

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 2026



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

May

Now through May 24: Savers Collection

Sunday, May 3: Communion Sunday, 10am

Wednesday, May 6: Friendship Time celebrating mothers, 1pm

Sunday, May 10: Mothers' Day Sunday Worship, 10am; monthly celebration follows

Wednesday, May 13: Outreach, 1pm

Thursday, May 14: Deacons meeting, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Saturday, May 16: Potluck supper and Penny/Pound Auction, 5pm

Sunday, May 17: Sunday Worship, 10am; Finance Committee after worship/fellowship

Sunday, May 24: Pentecost Sunday Worship, 10am

Saturday, May 30: Camp Wightman's 70th Anniversary Celebration, all day

Sunday, May 31: Sunday Worship, 10am; Church Board after worship/fellowship

June

Sunday, June 7: Communion Sunday Worship, 10am

Wednesday, June 10: Friendship Time celebrating fathers, 1pm

Thursday, June 11: Deacons Meeting, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday, June 14: Celebration Sunday, 10am, monthly celebration

Monday, June 15: Steeple Signal deadline

Sunday, June 21: Commissioning Sunday and Father's Day Sunday, 10am

Sunday, June 28: Sunday Worship, 10am



Other meetings will be announced.

Walking the Road to Emmaus



After the grueling events of Jesus' arrest, trial, torture, and crucifixion, the disciples didn't know what to make of the news that Mary brought them of the resurrection. Could Jesus really have risen from the dead? Was it a cruel joke being played on them by the Roman governor or Jewish

leaders? In any event, the disciples were terrified that they would be arrested and persecuted next. Many huddled behind locked doors, others left presumably to return to their villages and families. Two disciples, Cleopas and an unidentified disciple set out to walk the seven miles to Emmaus.

It is interesting to note that there is still no archeological data available to prove where Emmaus was, which makes it a bit more poignant as we contemplate the true meaning of the road to Emmaus. Therefore, when we contemplate our own journey to Emmaus takes on a more metaphorical meaning.

Cleopas and the other disciple did not recognize Jesus when he joined them on that road toward home. They were so bereft and traumatized by the events they had witnessed that they longed for the safety of the familiar things of their village, the people, the fields, the flocks, the comfort. They certainly felt they had left nothing but pain behind, along with Jesus's bright promises of the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. They were alone, abandoned and without hope. Eventually, Jesus revealed his identity to them causing boundless joy and a jubilant trip back to Jerusalem.

How often in our lives do we face our own road to Emmaus? A road where we cannot feel Jesus's



presence and feel alone and far away from his presence, love, and comfort. Suddenly, amid our despair, Jesus appears to us and we are reconnected in a new and powerful way.

Each of us will experience our own road to Emmaus. It could happen through loss, illness, the death of a loved one or any number of reasons that draw us to the brink of despair. Just when we feel all is lost, we'll feel a presence, a comforting hand, his tears mingling with ours as he shares our sorrow. The key is to be open to the possibility that all is not lost, Jesus is with us and will be with us as we travel this road and all other roads. It is when we are unwilling to entertain the possibility of his presence with us that we will be truly lost. Believe, embrace the possibility and the impossible is miraculously possible!

In Christ,
Pastor Sharon

News from the Pews

Our Spud Nite and Silent Auction Wrap-Up

We would like to thank everyone for their support of our Spud Night and Silent Auction on April 25! The volunteers were amazing who helped during the months leading up to our event, in addition to those who assisted that evening to make it all happen. Thank you also to the Spud sponsors and auction donors! The silent auction baskets were amazing!



With all your efforts, we have raised over \$1,800 for the church's general fund and missions.

Thank you, one and all! - Linda Lamy and Joyce Olore



Thank you to our very experienced kitchen crew including the McKays, Olores and others!

Back by Popular Demand!



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 16 at 5 p.m. It's a great night of good food, fun and fellowship! Please bring a dish to share at our potluck supper. And don't miss our auctioneer extraordinaire: Pastor Sharon!

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 cell phone! Some items do make a return appearance adding to the mystery! Will you be the proud owner of four squeaky chickens?

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! If you don't want to bid, feel free to just come and watch – can't get better entertainment than this!

This event is sponsored by the Board of Deacons. All proceeds will be donated to Deacons. Join us!

May is Our Savers Collection Month

Our annual Savers "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 4,000 pounds of soft goods! This fundraiser will benefit our church's general fund and mission opportunities.

We will be collecting until May 24. 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 drop-off time other than when the church is open, just contact Joyce Olore at (860) 877-3417 or Linda Lamy at (860) 878-5310.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering in May; this ABCUSA offering is shared, without administrative costs, with similar offerings from a variety of Christian denominations. The proceeds are distributed throughout the world for emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work, and development assistance. This year's focus is on support for the Middle East, specifically Lebanon and Jordan.



We are also pleased to be contributing to the Dominican Republic Mission Trip this summer. The cost of the trip will continue to be shared between our church, in addition to a portion provided by our missionaries.

In addition to helping support Gabe and Noah Zamorano as they return to the DR in July, we will be providing a medical supply kit for the medical clinic. The commissioning for the brothers will be at our June 21 worship service.



Fellowship Coffee Hour

Thanks again to everyone who has been helping with our Fellowship Hour. There are still plenty of openings to host - And lessons are available on making coffee and setups. Thanks for making so many people happy! Please let me know if you're interested – Thanks, *Ginni*

Easter Week (See photos on page 6)

We had a meaningful Easter season featuring a book study of "Embracing the Uncertain" by Margrey R. Devega and led by Peg Lewis. We also observed Palm Sunday, a moving Maundy Thursday service, our sunrise service at the Merriman Burying Ground (brr...) and our traditional Easter service including communion this year. Because of the wet weather, the Easter Egg Hunt was held in the sanctuary.

Easter Week fact: Our carillon in the steeple does not ring from noon on Good Friday to noon on Easter. **If you'd like to hear its beautiful bells, stop by at noon and 6 p.m. any day of the week.

Friendship Time



Friendship Time will meet Wednesday, May 6, 1 p.m. Because it is near Mother's Day, bring a photo of and story about your mom! On Wednesday, June 10, at 1 p.m., you are welcome to bring a photo of your dad and a story. Join us for games, laughter and conversation. Thanks, Sharon Pernal, for the suggestion!

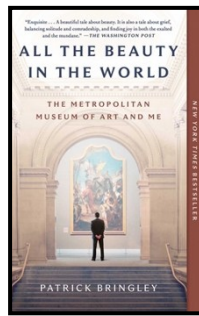
Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday (50 days after Easter) is May 24 – remember to wear red!

FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club took a break for our Lenten Book Study of "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey Devega. Thank you, Rev. Peg!

The regular book club will meet Tuesday, May 19 at 1 p.m. to discuss "All The Beauty in the World" by Patrick Bringley 2023 After Patrick's brother dies, he can't handle the day-to-day stress of his job. So, he becomes a guard at the NYC Metropolitan Museum of Art. Spending his days in the midst of some of the most beautiful art in the world, he slowly heals from his grief. This book is available at the Southington Library.



The FBC Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the parlor. Zoom will not be available in May. 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 our community with the weekly offerings to our local food pantry. Items can be left in the basket in the narthex (thank you, Keith and Marvin Choquette, for delivering them!) 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.

Other items are always greatly appreciated. **May:** pasta sauce; **June:** pasta



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 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. 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 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. Anyone interested in carpooling?

In preparation, there will be a workday on Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. They need help installing the new dock and other smaller tasks. Lunch will be provided. Send a quick RSVP to indicate you will be attending: office@campwightman.org.

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!

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 email

them to pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org or drop them off at the church office.

Flower News

The list of Easter flowers and memorial gifts dedications is on the last page of the newsletter.

Thank you to the many people who donate flowers including Laureen who has a bounteous garden!

If you would like flowers for a regular Sunday, flower signup sheets are posted in the narthex. Write your name and phone number on the form. If you are unable to shop, we can do that 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.

Flower coordinators: **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 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.

Right now, our library is under reorganization – watch the bulletin board for the date of the grand opening! Have ideas or want to help? See Margaret Shigo-

Zembko.

Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be written 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.

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 watch our worship services on our Facebook page “First Baptist Church – Southington, CT.” If you would like to join via Zoom, contact Pastor Sharon.

And a Family Reunion...



Pastor Sharon recently had a mini-reunion with (from left) her sister, Sandy, Pastor, her brother, Steve, and her sister-in-law, Betsy.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

May

- 7 Walter Jones
- 8 Carrie Hunter
- 10 Marissa Myska
- 11 Aimee Cunningham, Nik Paneczko
- 17 Peg Lewis, Sharon Pernal
- 19 Melissa Lamy
- 21 Andrea Jones
- 24 Robin Michel
- 30 Jean Chinigo

June

- 4 Tony Arisco
- 5 Suzanne DeMerchant
- 6 Donna Burhoe
- 7 Noah Zamorano, David Michel
- 9 Carl Hoffman

- 11 Cheryl Tomkiewicz
- 13 Carol Kearney
- 14 Grace Zamorano, Kyle Chinigo, Les Marsh
- 19 Lauren Galayda
- 20 Maya Johns
- 23 Darlene Steele
- 24 Diana Raymond



Anniversaries

May

- 2 Linda & Gary Lamy
- 11 Carol & Tom Kearney
- 27 Suzanne & Grant DeMerchant

June

- 1 Nicole & Trever Treibt
- 19 Joyce & Lou Olore
- 24 Carl & Sharon Hoffman

Scenes from the Easter Season



Easter 2026 Flowers & Gifts

Flowers

Barbara, Lori and Lisa in memory of Horace Adams
Bev and Amanda Corjuo in honor of family near and far

Marvin and Keith Choquette in memory of Vincent and Fern Choquette

Martha Dick and Katherine Altemus in memory of Katy Lou Dick and her Grandpa Charles Altemus Jr.

Carol Galayda in memory of John and Margaret Galayda

The Gworek Family in memory of David and Ted Gworek

The Gworek Family in memory of Mildred and Al Bassett

Bill and Barbara McKay in memory of our loving parents

Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams and Mason Families

Robin Michel in memory of Bob and Lucy Lee, and Stephanie Lee Harris

Neilsons in memory of MaryAnn and Wilda

The Olore Family in loving memory of Brandon Stallworth, Edward Schellhammer, and Dr. and Mrs. Louis Olore

In honor of Avery Hunter's first birthday on April 6 by her grandparents Joyce and Lou Olore

Stefan D. Panecko in memory of Judith F. Barrows
Diana Raymond, Anthony Arisco in memory of Alice Bogue, Al Raymond, and Angie Arisco

The Shaw family in memory of Al Shaw

Cheryl Tomkiewicz in memory of mom, dad, and sister

Gifts

Anonymous in celebration of life

In loving memory of husband, Ernie Jr., and son Ernie III "Chip" Burkhardt given by Barbara Burkhardt

Ginni in memory of Gert and Ken Butler

In memory of family and friends by Sharon Kupiec

Bill and Barbara McKay in honor of our beloved grandchildren and great-grandchild