

# 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



September-October 2023



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

## Looking Ahead in September & October

### September



Sept. 3 Communion Sunday  
10 a.m.

Sept. 10 Worship 10 a.m.,  
Celebration Sunday and RALLY DAY &  
COOKOUT!

Sept. 14 Board of Deacons 3 p.m., Music  
Committee 4 p.m.

Sept. 17 Worship 10 a.m., Finance meeting  
follows

Sept. 20 Outreach Committee 11 a.m.

Sept. 24 Worship 10 a.m., Church Board  
meeting follows

### October

***Note: October is Pastor Appreciation Month!***

Oct. 1 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.

Oct. 8 Worship 10 a.m. and Celebration Sunday

Oct. 12 Board of Deacons 3 p.m., Music  
Committee 4 p.m.

Oct. 14 Outdoor Clean-up Day, 9 a.m.

Oct. 15 Worship 10 a.m.

Oct. 22 Worship 10 a.m.

October dates for Church Board and Outreach  
will be announced.

## The Pastor's Ponderings

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 15 and summer is rushing by at a lightning-fast clip. Normally, I would be trying to hold onto all the summer days I can in an attempt to tuck them away in my memory so I can call them forth during the cold winter months to come. Yet, this has been a sad summer for me in many ways, and today brought more sorrow.

In July, a dear friend, Dan Mouhot, passed away at age 55 after a prolonged illness. Dan lived a wonderful life filled with friends and loved ones, and experienced all the joy and sorrow we all feel as we “travel this sod” as the old hymn goes. On Aug. 6, I co-celebrated a celebration of his life via Zoom. We used Zoom because Dan had friends all over the world who wanted to attend the service. We had over 75 people

from places such as Finland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and all over the United States. I was reminded again of how powerful a platform Zoom can be for bringing people together. At the conclusion of Dan’s service, I breathed a sigh of relief. It was a lovely service and a fitting farewell for my friend of many years.

I thought the rest of the summer would lend itself to peaceful evenings on the deck, mentally and spiritually preparing for the upcoming season of church activities, a cookout in September, Tag Sale in November, Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas, and so on.

Unexpectedly, my phone rang this morning. I was

surprised to see the name of a friend and member of my former church in Methuen. She called to tell me that her 21-year-old granddaughter, about to start her senior year in college, had been killed last night in a freak accident while vacationing with her family in Maine. My world stood still, while rain fell, as I struggled to comprehend the depth of this tragedy.

Alyssa was the daughter of a dear, dear friend and member of the church. Her mom and I led the youth group, of which Alyssa was a part. Alyssa was a talented actress who was in the theater arts program in college, destined for a life of performing. When her grandmother called me this morning, she asked me to pray for the family, because she always felt my prayers carried more weight than those of others. That isn’t true, but if it brings comfort, I’ll not disallow her feelings.

I will be praying without ceasing for this broken family, asking that God pour out His grace and comfort upon them in the face of an incomprehensible loss. A young life ended far too soon. A family left grieving forever. May God have mercy.

My prayer for every family is that they would never know this kind of heartbreak, but should tragedy come, that we would hold one another close in prayer, for sometimes, prayer is the greatest gift we can offer.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Sharon**



### Rally Day & Cookout on Sept. 10!

We will be celebrating Rally Day 2023 with a church cookout! Stay after worship on Sunday, Sept. 10 to enjoy the barbecue, potluck, beverages, and games! The Board of Deacons will be providing hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.

Please bring your yummiest dish to share. And to spread the fun, bring your favorite indoor or outdoor games such as Scrabble, checkers, ring toss, whatever you like. Get ready to try your hand at cornhole!

Questions? Ask Barbara McKay, Board of Deacons chairwoman.

## News from the Pews

### Sunday School News

Are you a masterpiece? The Bible says you are! Ephesians 2:10 tells us "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do."



This year in Sunday School, we will find out just how precious we are to God. We will learn what He has planned for us. And we will perform some of those good works!

We hope to see all of you on Rally Day Sept. 10.

Classes for children and youth start Sept. 17. –  
*Laureen Galayda*

### Update from Your Outreach Committee

#### Hygiene Kits

Church World Service Hygiene Kits were counted and packed for delivery! Thank you to everyone for filling 77 bags with the requested essential items for distribution to individuals in need of a helping hand following disasters.



### Help for Maui



A special One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken from Aug. 20 – Sept. 24 in support of the residents of Maui where a devastating fire has overtaken their

communities.

We may not be able to physically support them; however, we are able to support them through our prayers and with our financial support. A contribution

to this special offering may be placed in the offering box - please make checks out to First Baptist Church of Southington with this note in the memo line of your check: OGHS/Maui. We thank you for your support!

### Compassion Sunday

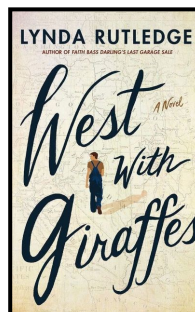
Donations to Southington Community Services food bank continue to pour in! Our change to collect personal items that are not supported through other organizations has been so appreciated. We will continue to collect hand soap, dish soap and laundry detergent for those in our community. Thank you for continuing to support this necessary service for our Southington residents.



### Outreach in October

We will collect donations for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries fund. More information to follow in our weekly bulletin.

### Book Club



The FBC Book Club is starting its second season on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m. in the parlor. September's book is "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Books can be borrowed from other book club members, the public library, purchased at various locations or obtained online. Everyone is welcome – even if you haven't read the book or didn't like it! October's book selection will be made at the September meeting.

Questions? Contact Ginni Butler at 860-628-5014.

### Outdoor Clean-up Day – We need YOU!

Many hands make light work! As you probably noticed, our grounds have become a little untidy with weeds, vines and undergrowth. We plan on trying to tame the encroaching wildness on Clean-up Day scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14 beginning at 9 a.m. Rain date is Oct. 21. Bring your clippers, pruners, rakes, work gloves if you have them or they will be provided. Questions? Call Peg Lewis, 860-384-4123.



## From the Tag Sale Committee

We are planning on having our annual church wide tag sale again this year. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Nov. 4 for this fundraising event. Check the weekly bulletin for more information on how you can participate and for the time frame for set up and clean up. Lots of volunteers are needed to make this another successful event. And - start searching for and boxing up your donations now!



## From Our Music Director

I am extending an invitation to 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 sharing their music on Sept. 24 and the Singing Ensemble will share their music in late October (date to be determined). We practice three times (usually on Sundays at 9 a.m.) before we actually share music during worship. If interested, please let me know at services on any Sunday. – *Les Marsh, music director*

## Thank you Tree

- To our deacons for spending time on a summer afternoon gluing the updated church covenant in the back of all the hymnals—nearly 200 books! Thank you also to our “junior” helper: Raegan Burdeshaw!



- To all the volunteers who rushed to help clean up the church basement when we had an overflow of water during the July and August rainstorms. And especially Skip Galayda who is fixing the problem so it doesn't happen again! We'll have an update in the next newsletter.

- To Lauren for becoming an "ex-officio" member of the flower committee in July. Your garden bouquets were beautiful and enhanced our sanctuary each Sunday.

- To the bakers for keeping our Sunday coffee hour table filled with delicious goodies week after week.

- To the Sunday refreshment servers who come early each Sunday to set up and start the coffee pot and tea water.

## Library Open!

Did you ever stop by our church library? The Louise Badgley Library is tucked in the corner of the 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 checkout – just write your name and the item title on the list. Do you have any ideas or want a

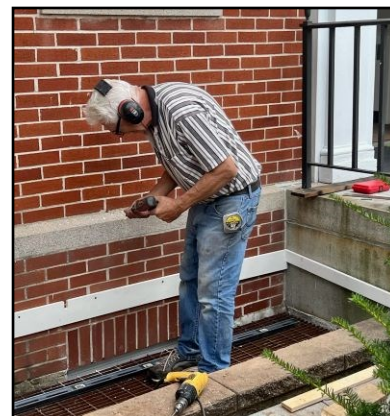
particular book? Just chat with Margaret Shigo-Zembko, our librarian!

## 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.

## ABCCONN Celebrates 200 Years!

American Baptist Churches of Connecticut is celebrating its 200th year with a special dinner program on Friday, Sept. 29 at First Cathedral, 1151 Blue Hills Ave, Bloomfield. Guest speaker is the Rev. Dr. Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook (Ambassador Sujay). For tickets (\$60) or info, call ABCCONN, 860-521-5421.



Also, ABCCONN will observe its annual meeting and celebrate 200 years as an association of Baptists Churches in Connecticut on Saturday, Sept. 30. The event will be held 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Central Baptist Church, 457 Main St., Hartford.

## 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!

## Bloomin' News

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.

## Flower Coordinators 2023

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

## Prayer Requests

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 November-December 2023. Deadline is Oct. 15. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin at [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com).



## Oh, By the Way

**Ben Lamy** and Team Eversource were welcomed by staff at Camp Wightman on opening day – the team helped trim the trail in the woods, fix up the boathouse, and comb through the beach. An Eversource spokesperson said, “We love supporting community programs that empower the next generation.” A lifelong fan of Camp Wightman and part of a family with deep roots at the camp, Ben is a test specialist for substations with Eversource.



From Ben: “I finally

made it back to Camp Wightman for a day to help out. It was pretty surreal to be back to a place that I hold dear in my heart. From my yearly weeks at camp as a kid, to being junior counselor there, completing my Eagle Scout project and eloping there with Melissa, you could say it's pretty important to me. Now I've even gotten to share it with some of my co-workers! Soon enough, Wes (his son) will be getting the chance to enjoy it.”

**Lee Burhoe** had a wonderful time at the Gale Family reunion which was held at Second Baptist Church in South Hadley, Mass. this summer. Helping celebrate were her four daughters, from left, Pam Famiglietti, Sue Vess, Donna Burhoe and Linda Lamy.



**John Myska II** was recently honored (on his birthday!) by Winding Trails for serving 20 years at the Summer Day Camp including as camp director. (Right photo: He is standing on the far left of the stage.)

**Marvin and Keith Choquette** had a great trip to Italy this summer – in spite of the hot weather, they enjoyed visiting Pisa, Rome, Venice and other amazing cities and sites.



**Corey Nagle** is running for the Bristol Board of Education on the Democratic ticket.

## Wedding Bells



### Katie Corrigan and Mark Studer

Katie Corrigan and Mark Studer were married July 9th at First Baptist Church. Pastor Sharon was the officiant. The couple spent two weeks in northern Italy for their honeymoon. They reside in Boston where Katie works for Boston College as a CPA and Mark works for NFP as a Senior Account Manager.

Rona Corrigan, mother of the bride, wrote to us: "We want to truly thank FBC for everything! The Church was just such an important place and foundation for the girls growing up. As they say, 'It takes a village to raise a child.' And we have been truly blessed by all!"

Congratulations to our newlyweds!

### Amanda Olore and Christopher Ball

July 8th was a spectacular day in Cooperstown, NY when Amanda Olore's wedding to Christopher Ball took place. You will recognize her attendants: her sisters Carrie (Olore) Hunter, far left, and Emily (Olore) Stallworth, far right, as well as her 'sister' Sarah Strosahl-Kagi. Fun fact: All the young women were the attendants in each of their weddings - Lasting friendships that began at the First Baptist Church! Amanda and Chris met in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and are now living in England.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### September

- 3 Kim Neilson, Stefan Paneczko
- 6 Sharon Hoffman
- 8 Christine Corey
- 9 Lynn Saucier
- 10 Barbara Adams
- 11 Dillon Spain
- 14 Marge Steinnagel
- 18 Ben Lamy
- 22 JoAnn Myska
- 25 Aaron James Urso
- 28 Ken Corrigan, George Graikoski

### October

- 3 Jean Cook
- 5 Bonnie Callaghan
- 6 Matthew Mikosz, Johanna Nagle
- 7 Lori Koritkowski, Lisa Mason
- 8 Linda Lamy
- 12 Amy Marsh
- 15 Barb McKay

- 17 Nancy Gworek
- 18 Jeffrey DeVaux
- 21 Ethel Graham
- 23 Betty Porter
- 24 Dot Amundsen, Alec Chinigo
- 26 Joshua Graikoski
- 31 Matt MacDonald

### Anniversaries

#### September

- 14 Eric & Heidi Tata
- 18 Phillip & Andrea Dixon
- 20 David & Linda Mikosz

#### October

- 9 Jon & Amy Burdeshaw
- 18 John & Aimee Cunningham
- 24 Regina & Troy Jones
- 25 Tim & Maria Cabata
- 25 Les & Amy Marsh

