

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



May - June 2024



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

Looking Ahead in May & June

May

Communion Sunday, May 5 - Worship, 10am; deacons meet prospective new members following worship

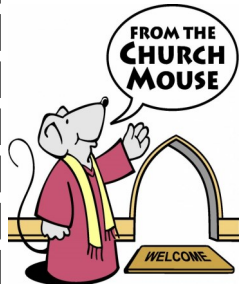
Wednesday, May 8 – Outreach Committee, 1pm

Thursday, May 9 – Board of Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, May 12 - Worship, 10am (Mother's Day)

Saturday, May 18 – Potluck dinner followed by Penny-Pound Auction, 5pm

Sunday, May 19 - Worship & Right Hand of Fellowship, 10am, Welcome Reception follows



Tuesday, May 21 – FBC Book Club, 1pm

Sunday, May 26 - Worship, 10am

June

Communion Sunday, June 2 – 10am

Sunday, June 9 – Worship, 10am, Celebration Hour follows; church board meets

Tuesday, June 11 – FBC Book Club, 1pm
****Revised date for June****

Thursday, June 13 – Board of Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, June 16 – Worship, 10am

Sunday, June 23 – Worship, 10am

Sunday, June 30 – Worship, 10am

****Outreach will not meet in June or July.**



The Pastor's Meanderings



I am happy to report that I returned from vacation unscathed; no broken bones, no serious (or non-serious) health issues, no lost luggage, no airline horror stories. Nada. In fact, I would hazard to say that it was the most relaxing, blessed and pleasant vacation I have ever had.

When looking for a place to relax for a week, my thoughts always turn to Mexico, for the people and the pace of life there are wonderful. This year, I decided to try the island of Cozumel, twelve miles off the mainland. My reasoning was that being an island, it could only sustain a limited number of people, tourists and locals included. I was right. The downtown area of San Miguel de Cozumel greets up to four cruise ships a day, but the rest of the island is far less crowded and lends itself to a more leisurely existence.

One thing I always try to remember, especially in Mexico, is how little workers are paid. The average resort employee earns about \$23 per day, barely enough to live on. In many cases, entire families work to provide for the necessities of life. When traveling to Mexico, or anywhere else for that matter, I always make certain that I take bills of small denominations to tip early and often. It is amazing how much difference a few dollars mean to a person when they are not well paid.

This trip was no different, in addition to tipping, I made sure to treat every employee I met with respect, learned their names, their spouse's and children's names, and tipped generously. Soon it seemed like everyone knew my name also. As I would leave my suite each morning, I was greeted with, "Buenas dias, Mrs. Holt" all the way to the restaurant for breakfast. I got to know the managers of all the departments of the resort, the manager of dining & beverages would often ask his staff, "Where is 505 dining tonight?" (505 was my room number, he could not always remember my name.)



I try to be as courteous as possible to everyone in a resort because I see how poorly they are treated by my fellow guests. Most of them ignore them, or worse, order them around with no "please" or "thank you." As a Christian, this attitude is dead wrong. We are only a few weeks away from when we observed Maundy Thursday, where Jesus instructed all his disciples, including us, to love one another as he loved us. It is not good enough to profess we are Christians unless we strive to live by the example Jesus set and the words he imparted to us.

On the day I departed, I came out of the front desk after checking out, to find that all the department managers had come to say "Adios!" There were hugs and kisses, speeches and a gift of a shortbread bouquet baked by the pastry chef. I now know exactly where my "happy place" is in Mexico henceforth.

Summer is almost here, as you plan for vacations and other fun, relaxing pursuits, try to live out the message of love and acceptance Jesus taught us, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12. Go thou and do likewise.

In Christ,
Pastor Sharon



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 18 at 5 p.m. It's a great night of good food, fun and fellowship! And Pastor Sharon is our featured auctioneer!

If you've never attended before, new or gently used items are auctioned

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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 and a brand-new iPhone! Some items do make a return appearance adding to the mystery! Will you be the proud owner of green high heels this year?

Please make sure that the items are appropriate for a church function. 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! Deacons will provide dessert. This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons. Auction proceeds will be donated 75% to the general fund and 25% to Deacons. Hope you join us! Questions? Ask Barbara McKay.

News from the Pews

Our Spud Nite and Silent Auction Wrap-Up

We would like to thank everyone for their support of our Spud Night and Silent Auction on April 27!

The volunteers were amazing who helped during the months leading up to our event, in addition to those who assisted that evening to make it all happen. Thank you also to the Spud sponsors and auction donors!

With all your efforts, we raised more than \$1,600 for the church’s music ministry and general fund. Thank you, one and all! - *Linda Lamy and Joyce Olore*



May is Our Savers Collection Month
Our annual Savers “soft goods” collection is here! We welcome any clean, gently used soft goods such as clothes, bedding, coats, belts, linens, fabric toys, pocketbooks, vinyl/leather luggage, shoes and boots. Thank you for inviting family and friends to also

donate, as we work towards our goal this year of 4,444 pounds of soft goods! This fundraiser will benefit our church’s general fund and also mission opportunities.

We will be collecting throughout May. Donations should be placed in kitchen-size bags and will be collected near the stage in the drop-off area. If you have any questions or need a different drop-off time, just contact Joyce Olore at 860-877-3417 or Linda Lamy at 860-878-5310.

Fellowship Coffee Hour: Thanks again to everyone who has been helping with our Fellowship Hour. There are still plenty of openings to host - And lessons are available on making coffee and setups. Thanks for making so many people happy! Please let me know if you’re interested – Thanks, Ginni

Outreach Committee Updates

- We are pleased to report that we collected almost \$400 for the America for Christ collection. Thank you for supporting the work that is being done to help those in need throughout the United States and their territories.

- We continue to collect items for Southington Community Services. Our focus has been on personal items, laundry detergent and dish soap. However, any and all donations are happily accepted.

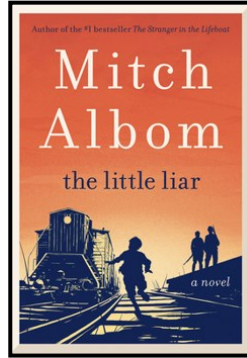
We partnered with Southington Community Services in Operation Stay Warm - a project to start collecting and storing winter coats for the 2024-‘25 winter season. We were happy to provide our church as a drop-off and 'sorting' area for the donations that came in from local churches, banks, businesses and schools.





From Our Music Director:
 People interested in singing with our vocal ensemble or trying their hand at bells or chimes are always welcome. We present special music during the worship service once each month. Let's chat! –
Les Marsh

Club will next meet Tuesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Little Liar" by Mitch Albom. 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! Questions? Contact this month's Book Club leader, Ethel Graham.



In June the group will meet on Tuesday, June 11 (instead of June 18). A Zoom connection will be available beginning for the June 11 Book Club. Contact Robin Michel if you would like the link emailed to you.

Other favorite books of our FBC readers include: "Master, Slave, Husband, Wife," by Llyon Woo; "American Daughter," by Piper Huguley; "Remarkably Bright Creatures," by Shelby Van Peit; "The Keeper of Hidden Stories," by Madeline Martin; and "All She Carried," by Tiya Miles.

Bulletin Board: Our bulletin board in the Narthex is beautifully decorated by Linda Lamy – its inspirational art and quotes welcome us to worship. Would you like to share your ideas and skills to beautify this display? Linda would love to speak to you!

Please Note: The next Tag Sale will not be until November. Please do not bring items and leave them on the stage at this time. Thank you.



Bloomin' News: If you would like to give flowers on a specific Sunday, write your name and phone number on

the flower sign-up form posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. 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. Flower Coordinators for May and June are May: Joyce Olore - 860- 276-8061, and June: Ginni Butler - 860-628-5014.

Willy Says: Check Out Our Church Library!

Willy, our resident bookworm, is encouraging everyone to stop by our library to discover a world of great books. There are many inspirational Christian books to help us along our spiritual journey. Devotionals to inspire, encourage and heal us in our daily lives. Biographies to learn more about famous people from presidents to movie stars. Wonderful fiction written by secular and Christian writers. And children's books! We have a great collection of Nicholas Sparks, Kristin Hannah and more. Questions? Ask Margaret Shigo-Zembko.



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 and on our Facebook, page 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 2024. Deadline is June 15. Share your milestones or news! Email Robin at robin.leemichel@gmail.com.



Church Website: Our website is 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." Want to join our Sunday worship services via Zoom? contact Pastor Sharon.

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 or drop them off at the church office.

Brody Neilson
 Brody Neilson was looking dapper at the March 17 service spreading St. Patrick's Day cheer!



And Let's Celebrate...

Jen Howes-Egan & Stefan Paneckzo



Jen Howes-Egan and Stefan Paneckzo pledged their commitment to each other at a special ceremony led by Pastor Sharon on March 17. Jen and Stefan met seven years ago. Wishing you a long happy life together!

Ben & Melissa Lamy
Grandma Lee Burhoe and Mom Linda Lamy are proud to share the latest accomplishments of their family:

Ben Lamy completed the educational requirements in March for his Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from Charter Oak State College. Also in March, his wife, Melissa, became a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant following finishing coursework and clinical experiences through Manchester Community College. March was quite a month for their family and to top it all off their adventurous little son, Wes, turned 4. Congratulations to the whole family!



Scenes from the Easter Season: Arranging palms, stuffing Easter eggs, Sunrise Service



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays May

- 7 Walter Jones
- 8 Carrie Olore
- 10 Marissa Myska
- 11 Aimee Cunningham, Nik Paneczko, Heidi Tata
- 17 Peg Lewis, Sharon Pernal - born the same year!
- 19 Melissa Lamy
- 21 Andrea Jones
- 24 Robin Michel
- 30 Jean Chinigo

June

- 1 Sarah & Samantha Callaghan, Nathaniel Tata
- 4 Tony Arisco
- 5 Suzanne DeMerchant

- 6 Donna Burhoe
- 7 David Michel
- 9 Lee Burhoe, Carl Hoffman
- 11 Cheryl Tomkiewicz
- 13 Carol Kearney
- 14 Kyle Chinigo, Les Marsh
- 19 Lauren Galayda
- 20 Maya Johns
- 23 Darlene Steele
- 24 Diana Raymond

Anniversaries

May

- 11 Carol & Tom Kearney
- 20 Bonnie & Ray Callaghan

June

- 2 Linda & Gary Lamy
- 19 Joyce & Lou Olore
- 24 Carl & Sharon Hoffman



Happy Easter 2024!



Nearly 100 people total attended our Easter services. Truly a joyous day!

Easter Flowers & Memorial Gifts 2024

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

Flowers

Kathy and Martha in memory of loved ones
Lorraine Chubet and Barbara Aszklar in memory of Lena Dow
Marvin Choquette in memory of Vincent & Fern Choquette
Jean Cook in memory of Lori Cook
Sarah Gadarowski in honor of Deborah Zembko and Margaret Zembko
Lauren Galayda in memory of loved ones
Skip & Bernadette Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda
The Gworek family in memory of Albert & Mildred Bassett and Ted & David Gworek
Jennifer A. Howes in memory of Florence M. Howes and Maurice H. Howes
Sharon Kupiec in memory of the Sloat and Parker families
Peg Lewis in memory of Margaret Orr Lewis
Bill & Barbara McKay in honor of our grandchildren with love
Robin Michel in loving memory of Lucy & Bob Lee and Addie & Bill Michel
The Neilsons in memory of MaryAnn and Wilda
The Olore family in memory of Brandon Stallworth, Dr. & Mrs. Louis Olore and Edward Schellhammer
Margaret Shigo-Zembko in memory of Stephen Zembko and John & Elizabeth Shigo
Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams and Mason families

Nikolaus and Stefan Paneczko in memory of Judith F. Barrows
Diana Raymond, Tony Arisco in memory of Alice Bogue, Al Raymond and Angie Arisco
Cheryl Tomkiewicz in memory of my mom, dad, sister and aunt
Phyllis in memory of Willie "Bobby" Wade and my siblings David, Sidney, Charles, Barbara & Ora

Gifts

Barbara Adams in memory of Horace Adams
Barbara Burkhardt in memory of Ernest Burkhardt Jr. and Ernest "Chip" Burkhardt III
In memory of Ron, Love, Lee
Ginni in loving memory of Gert and Ken
Lorraine Chubet and Barbara Aszklar in memory of Lena Dow
Sarah Gadarowski in honor of Deborah Zembko and Margaret Shigo-Zembko
Lauren Galayda in memory of loved ones
Peg Lewis in memory of Margaret Orr Lewis
Bill & Barbara McKay in memory of our beloved parents
Jean McKay in memory of my loved ones
Robin Michel in loving memory of Lucy & Bob Lee and Addie & Bill Michel
Nikolaus and Stefan Paneczko in memory of Judith F. Barrows
Betty Porter and family in memory of John W. & Emma Haskell, Ken & Alma Porter, and Warren Porter
Phyllis in memory of Willie "Bobby" Wade and my siblings David, Sidney, Charles, Barbara & Ora