

First Baptist Church of Southington

581 Meriden Ave.

Southington, CT 06489-3901

An American Baptist Church ABCUSA

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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



September-October 2025



**Happy
OCTOBER**

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

Looking Ahead in September & October

September

Sunday, Sept. 7: Communion Sunday, 10am

Thursday, Sept. 11: Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, Sept. 14: Annual Picnic! & Celebration Sunday, 10am

Tuesday, Sept 16: Book Club, 1pm, "The Frozen River" – Zoom available

Sunday, Sept. 21: Worship, 10am, Finance meets after worship/fellowship

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Friendship Time, 1pm

Wednesday, Sept. 24: Outreach, 1pm

Sunday, Sept. 28: Worship, 10am, Church Board meets after worship/fellowship

**Other meetings
will be announced.**

October

Sunday, Oct. 5: Communion Sunday, 10am

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

Sunday, Oct. 12: Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Sunday, Oct. 19: Worship, 10am

Tuesday, Oct. 21: Book Club, 1pm, Book TBD – Zoom available

Sunday, Oct. 26 – Worship, 10am

Save the Date:

Church Annual Picnic – Sept. 14 following worship!





The Minister's Meanderings:

As I write this article, it's 16 days until Labor Day, Sept. 1st. It's 103 days until Thanksgiving, Nov. 27; 106 days before the First Sunday of Advent; 131 days until Christmas; 138 days before New Year's Day 2026; 186 days before Ash Wednesday; Feb. 18, 232 days before Easter, April 5; 282 days before Memorial Day, May 25, 2026. Well, that takes care of the calendar for the rest of 2025 into 2026.



Fortunately, that's not all that is ahead of us. As we prepare for the events, holidays, and celebrations of the coming months, we know that there is a lot more in store for us than just a bunch of dates to make note of for the days, weeks, and months ahead of us. We look forward to times of worship, times of working side by side to advance the mission of our church and our faith. We will have opportunities for book studies, fellowship times, and we'll sigh and grumble as winter winds and snow buffet us and potentially force postponements of events. There will be tasks to challenge us and perhaps even push us to our limits. No doubt we will also experience times of joy, laughter and occasionally tears as we participate in the ebb and flow of our lives as a Christian community together.

The beauty of being part of the Christian community at First Baptist is being able to rest secure in the knowledge that we can depend on one another through thick and thin, through trials and tribulations as well as uncertain days in the world around us. We are united by faith, which is solid, unchanging, and eternal. Come what may we know someone always "has our back," there are others we can turn to for advice, support, and sincere empathy.

The dog days of summer are drawing to a close, let's bring on the autumn with all things pumpkin spice, the start of a new church season, the tag sale and whatever else is ahead. It's more than a string of dates in the future; it's our life together. And it starts now!

Faithfully,
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

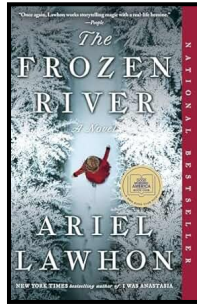
From your Outreach Committee

- Your generosity continues to pour out to our neighbors in need in our community. Thank you for your ongoing support of Southington Community Services. 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.
- Our church family has supported One Great Hour of Sharing and the America for Christ offerings annually. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to these important programs.
- All 77 hygiene kits were boxed and transported to the donation center for distribution to those in need. The items requested were changed this year which made it a bit more difficult to fill our bags - but you did it! Thank you for your support.



FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club will meet Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. Bring your suggestions for our next books. The 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 or Zoom info, email her at vlbutler@sbcglobal.net or call (860) 628-5014.



Thank yous!

Thank you to the elves who cleaned off the stage in preparation for tag sale donations! It was much appreciated.

Heard there were flower closet worker bees cleaning out and organizing the flower closet and hallway. That was quite a big task to take on! Thank you!

After a couple of very hot weeks, it looks like the prayer garden got a spruce up. Thank you to the garden fairies for your hard work!



To all who have donated flowers throughout the summer – we have some very skilled gardeners!

Tag Sale News: It's Nov. 1!

Our all-church tag sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1. 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. 27 to Friday, Oct. 31. • Donations will be accepted from Oct. 27-30. (Please, no donations on Friday, Oct. 31 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. And we even have

"jobs" that require sitting rather than standing or walking around. A sign-up sheet will be available at the picnic and the weeks ahead. Have questions? Please see Joyce.

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in reading scripture or being a worship leader? 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:

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*

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of notices for our weekly bulletin insert is 12 p.m. on Tuesdays. Please drop them off or email them to pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org.

Flower Information

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. **September:** Peg Lewis, (860) 384-4123 **October:** Joyce Olore, (860) 877-3417 Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday at 12 p.m. to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin Michel, (860) 620-2989.

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 children's books! 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. Requests? Contact Robin or Ginni.

Steeple Signal Deadline

The next edition of The Steeple Signal will be Nov. - Dec. 2025. Deadline is Oct. 15. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin Michel 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." If you would like to join our Sunday worship via Zoom, contact Pastor Sharon.

Article Features Lee & Laureen

An internal newsletter published by Omnicare recently featured an article about Laureen Galayda and Lee Burhoe, both church members.

Laureen, who has worked for CVS/Omnicare for 29 years, has owned Shetland sheepdogs most of her life. She regularly took her dogs to



nursing homes to visit friends and family. But now she is providing animal-assisted therapy with her tricolored girl Phryne. Sometimes brother Flurry comes along as he is still learning. One of her regular visits is to Lee who lives at Cedar Ridge at Connecticut Baptist Homes. It is a new aspect to their friendship which has spanned decades.

"Lee has been wonderful," Laureen said, "helping me train and helping the dogs get comfortable in their new roles as canine good-will ambassadors. And I'm really grateful that the folks at Connecticut Baptist were so quick to welcome us. The support they give us as volunteers is fantastic."

Celebrations!

Birthdays

Belated Happy Birthday to Gabriel Zamorano whose birthday was Aug. 27.

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
- 20 Emilia Cabata
- 25 Aaron James Urso
- 28 Ken Corrigan, George Graikoski

October

- 3 Jean Cook
- 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 Graikowski
- 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

Our Missionaries Report on Their Life-Changing Experiences

This summer, Gabriel and Noah Zamorano were members of the Dominican Republic Mission Team thanks to the tremendous support of our church. The following are portions of their remarks that they presented to the congregation during the Aug. 10 worship service. You can watch that and all our worship services on our Facebook page, "First Baptist Church - Southington, CT."

Gabe Zamorano

I want to start by saying thank you to all of you here at First Baptist Church for supporting Noah and I to go on this trip in any way you possibly could've, whether that was through prayers, supporting financially, or kind words of encouragement, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This couldn't have been done without you all.

Our mission in the Dominican Republic was simple; to serve others in need. Noah and I primarily did that by working on the construction team mostly in Batey 50. A batey is a small settlement/village located around sugar cane fields, which primarily house Haitian sugar cane workers to work the sugar harvest. Every year the Batey faces severe erosion and destruction from the hurricanes during hurricane season.

We helped rebuild walkways/sidewalks that were dealing with erosion/destruction. That involved us making concrete and helping wheelbarrow extremely heavy concrete to wherever it had to be poured. We also helped start the construction of a brand new basketball court for the group coming in the last week to complete. We also experienced the Joe Hartman School, located in a barrio in the city of LaRomana. The work that the mission team has done for all of the kids over the years is truly inspiring. We helped start the painting of a beautiful mural that was going to be on the walls of the basketball court for the kids.

In the afternoons/evenings of our days of construction, the construction team would do food distribution for a different Batey each day. We would pass out giant packs of rice along with supplemental food such as cooking oil, sardines, sausages, and pasta. Some days, the bateys were

so big we would maybe feed around 300 people. Going on this trip and seeing a whole different perspective of the world has truly been a life-changing experience. All the people we have met on this mission trip and in the Dominican were truly amazing. Being surrounded by people all for the same purpose and reasons as you was a different type of hard work I have never experienced. The people we met in the Dominican were so friendly and grateful in a way I have never seen before. This was honestly the most amazing part of the trip.



This trip also helped reinforce my faith in Christ. Seeing people praise and worship the one true savior when they ultimately had nothing was extremely inspiring. Instead of looking to God and saying, "Why God?," they look to Him and say "Thank you, God" - they still believe in something far greater and far more perfect than their unfortunate circumstances. When something terrible happens to us we usually ask, "Why God?" and turn away from Him. But, this has shown me that God is the true answer to our problems in life and He is someone worth leaning on.

This trip has opened my eyes to two very big truths in my own life: It has given me purpose and taught me something I am extremely passionate about, and we have so much to be thankful for. Going to serve other people and give them hope in this broken world was something that I loved doing and felt rewarding in a different way like no other. Loving others who have less and teaching them what love really looks like in Jesus Christ is something that I want to dedicate my life's work to.

Lastly, seeing a different part of the world where people have so much less than me has taught me most of the time my problems really aren't problems to stress over because I already have everything I need right in front of me. In Phillipians 4:11-13, Paul writes "For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living to plenty or in want. I can

Continued

do all this through Him who gives me strength." Thank you and God bless.

Noah Zamarano

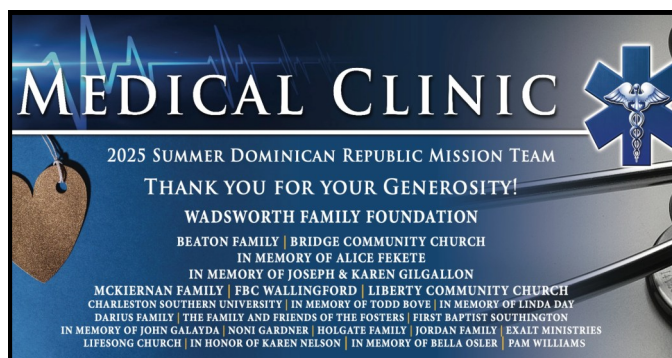
I just want to say thank you all for the support and prayers from you all, it means a lot to me.

I was terrified to go on this trip. I was worried that things would go wrong or how I was going to survive. But that should have been the least of my worries. The trip was full of young Christians who were trustworthy, loving, and committed to the plan. The plan was serving the Lord and, in that process, also serving his people, by giving out food at different bateys, improving their homes with concrete paths so they could get around better, giving out food to the people who don't get it every day, and trying to make their days better. This wasn't an easy job, but I was motivated by God working through me and delivered me to be great. (Psalms 23) "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

I want to share the key points that really impacted me and more influential moments. I want to start with the Bateys, which many would know as a shanty town, a slum, or a ghetto. The Dominican Republic houses between 200,000 to 1 million people who have little to no access to water, electricity, education, or legal counsel, especially pertaining to their labor rights.

But the people that were living there were just grateful for what they had. But they still needed help, so that's where we came into play. We traveled to the countryside and mixed concrete and worked hard. But it felt rewarding, Doing God's work every day isn't easy, but you could feel the Holy Spirit working through you and working in your heart to change the way we think and be more grateful for what we have. God puts you in positions where you're uncomfortable, but it's only to make you stronger in your faith.

The days were never easy, especially with the hot sun, not being able to understand the language, and doing honest work, but that was the least of my issues. My issue was how can I do more? How can I make these people's days better? And we did our best. We brought them those heavy boxes of rice to their homes and prayed over the people. And some of the people that I met there were happier over the



First Baptist Church of Southington was thanked for sponsoring a medical clinic.

prayer than the food. I met this guy who just got home from working his butt off in the sugar cane fields for 2 dollars. And when we said do you want a prayer, he had the brightest smile on his face ever and it made his day. He also got to eat a meal that we gave him, and he was thankful.

Another thing that really stuck with me was the kids.

They were just so freaking adorable. They would run up to us with these smiles and grins (coincidence? I think not). And all I can say is that I was grateful to be able to make their day by throwing a baseball or hanging out with them.

It was a pleasure working with this crew all with the same intentions of growing and healing with God. God is everywhere and he sees all and knows all, and he knows our hearts. We all knew that what we were doing was bigger than what we wanted. The people there that I met were so nice and welcoming, and we all became friends. And these bonds I made with the people also made the work ten times better. We all had our memorable moments of the trip, and the friendships I made I hope we never lose them. God put me here for a reason and I know there are days where it's hard for me or anyone to find that reason, but he put me here to serve and love in his name.

I just want to say special thanks to my brother for always being there for me and pushing me to be greater in this world, you truly are one of the best role models ever. We did it and we had so much fun together and getting to do God's work together but also as brothers. He was the one that really helped guide my spirit more into Christ with scriptures and persuasions. Jesus is the way and doing his works doesn't just help yourself, but it helps his people and helps the world heal.

I didn't expect to feel that I wanted to go back but you do get an urge to return. And do more than what I did last time and change more people. In Jesus teaches us the importance of serving others. Mark 10:45 and Jesus says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many." (KJV) I love this verse because it's showing us how we need to serve each other and not just ourselves. Thank you all for listening and I hope I said something impactful for you.

AND EVERYONE SAID, "AMEN!"