First Baptist Church of Southington

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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

THE STEEPLE SIGNAL

September - October 2024

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

Looking Ahead in September & October

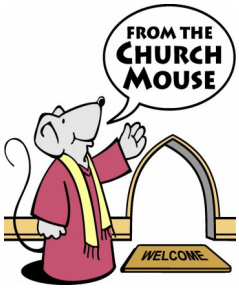
September

Communion Sunday, Sept. 1 - 10am

Rally Day Sunday, Sept. 8 - Worship, 10am; Church Picnic follows

Thursday, Sept. 12 - Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, Sept. 15 - Worship, 10am; Finance Board meets following worship/fellowship



Tuesday, Sept. 17 - Book Club, 1pm

Wednesday, Sept. 18 - Outreach, 1pm

Sunday, Sept. 22 - Worship, 10am; Church Board meets following worship/fellowship

Sunday, Sept. 29 - Worship, 10am

October

Communion Sunday, Oct. 6 - 10am

Thursday, Oct. 9 - Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Celebration Sunday, Oct. 13 - Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Tuesday, Oct. 15 - Book Club, 1pm; Steeple Signal deadline

Wednesday, Oct. 16 - Outreach, 1pm

Saturday, Oct. 19 - Friendship Time, 1-3pm

Sunday, Oct. 20 - Worship, 10am

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Worship, 10am

Tag Sale Set-up! Monday, Oct. 28 - Friday, Nov. 1, 9am-6pm

The Minister's Musings

I can't believe it is mid-August already! Where did the summer go? While we had plenty of hot, humid days, we also had several gorgeous stretches of lovely, warm weather with low humidity. Those days are the best summer has to offer and I hope everyone was able to take advantage of them to get out and do the fun things we'll remember fondly when the short, dark, chilly days of winter keep us close to home and hearth. Personally, I really enjoy sitting out on the parsonage deck in the evening when it is shady. I have come to know many of our neighbors as they take walks in the cool of the evening, and we exchange cheery greetings as they stroll.

Pastor Sharon, left, and her childhood friend, Sharon, in 1962

As the summer winds down, I find I can't help but have the same feelings I had as a child when the opening day of the new school year drew near. My family spent my childhood summers in a mobile home in Onset, Massachusetts (the unofficial entrance to Cape Cod, since it was on the "land" side of both the Bourne and Sagamore bridges). All summer we were "free-range children" who could go to one of three (!) beaches within walking distance. There were penny candy stores, a five and dime, a soft-serve ice cream stand and dozen or so other "honky tonk" beach attractions to attract our attention and money. My friends and I

See **Summer** on next page

Our Church Family Portrait

On Aug. 4, the church family posed for a portrait with many people wearing the new church "Walk by Faith, Not by Sight" T-shirts. Looking good! See Pastor soon if you'd like a shirt - she will be ordering more!

News from the Pews

Come One and All to the Church Picnic!

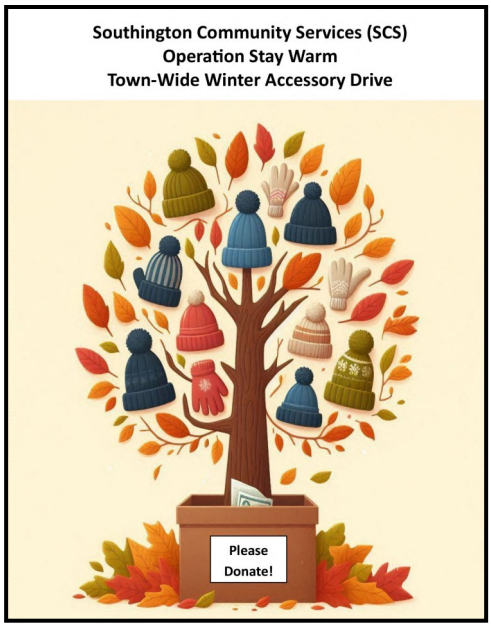
Don't miss our Church Picnic on Sept. 8 following worship! The Board of Deacons provides burgers and dogs, and beverages. Bring your yummiest picnic side dish or dessert to share! Also, bring your favorite board games. And we'll have some special displays and games! Remember to wear your FBC T-shirt. Don't miss it!

From Your Outreach Committee

The hygiene kits have been counted! We packed up 70 completed kits this year for Church World Services to be distributed to people who have been impacted by natural disasters, displaced or are refugees. As the CWS slogan states, these kits are "Filled with hope and packed with love." What great support from our congregation!

Operation Stay Warm

Southington Community Services is asking for our support. There was a townwide coat drive earlier this year that we participated in and now there is a need for waterproof gloves, hats, scarves and mittens to complement the coats that will be given away this fall and winter. There will be a box placed in the Fellowship Hall to collect items from First Baptist. Thank you for your "early support" of these cold weather items.



And, you have done it again. The donations to Southington Community Services continue to flow in each Sunday. Without your support, individuals in need within our community would go without - Thank you for your generosity!

Summer from page 2

used to spend our days swimming, playing, and begging our families for money for sweets. We played outside from early morning until the streetlights came on, with a couple of breaks for meals.

The last week of August, it all ended abruptly. We were hustled into the car and returned to our home in Westwood to prepare for the inevitable: school. Necessary clothing and shoes were bought, along with a new pencil case (complete with a protractor!) and we were ready to go. I always looked forward to the start of the new year with mixed feelings, trading flip-flops and shorts for a dress and lace-up shoes was tough. Sitting at a desk all day was a huge challenge after roaming around Onset all summer. The first day of school was always fine because of the excitement of seeing old friends and greeting new teachers, perhaps even a new school, but the novelty wore off quickly and it was back to the old grind for another nine months.

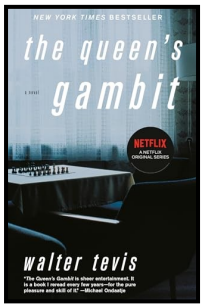
Even at 70, those memories are still fresh. When I see the school buses on their first run of the year, my heart sinks and I must remind myself it is still summer until mid-September. I have to consciously realign my thoughts to embrace that we are embarking on a whole new season of adventures at church, with social events, a great tag sale, meetings, book club, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lenten book study, Easter Sunrise (a personal favorite!) and all our other activities. So, get your new shoes ready, sharpen your pencils and get ready to greet a new year at First Baptist!

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*

Church Supports Bread for Life Food Drive

Our church really stepped forward in supporting Bread for Life's 40th anniversary food drive by contributing items from 40 different staple foods for its distribution pantry. We delivered dozens of items to the cause!

FBC Book Club



The FBC Book Club will begin the next season on Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Second Mrs. Astor" by Shana Abe. There are many copies available at the Southington Library.

These are the selections for the remainder of the year: Oct. 15 – "The Queen's Gambit" by Walter Tevis; Nov. 19 – "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" by Kelli Estes; Dec. 17 – "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett. In December we can decide the next few months. Books can be borrowed from other book club members, the public library, purchased at various locations or obtained online.

Now, each book club meeting will also be offered via Zoom in addition to meeting in the parlor. Notices and the Zoom link will be sent out in advance of each meeting. Everyone is welcome – even if you haven't read the book or didn't like it! To receive the emails and/or the Zoom link, contact Ginni Butler at vlbutler@sbcglobal.net or call (860) 628-5014.

Tag Sale News - and a Call for Volunteers!

This publication is coming out just in time! Our all-church tag sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 2. Please plan on joining us to help make this another successful event.

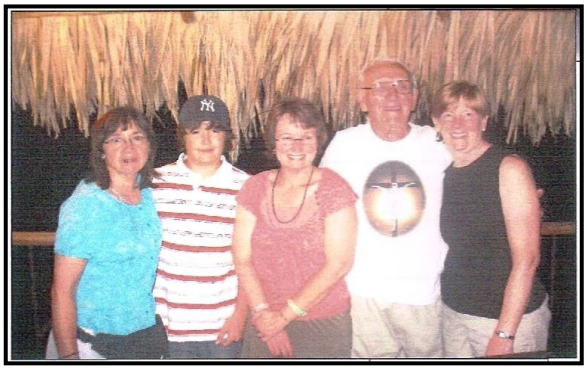
- Set up will be from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. each day, Monday, Oct. 28 to Friday, Nov. 1.
- Donations will be accepted from Oct. 28 - 31. (Please, no donations on Friday, Nov. 1. We need that day to make certain all items are priced, and we are ready for our 8 a.m. opening on Saturday). And please no donations now.

People are needed to head departments such as holiday, jewelry, etc. Come one, come all to help at the tag sale during the week and the day of the event! Whether it is for one hour or more, every effort is greatly appreciated. A sign-up sheet will be available at the picnic and the weeks ahead. Have questions? See Joyce.

D.R. Mission Opportunity in 2025!

Mission is such an integral part of the ministries of our church. As we seek to foster outreach as a community of believers, it is our hope that we consider taking part in next year's 2025 mission trip to the Dominican Republic with our sister church in Wallingford. This past summer, in addition to other years, our church sponsored medical supplies for the mission team's daily medical clinic for the people that live on the bateyes, the impoverished rural villages on the sugar cane plantations.

Through the years, our church has sponsored volunteers that included John Galayda Sr. and members of the Olore, Michel, Lamy, Corjulo, Reid and Cabata families. A display will be in the Fellowship Hall beginning Sept. 8 to showcase this 7- to 8-day mission opportunity. The trip is usually the end of June with team meetings beginning in February. Our church has been raising funds for several years to assist with the cost. Questions? Please contact Joyce Olore at (860) 276-8061, jsolore@aol.com or Linda Lamy at (860) 283-6734, lindalamy8@gmail.com. Please prayerfully consider this mission opportunity whether as a volunteer, a sponsor or a prayer partner. In service with you for God,
The Board of Christian Outreach



From left: Circa 2009, Robin Michel, David Michel, Bev Corjulo, John Galayda Sr., Joyce Olore

Presenting Friendship Time!

We sure enjoy our fellowship at First Baptist Church - And we will now be providing additional opportunities to get together once a month!

Our first Friendship Time will be Saturday, Oct. 19, from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your games, knitting, brag photos, coloring books, crafts or hobbies, whatever you wish and a snack - and we'll provide a beverage! A regular schedule has not been established since we will be organizing Friendship Time on weekdays, too.

Fellowship Hour Help: Thanks again to everyone who has been helping with our Fellowship Hour. There are still plenty of opportunities - And lessons are available on making coffee and setups. We have had some people giving their time and talents on specific Sundays and we thank them: Tony Arisco and Diana Raymond (first week), Ginni Butler and Robin Michel (second week), Peg Lewis and Joyce Olore (third week), Sharon Pernal and Margaret Shigo-Zembko (fourth week). The fifth week is open.

More help is always needed. If you can help in any way – hosting, setting up, serving, bringing goodies, cleaning up, etc. - please let Ginni Butler know, (860) 628-5014. Please call Ginni if you plan on contributing a goodie. And remember to pick up your containers in the kitchen, please!

Southington Community Services Needs Us!
Southington Community Services needs personal care items which are not covered by Connecticut Food Share. Suggestions: liquid dish detergent, small-size laundry detergent, shampoo, and bars of hand soap. Items can be placed in our collections basket in the narthex. Thank you!

From Our Music Director:

People interested in singing with our vocal ensemble or trying their hand at bells or chimes are always welcome. We perform once a month. No experience required! – *Les Marsh*

New Church Directory: There is a new Church Directory available. Please see Pastor Sharon.

Bulletin Deadline: The deadline for notices for our weekly bulletin insert is Tuesdays, 12 p.m. Email pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org or drop them off at the church office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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
7 Lori Koritkowski, Lisa Mason
8 Linda Lamy
12 Amy Marsh
13 Tom Kearney
15 Barb McKay
17 Nancy Gworek
18 Jeffrey DeVaux
21 Ethel Graham
23 Betty Porter
24 Dot Amundsen, Alec Chinigo
26 Joshua Graikoski
28 Lorraine Chubet
31 Matt MacDonald

Anniversaries

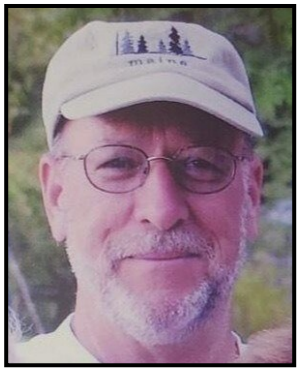
September

14 Eric & Heidi Tata
20 David & Linda Mikosz
25 Les & Amy Marsh

October

9 Jon & Amy Burdeshaw
18 John & Aimee Cunningham
20 Kevin & Gina Palmieri
24 Regina & Troy Jones
25 Tim & Maria Cabata

Sad News



Long-time church member Roger Badgley passed away on July 16 and services were held at our church on July 22. Condolences are extended to his family, including wife, Terry, and his friends.

Bloomin' News

For regular Sundays, flower signup sheets are posted 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 info by Tuesday at 12 p.m. to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin, (860) 620-2989.

September/October flower coordinators are:
September - Peg Lewis - (860) 384-4123
October - Joyce Olore - (860) 276-8061

And Let's Celebrate…

Welcome, Baby Melody!

Bill and Barbara McKay are great-grandparents! Melody Joy Guerrera made her debut on July 12. Proud parents are Justin and Stephanie Guerrera, the McKays' granddaughter. Congratulations to the new family!

Wedding Bells!

Stefanie Lamy and Joshua Letizio were married on Aug. 12 in Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine. They enjoyed their special private wedding with just their parents attending. Wishing you a long, happy life together!

Happy 50th Anniversary to Rudy & Rita!

Congratulations to Rudy & Rita Cabata on their 50th anniversary which was Aug. 16! A surprise celebration with family and friends was held at Craft Kitchen.

Grand Adventures!

The Choquette brothers Marvin and Keith traveled overseas this summer on a trip that started in London. "While there we were fortunate to be able to attend a Sunday afternoon service at Westminster Abbey. Other highlights in London were Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, and Trafalgar Square. From London, we traveled to Stonehenge, the city of Bath, and Liverpool then traveled north to the city of Edinburgh in Scotland. On our return trip to London, we stopped in York, Leeds, and Cambridge. It was a very nice tour that we both really enjoyed."

At Stonehenge

Prom Day!

Brody Neilson wished to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of his first date with his girlfriend Lauren. What better way than with a prom? They dressed formally, complete with a boutonniere and wrist corsage, danced and were crowned Prom King and Prom Queen. The event was chaperoned by parents, Kyle & Kim and David & Alison.