

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 2026



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

Upcoming Dates

July



Sunday, July 5: Communion Sunday, 10am

Sunday, July 12: Celebration Sunday, 10am

Sunday, July 19: Sunday Worship, 10am

Saturday, July 25: Friendship Time Potluck Supper, 5pm

Sunday, July 26: Sunday Worship, 10am

August

Sunday, Aug. 2: Communion Sunday, 10am

Sunday, Aug. 9: Celebration Sunday, 10am

Thursday, Aug. 13: Deacons Meeting, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Saturday, Aug. 15: Steeple Signal deadline

Sunday, Aug. 16: Sunday Worship, 10am

Sunday, Aug. 23: Sunday Worship, 10am

Sunday, Aug. 30: Sunday Worship, 10am

Other meetings will be announced.



Come One and All to the Church Picnic! pix

Don't miss our Church Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 13 following worship! The Board of Deacons provides burgers and hot 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!

The Pastor's Ponderings Upon Our 250th Independence Day



On July 4th, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which established the United States of America. It was comprised of the first 13 colonies established along the Eastern Seaboard in chronological order of their founding: Virginia (1607), Massachusetts (1620), New Hampshire (1623), Maryland (1634), Connecticut (1635), Rhode Island (1636), Delaware (1638), North Carolina (1653), South Carolina (1653), New York (1664), New Jersey (1664), Pennsylvania (1681), and Georgia (1733).

Thirteen years after the Declaration, James Madison wrote the "Bill of Rights," the first ten articles of the United States. The first, and to many, the most important was the first amendment which established the separation of church and state. While the words "separation of church and state" are not directly contained in the first amendment, two clauses clearly established the principles of this separation. The first clause prohibits the government from establishing any official state religion or endorsing any one religion over another. The second clause protects the right of individuals to practice their faith, or hold no faith at all, without government interference.

The First Amendment, while written by Madison, was largely the result of the work of two prominent Colonial Baptists; John Leland of Virginia and Isaac

Backus of Massachusetts. Both men urged Madison to include religious freedom as a prominent tenant based on their own personal and religious history. Both men were familiar with the precedent set in Massachusetts in 1638 when the "State" church banished Roger Williams for espousing Baptist beliefs. Williams established the first state in the union based on the concept of religious freedom – Rhode Island.

As Baptists today, it is crucial that we hold tight to the first amendment lest the government, local or national, compromise our right to worship, or not worship, as we each choose. It is also imperative that we not try to impose our religious beliefs on any other individual or group.

The freedoms that were worth fighting and dying for 250 years ago are no less important today. Let us continue to insist that the church and state are both of immense value, but they should never become the entwined.

Happy 250th!

In Christ Pastor Sharon



News from the Pews

Here I Am – Send Me!

Our church is pleased to again help sponsor two short term missionaries to the Dominican Republic this summer, Noah and Gabe Zamorano. Gabe will be serving from June 28 to July 11 and Noah from July 4 to July 11. They will be part of a team of over 100 volunteers coordinated by the First Baptist Church of Wallingford. We commissioned them on June 20.

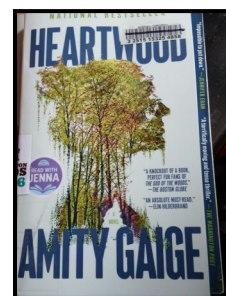


Your prayers are so appreciated as they return this summer with greater understanding and confidence in the many ways they minister to and assist the people in need that live in the bateys. And we thank those who have made donations or supported our fundraisers.

Library News

Willy the Bookworm and his friend Margaret Shigo-

Zembko are asking for new novels that you would like to donate to the church library. We do have some new books on the book cart including "Theo of Golden," "An Inconvenient Widow" (about Mary Todd Lincoln), and "The Calamity Club." We'd love more to put on our book cart!



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

Savers Update: THANKS TO ALL!



With all your help, and also support from Southington Community Services, we collected over 4,700 pounds of clothing, linens, footwear and other soft goods and received \$1,005! The mound of bags on the stage was so impressive.

Thank you to all who donated items, who volunteered to load and unload the truck,

the Scouts for also assisting that Saturday and Joyce's son-in-law, Kyle, for driving and the use of his company's truck. This year the funds will be shared between our general fund and also mission opportunities. — *Linda Lamy*

Scouts Renew and Revitalize Prayer Garden

The members of Boy Scout Troop 17, proudly chartered by our church, recently completed their annual spring service project in the prayer garden located on the north side of the building. This



special space, originally created more than a decade ago as an Eagle Scout project from within the troop, continues to be a place for reflection and peace for

our congregation. Each year, the scouts return to care for the garden through weeding and general upkeep, carrying on a meaningful tradition of stewardship. This year, the troop went above and beyond routine maintenance to revitalize the garden. In addition to clearing weeds and overgrowth, the scouts power-washed and refreshed the stone benches, bird bath, and stepping stones - while also enjoying a bit of harmless fun spraying each other along the way. They removed aging cedar mulch in preparation for a fresh layer to be added soon and tackled a small but fast-growing rogue cedar tree that had begun to encroach on the space. One of the most noticeable enhancements is the replacement of the garden's trellises. The previous structures had significantly deteriorated over time, so the scouts worked together to install two beautiful new cedar trellises.

While a few finishing touches remain, the prayer garden is already looking renewed and inviting. We encourage everyone to stop by and enjoy this peaceful space. Troop 17 takes great pride in lending a helping hand to the church, and projects like this give scouts not only the opportunity to serve, but also to build friendships and enjoy their time working together. — *Jon Burdeshaw*

Generosity and Teamwork Bring Cooling Relief to Fellowship Hall

The Building and Grounds Committee is pleased to share an important improvement to our Fellowship Hall that will help make the space more comfortable during the summer months. As many of us have experienced, summers in central Connecticut have grown increasingly hot and humid in recent years. In response, the committee was asked to explore options for cooling the hall. While a fully climate-controlled solution was beyond our financial reach at this time, we focused on practical, cost-effective ways to make a meaningful difference.

During this process, we were blessed by a generous anonymous donor who provided two air conditioning units for the space. On June 17, members of the congregation came together to install them. With the help of Skip Galayda, Tony Arisco, Bill McKay Sr., and Jon Burdeshaw, the project came to life. Thanks especially to Skip's ingenuity and craftsmanship, custom supports were designed and built to properly fit the units into our older wooden windowsills—ensuring a secure and effective installation. We extend our sincere thanks to Skip, Tony, and Bill for their time, effort, and teamwork in completing this project.

We are grateful for the generosity that made this upgrade possible and for those who volunteered their skills to bring it to completion. These new units will help create a more comfortable and welcoming environment in the Fellowship Hall during the warmest days of summer. We would also like to

recognize Skip for his additional help earlier this spring in clearing a clogged gutter downspout and realigning the gutter, further contributing to the care of our church property. – Jon Burdeshaw



Your contribution to the CWS Blankets program not only gives people around the world supplies to keep them safe and healthy but hope,

natural disasters or emergencies. Information is on the narthex table and in the hall where a blanket is on display. If you have questions, ask Peg or Ginni.

Thank you, Christian Education!

Christian Education superintendent, Laureen Galayda, and students Raegan and Spencer Burdeshaw, presented a great lesson about the church constitution. Attendees at the June 7 class studied the document that we read on the fourth Sunday of every month and linked the various sections to specific scriptures that had been identified. More than a dozen church members participated and agreed that it led to greater understanding. Because of its success, future study classes may be held.



Friendship Potluck



Friendship Time will meet for an early potluck supper on Saturday, July 25 at 5 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy games, laughter and conversation.

Outreach Update

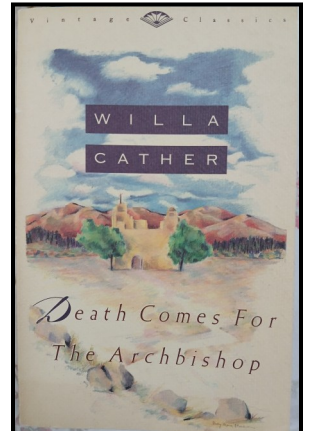
Our special collections through the Outreach Committee make a difference! International Ministries is providing \$15,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing emergency disaster relief funds to assist IM partners in Venezuela with food and supplies in the aftermath of recent earthquakes.

We will continue to collect for the Church World Service blanket campaign until Aug. 1. Each blanket costs \$10. They are distributed to people who have been impacted by

As suggested by Sharon Pernal (thank you!), in May people shared stories about their mothers and in June, participants shared stories about their fathers.

FBC Book Club

The FBC Book Club will meet Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 1pm to discuss "Death Comes for the Archbishop" by Willa Cather, first published in 1927. "Death Comes for the Archbishop" follows Bishop Jean-Marie Latour and Father Joseph Vaillant as they establish a Catholic diocese in 19th-century New Mexico, navigating cultural, spiritual, and physical challenges.



The FBC Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the parlor. It can also be offered via Zoom if you can't attend in person. 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 donations can 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 what to donate each month. Other items are always gladly accepted. Upcoming months: July: cereal; August: children's snacks

Penny Pound Auction

There were lots of laughs and oddball items (a wig, squeaky chickens, and squirt guns) at the annual Penny Pound Auction held in May. Pastor Sharon, who by now is a seasoned auctioneer, kept the action moving along



with the assistance of Barbara McKay and son, Billy McKay. More than 40 people attended and several hundred dollars were raised for the Board of Deacons.

Pentecost Sunday

We certainly had a great wearing of red on Pentecost Sunday on May 24!



Camp Wightman's 70th Anniversary Celebration

Camp Wightman celebrated the May 30 weekend with fun, fellowship and rekindling friendships and faith.



People, including former staff and campers, gathered for a luncheon, square dance, activities, and the campfire, complete with smores. People reminisced and celebrated all that God has done through Camp Wightman over the past 70 years and looked ahead at what's to come.

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:

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*



Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of notices for our weekly bulletin insert is 12pm on Tuesdays. Please email them to pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org or drop them off at the church office.

Flower News

If you would like flowers for a regular Sunday, 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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays July

4	Bill Michel
7	Jim Steele
8	Sharon Amundsen, Tom Salzer
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
29	Amanda Corjulo
30	Ginni Butler, Stephanie Guerrera

August

5	Phillip Dixon Jr., Troy Jones
6	John Cunningham, Lauren Johns

8	John Myska II, Sarah Garadowski
14	Stefanie Lamy
19	Brenda Myska
20	Tim Cabata
22	David-John Mikosz
25	Joey Cabata
27	Jamie Maheu
27	Gabriel Zamorano

Anniversaries July

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

August

10	Rona & Ken Corrigan
16	Rita & Rudy Cabata
28	Brenda & John Myska



happy to get the flowers for you.

Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday at 12pm to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin Michel, (860) 620-2989.

These are the upcoming flower coordinators: **July:** Peg Lewis (860) 384-4123, Joyce Olore (860) 276-8061; **August:** Robin Michel (860) 620-2989

In Sympathy

Carl Hoffman

Carl Hoffman, who with his wife, Sharon, attended our church for almost three years, unexpectedly passed away on June 7. He held a prestigious career as the pastor of five Baptist churches in the southern U.S., was executive vice president of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention directing church fundraising, and was working on a theology book reconciling science and religion. "He had many outside interests, thought deeply, and appreciated intellectual pursuits." A memorial service will be held at a later date at First Baptist Church. Memorial donations can be made to the church.



[Carl August Hoffman Obituary \(1951 - 2026\) - Prospect, CT - WFSB](#)

Barbara Adams

Barbara Adams, a longtime attendee of First Baptist Church and the Easter sunrise service at Merriman Cemetery, passed away on July 1. She was very proud of being a member of the first Southington High School graduating class in 1951. She was married to Horace Adams for many years. "She welcomed family and friends with open arms, making everyone feel at home. No one ever left her house hungry, and they were always sent off with her signature farewell, 'Toodle loo.'" A Celebration of Life will be held Tuesday, July 7, at 11am at First Baptist Church, 581 Meriden Ave, Southington, CT. Burial will follow at South End Cemetery, Southington. Calling hours will be held on Monday, July 6, from 5 to 7pm at Plantsville Funeral Home.

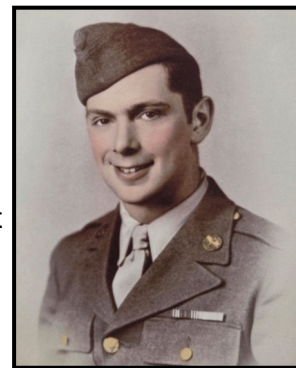


[Barbara J. Adams Obituary Jul 1, 2026 - Plantsville Funeral Home](#)

We Remember

TGST Donald Dorman, a cousin of the McKays, was honored by his hometown of Southington after his

remains were recovered in Poland more than 80 years after he was shot down in 1945 during World War II. He received many military commendations and awards including the Silver Star, Air Medal with three bronze Oak Leaf clusters, Purple Heart, and WW II Victory Medal. A funeral service was held on June 23 at First Congregational Church and he was buried with full military honors in Oak Hill Cemetery. Barbara McKay presented the eulogy.



Welcome, Juliana Elizabeth

Welcome Juliana Elizabeth Guerrero who was born at 7 lbs, 5 oz on April 22. She is the daughter of Justin and Stephanie Guerrero, little sister of Melody Guerrero, granddaughter of Heidi and Eric Tata, and second great-granddaughter of Barb and Bill McKay.

Sharon Amundsen Takes the Stage

Sharon Amundsen, an experienced thespian, has been cast as the character



"Doralee" (think Dolly Parton) in the Golden Years Theatre Company production of "9 to 5 The Musical." The show will be performed on July 24, 25, 31 and Aug. 1 at 7pm and July 26 and Aug. 2 at 2pm at Rotella Magnet School, Waterbury. Tickets are \$15. Sharon is not leading every performance so ask her what dates she will be

performing. "This is my first time working with this group and I couldn't be more excited!" she said. Buy tickets at www.gytc.booktix.com or with cash only at the door.

Oops, No More Room: Graduation photos, vacation photos, and more will have to wait until the September-October issue!