

# 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](mailto:Pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org)

Visit us on Facebook:

First Baptist Church - Southington, CT



## November-December 2025



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

### Looking Ahead in November & December

#### November

**Saturday, Nov. 1:** Annual Tag Sale, 8am-2pm, Volunteers Welcome!

**Sunday, Nov. 2:** All Saints & Communion Sunday, 10am \*\*Turn back the clocks one hour!

**Sunday, Nov. 9:** Celebration Sunday, 10am; monthly celebration follows

**Thursday, Nov. 13:** Deacons, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

**Saturday, Nov. 15:** Celebration of Life Service in honor of Lee Burhoe, 11:30am

**Sunday, Nov. 16:** Worship, 10am, Finance Committee meets after Fellowship

**Monday, Nov. 17:** Friendship Time, 1-3pm

**Tuesday, Nov. 18:** Book Club, 1pm, Zoom available

**Wednesday, Nov. 19:** Outreach Committee, 1pm

**Sunday, Nov. 23:** Pledge Sunday, 10am, church board follows after Fellowship

**Tuesday, Nov. 25:** Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, First Congregational Church, 7pm

**Thursday, Nov. 27:** Happy Thanksgiving

**Sunday, Nov. 30:** 1st Sunday of Advent, worship, 10am, then Hanging of the Greens

**Other meetings  
will be announced.**

#### December

**Sunday, Dec. 7:** Communion & Second Sunday of Advent, 10am

**Wednesday, Dec. 10:** Friendship Holiday Gathering, 1pm – featuring a Cookie Swap!

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

**Sunday, Dec. 14:** Celebration Sunday, & Third Sunday of Advent  
10am, the monthly celebration follows

**Sunday, Dec. 21:** Fourth Sunday of Advent worship, 10am

**Wed., Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, 6pm

**Sunday, Dec. 28:** Worship, 10am

**Wednesday, Dec. 31:** Happy New Year!





**Nov. 1, 2025**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

**I**t is conventional wisdom that in any given church 10% of the active participants do all the work. This is certainly not the case here at First Baptist; at least 80% of our faith community put body, heart and soul into serving the Lord. We do it by committing not just our resources, but in doing the “heavy lifting” of showing up, pitching in and contributing time, effort, ideas and all the resources at our disposal. This is stewardship at its best, and it is an honor to be part of this dynamic, active community.



One of the manifestations of stewardship in our church takes the form of our yearly pledge. November is Stewardship month, when we are called to recommit to the fiscal operation of our church. It is about more than paying salaries, the utility bills and the upkeep of our church properties. It is a way of saying, “I have chosen to serve God” including my wealth.

You can pledge weekly by utilizing our envelope system. You can also choose to contribute monthly. Perhaps you pay your bills through an on-line bill pay service from your bank? If so, you can make your donation to the church via your automated bill paying service. You can set up a payee:

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Your financial institution will automatically send your offering to the church. Automatic bill paying services also allow for repeated, regular payments. If you wish to donate weekly or monthly it will be sent automatically on dates you choose. Should you be paid bi-weekly or semi-monthly you can set up recurring payments to accommodate that schedule as well.

When you support your church, you are declaring that you have chosen to serve God not wealth. As you decide what amount to pledge, think of all Christ has done and continues to do for you. Discuss it with your family. Pray about it. Pledge Sunday is Nov. 23; you can mail in your pledge card or drop it in the offering box.

We are the body of Christ, let us faithfully support His work in the world though the ministry of the First Baptist Church of Southington.

In Christ,

*Your Stewardship Committee*  
*Laureen Galayda*  
*Liz Harwood*

*Pastor Sharon*  
*Peg Lewis*  
*Bill & Barbara McKay*

### News from the Pews

#### It's Tag Sale Time!

Our all-church tag sale is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1. It's all hands on deck for our biggest fundraiser of the year! Please, if you can offer your time that day, contact Joyce at (860) 877-3417.



#### Turn Back Your Clock!

Turn back your clocks one hour before the Sunday, Nov. 2 worship service or you will be early for church! (Better than late!)



## All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday will be held Nov. 2 during which we will

remember Lee Burhoe, Charlie Leighton Lamy, Alicja Marsycki, JoAnne Myska, and Mickey Arisco.

# ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

## Outreach Committee Update

The Outreach Committee had a busy late summer and fall, sending off 77 hygiene kits to Church World Service, continuing to deliver foods multiple times a month to Southington Community Services (thank you Keith Choquette for delivering and for volunteering), among other tasks. Donations to the food pantry are especially important in these times of hardship for so many. We collected the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering in September and we will be sending remembrances and encouragement to our college students in November. We also look forward to our Christmas giving opportunities.



We will have gift tags for Southington Community Services family members available starting Nov. 9; they will be due back wrapped and labeled by Dec. 7. We will also

have a Giving Tree set up in the Fellowship Hall in December and January to collect new socks and underwear for men, women and children at Community Services. Finally, we have recommended that half of the Christmas Offering go to SCS's Fuel Fund. As always, we on the committee are so grateful for the mission-minded generosity of this congregation to tend to the needs of our neighbors near and far.

## Friendship Time

The Friendship Time group continues to meet providing afternoons of laughter,



games and friendly banter. Next gathering will be Nov. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m. Dominoes seems to be especially popular but bring any games, hobbies, photo albums, etc., to share. And mark your calendars for a Christmas gathering on Dec. 10 - hot chocolate and a cookie swap will be featured!

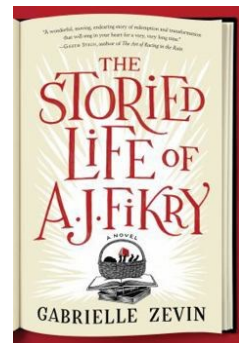
## In Remembrance

Leona "Lee" Burhoe was the loving wife of the late Ronald Burhoe who were married for 50 years and raised 4 daughters here in Southington. She also worked as the Dietary Manager at the Bradley Memorial Hospital for over 20 years. Lee was an active member of First Baptist Church for nearly 70 years, where she loved singing in the church choir and served on various boards and committees. Her church family held a very special place in her heart. Leona was a gracious and loving woman of faith whose life centered around family. She was known for her kindness, gentle personality, warm smile, and quick wit that kept everyone on their toes. She always enjoyed family time. Lee was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, Gigi, sister and friend who brought joy to everyone. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Nov. 15 at 11:30 a.m. at our church.



## FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Storied Life of AJ Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin. This book is available in the library. We will not meet in December.



The FBC Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the parlor. Zoom is also offered. To receive the emails and/or the Zoom link, contact Ginni at (860) 628-5014 or email her at [vlbutler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vlbutler@sbcglobal.net).

## Christmas Eve Service

The traditional Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 6pm on Dec. 24 featuring special readings and music followed by candlelight singing of "Silent Night."



## Donations to Community Services

To assist Southington Community Services in filling their shelves with ample amounts of items, we are suggesting particular items to be donated each month. November is canned meats, corned beef, tuna, etc.; and December is hand/bar soap. Other items are always gladly accepted as well.

Various community food drives will be held in Southington over the next few months.



Local Scouts are heading the Scouting for Food drive on Saturday, Nov. 8 to benefit Southington residents in need. Food can be

donated through curbside pickup or dropped off at the Southington Drive-in Pavilion, 995 Meriden Waterbury Turnpike, from 10 a.m. to noon. Scouts will be distributing bags or door hangers to homes in various areas of town a week in advance and residents are asked to have their bag out for pickup by 9 a.m. on Nov. 8. The non-perishable food items will be given to Southington Bread for Life, Southington Community Services, and The Tabernacle Giving Back Pantry to distribute.

SCS is collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets. Items needed include: yams, gravy, cranberry sauce, fruit cocktail, potatoes, carrots, corn, green beans, sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, cornbread mix, baking mix, hot cocoa, ground coffee and other non-perishable items.

The Southington Fire Department is collecting food for SCS during November. Canned fruit, veggies, raviolis, spaghetti and meatballs; shelf milk, cereal, baked goods and kid snacks. No refrigerated items are accepted. Items can be dropped off at Fire Headquarters, 310 N. Main St., Station 5, 72 River St., Southington Library, 255 Main St., and Tops Marketplace.

### Thank you!

- To Dot for making all the beautiful fall wreaths for our doors and outside arrangements.

- To the McKays for painting the outside stairs to make entry safer

- To our amazing tag sale volunteers

To all those who have baked, served and cleaned up for our fellowship hours

- To the garden fairies who have cleaned up the garden and arranged for the invasive vines to be cleared from the hedges

- To all those gathering and organizing the many tag sale items on the stage



- To those who have facilitated the use of the fellowship hall for the SCS sale, and the Sunday School room for Boy Scout potato preparations (what great uses of our spaces!)
- For the professional and lay musicians and the music that lifts us every Sunday

### 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. Call Ginni (860-628-5014) if you plan on bringing a treat.

### Flower News

Hanging of the Greens will be held Sunday, Nov. 30 following worship. Everyone is invited to stay and help decorate our sanctuary and hall for the Christmas season! We will be "unhanging the greens" on Jan. 4.

We will be receiving our poinsettia ordering information soon. Watch the announcements.

If you would like to give flowers on a specific Sunday, write your name and phone number on the form posted in the narthex. Please call that month's flower coordinator so she doesn't also provide flowers. The flower coordinator for November is Dot Amundsen, (860) 929-8131; December is Robin Michel, (860) 620-2989. Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday at 12 p.m. to include it in the bulletin.

### Veterans Day Service

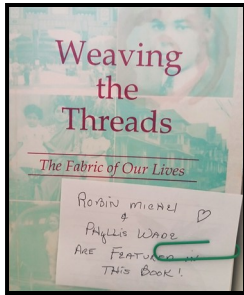
Veterans are invited to a special event on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 10:30 a.m. at Central Baptist Church, 1505 West St. Lunch for veterans and families follow.

### 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. Donations of all types of newer books are welcome (except for horror).



There are new selections of historical fiction, and you can always catch up with the FBC Book Club by reading "The Frozen River," and "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks. We even have books about



Southington including, "Weaving the Threads" with stories by Phyllis Wade and Robin Michel, "Southington the War Years" and "Tales from the Trailerhood" by Jerry Gerrish about growing up at Jensen's mobile home park.

Our library has 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. Have ideas or want to help? See Margaret Shigo-Zembko.

### Shopping with Friends

First Baptist Church hosted Shopping with Friends, a fundraiser for Southington Community Services. It was quite the crowd and we were glad to help!



### 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](mailto:pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org) or drop them off at the church office.

### Prayer Requests

Feel free to write prayer requests in the prayer book located on the parlor table. Prayer requests made on Sundays and on our Facebook page are included in prayers during the week. Questions or requests? Contact Robin or Ginni.

### Steeple Signal Deadline

The next edition of The Steeple Signal will be Jan.-Feb. 2026! Deadline is Dec. 15. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin Michel at [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com).

**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.

Email me at [ctu246040@gmail.com](mailto:ctu246040@gmail.com), or see me at the Sunday services. Thanks - *Les Marsh*



### Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service, presented by the Southington Interfaith Clergy Association, will be held Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 7 p.m., at First Congregational Church of Southington, 37 Meriden Ave. Many different faiths are involved in the worship service. Everyone is welcome.



### Members' News

#### Welcome to Your New Home

Carol and Tom Kearney just moved to their new home sweet home at Cedar Ridge at Connecticut Baptist Home. Their address is: 292 Thorpe Ave K-1, Meriden, CT 06450. Wishing you much happiness in your new home!

#### Off Adventuring

A group from our church took a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the Sight & Sound production of "Noah."

Travelers included Sarah Gadarowski, Lori Koritkowski, Barbara McKay, Tony Arisco, Diana Raymond, and Margaret Shigo-Zembko. They said it was great!



**Introducing a New Police Officer!**

Elizabeth Tata graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy on Sept. 17 after completing 28 weeks of rigorous training encompassing 400 hours of field and departmental instruction. She



is a daughter of Heidi and Eric Tata, and a granddaughter of Barbara and Bill McKay. Elizabeth is a new police officer with the Windsor Police Department. Congratulations to one of Connecticut's finest officers!

**Maya Takes the Stage**

Maya Johns (second from left) has been very busy pursuing her love of theater. During October she played the role of "Beatrice" in the production of "The Legend of Sleep Hollow" at The Arts at Angeloria in



Southington. She was also selected for The Bushnell Center for Performing Arts first-ever youth theater program. The Bushnell Performing Arts Scholars program combines master classes and workshops designed to develop participants' skills in performance, music, and stagecraft. They will present the live theatrical production of Roald Dahl's "Matilda Jr., The Musical" at The Bushnell. She is the daughter of Lauren and Thomas Johns, and the granddaughter of Phyllis Wade and Walter Jones.

**Marvin's Vacation**

Marvin Choquette took a Major League Baseball tour in July, that included games in five cities including Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati and St Louis. While in Cleveland we also made a stop at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. We also stopped at the Louisville Slugger Museum. After the tour, I spent four extra days in Missouri to visit cousins there, and went to the Sight and Sound theater in Branson to see the production, "David." It was a fun trip that I really enjoyed.



**Birthdays**

Belated Happy Birthday to Bev Corjulo whose birthday was Oct. 17. We've loved having Bev back at worship!

**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
- 14 Lisa Wallace (Barbara Adams' daughter)
- 16 Adrianna Palmieri
- 18 Linda Mikosz, Tiffany Steele
- 19 David Mikosz
- 20 Joyce Olore, Gina Palmieri
- 23 Cassie Callaghan
- 25 Lisa Anne Murray
- 28 John Galayda Jr.

**Anniversaries  
December**

- 29 Kim & Kyle Neilson