

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



November - December 2024



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

Looking Ahead in November & December

November

Communion & All Saints Sunday,

Nov. 3 - Worship, 10am - Move your clocks back one hour on Saturday night!

Sunday, Nov. 10 - Worship, 10am, followed by the monthly celebration, and Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 13 - Outreach, 1pm

Thursday, Nov. 14 - Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, Nov. 17 - Worship, 10am; Church Board meets following fellowship

Tuesday, Nov. 19 - Book Club, 1pm

Sunday, Nov. 24 - Worship, 10am; Church Board meets following worship/fellowship

Happy Thanksgiving, Nov. 28

December

First Sunday of Advent & Communion Sunday,

Dec. 1 - Worship, 10am, followed by Hanging of the Greens

Wednesday, Dec. 4 - Friendship Time, 2-4pm

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8 - Worship, 10am, followed by the monthly celebration

Tuesday, Dec. 10, Blue Christmas, 7pm

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

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 15 - Worship, 10am; Finance Board meets following fellowship; Steeple Signal deadline for Jan.-Feb. 2025

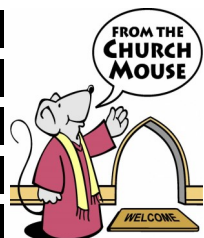
Tuesday, Dec. 17 - Book Club, 1pm

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - Outreach, 1pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec. 22 - Annual Christmas Pajama Worship, 10am

Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve, 6pm

Sunday, Dec. 29 - Worship, 10am, fellowship



The Pastor's Ponderings

November is a big month for Americans; we celebrate Thanksgiving, a time when families and friends gather together to share food, fellowship, and gratitude for all the blessings in our lives.



But there is another important holiday in November – Veterans Day. We celebrate two holidays during the year honoring our veterans: Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day on Nov. 11. On Memorial Day we pause to remember those who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy. On Veterans Day we remember all who served in our armed forces.

Both are equally important, and these holidays should never be viewed as a “day off” or “the unofficial kick-off of summer,” but rather solemn days of remembrance when we honor all who gave selflessly throughout our history as a nation.

Recently, the reality of these solemn observances was heightened and reinforced by my visit to the beaches of Normandy. Here, in the early morning of June 6, 1944, the largest military operation in military history began: 133,000 troops representing the United States, Great Britain and their allies, supported by 195,000 naval personnel from eight allied countries, landed on the beaches of Normandy to begin the arduous process of driving the heavily fortified German forces off the cliffs and start the push to liberate France, that ultimately led to the defeat the Axis forces in Europe. By the end of that day 10,300 Allied soldiers were killed by drowning or artillery fire; of that number 2,501 were Americans who died on Utah or Omaha Beach. Ultimately, the Battle of Normandy claimed 73,000 Allied lives with another 153,000 wounded.

The last American paratroopers landed on Omaha Beach at 3:30 p.m. on June 6, 1944. They were the gravediggers who on June 8 buried American casualties in a temporary graveyard in Colleville-sur-Mer. This became the first American cemetery on European soil in World War II. The cemetery covers 172 acres and holds the remains of 9,800 war dead from D-day and the days that followed. Each day at 3:30 p.m. there is a solemn service of remembrance, which I was privileged to attend.

Standing on that holy ground is a profound and moving experience. It certainly was for me. As I gazed at the neat rows of marble crosses, I was struck by the level of commitment and dedication shown by all the Allied forces on that fateful day. Young men and women, whose average age was twenty-four, fought, and many gave their lives, for freedom from oppression during the Normandy invasion.

On Nov. 11, the day on which the “War to End All Wars” World War I ended, the seeds for the global conflict of World War II were already sown. Let us pause to remember with gratitude all who served in our military in times of war and peace throughout our history.

In Christ,

Pastor Sharon



News from the Pews

It's Here – THE TAG SALE!

Our annual tag sale is almost here: Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Many volunteers are still needed, whether it is for the last few days of sorting or the day of the event. Do you have an

hour or two to spare to help with our biggest fundraiser? We can't do it without you! Contact Joyce at (860) 276-8061 if you can help.

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in reading scripture or being a worship leader? We'd love to have you. No experience required! If you would like to volunteer, please see Barbara McKay. We can work around your schedule. Thank you for serving our church!



Blue Christmas

First Baptist Church will be hosting Blue Christmas this year on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. This special service, held in conjunction with Plantsville Funeral Home, is for those who are mourning a loss and may find the holidays difficult. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Sharon.

From Your Outreach Committee:



- The special offering to support those in need following Hurricane Helene has been coming in strong. Thank you for your generous donations! More details will be provided in an upcoming Steeple Signal.
- Wow! Lots of scarves, mittens, hats and gloves were donated in support of the townwide Operation Stay Warm program.
- We continue to support weekly food contributions for Southington Community Services. Thank you for your donations!

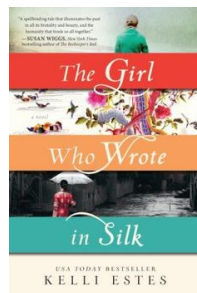
Coming Up:

- Christmas tags to support families in need during the Christmas season will be available shortly.
- We have been asked to provide socks, tee-shirts and underwear for our Christmas giving tree this year. All items are needed for men's, women's and children's sizes.
- Thank you for your ongoing support for all the mission work being done in our community as well as areas where disasters have happened.



FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club will next meet on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" by Kelli Estes. The Dec. 17 book will be "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett. In December, the suggestions for the following months will be selected. Bring your ideas!



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 at (860) 628-5014 or email vlbutler@sbcglobal.net.

D.R. Mission 2025!

As we look ahead to our D.R. Mission opportunities in 2025, we have invited the ministry's founder John Powers to come share his experiences with us. Date to be announced.



Questions? Contact Joyce at (860) 276-8061, jsolore@aol.com or Linda Lamy at (860) 283-6734, lindalamy8@gmail.com. Prayerfully consider this mission opportunity whether as a volunteer, a sponsor or a prayer partner.

Friendship Time!

We held our first Friendship Time on Oct. 19 and more than a dozen people gathered to chat, play games and have fun.



Next Friendship Time will be Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2-4 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Bring your snack, games, knitting, photos and coloring books. Beverages provided. Need a ride? Ask Ginni.



No, they haven't taken up a bad habit; these are cookies.

Fellowship Hour Help Needed

Thanks again to everyone who has been helping with our Fellowship Hour. Can you help with the fifth Sunday of the month? Lessons available! If you can help in any way – hosting, setting up, serving, bringing goodies, cleaning up, etc. – please call Ginni Butler at (860) 628-5014. Please call Ginni if you plan on bringing a refreshment.

Community Services Needs Us!

We continue to support Southington Community Services with our weekly donations. Particularly needed are personal care items which are not covered by Connecticut Food Share. Items can be placed in our collections basket in the narthex. Please consider donating 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.

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!

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 Michel or Ginni Butler.

From Our Music Director:

Hello to everyone: To add enjoyment to the holidays, we are looking for anyone who would like to add to our music for the holidays. On Dec. 29, we will have both the Singing Ensemble and the Bell / Chime Ringers sharing their music. Reading music is not a requirement. All that we ask is that you share your love of music with the congregation. All members in both groups will be able to help with what you need.

Our rehearsals occur before the service – Bell / Chime ringers at 9 a.m. and the Singing Ensemble at approximately 9:20 a.m. The dates are Dec. 15, 22 and 29.



Questions? Please email me at ctu246040@gmail.com, or see me at the Sunday services. Thanks - *Les Marsh*

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.

Christmas Poinsettias

The order forms for Christmas poinsettias will be available in the narthex, emailed and online at the end of November. Stay tuned for details.

Want to Give Flowers?

If you would like to give flowers on a specific Sunday, write your name and phone number on the form posted on the narthex bulletin board. Please call that month's flower coordinator so she doesn't also provide flowers.

If you can't shop, we are happy to purchase the flowers for you with reimbursement. Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday at 12 p.m. to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin, (860) 620-2989.



Flower Coordinators 2024

November - Dot Amundsen - (860) 747-8188

December - Robin Michel - (860) 620-2989

January - Ginni Butler - (860) 628-5014

Celebrations!



Birthdays

November

- 1 Rebecca Maheu
- 2 Amy Burdeshaw
- 4 Margaret Shigo-Zembko
- 7 Tyrone Mellon
- 8 Johnathan Tata
- 9 Kevin Palmieri
- 10 Keith Choquette
- 12 Cheryl Hilton-Campbell
- 14 Jon Burdeshaw
- 25 Pastor Sharon Holt
- 26 Gene Hilton
- 30 Jen Howes-Egan

December

- 1 Janet Mellon
- 3 Elizabeth Tata
- 5 Youngsun Kim
- 10 Debbie Urso
- 11 Regina Jones
- 12 Danny Orlando
- 16 Adrianna Palmieri
- 18 Linda Mikosz,
- 18 Tiffany Steele
- 19 David Mikosz
- 20 Joyce Olore
- 020 Gina Palmieri
- 23 Cassie Callaghan
- 25 Lisa Anne Murray
- 28 John Galayda Jr.



Anniversaries

November

- 29 Kim & Kyle Neilson

Church Picnic Wrap-up!

We had a great Church Picnic on Sept. 8 with food (lots of it – we Baptists do it right!), fun and fellowship. One of the activities was guessing people's hobbies, dream jobs, who they would like to meet, and something no one knows. Our members are quite interesting! Here are some of the answers:

Kathy Altimus – I was a special guest on a national TV show and was on the cover of a magazine.

Tony Arisco – Dream Job: It's too late to be president.

Raegan Burdeshaw – Dream Job: zookeeper

Spencer Burdeshaw - Dream Job: actor or WWE wrestler

Ginni Butler – Would like to run a foundation that rescues abandoned and injured domestic animals

Lee Burhoe – I'm a puzzler and word searcher

Keith Choquette – I was able to go on a missions trip to Haiti where we helped establish an orphanage that helped many children over the years.

Marvin Choquette – I am a fan of Major League Baseball and have attended spring training in Florida for over 20 years.

Jean Cook – Dream Job: counting the money at the bank

Martha Dick – I have lived in 20 different states and one foreign country.

Sara Gadarowski – I collect postcards.

Laureen Galayda – Would like to meet Michelle Obama



Thank you to our cooks, Bill and Jon!
paint walls.

Peg Lewis – In my younger years I climbed Mt. Katahdin and crawled across the knife edge in a snow squall.

Robin Michel – Would like to meet my great-great-grandfather who died in the Civil War

Brenda Myska – Dream Job: write for Hallmark cards

Brody Nielson – Dream Job: photographer

Kim Nielson – I was born in California on an Air Force base.



Ethel Graham – For about 40 years, on or near my birthday I hiked up the Tower trail at Sleeping Giant State Park.

Liz Harwood – I already have my dream job: grandma.

Carl Hoffman – I am a car enthusiast who has driven at many race tracks at full speed.

Sharon Hoffman – I won an award and had an article in the local paper about saving a child using the Heimlich Maneuver.

Lori Koritkowski – Dream Job: oceanographer

Sharon Kupiec – Dream Job: travel tour hostess

Linda Lamy – I like to
caulk, spackle and



Kyle Nielson – My hobby is shooting sporting clays.
 Joyce Olore – I played trumpet in high school.
 Sharon Pernal – I'd like to meet Jesus (but not too soon).
 Diana Raymond – Would like to be in a demolition derby
 Margaret Shigo-Zembko – Dream Job: ensure every child in an orphanage gets adopted by a good family
 Cheryl Tomkiewicz – Dream Job: forensic scientist
 Phyllis Wade – I was a telephone operator.



All photos: Check out all the blue church shirts!

Left: Ever hear of Peep Smores?



More News from the Pews

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. Lots of wonderful fiction written by secular and Christian



writers. And there are children's books as well. Have ideas or want to help? See Margaret Shigo-Zembko.

Steeple Signal Deadline

The next issue of The Steeple Signal will be Jan.-Feb. 2025 (2025 already?). Deadline is Dec.15. Share your news and milestones with our church! Email Robin at robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

Church Website

Our website is www.firstbaptistsouthington.org. You can also see photos and watch our worship services on our Facebook page "First Baptist Church – Southington, CT."