

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



Sept.-Oct. 2026



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

Upcoming Dates

September



Communion Sunday, Sept. 6, 10am

Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7

Board of Deacons, Thursday, Sept. 10, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Sunday Worship, Sept. 13, 10am, followed by All-Church Picnic

Book Club, Tuesday, Sept. 15, 1pm

Outreach Committee, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1pm

Sunday Worship, Sept. 20, 10am; finance meeting follows worship/fellowship

Sunday Worship, Sept. 27, 10am, Church Board follows worship/fellowship

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1-3pm, Friendship Time

October

Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, 10am

Board of Deacons, Thursday, Oct. 8, 3pm; Music Committee, 4pm

Celebration Sunday Worship, Oct. 11, 10am

Book Club, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1pm

Outreach Committee, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 1pm

Sunday Worship, Oct. 18, 10am

Sunday Worship, Oct. 25, 10am

Other meetings will be announced.



Come One and All to the Church Picnic!

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 Minister's Musings: Our Church Year Begins



Life has a rhythm all its own, and that rhythm differs from person to person. For me, the

actual start of the year is September. The world makes a big deal out of New Year's as the start of the year, but many of us realize it is September that marks a new season of beginnings and adjustments.

In the Northern Hemisphere, where we call home, the summer is coming to an end. The growing season continues to yield harvest, but new growth has ended. School-aged children wake up to the harsh reality that summer fun at the pool and late nights watching television or playing video games is over, and the norm becomes earlier bedtimes and early risings to accommodate early buses and the joy (or not) of returning to school for another year.

As we realign our psyches for a return to normal work routines and savor the memories of all our summer adventures, we also adjust to a resumption of our normal church calendar. Meetings resume; we embark upon another cycle of activities and events that mark the progression of our lives together.



On Sept. 13th, we will have our annual all-church cook-out to launch our "new year" of activities here at First Baptist. We look forward to opportunities for worship, fellowship, study, service, fundraising, celebrating, and even grieving together. All these things keep our connections with God and one another healthy and engaged. We can even look forward to seeing if we can discover any new hiding places for the three wise men during their Advent journey!

So, grab your FBC tee shirt and get ready to venture into a new year together! I can hardly wait!

In Christ,

Pastor Sharon

News from the Pews

Outreach Update

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that \$900 was collected for the Church World Service blanket fund during the summer - that's 90 blankets to shelter and warm folks without



homes or resources.

We look forward to having Gabe and Noah share about their experiences while on their mission trip to the Dominican Republic this summer. They will join us for worship and our church picnic Sunday service on Sept. 13. See you there!

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, or see me at the Sunday services.

Thanks - Les Marsh

From John & Aimee Powers: Thank you for DR Mission Team Med Clinic Sponsorship!



The [DR Mission Team](#) just returned after leading 180 volunteers to La Romana, Dominican Republic in June and July and thanks to your support, we were able to treat over 1,500 patients in our mobile medical clinics!

These 15 clinics, held between June

26 and July 18 in the bateyes and barrios surrounding La Romana, provided desperately needed healthcare to those without access. Your support allowed our volunteer clinicians, serving alongside our partners from El Buen Samaritano Hospital, to provide medical care to so many in need.

Thank you for your generosity, compassion, and commitment to this vital work! God Bless, *John and Aimee Powers*

A Message of Gratitude for Church Improvements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone helping keep our church properties safe, comfortable, and beautiful. Thanks to your recent generosity, a powerful new self-draining dehumidifier is now running in the church basement. This addition drastically reduces the risk of mold and mildew, making the lower-level environment much more comfortable for everyone.

Special thanks also go out to two dedicated

individuals for their hard work:

Stefan Paneczko: Stefan spent one of the hottest days of the summer stripping, priming, and painting the parsonage garage door. His efforts protect this custom-sized door from rot and greatly extend its lifespan.

Tony Arisco: Tony dedicated an entire day to remaining at the church while electricians installed our new lighted fire exit signs. Thanks to his time and oversight, the church fully meets fire codes and passed its inspection with zero issues.

Thank you all for being such wonderful stewards of our church home! – *Jon Burdeshaw, Building and Grounds*

Friendship Time

Friendship Time will be held on

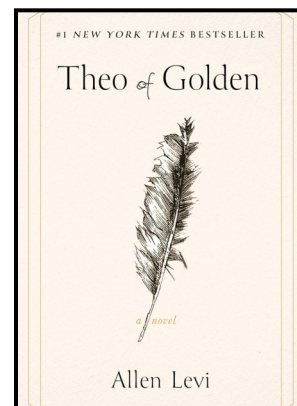
Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1-3pm. We play games, color, make puzzles, have snacks and share lots of laughs and conversation. Bring a friend!



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," (#1 New York Times best seller), "An Inconvenient Widow" (about Mary Todd Lincoln), and "The Calamity Club." We'd love more books to put on our book cart!

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. Wonderful fiction written by secular and Christian writers. And children's books as well. Have ideas or want to help? See Margaret Shigo-Zembko.



Fellowship Coffee Hour

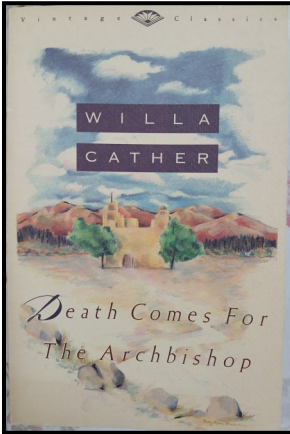
Thanks again to everyone who has been helping with our Fellowship Hour. Anyone is welcome to help whether it is hosting, setting up, serving, bringing goodies, cleaning up, etc. There are still plenty of openings to host - And lessons are available on making coffee and setups. Thanks for making so many people happy! Please let me know if you're interested. And thank you to all our helpers and those who contribute goodies.



– Thanks, Ginni

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 (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 or 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.

September: peanut butter

October: jelly

November: canned meats, corned beef, tuna, etc.

December: hand/bar soap

Volunteer Opportunities

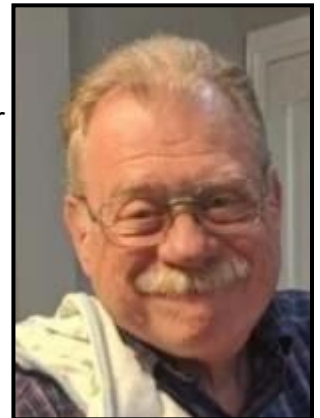
Are you interested in reading scripture or being a worship leader? We'd love to have you. No experience required! If you would like to volunteer, please see Barbara McKay. We can work around your schedule. Thank you for serving our church!

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.

In Sympathy

The Rev. David C. Strosahl, pastor of our church for more than 20 years, died on Aug. 22 after a long illness. His obituary can be read at this link: [Rev. David Conrad Strosahl Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information](#) or by going to www.legacy.com and searching "David Conrad Strosahl." Some FBC-Southington members are attending and may be open to carpooling.



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 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:

September: Peg Lewis (860) 384-4123

October: Joyce Olore (860) 276-8061

November: Dot Amundsen (860) 929-8131

December: Robin Michel (860) 620-2989

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

The Steeple Signal deadline for the Nov.-Dec. issue is Oct. 15. Share your milestones, photos or news with our church! Email Robin Michel at robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

Church Website – currently ‘under repair’

Hopefully our church website

www.firstbaptistsouthington.org will soon be up and working – our website manager is updating it and managing some glitches. Keep checking! 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.

Troop 17 Triumphs at Camp Sequassen!

Our church-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 17 recently

returned from an incredible week of fun and learning at Camp Sequassen!

Eight of our scouts attended, earning numerous

merit badges, troop-level awards, and ultimate bragging rights as the Week 5 Camp Champions in multiple events.



The boys competed in many camp-wide competitions, securing two massive victories:

Fire Hose Bucket Challenge: Holding onto a high-powered fire hose, our scouts used water pressure to push a suspended bucket past an opposing troop. Troop 17 out-pushed everyone to claim the championship title, building incredible esprit de corps in the process.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays September

3	Kim Neilson, Stefan Paneczko
6	Sharon Hoffman
8	Christine Corey
9	Lynn Saucier
14	Marge Steinnagel
18	Ben Lamy
20	Emilia Cabata
25	Aaron James Urso
28	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, Bev Corjulo
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
24	Regina & Troy Jones
25	Tim & Maria Cabata

Conquistadors Canoe Race: For the second consecutive year, the troop took first place in this wild race, hand-paddling their canoe to the finish line while successfully dodging the "lake monster" camp staff trying to sink them.

The week wasn't without its wild side - while neighborly bears left the troop alone this year, clever raccoons raided the tents nightly looking for treats! The trip was such a massive success that a few scouts immediately signed up for an extra week, and the whole troop is already counting down the days until next summer.

- Jon Burdeshaw, Charter Organization Delegate, liaison between the church and Troop 17

Congratulations, graduates

Congratulations to Gabriel Zamorano, grandson of Cheryl Tomkiewicz, who graduated from University of St. Joseph in West Hartford on May 9 with a degree in hygiene sciences.

Congratulations to Grace Zamorano, granddaughter of Cheryl Tomkiewicz, who graduated from Southington High School



Class of 2026. She is pursuing her education through the STELLAR training program. Good luck!

Congratulations to Nathaniel Tata, son of Heidi and Eric Tata and grandson of Barbara and Bill McKay, who graduated from Plainville High School.

Nathaniel plans on pursuing a career in accounting.

World Travelers

Brothers Keith Choquette and Marvin Choquette hit the road this summer

on a tour of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. They saw many famous landmarks including

Mozart Square and the Neuschwanstein Castle. And they survived the European heat wave!

Marvin also continued his own summer adventure with a tour of baseball parks and got to watch a few games.

Sharon Amundsen on Stage

Sharon Amundsen, an experienced thespian, portrayed the character "Dora-lee" (think Dolly Parton) in the Golden Years Theatre Company production of "9 to 5 The Musical" this summer. She said it was a fun experience acting with the group.



Green Thumb!

Long-time church member Gene Hilton has mastered container gardening on her deck with an array of beautiful flowers. Nice!

On Vacation

The Olore family poses on the ferry on their way to Martha's Vineyard. It was a great time for everyone – especially the granddaughter!

