sky again.

Was it a one-time happening, or a harbinger of things to come? Many of us remember that the same thing happened a couple of years ago when smoke from California wildfires turned the sky dark and sunsets were a deep, hazy orange. Unfortunately, it appears that these events are going to continue to affect us. The truth of the matter is that we must accept that climate change is happening, and it is changing our planet and our lives in ways we hadn't anticipated.

What should Christians do to help alleviate the life-changing, even life-threatening changes that seem to be on the horizon? We must commit ourselves to reducing our own carbon footprint on the planet. We can do this in many ways; drive



less, switch to LED lightbulbs, use fewer resources like electricity, oil and gas. For those lucky enough to have the wherewithal, invest in an electric vehicle or solar panels.

The most important thing we can do is to remember that Christ commanded us to love God and love one another. In real terms, that means we are to treasure His creation and take care to be good stewards so that we can continue to inhabit it and pass it on to future generations. Remember, this is the only planet we've got and there is no "Plan B".

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*

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### Birthdays & Anniversaries



#### Birthdays July

- 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, Martha Dick
- 14 Jared Steele
- 18 Bill McKay Sr.
- 20 Gloria Spain
- 21 Kathy Altemus
- 23 Sharon Kupiec
- 30 Ginni Butler, Stephanie Guerrera

#### August

- 5 Phillip Dixon Jr., Troy Jones
- 6 John Cunningham, Lauren Johns
- 8 John Myska II, Sarah Gadarowski

- 14 Stefanie Lamy
- 19 Brenda Myska
- 20 Tim Cabata
- 22 David-John Mikosz
- 27 Jamie Maheu
- 29 Linda Salzer

#### Anniversaries July

- 3 Skip & Bernadette Galayda
- 7 Janet and Tyrone Mellon
- 8 Lisa Mason & George Graikoski
- 21 Jamie & Paul Maheu
- 24 Courtney & Annette Reid

#### August

- 16 Rita & Rudy Cabata
- 18 Jennifer & Douglas Spain
- 28 Brenda & John Myska



## News from the Pews

### Traditional Communion Resumes

In June, we resumed serving communion in our traditional manner by deacons serving the bread and wine to the congregation. The gold communion set was used on June 4. The prepackaged cups and bread that we used for several years as a safety and health precaution are still available.

### Savers Recap

THANK YOU to everyone for supporting our annual Savers collection of soft goods. In June we delivered over 400 bags that you and your family and friends donated. We surpassed last year with an amazing 4,796 pounds of goods! Our mountain of bags grew every week thanks to everyone, in addition to the weekly contributions from the Southington Community Services. Thank you to Joyce Olore for coordinating their drop-off and her son-in-law, Kyle Hunter, who arranged for the box truck from Votto Vines.

On our delivery day, we had quite a crew of volunteers from our church, friends and also our Boy Scout Troop 17. It was wonderful to see the

teamwork and fellowship. Your continued support for our fundraising efforts is greatly appreciated! This event's proceeds will be shared between our church's music ministry and the general fund.

– Linda Lamy

### Penny Pound Auction

During the pandemic, we anxiously awaited the opportunity to once again gather together for an evening of good food, fun and fellowship. And May 20 arrived for our Penny/Pound Auction and Potluck Supper!

After enjoying conversation and a bountiful potluck supper, it was time for the fun to begin. The display table had a large assortment of wrapped items - boxes and bags of many colors and sizes. The mystery of what was in the large box on the stage or the shiny bag with a colorful bow was intriguing. The level of excitement was high, bids were numerous. And thank you to our lively auctioneer: Pastor Sharon!

We met the goal of the evening which was to gather for good food, fun and fellowship. The

See **Penny**, next page



### Savers Photos

Left top: Boy Scouts from Troop 17 and family members create a line to load the truck at the curb.

Left bottom: The stage is finally empty of more than 400 bags!



Thank you to all the donors and volunteers!

## Penny Pound photos



Penny from page 3

generosity of all who attended netted \$426 for the general fund of the church!

This event was sponsored by the Board of Deacons. We would like to THANK all who supported it! – *Barbara McKay, chairperson of the Board of Deacons*

### From the Outreach Committee

We once again thank this generous congregation for contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, collected in May and June, and for assembling Church World Service hygiene kits currently being collected mid-June to mid-July. The Outreach Committee will box up the hygiene kits and deliver to the CWS pickup site so that they will be quickly available as needed.

We have also been able to keep up with our budgeted mission commitments which are funded by the mission side of the weekly envelopes. Thanks for that form of giving too!

Starting in July and throughout the summer, we will be collecting different items for Southington Community Services. They have the need for personal care items which are not covered by Foodshare. Please plan to bring some of the following to our collection's basket: liquid dish detergent, small-size laundry detergent, shampoo, and bars of hand soap. Thanks in advance for providing these non-food, but very necessary, items.

Donated goods can also be dropped off at Southington Community Services, 91 Norton St.



(Route 10) in the Milldale section of Southington, or at the library.

### Hygiene Kits

Hygiene kits contain: 1 hand towel measuring approx. 16"x28"; 1 washcloth; 1 wide tooth comb; 1 nail clipper; 1 bar of bath size soap in wrapper; 1 toothbrush in original package; 10 standard band-aids; and \$2 for processing. Due at the beginning of July. See Peg Lewis if you have questions.



### Thank you, Troop 17!

Thank you to our Boy Scout Troop 17 who not only helped with our Savers fundraiser but beautified



our meditation garden by trimming trees and bushes, weeding and spreading munch. Spend a few minutes there...

### From the Music Committee: Guest Musician!



On Sunday, July 19, Corrine Cunha will be our guest cellist who will offer several musical selections during our worship public school educator

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and administrator.  
She is the Assistant

Principal cellist for the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, a member of the Wallingford Symphony and is an active freelance musician at venues throughout Connecticut. Please feel free to invite family and friends to our service to enjoy her inspirational music.

Ms. Cunha is being sponsored by our church's music ministry through the Board of Deacons and funded by recent fundraisers.

### From Our Music Director

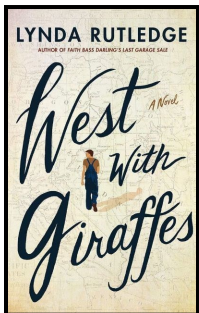
"Hi everyone. The bell ringers are rehearsing on July 9, 16 and 23 before worship.



Then we will share our music during the July 23 worship service. Everyone is always

welcome to join the singers or bell ensemble. No experience necessary!" – *Les Marsh*

### Book Club



Our Book Club had a great first season. This year we read: "The Four Winds," "Where the Crawdads Sing," "American Dirt," "Lincoln Highway," "The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek," "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven," and "Keeper of the Lost Things." It generated great conversation and fellowship.

Our 2023-'24 Book Club will begin Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 1pm. We will discuss "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Books can be borrowed from the library, purchased at various locations or obtained online. Everyone is welcome! Questions? Contact Ginni Butler at 860-628-5014.

### Library open for customers!

Did you ever stop by our church library? It has gained a new life and look thanks to Margaret Shigo-Zembko and her granddaughter, Sarah Gadarowski! The Louise Badgley Library is tucked in the corner of the narthex hallway just

outside Fellowship Hall. It is packed with all types of literature including inspirational, biographies, fiction, children's books, DVDs



and so much more. You are always welcome to browse! A library cart is also placed each Sunday in the hall with a selection to borrow. It's easy to check out - just write your name and the item title on the list. Do you have any ideas or want a particular book? Just chat with Margaret!

### Condolences

Condolences are offered to family and friends of long-time church member Priscilla Landry who passed away on May 14 at age 96.



Condolences are offered to Marvin Choquette, family and friends of Pearl Gilpatrick Choquette, his stepmother, who passed away on May 27. A service was held on June 24.

### Rally Day on Sept. 10

We will be celebrating Rally Day with a church cookout! Stay after worship to enjoy the barbecue, potluck, beverages, and games! More details will be announced as the date gets closer.

### Fellowship Hour

We are happy to offer Fellowship Hour in the hall following worship. Everyone is welcome to host or assist or donate treats or beverages. However, to ensure we don't have too many snacks on the same Sunday, if you plan to bring something, please contact Ginni Butler at 860-628-5014 by that Saturday.

### Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of notices for our weekly bulletin insert is 12pm on Tuesdays. Please email them to [pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org](mailto:pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org) or drop them off at the church office. Stay in touch!

## **Congratulations to Our Graduates!**

### **Zachary Jones**

Zachary is a graduate of Hamden High School Class of 2023. He is the son of Regina and Troy Jones and the grandson of Phyllis Wade and Walter Jones. He will be attending college in the fall.



### **Adriana Palmieri**

Adrianna graduated with the Southington High School Class of 2023 in June. Adrianna will be attending Roger Williams University in Rhode Island and will be playing D3 Tennis and has earned her spot. Her parents, Gina and Kevin Palmieri, said,

“We couldn't be more proud of our beautiful girl!”

### **Archie Graikoski**

Archie Graikoski graduated with the Southington High School Class of 2023 in June. Proud family members include parents, Lisa Mason and George Graikoski, grandmother Shirley Mason, and sibling Josh Graikoski. Next step? A vet tech program for this animal lover.



### **Jeffrey DeVaux**



Jeffrey DeVaux recently completed his high school studies with the Bristol Home School program. The son of Lisa Anne Murray, he plans to pursue advanced education and a career in computers.

### **Claressa Maheu**

Claressa Maheu graduated summa cum laude with her BS in Sports Management from Thomas College in Waterville, Maine. She is working at the school for the summer and will be pursuing her Masters Degree in the fall. She will also be mentoring athletes and teaching a '1st Year Experience' class to athletes. Her parents, Jamie and Paul Maheu, said they were very proud of all that she has accomplished in just three years. She is the sister of Becca Maheu.



### **Bloomin' News**

If you would like to give flowers on a specific Sunday, write your name and phone number on the flower signup sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Please call that month's flower coordinator so she doesn't also provide flowers. If you are unable to shop, we are happy to get the flowers for you.

Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday noon to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin, 860-620-2989.

### **Flower Coordinators 2023**

July - Robin Michel - 860-620-2989  
August - Joyce Olore - 860-276-8061  
September - Peg Lewis - 860-384-4123  
October - Joyce Olore - 860-276-8061  
November - Dot Amundsen - 860-747-8188  
December - Robin Michel - 860-620-2989

### **Church Website**

Our website is [www.firstbaptistsouthington.org](http://www.firstbaptistsouthington.org). Worship service information, events, The Steeple Signal and more info are on the site.

### **Prayer Requests**

Prayer Group no longer meets at church on Fridays. If you have a prayer request, feel free to write it in the prayer book located on the table in the parlor. Prayer requests made on Sundays are included in prayers during the week. Questions or requests? Contact Robin or Ginni.

### **Steeple Signal Deadline**

The next issue of The Steeple Signal will be September-October 2023. Deadline is Aug. 20. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin at [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com).