

# 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



May-June 2023



✂

## Looking Ahead in May & June

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <b>May</b>   | May 28 Worship 10am                      |
|  | May 6 Spring Ring 3-4:30pm                               | <b>June</b>                              |
|  | May 7 Communion Sunday 10am                              | June 4 Communion Sunday 10am             |
|  | May 10 Outreach 11am                                     | June 8 Deacons 3pm, Music Committee 4pm  |
|  | May 11 Deacons 3pm, Music Committee 4pm                  | June 11 Worship 10am, Celebration Sunday |
|  | May 14 Worship 10am, Mother's Day and Celebration Sunday | June 14 Outreach 11am                    |
|  | May 16 Book Club 1pm                                     | June 18 Worship 10am                     |
|  | May 20 Penny/Pound & Potluck Supper 5:30pm               | June 20 Book Club 1pm                    |
|  | May 21 Worship 10am                                      | June 25 Worship 10am                     |
|  |  | * Church board meetings to be announced  |

## The Pastor's Perspective

As you are probably aware, I recently had the opportunity go on vacation in Cancun, Mexico. I was so excited as I prepared to depart. Since I had a 6:15 am flight scheduled on April 18, I booked a "Park, Sleep, Fly" hotel in Windsor Locks so I would be near the airport for the early morning flight and have a place to leave my car for the week.

All went according to plan; I arrived at my hotel, registered, parked my car, and began to unwind. First, I went out for a nice dinner at a local restaurant. After a lovely meal, I returned to my hotel to relax and go to bed early since I had to be up at 3 am to get to Bradley International Airport to check in for my flight. At about 7:45 pm, I made one final check of email before turning off the lights. There was an email from JetBlue. The Subject line read: "Important Flight Information: CANCELLED." Gulp. I read further: "We apologize for this disruption to your travel plans. We're currently looking at other flight options for you and will send you an update shortly." At 8:02 pm, I received another "Important message about your upcoming JetBlue flight" which informed me I had been booked on the same flight a day later. I was able to book my hotel room for an additional day and settled in to wait.

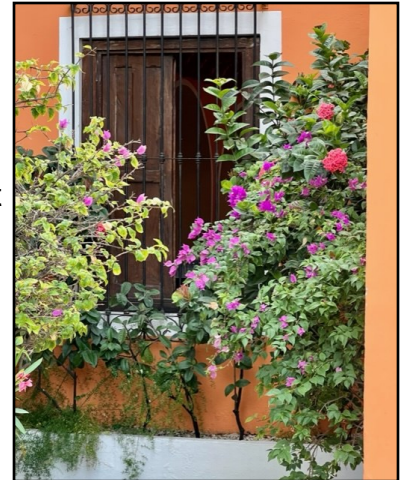
On Tuesday, I discovered that there's not a lot to do in Windsor Locks, so I mostly stuck to my room and found myself fuming that my vacation had been disrupted. Breakfast was provided

courtesy of the hotel, so later that afternoon I went out to dinner prior to going to bed early for my 3:00 am wake-up time. As I sat enjoying yet another nice meal, I suddenly had an epiphany: I was acting like a petulant child. I was upset that *my* vacation had been disrupted by a day. I was moaning and groaning because I had to stay another night in a nice hotel, have another meal at a restaurant with an extensive menu and sleep once again in a nice, comfy bed before flying away on an exotic vacation.

Shame on me. I realized what an awfully privileged attitude I had. I was sobered by the thought that there are millions of people in the world with no place to sleep, no food to eat, and no clean water to drink. There are millions of refugees sheltering in bombed out buildings and refugee camps longing for the safety, security and comfort of a home that won't be bombed, flooded, or shaken by an earthquake.

I finished my meal while silently thanking God for all the blessings in my life; a home, plenty of food, the

See Pastor on page 6



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## News from the Pews

### From your Outreach Committee

Compassion Sunday continues! The weekly contributions of food and health items in support of our neighbors in need in the Southington community are welcomed with open arms at Southington Community Services. Thank you all for your generous support of this important program.

### Upcoming Events:

- We will be collecting monetary contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing during May. Look for more information in upcoming announcements.



- The Church World Service hygiene kit collection will be coming up this summer. Start looking for those 'hard to find' wide-tooth combs to include in your kits. And when you do find them, share the information with your friends!



### Back by Popular Demand!

### Penny/Pound Auction & Potluck Supper

Back by popular demand, our Penny/Pound Auction and Potluck Supper is now on the church calendar for Saturday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. It's a great night of good food, fun and fellowship.

Penny/Pound from page 2

If you've never attended before, new or gently used items are auctioned for a few dollars – sight unseen! You never know what you'll end up getting. In the past we've had a variety of items including bright green high heels, an old faucet or a brand-new iPhone! Some items do make a return appearance adding to the mystery!



Wrap new or gently used items. Label if you like (i.e.: male, female, child, teen, etc.) Be creative! Sometimes the wrapping and or bow gets the most attention, creating a "bidding competition." It's all in good fun!

And bring a dish for our potluck supper!

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons. All auction proceeds will be donated to the church general fund. Hope you join us!

### Spring Ring on May 6

Attracted to shiny objects? Enjoy making a little noise? Wonder what it's like to ring handbells?

If so, you're invited to join us on Saturday, May 6 from 3 to 4:30pm for Spring Ring. The workshop will focus on **fun**. It is not a rehearsal for a

performance. The ability to read music is not required, although it is helpful. Beginners will have the chance to try their hands at ringing.

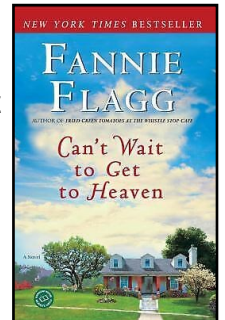


We'll also spend some time on advanced techniques like martellato, echo, swing and gyro. Ringers will also have a chance to play in harmony.

See Lauren if you're interested or have questions.

### Book Club

Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 16 in the church parlor. This month's book is "Can't Wait to Get to Heaven" by Fannie Flagg. There are several copies circulating or you can borrow it from our church library, the town library, or wherever you purchase books.



### Savers Collection during May

For many of us, it's time for spring cleaning! And it's perfect timing as our Savers "soft goods" collection is being held throughout May. This fundraiser is held in conjunction with Savers which pays us per pound for our soft goods. These include any clean, soft items such as clothes, bedding, coats, belts, fabric toys,

## Spud Night Update

We would like to thank everyone for their support of our Spud Night and Silent Auction on April 15! The volunteers were amazing who helped the months leading up to our event to those who assisted that evening to make it all happen. Thank you to the Spud sponsors and auction donors, too. We were so grateful to have the opportunity to enjoy this event once again. With all your efforts, we have raised over \$1322 for the church's music ministry and general fund. Thank you, one and all! – *Linda Lamy*



pocketbooks, vinyl/ leather soft luggage, shoes, linens and also boots. Please invite family and friends to join in making this endeavor a success!

Thank you for placing your donations in kitchen-size trash bags (the white ones). If you have any questions or need a drop-off time other than when the church is open, just contact Joyce Olore (860-276-8061 or jsolore@aol.com) or Linda Lamy (860-878-5310 or lindalamy8@gmail.com).

### Communion Update

The Board of Deacons and Pastor Sharon have decided that communion with the bread and “wine” will begin being served on June 4. The ready-made cups will still be available. Communion may look a little different but that’s OK – we are excited about offering it again.



\*\*Did you know that the chalice that Pastor Sharon uses was rescued from our old church that burned down in the 1950s? It is thought that the cup dates from the 19th century. We are blessed to still have it!

### Pastor Sharon—10 years!

Our church recently recognized and celebrated Pastor Sharon for her 10th year with our church. Congratulations!

### From the Music Director

Hello, everyone. Thank you for participating in our “recruitment session” on April 16 when we sang “God’s Unchanging Hand.” You all sounded wonderful. Just kidding about the “recruitment”... the congregation did sound great. And you were all quick learners. With that in

mind...

I am inviting all of you to give the Singing Ensemble and the Bell Ringers a try. You do not need to know how to read music. All you need is a desire to share music with the congregation.

The Bell Ringers will be playing on May 21 and the Singing Ensemble on June 19. We practice three times before we actually share music during worship. If interested, please let me know at services on any Sunday. We invite you to come to one of our practices and try us out. Look forward to seeing you! - Thanks, Les

### Library open for customers!

Did you ever stop by our church library? The Louise Badgley Memorial Library is tucked in the corner of the

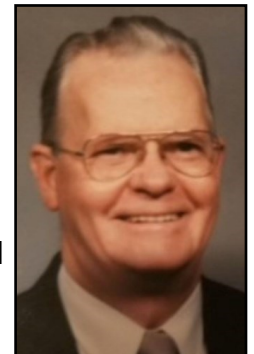


narthex hallway just outside Fellowship Hall. It is packed with all types of literature including inspirational, biographies,

fiction, children’s books, DVDs and so much more. The library is currently being reorganized but you are still welcome to browse.

A library cart is also placed each Sunday in the hall with a selection to borrow. Do you have any ideas or want a particular book?

We welcome your input. See Margaret Shigo-Zembko.



### Condolences

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Arthur Pugh Sr. who passed away on Feb. 27. He and his wife Mildred enjoyed 48 years of marriage.



### Welcome, New Members

During the March 5 worship service, we welcomed seven new members: Les Marsh, Amy Marsh, Kathy Altemus, Martha Dick, Jen Egan, Stefan Paneczko, and Cheryl Tomkiewicz. Barbara McKay, Board of Deacons chairperson, and Pastor Sharon led the ceremony.

## 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 12 p.m. 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!

## 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. You can also see photos and watch our worship services on our Facebook page "First Baptist Church – Southington, CT." If you would like to join our Sunday worship services via Zoom, contact Pastor Sharon.

## Church Women United

First Baptist Church was well represented on



March 24 at Church Women United's World Day of Prayer held at Grace Methodist Church. It was a

great crowd with about 100 women representing many area churches.

## Bloomin' News

We delivered palms to Connecticut Baptist Homes and The Summit. As always, our Easter flowers this year were beautiful. The list of Easter flowers and memorial gifts is on page 7.

For regular Sundays, flower signup sheets are posted in the narthex. If you would like to give flowers on a specific Sunday, write your name and phone number on the form. 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.

## Let's Hear it for Emilia Cabata

Ten-year-old Emilia Cabata, daughter of Sarah and Ted Cabata, has been greatly enjoying Irish Step Dancing which she studies through The Shamrock School in Plainville. This is her seventh year of dance and she is at novice level. She participates in multiple Feisanna dance competitions throughout the year. This photo was from her last Feis in Mahwah, NJ in March. She won third place in light jig and slip jig, and won second place in an art contest for her drawing of her and a friend dancing under a rainbow. She is aiming to get a first-place trophy this year. Once she does, she will earn the privilege of being able to wear a fancy solo dress. She is the big sister of Joey and granddaughter of Rita and Rudy Cabata. We're proud of you, Emilia!



## Flower Coordinators 2023

May - Joyce Olore - 860-276-8061  
June - Ginni Butler - 860-628-5014  
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

## Help Our Neighbors – Items Needed!

The shelves at the Southington Community Services food pantry continue to be depleted. Donations of nonperishable foods and hygiene items can be made any Sunday or can be dropped off at the library or Community Services at 91 Norton St. (Route 10) in the Plantsville section of Southington. If you drop off items at community services, let them know you are from First Baptist Church - they record donations.

## Prayer Requests

Prayer Group no longer meets 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 July-August 2023. Deadline is June 18. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin at [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com).



**Amazing Grace**

*Author Unknown (Shared by Barbara McKay at a worship service)*

Sometimes life seems hard and we question why. Our faith may waver and grow dim and we can't seem to find God's grace. Yet it is here that hope strengthens us as we cast our helplessness on Him.

At these times, help us remember that all things will fall into place if we trust in God. Grace gives us courage and strength to draw from.

Grace is a love that has nothing to do with us but has everything to do with where it comes from God! It is powerful. It is divine. God's grace is more than a second chance. It's a third... a fourth.

Isn't it amazing! .... Amazing grace that is given freely by God. For it is by grace that we are saved. What a gift! A generous gift that is given to each of us as we walk beside God and know the companionship that His presence brings to our lives.

Let us give praise to our Lord, let us give glory and honor to God. He is freely offering us His grace and is reaching out to us. All we need to do is to accept God's precious gift to us: HIS AMAZING GRACE!

**Pastor** from page 2 opportunity to work at a calling that I love, and the leisure and finances to travel. From that point on, I had a new perspective on my situation; one of immense gratitude for all the blessings in my life.

I made it to Cancun the next day, had a wonderful vacation and made sure to give plenty of gratuities to all the people who made my stay in Mexico wonderful. Perspective is truly a beautiful thing!

In Christ, Pastor Sharon



**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**  
**May**

- 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, Annett Reid
- 30 Jean Chinigo

**June**

- 1 Sarah & Samantha Callaghan, Nathaniel Tata
- 6 Donna Burhoe

- 7 David Michel
- 9 Lee Burhoe
- 11 Cheryl Tomkiewicz
- 14 Kyle Chinigo, Les Marsh
- 19 Lauren Galayda
- 20 Maya Johns
- 23 Darlene Steele

**Anniversaries**

**May**

- 20 Bonnie & Ray Callaghan

**June**

- 2 Linda & Gary Lamy
- 19 Joyce & Lou Olore





## Easter 2023

Thank you to everyone who gave flowers and/or gifts in honor or memory of someone special for the Easter season.

### Flowers

Barbara Adams in memory of Horace Adams

Barbara D. Burkhardt in loving memory of Ernie Burkhardt Jr. and Ernie Burkhardt III

Marvin Choquette in memory of Vincent and Fern Choquette

Jean Cook in memory of Lori Cook

Carol Galayda in memory of Margaret Galayda and John Galayda Sr.

Skip and Bernadette Galayda in memory of Margaret and John Galayda

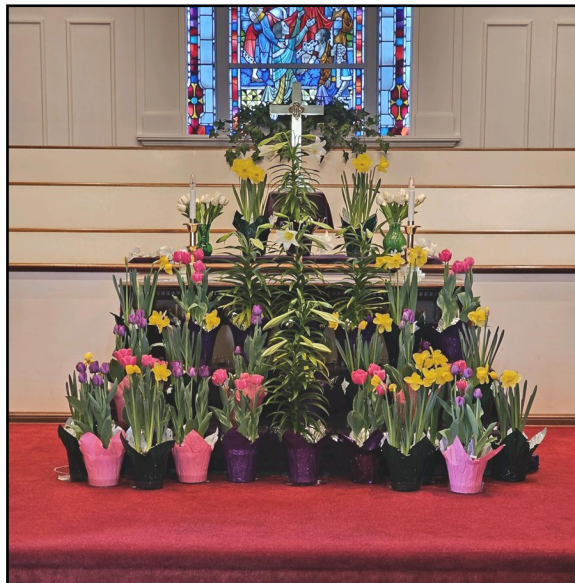
The Gworek family in memory of Mildred and Al Bassett

The Gworek family in memory of Ted and David Gworek

Jennifer Howes-Egan and Stefan Paneczko and Nik Paneczko in memory of Florence M. Howes and Judith Barrows

Sharon Kupiec in honor of Ukraine for its steadfastness and in memory of those who have given their lives during this conflict

Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams-Mason families



Bill and Barbara McKay in memory of our loved ones

The Neilsons in memory of Wilda and Maryann

The Olore family in loving memory of Edward Schellhammer

The Olore family in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Olore

The Olore family in loving memory of Brandon Stallworth

Margaret Shigo-Zembko in memory of Margaret Lemanski

Cheryl Tomkiewicz in memory of Mom, Dad, and my sister Elaine

Phyllis Wade in memory of and in honor of loved ones

In honor of Nancy Shaw with gratitude from your loving friends

### Gifts

Kathy Altemus and Martha Dick in memory of our loved ones

Anonymous gift designated to maintenance

Lee (Burhoe) in memory of Ron – Love, Lee

Barbara D. Burkhardt in loving memory of Ernie Burkhardt Jr. and Ernie Burkhardt III

Ginni (Butler) in memory of Gert and Ken Butler

Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams-Mason families

Bill and Barbara McKay in honor of our grandchildren with love

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

Gloria Spain in memory of my loved ones and in honor of my wonderful family

# Easter Season 2023

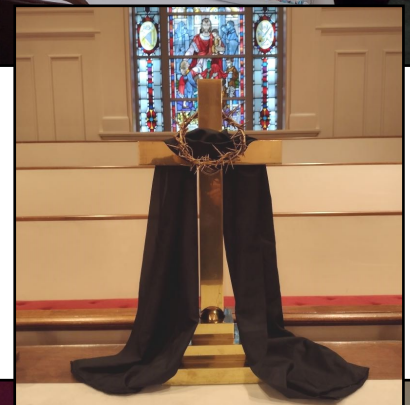


Above: Prepping the palms for Palm Sunday; below: stuffing Easter eggs

Above: Sunrise Service at Merriman Cemetery



Left: Modeling Easter bonnets; right: Maundy Thursday draped cross; below: Cabata family



An added accent were the two Lenten twig bouquets made by Kathy Altemus.



The arrangements included forsythia, maple, blueberry, thornless Japanese rose and spice bush which over the course of Lent

began to emerge with leaves and blossoms, signifying signs of spring and rebirth. Thank you!

