

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, *senior 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

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.: in-person, on Zoom and on Facebook Live



September-October 2021



Looking Ahead

September 2021

Sept. 5 Worship 10 a.m.
Sept. 8 Outreach Committee
Sept. 12 Worship 10 a.m.,
 Board meeting after worship
Sept. 19 Worship 10 a.m.
Sept. 26 Worship 10 a.m.

October 2021

Oct. 3 Worship 10 a.m.
Oct. 10 Worship 10 a.m.
Oct. 14 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.,
 Deacons 4 p.m.
Oct. 15 Steeple Signal deadline
 (November - December)
Oct. 17 Worship 10 a.m.
Oct. 24 Worship 10 a.m.
Oct. 31 Worship 10 a.m.



Nov. 6 Our Tag Sale returns!

The Minister's Musings: Four hundred and seventy-six days

Four hundred and seventy-six days. That's how many days our church was closed during the pandemic. We held our last service prior to the lockdown on March 15, 2020, and formally reopened on July 4, 2021. When we closed in 2020, none of us had any idea we would be closed well over a year. I thought we might be closed for two or three months. Never in my wildest imaginings did I think how long it would be until we could worship together again.

In some ways, we were very fortunate. We quickly pivoted to broadcasting our services via Zoom and Facebook. We were able to maintain our community via technology, and a lot of help from Lauren Johns and Les Marsh. As much as we appreciated being able to gather virtually, we all knew it just wasn't the same as being able to greet one another, worship in our sanctuary and share fellowship after service.

I'm grateful we are back in our sanctuary, even though we still have some restrictions, and pray that we will not have to go fully remote again. Even if we do, I believe we will be fine, because I have seen what our congregation can, and will, do in the event of a challenge like COVID-19. We never faltered, our community remained intact and in contact.

Networks of communications were established for checking in with one another, making sure everyone had what they needed whether it was food, encouragement, money, transportation, or advice; we all knew we had a safety net with our brothers and sisters at First Baptist. Everyone stepped up to keep our church family healthy spiritually, physically, and mentally.

While we could not use our building, our congregation consistently supported the needs of the church. Pledges were faithfully mailed to the church to keep our ministries viable, and our financial commitments met. Many other faith communities faltered, we carried on.

Even though the past 17 months have been filled with challenges, we have managed to carry on and continue to be strong, committed, and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. I am forever grateful, humbled, and awed by each one of you.

In Christ,
Pastor Sharon



When the weather was good, worship was held outside. People were delighted to be able to congregate again and observed social distancing and mask guidelines.



In-church worship began July 4. More than 25 people have gathered inside for each service with others preferring to worship virtually on Zoom or Facebook Live.



Thank you!

We would like to thank Sharon Kupiec for serving as editor of the Steeple Signal for many years. Well done!

News from the Pews

Tag Sale Update - mark your calendar



We are planning on having our annual church wide tag sale on Saturday, Nov. 6. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to volunteer to support this important fundraiser.

Outreach Committee Updates

Although many of our annual activities were curtailed due to the pandemic, our Church Family certainly was active in supporting the missions of our church's Outreach Committee.

- Donations to the Southington Community Food Bank continued.
- The Christmas gift tags to support families in our own community were distributed and gifts were collected and delivered.
- The Christmas mitten tree was filled (or better said 'overloaded') with hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, socks and headbands.
- Due to your support and generosity, we collected 49 Church World Service hygiene kits.
- You supported the America for Christ offering, the World Mission offering as well as One Great Hour of Sharing. The need this time was greater than ever, and your contributions will make such a difference in the lives of those in need.



• Dominican Republic Medical Clinic support -



We sponsored a medical clinic! Although we were not able to physically participate to support the great work being done in the Dominican

Republic, we were proud to financially support a clinic day during the recent trip led by our friends in the Wallingford Baptist Church. This donation provided an entire kit of medical supplies used by the doctors and nurses who went with the Wallingford team and gave of their personal time to treat the sugar cane workers and their families in the rural batays in the DR. We also offered prayer support.

The Outreach Committee is so appreciative of your continued support of our church's mission. Thank you so much!

Church Improvements

During the summer, the church had some projects completed and it looks great! The front steps were repaired by Arnold's Masonry. Michael McGloin Painting painted the trim – huge job, well done! And Bill Michel installed new windows in the teen room and kitchen. These projects couldn't have been possible without the support of our congregation and special funds.



In addition, the former playground has been leveled and the fence has been removed. Plans are to make a second garden or sitting area. Stay tuned for further proposals.



Saver's Fundraiser - a tremendous success!

There was a bit of skepticism surrounding whether a second Saver's fundraiser would be successful. Yet, the congregation pulled through yet again. You donated 314 bags of soft goods which equated to 4,020 pounds which when all tallied up came to a check from Savers for \$879! Bravo!



Thank you to all who donated, all who helped organize the bags during drop-off, all who came to help load the truck at church and all who helped to unload the truck at Savers in Newington. It's a team effort to make our fundraisers a success... and we sure have a great team!

National Day of Prayer

First Baptist members were among those who gathered at the town green for the annual Day of Prayer held in May.



Petal Pushers

First Baptist "Petal Pushers" did the Lord's work in June - planting large patio planters at Connecticut Baptist Homes.



Flower News

Flower coordinators for the remainder of the year are:

September - Peg Lewis (860-384-4123)

October - Joyce Olore (860-877-3417)

November - Dot Amundsen (860-929-8131)

December - Robin Michel (860-620-2989)

People are always welcome to donate flowers in honor or in memory of someone special. Please notify Pastor Sharon and the flower coordinator by the Tuesday of the Sunday you are providing flowers so your sentiments can be listed in the bulletin.

Fall Cleanup?

Are you interested in helping with a fall outdoors

cleanup? No date has been set but suggestions are being accepted for September or early October. Email your preferred date and ideas to robin.leemichel@gmail.com or call (860) 620-2989.

Camp Wightman Campers

First Baptist campers had a grand time at Camp Wightman. Raegan and Spencer Burdeshaw attended with their grandfather Joe Burdeshaw during Grandparents' Week and Maya Johns went the following week. Swimming and archery were two favorite activities. Glad FBC Southington is represented nearly every year!



In need: Southington Community Services always welcomes donations of non-perishable food items. Thank you!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | 3 | Kim Neilson, Stefan Paneczko |
| | 8 | Christine Corey |
| | 9 | Lynn Saucier |
| | 11 | Dillon Spain |
| | 14 | Marge Steinngel |
| 18 | Ben Lamy, Priscilla Landry | |

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 22 | JoAnn Myska |
| 25 | Aaron James Urso |
| 28 | Ken Corrigan, George Graikowski |

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 5 | Bonnie Callaghan |
| 6 | Matthew Mikosz, Johanna Nagle |
| 7 | Lori Koritkowski, Lisa Mason |
| 8 | Linda Lamy |
| 11 | Jim Danis |
| 15 | Barb McKay |
| 17 | Nancy Gworek |
| 21 | Ethel Graham |

| | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 23 | Betty Porter |
| 24 | Dot Amundsen, Alec Chinigo |
| 26 | Joshua Graikowski |
| 31 | Matt MacDonald |



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|------------------------|
| 14 | Eric & Heidi Tata |
| 18 | Phillip & Andrea Dixon |
| 20 | David & Linda Mikosz |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 18 | John & Aimee Cunningham |
| 24 | Regina & Troy Jones |
| 25 | Tim & Maria Cabata |