

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 2025



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

Looking Ahead in May & June

May

Saturday, May 3 – Spud Night, 5:30-7pm; Baked potato with toppings of your choice, dessert and beverage. \$9pp, free for 5 and under. Silent auction of gift baskets.

Sunday, May 4 – Worship, 10am

Thursday, May 8 – Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, May 11 – (Mother's Day) Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Saturday, May 17 – Penny Pound Auction and Potluck, dinner begins at 5 p.m., Auction at 6pm

Sunday, May 18 – Worship, 10am

Tuesday, May 20 – Book Club, 1pm

Wednesday, May 21 – Outreach Committee, 1pm

Wednesday, May 21 - Friendship Time, 2-4pm

Sunday, May 25 – Worship, 10am

June

Sunday, June 1 – Worship, 10am

Sunday, June 8 – Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Thursday, June 12 – Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, June 15 – Worship, 10am

Tuesday, June 17 – Book Club, 1pm

Sunday, June 22 – Worship, 10am

Sunday, June 29 – Worship, 10am

**Other meetings
will be announced.**





The Rev.'s Review

It is hard to believe that I celebrated my twelfth anniversary as your pastor on April 1. (Yes, it's true, I started here on April Fool's Day in 2013.) It seems appropriate to take a few minutes to review and reflect on the years we have spent together.

I arrived just after Easter, during the year in which we celebrated our 275th anniversary. I was immediately immersed in planning for our observance, which included my installation in September, participation in the Southington Apple Harvest Festival & parade in October and a celebratory banquet in November. This monumental undertaking gave me a great introduction to the congregation and its dedicated members.

In the following years, we have toiled, celebrated, grieved, and shared our lives together. We have mourned that passing of so many saints of the church including John Galayda, Richard & Virginia Hutton, Al Shaw, Bev & Ron Tooley, to name a few.

There have been Potlucks, Tag Sales, Penny-Pound Auctions and Spud Nights galore. On every occasion, our church family has pitched in to make every event an incredible success.

Over time, the mantle of leadership has successfully been passed to yet another generation of committed deacons, outreach, property, finance committee & board members, Christian education leaders, flower and hospitality mavens and ad hoc committees that have lovingly stepped forward to keep us moving into the future.

Perhaps the biggest challenge of my tenure so far was finding our way through the Pandemic shutdown of 2020-2021. After closing in March of 2020, we quickly moved our services online and we managed to retain our identity throughout those challenging times. While so many churches declined, even closed, we continued to thrive. When weather permitted, we met on the front lawn to praise God and fellowship with one another. July 4, 2021, Independence Day, was an incredible day when we were once again able to return to our sanctuary to worship in person!

In the four years since, we have continued to welcome new members and friends, as we continue our faith walk together. I am truly blessed to have been called to be a part of God's vineyard here and I look forward to whatever the future brings!

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*



Pastor Sharon first addressed our congregation on Jan. 27, 2013.

News from the Pews

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



We had a great time and a delicious meal at the Board of Deacons' annual



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 4. More than 40 people attended and donations went toward the deacons fund.

Spud Night & Silent Auction on May 3!

Spread the news to family and friends to join us on Saturday, May 3 for our annual delicious hand-crafted baked potato extravaganza. Mark your calendar to reserve that evening for a great time together from 5:30 to 7 p.m. or just drop in for take-out too. Make sure to check out the amazing gift baskets in our Silent Auction!



This year our fundraiser will

See **Spuds** on page 3

Spuds from page 2 benefit our mission opportunities such as our Dominican Republic Mission Team this summer and the general fund.

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 17 at 5 p.m. It's a great night of good food, fun and fellowship!

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 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 please bring a dish for our potluck supper!

This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons. All auction proceeds will be donated 75% to the general fund and 25% to Deacons. Hope you join us!

Outreach Update

Thank you for your generous donations to the World Mission offering.



One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelopes will be available in May.

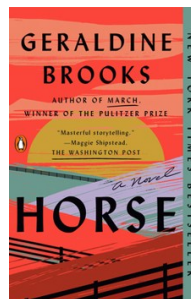
Dominican Republic (DR) Mission Trip update

We are happy to announce that Gabriel and Noah Zamorano will be joining John and Aimee Powers on the DR mission trip this July. Look for information in the upcoming weekly announcements how our church family can support them through our prayer ministry.

We were blessed to have Aimee and John Powers join us on March 9 to share their DR ministry experiences. Their dedication to the ongoing projects supporting the needs of the DR people and the Haitian immigrant workers in the DR is a true testament of their love for the Lord. They heard and responded to the hymn "Here I Am Lord."

Lenten Book Study

We had many insightful conversations during our five-week Lenten book study of "Meeting Jesus at the Table." Thank you, Peg, for leading the study which gave us greater understanding of communion and the Resurrection.



FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club will be meeting on the third Tuesday of the month on May 20 at 1 p.m. to discuss the book, "Horse," by Geraldine Brooks. The group will then meet on June 17.

Each book club

See **Book** on page 4

Supporting Southington Community Services



volunteering at the food pantry and continuing to deliver our donations!

To assist Southington Community Services in filling their shelves with ample amounts of items, we are suggesting the following items to be donated each month. These are suggestions; other items are

We continue to help the community with the weekly offerings to the food pantry. Thank you for your donations. And a special thanks goes to Keith Choquette for

always gladly accepted.

January: canned vegetables

February: deodorant

March: canned fruit

April: shampoo

May: pasta sauce

June: pasta

July: cereal

August: children's snacks

September: peanut butter

October: jelly

November: canned meats, corned beef, tuna, etc.

December: hand/bar soap

Book from page 3 meeting is 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! For the emails and/or the Zoom link, contact Ginni at vlbutler@sbcglobal.net or call (860) 628-5014.

Friendship Time!

We have held several Friendship Times to chat, play games, color and just have fun. The next gathering will be Wednesday, May 21, 2-4pm. Bring your games, knitting, photos and coloring books to enjoy with beverages and a treat.



Hygiene Kits - UPDATED ITEMS

Although we won't begin collecting completed hygiene kits until June/July, please see the UPDATED list of items to include. Note that band aids and hand towels are no longer included in the kits. New items are *italicized*.

One washcloth
One fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from the package)
One toothbrush in the original package
One bath-size bar of soap
One wide-tooth comb

One travel-size stick deodorant (3.4 oz or less, non-aerosol)

One travel-size lotion (3.4 oz or less, fragrance-free)

One travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz or less)

One travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz or less)

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!

Fellowship Hour Help

Thanks again to everyone who has been helping with our Fellowship Hour. Anyone is welcome to help whether it is hosting, setting up, serving, bringing goodies, cleaning up, etc. Please call Ginni (860-628-5014) if you plan on bringing a refreshment.

From Our Music Director:

Hello everyone,

Music is an integral part of our worship and you can be part of that. Even if you don't read music, you can join our Singing Ensemble and the Bell/Chime Ringers to share your love of music with the congregation. Our rehearsals occur before the service several times monthly. We typically perform once each month. Questions? Please email me at ctu246040@gmail.com, or see me at the Sunday services. Thanks - *Les Marsh*

Celebrations!

Birthdays May

7 Walter Jones
8 Carrie Hunter
10 Marissa Myska
11 Aimee Cunningham, Nik Paneczko, Heidi Tata

17 Peg Lewis, Sharon Pernal
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

Congratulations to Jen Egan and Stefan Paneczko on the first anniversary of their commitment to each other that was held in our church on March 17, 2024!

May

2 Linda & Gary Lamy
11 Carol & Tom Kearney

June

19 Joyce & Lou Olore
24 Carl & Sharon Hoffman



Want Flowers?

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. For May: Joyce Olore (860) 877-3417; for 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. Have ideas or want to help? See Margaret Shigo-Zembko.



Kitchen Phone Out of Order

The kitchen telephone is inoperable and it is not possible to make or receive any calls. Call the church office in case of emergency, (860) 628-8121.

Volunteering at Bread for Life

Sarah Gadarowski and Pastor Sharon recently spent a morning helping at Southington Bread for Life. They plan to make it a monthly commitment. Thank you, both!



Easter 2025

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

Flowers

Anonymous in honor of the men and women serving in our military

Katherine Altemus and Martha Dick in honor of loved ones

Tony in memory of Angie Arisco

Marvin and Keith Choquette in memory of Vincent and Fern Choquette

Lorraine Chubet and Barbara Aszklar in memory of Ms. Lena Dow

The Corjulo Family in memory of the grandparents of Amanda Corjulo

Suzanne DeMerchant in memory of Kathy Schott

Sarah Gadarowski in honor of Margaret Zembko and Deborah Zembko

Bernadette & Skip Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda

Carol Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda Jr.

A grateful member in honor of Laureen Galayda for her inspirational "children's" stories

The Gworek Family in memory of Mildred & Al Bassett and Ted & David Gworek

Sharon Kupiec in memory of the Sloat and Parker Families

Shirley Mason in memory of Adams and Mason Families

Bill & Barbara McKay in honor of our grandchildren and great-granddaughter

Jean McKay in memory of loved ones

Robin Michel in memory of her sister, Stephanie,

and in honor of her children and grandchildren

The Neilsons in memory of Maryann and Wilda

The Olore family in memory of Brandon Stallworth, Dr. & Mrs. Louis Olore, and Edward Schellhammer

Nikolaus and Stefan Paneczko in memory of our mom, Judith F. Barrows

Diana in memory of Alice Bogue and Al Raymond

Margaret Shigo-Zembko in memory of grandparents Andrew & Catherine Shigo and Andrew & Anna Egri

Cheryl Tomkiewicz in memory of my mom, dad and sister, and Van

Phyllis for my loved ones

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Ron – Love, Lee

Barbara Burkhardt in memory of Ernie Burkhardt Jr. and Ernie "Chip" Burkhardt III

Ginni in loving memory of Gert & Ken Butler

Lorraine Chubet and Barbara Aszklar in memory of Ms. Lena Dow

Suzanne DeMerchant in memory of Kathy Schott

Carol Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda Jr.

Sharon Kupiec in memory of the Sloat and Parker Families

Shirley Mason in memory of Adams and Mason Families

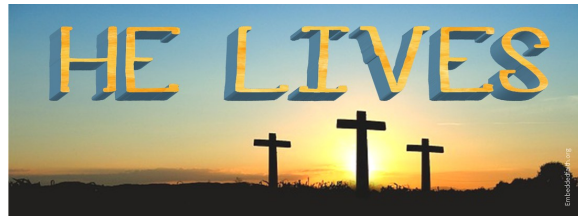
Jean McKay in memory of loved ones

Bill & Barbara McKay in memory of our loved ones

Robin Michel in memory of her sister, Stephanie, and in honor of her children and grandchildren

Porter Family in memory of Warren Porter, Emma & John Haskell, and Alma & Ken Porter

Phyllis in memory of Joanne Myska



Scenes from the Easter Season



Stuffing the Easter eggs



Maundy Thursday



Cleaning the garden before Easter



Passing out the palms



We had more than 90 people at our traditional Easter service!



Sunrise Service at Merriman Burying Ground

