

# 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



## March-April 2026



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

#### March

**Sunday, March 1:** Second Sunday in Lent/Communion Sunday, 10am, Annual Meeting follows

**Monday, March 2:** Friendship Time, 1pm

**Tuesday, March 3:** Lenten Book Study begins, 1pm

**Sunday, March 8:** Third Sunday in Lent/Celebration Sunday, 10am; monthly celebration follows. Daylight Saving Time begins! Deadline for ordering Easter flowers.

**Tuesday, March 10:** Lenten Book Study, 1pm

**Thursday, March 12:** Deacons meeting, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

**Sunday, March 15:** Fourth Sunday in Lent, 10am; Finance meeting after worship/fellowship

**Tuesday, March 17:** Lenten Book Study, 1pm

**Wednesday, March 18:** Outreach, 1pm

**Sunday, March 22:** Fifth Sunday in Lent, 10am; Church Board meeting after worship/fellowship, Easter candy deadline

**Tuesday, March 24:** Lenten Book Study, 1pm

**Sunday, March 29:** Palm Sunday, 10am

**Other meetings will be announced.**

#### April

**Thursday, April 2:** Maundy Thursday, 7pm

**Sunday, April 5:** Easter Sunday Worship, Sunrise Service at Merriman Cemetery, 6:30am; regular worship/ Communion Sunday in sanctuary, 10am; Easter Egg hunt follows

**Thursday, April 9:** Deacons Meeting, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

**Sunday, April 12:** Celebration Sunday, 10am, monthly celebration

**Wednesday, April 15:** Outreach Committee, 1pm

**Wednesday, April 15:** Steeple Signal deadline

**Sunday, April 19:** Worship, 10am

**Saturday, April 25:** Spud Night & Silent Auction, 5:30-7pm

**Sunday, April 26:** Worship, 10am



## The Minister's Meanderings



It is mid-February. It has been brutally cold. We've had what feels like more than our fair share of snow, wind and ice. And it's not over yet. Isn't that a cheerful way to start an article for our *Steeple Signal* as we look toward spring?

I try various coping strategies to get through the winter months, because (as most of you know) I'm not a fan of wearing everything I own to go out, fearing slipping and falling on the ice, or considering putting the trash in the dumpster as an Olympic event. As I gaze at my snow-covered deck furniture, my weary soul longs for warm summer evenings sitting in a deck chair, waving to my neighbors as they take their strolls through the parking lot. Now, I stay inside as much as possible and dream of warmer days to come. And they will come, just as they do every year despite whatever groundhog prophesizes. In fact, right now it is coyote mating season, and I've seen several roaming across the yard in search of a mate and/or a den in which to raise their young. Deep underground, the sap is beginning to rise in dormant trees heralding the arrival of new growth leaves that will offer shade in the dog days of summer.

As I've grown older, not necessarily wiser, I've made



my peace with winter. I've realized that it is only through the yearly revolution of the earth around the sun that makes summer possible now in the southern hemisphere. In fact, March 1 marks the beginning of autumn in Australia and South Africa. It's hard for me to think about Christmas being in the summer, but it is in half of the world.

So, I suppose we can put up with a few cold months so others can bask in the warmth. However, I do look forward to Easter which for me marks the return of a season of flowers, blooming trees and verdant growth. Truly a kind of resurrection appropriately occurring at the time we celebrate the triumphal resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

*Pastor Sharon*

## News from the Pews

### Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, March 1. Lunch, provided by Deacons and desserts provided by Outreach, will follow. The annual report was emailed and limited copies are available.



### Martin Luther King Jr. Event



Two exemplary middle school students, Owen Warner

of JFK Middle School and Nanor Kevorkian of DePaolo Middle School, were honored. The University of Hartford Jazz Trio provided the perfect music. A special reception followed. We are proud to continue for almost 30 years the tradition of being Southington's only celebration of Dr. King. Thank you to the committee and all the other volunteers who made this a great success.

Our annual event honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was held Sunday, Jan. 25. Guest speaker was State Rep. Chris Poulos who addressed the theme "Public Education."

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### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 17 was presented by our Board of Deacons. Pancakes, sausage, fruit and



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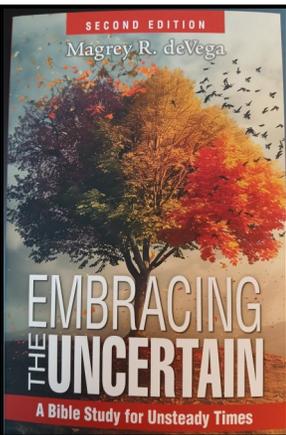
other treats were served to many diners. The generous donations of \$256 were donated to the Deacons Fellowship

Fund. Thank you, everyone!

**Daylight Saving Time**  
Daylight Saving Time is Sunday, March 8. Move your clocks ahead one hour or else you'll be late to church!



**Lenten Book Study**



First Baptist Church's Lenten Book Study will begin March 3, discussing "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey R. deVega. It is described as a Bible study for unsteady times. The book study will be led by the Rev. Peg Lewis and held on Tuesdays, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the parlor, through March 24. See Peg if you'd like to join. The first week please read intro and chapters 1, 2 and 3.

**Easter Candy Donations**

We appreciate donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt planned for after worship on April 5. Candy can be put in the office or left with a note in the kitchen. The deadline is March 22. Thank you!



**Easter Flowers**

The order form for Easter flowers and gifts is the last page of this newsletter. Deadline is Sunday, March 8. We will purchase tulips, daffodils and lilies. The order forms are available in the narthex, have been emailed and are on the website [www.firstbaptist.southington.org](http://www.firstbaptist.southington.org). (Did you know that we purchase our flowers



from Michael's Greenhouses in Cheshire? The business was founded in 1969 by the late Mickey Arisco – the brother of our own Tony Arisco!)

**Easter Week**

Our Easter Week begins with our Palm Sunday service on March 29. The Maundy Thursday service on April 2 will be observed at 7 p.m. The Easter Sunrise service will be at 6:30 a.m. at Merriman Burying Ground/Cemetery on Marion Avenue at the corner of Nutmeg Drive. The regular Easter Sunday service, including Communion, will be held at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will follow.



**Join the 2026 Summer Mission Team to the Dominican Republic**



The 2026 Dominican Republic Summer Mission Teams have begun registration for the trips this summer. Three people from our community have joined the team already for the week of July 4 to 11 and one person during June 27 to July 4 to be a part of this amazing experience. The cost of the trip will continue to be shared between our church, in addition to a portion provided by our missionaries.

Participants also are responsible for acquiring their own passports. Questions? Feel free to contact Linda Lamy at (860) 283- 6734, [lindalamy8@gmail.com](mailto:lindalamy8@gmail.com); or Pastor Sharon by March 8 as the trips tend to reach capacity quickly.

More information is also available on the web at [drmissionteam.org](http://drmissionteam.org). Please prayerfully consider this mission opportunity this summer whether as a team member, a prayer partner or sponsor to support this opportunity. - *Your Outreach Committee*

**Friendship Time**

Friendship Time will meet Monday, March 2, 1pm. Join us for games, laughter and conversation.



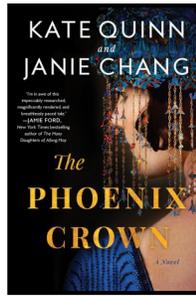
**FBC Book Club**

The FBC Book Club will resume meeting Tuesday, April 21 at 1 p.m. to discuss "The Phoenix Crown" by Kate Quinn and Janie Chang. This book is available in the town library and from

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several book club members.

The book has been described as a thrilling and unforgettable narrative about the intertwined lives of two wronged women, spanning from the chaos of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake to the glittering palaces of Versailles.



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](mailto:vlbutler@sbcglobal.net) or call her at (860) 628-5014.

### Our Annual Spud Night & Silent Auction



Spread the news to family and friends to join us on Saturday, April 25 for our annual delicious handcrafted 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.

On Sunday, April 12 and April 19 after the worship service, you will also have the opportunity to become a Spud Night sponsor. There will be a table in Fellowship Hall where you may select your favorite baked potato toppings or other needed items to sponsor for a few dollars. Also, you are welcome to donate new or regifted items for our auction by April 19.

Feel free to talk with Linda Lamy (860) 878-5310 or at [lindalamy8@gmail.com](mailto:lindalamy8@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help the night of the event or setting up during the week. This year our fundraiser will benefit our mission opportunities such as assisting in sponsoring our volunteers serving on the Dominican Republic Mission Team this summer and the church's general fund.

### Auction Basket Making

Are you feeling crafty and want to create an auction basket or two, or do you just want to come by and help with some Spud Night preparations? You are welcome to join us downstairs in the basket room on either Monday, March 9 or Tuesday, March 24. Stop in for an hour or two between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Call Linda (860) 878-5310 if you plan on helping one day. Thanks so much!

### May is Our SAVERS Collection Month

Our "soft goods" collection is here! We welcome any clean, gently used soft goods such as clothes, bedding, coats, belts, linens, fabric toys, pocketbooks,

vinyl/leather luggage, shoes and boots. Thank you for inviting family and friends to also donate, as we work towards our goal this year of 4,444 pounds of soft goods! This fundraiser will benefit our church's general fund and mission opportunities.



We will be collecting through May 22. Donations should be placed in kitchen-size bags and will be collected near the stage in the drop-off area. If you have any questions or need a different drop-off time, just talk with Linda Lamy at (860) 878-5310.

### Donations to Community Services

We continue to help our community with the weekly offerings to our local food pantry. Items can be left in the basket in the narthex or donations be dropped off at Southington Community Services, 91 Norton St., Plantsville.



To assist Southington Community Services in filling their shelves with ample amounts of items, we are suggesting which items to donate during each month. This is a suggested list and other items are always gladly accepted as well at any time: March: canned fruit; April: shampoo; and May: pasta sauce.

### Volunteer Opportunities

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? Email me at [ctu246040@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org) or drop them off at the church office.

**Flower News**

If you would like flowers for a regular Sunday, flower sign-up 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.

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.

These are the flower coordinators for the next few months:

**March:** Sharon Amundsen (860) 517-9652;

**April:** Robin Michel (860) 620-2989;

**May:** Joyce Olore (860) 276-8061;

**June:** Ginni Butler (860) 628-5014

**Willy Says: Check out Our Church Library!**

All types of books have been coming into our church library – and Willy the Bookworm encourages YOU to borrow them! Our library has many inspirational Christian books to help us along our spiritual journey. Devotionals to inspire, encourage and heal us 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**

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 or Ginni.

**Steeple Signal Deadline (photo)**

The Steeple Signal deadline for the May-June issue is April 15. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin Michel at [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com).

**Church Website**

Our website is [www.firstbaptistsouthington.org](http://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 services via Zoom, contact Pastor Sharon.

**Camp Wightman’s 70th Anniversary Celebration**

Join Camp Wightman on Saturday, May 30 for a weekend filled with fun, fellowship and rekindling friendships and faith. Whether camp was a part of your family’s story, this milestone celebration is the perfect time to come to camp. Arrive between 10am and 12pm and enjoy activities all day and a noon luncheon at no charge along with a square dance and campfire with songs, stories and smores, too.



Check out Camp Wightman’s website at [www.campwightman.org](http://www.campwightman.org) for overnight options, too. Come reminisce and celebrate all that God has done through Camp Wightman over the past 70 years and look ahead at what’s to come.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

**March**

- 1 Zachary Jones
- 6 Ethan Amundsen, Emily Stallworth
- 8 Dante Jones
- 14 Mildred Pugh
- 28 Melanie MacDonald
- 29 Wes Lamy

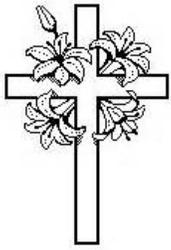
- 6 Barbara Burkhardt
- 13 Rita Cabata
- 30 Emily Lamy

**Anniversaries**

**March**

- 17 Jen Egan & Stefan Panczeko commitment





# Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

*Remember or honor your loved ones  
with flowers or a memorial gift*

Please use this form to memorialize or honor a loved one with beautiful flowers or a gift on **Easter Sunday, April 5**. You can place this completed form and payment in the offering box in the narthex or return it to the church office. The flower/gift list will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin and May/June Steeple Signal. Please make your check out to "First Baptist Church of Southington" with "Easter flowers/gift" on the memo line.

**Deadline is Sunday, March 8.**

You can take your plant home after the Easter service. Questions? Contact Robin Michel, (860) 620-2989 or email robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

Please fill in the number of flowers you are ordering or the information for a memorial gift.

(# ) **Lilies** (6-inch pot) \$12

(# ) **Tulips** (6-inch pot) \$8.50

(# ) **Daffodils** (6-inch pot) \$8.50

**Gift** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount included or **IOU** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** or **in Honor of** as you would like it listed (circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_

Giver's Name (as you would like it listed):

\_\_\_\_\_

Designation of Gifts, i.e. general fund, music, missions, flowers, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name & phone # in case of questions: \_\_\_\_\_