

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



July-August 2025



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

Looking Ahead in July & August

July

Sunday, July 6 – Communion Sunday, 10am

Sunday, July 13 – Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Sunday, July 20 – Worship, 10am

Sunday, July 27 – Worship, 10am

Monday, July 28 – Friendship Time Potluck, 5-7pm

**Other meetings
will be announced.**

August

Sunday, Aug. 3 – Communion Sunday, 10am

Sunday, Aug. 10 – Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Sunday, Aug. 17 – Worship, 10am

Wednesday, Aug. 20 - Outreach, 1pm

Sunday, Aug. 24 – Worship, 10am

Sunday, Aug. 31 – Worship, 10am

Deacons and the Music Committee will not meet in July or August.



Save the Date:

Church Annual Picnic – Sept. 14 following worship!



The Minister's Meanderings: Lessons from Traveling

I recently returned from a wonderful trip to Vietnam. I sampled, and became a fan of, many new kinds of food. (In fact, I'm still looking for a great Vietnamese restaurant in central Connecticut.) I also learned a great deal about the Vietnamese people and their history. I have never met kinder, more gracious, and welcoming people anywhere I have traveled. It was an amazing trip, even if it did mean flying for twenty-two hours, with a three-hour layover between flights.

Many people often enquire why I like to travel to such far-away exotic countries. It's because I believe that experiencing new cultures and meeting new people broadens my horizons and exposes me to new ways of thinking about the world we live in.

Last month, after returning from Vietnam, I was reading the "Hartford Courant" one day when I came across an article by Rick Steves, an American travel author. Rick travels a lot more than I do, and I thoroughly enjoy reading of his journeys to places I've both been to and would like to explore. In his article, he responded to the question I have mentioned, "Why do you like travel?"

I don't have the article, so I'm going to paraphrase it (with apologies to Mr. Steves) because I believe he said it best. He responded that he loved to travel because it took him out of his comfort zone. By doing so, he was compelled to temporarily abandon all his preconceived North American notions. The issues that absorb us in our day-to-day lives here fade into the background when we place ourselves in another culture. Suddenly, we are part of an alternate set of issues, concerns, and preconceptions. We come to realize that we are all stuck on this planet together, in this space of time, attempting to share resources, solve or create problems, deal with one another face to face for the time we share here together.



I traveled halfway around the world to remind myself that my problems, our problems, are the same as everyone else's on this planet, which is merely a speck in a vast universe. I reaffirmed that people generally share the same hopes, dreams and values no matter where they live or by whom they are governed. Christ's great commandment to love one another as we love ourselves is universal; it knows no creed, nationality, or genetic heritage. It is a tenet in all great religions in one form or another. For me, it's good to be reminded of that every now and then.

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*



Come One and All to the Church Picnic!

Don't miss our Church Picnic on Sept. 14 following worship! The Board of Deacons provides burgers and dogs, and beverages. Bring your yummiest picnic side dish or dessert to share! And we'll have some special displays and games. Remember to wear your FBC T-shirt. Don't miss this annual event!

News from the Pews

Baptism – A Profession of Faith

Siblings Grace, Noah and Gabriel Zamorano were baptized on June 22 by their great-uncle The Rev. Robert Smith, retired pastor of Faith Baptist Church. Family, friends and church members gathered at Camp Sloper to witness their important faith milestone. What a blessed day (albeit hot) – Congratulations!



Penny/Pound Auction & Potluck Supper

Our Penny/Pound Auction and Potluck Supper on May 17 was a night full of laughs, delicious food and fellowship! Many great gifts – and gag items – were purchased sight unseen.

Sponsored by the Board of Deacons, more than \$400 was raised for the general fund and deacons fund.

Spud Night & Silent Auction

An immense thank you to everyone who volunteered in a wide variety of endeavors for the months leading up to our annual Spud Night and Silent Auction and during the event itself. Together we earned \$1,708 that was shared between this year's mission trip to the Dominican Republic and also our church's



general fund. Thank you for your continued support!

– Linda Lamy

Outreach Update

Your Outreach Committee has been busy.

- With your support, we are sponsoring a medical clinic in the Dominican Republic while Gabe and Noah are there. With your support, we financially and prayerfully supported their first trip as missionaries to the DR.

- With your support, we have provided much-needed food and personal items to Southington Community Services for those in need within our community.

- We are looking forward to counting the number of completed hygiene kits supporting individuals in disaster areas within our country. A few more bags are needed and are in Fellowship Hall following worship – see article on page 5 for the list of items.

- Your generous support of the One Great Hour of Sharing helps those seeking additional assistance in times of need.

Friendship Time Potluck

The Friendship Time group will be hosting a summer potluck on Monday, July 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring a favorite dish and beverages will be provided. And don't forget your games, hobbies, etc. because we always have time for that! We will resume meeting monthly in September.



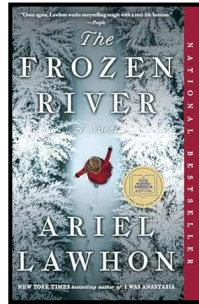
We could not do all of this without your support and prayers. Thank you so much for your generosity.

FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club will be taking summer vacation and will next meet Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon.

The description follows: "Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine the cause of death. But when the death is declared an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own. Clever, layered, and subversive, Ariel Lawhon's newest offering introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard. 'The Frozen River' is a thrilling, tense, and tender story about a remarkable woman who left an unparalleled legacy yet remains nearly forgotten to this day."

The FBC Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the parlor. Each meeting is also



offered via Zoom. Everyone is welcome – even if you didn't read the book or didn't like it! To receive the emails and/or the Zoom link, contact Ginni at vlbutler@sbcglobal.net or call her at (860) 628-5014.

Donations to Community Services

We continue to help the community with the weekly offerings to the food pantry.

Thank you for your donations. And a special thanks goes out to Keith

Choquette for volunteering at the food pantry and delivering our donations!



To assist Southington Community Services in filling their shelves with ample amounts of items, we are suggesting particular items to be donated each month. **July is cereal, August is children's snacks.**

Upcoming donations include: September: peanut butter; October: jelly; November: canned meats, corned beef, tuna, etc.; and December: hand/bar soap. Please know that this is a suggested list and other items are always gladly accepted as well.

Celebrations!

Birthdays

July

4 Bill Michel
7 Jim Steele
8 Sharon Amundsen
10 Karin Myska, Kyle & Brody Neilson, Nancy Shaw
13 Spencer Burdeshaw, Martha Dick
14 Jared Steele
18 Bill McKay Sr.
19 Pam Scheck
20 Gloria Spain
21 Kathy Altemus
23 Sharon Kupiec
28 Adam Carrano
30 Ginni Butler, Stephanie Guerrera

August

5 Phillip Dixon Jr., Troy Jones

6 John Cunningham, Lauren Johns
8 John Myska II, Sarah Gadarowski
14 Stefanie Lamy
19 Brenda Myska
20 Tim Cabata
22 David-John Mikosz
25 Joey Cabata

Anniversaries

June

1 Nicole & Trever Treibt

July

3 Skip & Bernadette Galayda
7 Janet & Tyrone Mellon
8 Lisa Mason & George Graikoski

August

16 Rita & Rudy Cabata
28 Brenda & John Myska

Hygiene Kits - UPDATED ITEMS

There is still the opportunity to assemble hygiene kits. 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 stick deodorant (3.4 oz or less, non-aerosol)*
- One lotion (3.4 oz or less, fragrance-free)*
- One shampoo (3.4 oz or less)*
- One toothpaste (3.4 oz or less)*
- \$2 cash processing fee

Commissioning Our Missionaries

On June 29, we commissioned our missionaries, Noah and Gabriel Zamorano, who will be



serving in the Dominican Republic July 4 to 11. Pastor Sharon and members of the Outreach

Board led the ceremony. Pastor Sharon: "There are different gifts, but the same Spirit that gives them. There are many ways to serve God, but the same Lord is served. Each one of us is given gifts by the Spirit to use for the common good. Together we are the body of Christ, and individually we are members of that body. Our church has supported the mission trip to the Dominican Republic for many years. We are pleased that this continues this year." Following a dialogue with the missionaries and congregation, all members of the congregation were welcomed to pray for them with the laying on of hands. The congregation also committed to praying for them.

Photos and reflections on their trip will be in the September-October issue of The Steeple Signal.

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 helps 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*



Want Flowers? 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 at 12 p.m. to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin.

Thank you! Thank you to Laureen Galayda for providing the beautiful flowers from your garden for our sanctuary during worship in June!

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.



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.



Prayer Requests

Prayer requests made on Sundays and on our Facebook page are included in prayers during the week. They can also be written in the prayer book in the parlor. Questions or requests? Contact Robin or Ginni.

Let's Celebrate!



Lee Burhoe's 95th Birthday

"Thank you to all for your special birthday wishes for my 95th! The cards, calls and gifts just kept coming all week. I appreciate your kindness to me and my family. Love, *Lee Burhoe*"

Congratulations to Brody!



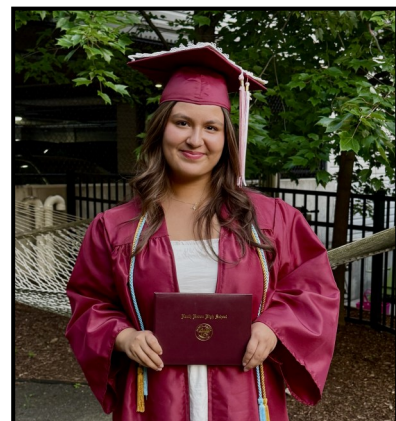
Congrats to Brody Neilson! On May 30, he graduated from Project Search nine-month internship program at

Masonicare. During that time, he trained in dietary, laundry and housekeeping. Masonicare offered him a part-time job in housekeeping

which he accepted. His family and his church family are very proud of him.

Chloe Diaz Graduates

Chloe Diaz, Peg Lewis' granddaughter, graduated from North Haven High School in June. She will be attending UConn at Storrs where she will be studying music and computer science (double major). She is the daughter of Kate and Gerard Considine. Chloe recently shared her beautiful voice with us, singing "O Divine Redeemer" during the June 22 worship service.



Award-winning student

Sharon Kupiec's granddaughter, Addison, won the second-highest award given by Alexandria Country Day School, the Jim Gerard Award for Outstanding Effort. Grandma is puffing with pride!



Our Marchers

Maya Johns and Spencer Burdeshaw marched in the Southington Memorial Day parade, Maya as a member of the Color Guard. In the band, Maya plays clarinet and Spencer plays the drums.



Steeple Signal Deadline

The next edition of The Steeple Signal will be Sept.-Oct. 2025. Deadline is Aug. 15. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin Michel at robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

