

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

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



March-April 2022



Looking Ahead in March & April



March 2022

Annual Meeting to be rescheduled to a date in March.
No Outreach meeting in March.
March 6 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.
March 10 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.,
Deacons meeting 4 p.m.
March 13 Worship 10 a.m.
March 20 Worship 10 a.m.
March 26 Ron Tooley Memorial Service
1:30 p.m.
March 27 Worship 10 a.m.

April 2022

April 3 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.
April 6 Outreach meeting 1 p.m.
April 7 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.,
Deacons meeting 4 p.m.
April 9 Church Clean-up Day
April 10 Palm Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
April 17 Easter Sunday Worship
6:15 a.m. Merriman Cemetery,
10 a.m. Sanctuary tentatively
followed by Easter egg hunt
April 24 Worship 10 a.m.

The Minister's Musings: Journey to Easter

It is hard to believe that we are about to begin our third Pandemic Lent. Ash Wednesday is on March 2 when we begin our 40-day (not including Sundays) journey to Easter morning on April 17.

Lent is a time for reflection, repentance, preparation, and sacrifice. Many give up something they enjoy, like chocolate, during Lent. This year, it seems to me that we have already given up a great deal after over two years of COVID-19 restrictions. We have missed services together, although thanks to Zoom, we have been able to meet together virtually. Isolated in our homes, we have had more than enough time for reflection, repentance, and preparation. The good Lord knows how much we have all sacrificed. So now what?

Thankfully, the latest Omicron surge of COVID-19 is on the wane. Restrictions are being rolled back, and we can gather together in our church once again. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to have our Lenten book study, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter services together once again. We might even be able to have our Easter Egg Hunt! What a wonderful thing it will be to gather at sunrise on Easter Morning at the Merriman cemetery to once again herald Jesus' resurrection! In many ways it symbolizes our return from the grave of social isolation brought on by the arrival of the Pandemic in 2020.

I do not know about everyone else, but it is terribly hard for me to be somber and reflective as we approach Lent, because I'm so happy that we can



In 2020, Easter worship at church was held virtually.

gather together as a community once again! Let us cautiously venture back into the world this Lent and praise God for the coming of spring, the observation of Jesus' resurrection and the joy of having made it through another phase of the Pandemic. May it be our last! Let us also remember all those who suffered the ravages of COVID-19; the ones who succumbed, the ones who we lost, the ones who grieve the loss of friends and loved ones.

On Easter morning, when we gather in our sanctuary with the scent of lilies and the beauty of spring all around us, may we remember, reflect, and rejoice in all we have experienced, learned, and lost in the past two years.

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*

News from the Pews

Lenten Book Study

Peg Lewis will be facilitating the five-week Lenten Book Study on Wednesdays, March 9 to April 6 from 2 to 3 or 3:30 p.m. in the parlor. The book is "Love is the Way," by Bishop Curry. The book has 12 chapters and Peg is asking participants to please read chapters 1 through 8 – the more autobiographical content - for March 9. We will discuss a chapter a week after that. Questions? Call Peg at 860/384-4123.

"Pastor Sharon and I think this is a great book for our times and we hope you do too. Looking forward to seeing you on March 9th!" Blessings, Peg

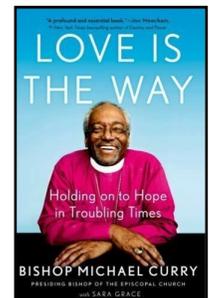


Ron Tooley Memorial Service

A memorial service for Ron Tooley will be held Saturday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

The Feb. 27 Annual Meeting is being rescheduled for a date in March. Pastor Sharon will announce the new date for the meeting which will be held after worship.



See **News** on page 3



In-Person Worship

After celebrating the holidays in person, because of the increased positivity rate we went remote on Jan. 9. Thankfully it was not for long and we were back in church on Feb. 13. We are optimistic that as of March 1 we will not have to be masked but we are following the state mandates. Fellowship time will resume in the near future.

Jim Danis' New Address

Our longtime church member, Jim Danis, has a new address. You can send him a note at: Jim Danis, Brookdale Assisted Living, 20 Devonwood Drive, Apt. 208, Farmington, CT 06032.

Church Clean Up Day – April 9

Please plan on joining us and being a part of the clean-up crew as we work in the various rooms in the church basement to 'spruce it up' and prepare for a reopening following our COVID shutdown. More information will be available in the weekly announcements as we get closer to the date. If anyone has a truck or trailer, there are larger items that will need to go to the transfer station (e.g. metal desk, refrigerator, large TV, etc.) that cannot go in our dumpster. Thanks everyone!

Board of Christian Outreach News

March is our month to collect for the World Mission Offering. Envelopes will be available on the table as

you enter the sanctuary. More details will be shared during a worship service "Mission Moment."

The Board of Christian Outreach will not meet in March. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6, 1 p.m., in the church parlor.

Check out the bulletin board in the Narthex for the article in the Record Journal about the Dominican Republic mission trip that took place in January.



Our church's Outreach Committee again donated funds to the First Baptist Church of Wallingford to purchase medical supplies used to provide services for the Haitian sugar cane workers. (See letter from the Dominican Republic Mission Team on page 6.)

Easter Flowers



We are currently getting information about Easter flowers. The form will be available in future email announcements, in the narthex, and on our website www.firstbaptistsouthington.org.

Easter Candy

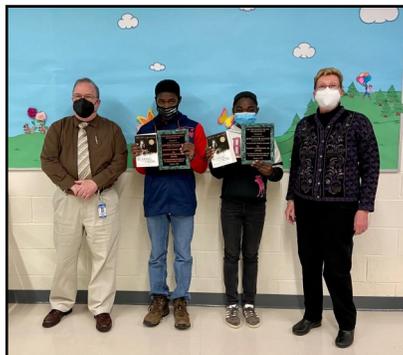
We are hopeful that we will have an Easter egg hunt following the Easter Sunday service. Please do not donate candy at this time. Pastor Sharon will announce about the egg hunt and candy donations at the beginning of April. Thank you!



Savers Fundraiser

It's time for our annual Spring Savers fundraiser to benefit the church's General Fund and mission opportunities. We collect all sorts of "soft goods" from clothes, bedding, coats, fabric toys, belts, pocketbooks, towels to fabric luggage and boots. Please place See Savers on page 4

First Baptist Church Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Award Recipients



Congratulations to the 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Award recipients: Sean O'Sullivan from the Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School, and Quinlan and Sawyer Colasanto from John F. Kennedy Middle School. Principals were also on hand with Pastor Sharon for the presentation ceremonies of Dr. King's book, "Bearing the Cross," and plaque.

Far left: At JFK Middle School; near left: At DePaolo Middle School

Savers from page 3

your donations in kitchen-size white trash bags, if possible. Our past collections have been very successful – let’s top our record of 4,020 pounds that we set last summer!

Questions? Contact Linda Lamy at 860-878-5310 / lindalamy8@gmail.com or Joyce Olore. The drop off dates in the end of May will be in the next Steeple Signal. And thank you for inviting family and friends to also donate!

Camp Wightman Work Day

Here’s a mission opportunity for you! Save Saturday, May 7, from 9 to 3 p.m., for this service opportunity to help spruce up our Christian camp, both outdoors and indoors. We may be raking or washing windows, clearing walking paths or vacuuming or maybe even painting. There’s something for everyone! It’s also a great time of fellowship with folks from other Connecticut Baptist churches. Camp also will be providing a delicious lunch.

If you have questions, you may contact Linda Lamy at 860-878-5310 / lindalamy8@gmail.com or the Board of Christian Outreach. Please sign up by Saturday, April 30 whether you can volunteer for a half day or full day. We may carpool from church.

Fellowship Hour

The Hospitality Committee provided refreshments intermittently when we worshiped in person. We hope to resume regular fellowship hour when it is safe to do so. Anyone is welcome to assist. It is

wonderful when people donate goodies and we would like to thank all those who. However, to ensure we don’t have too many treats on the same Sunday, if you plan on bringing a treat, please contact Ginni Butler at 860/628-5014 by that Saturday. Thank you!



Also, everyone is welcome to host or assist at Fellowship Hour. Please contact Ginni Butler at 860/628-5014 to sign up.

From the Music Director:

Are you interested in sharing your musical talents with others? We would love that! Contact Les if you would like to learn more about being part of our worship.

Did you know that even if you have never played an instrument and/or can’t read music that you can be a bell See **Music** on page 5



Our Bell Choir performs once a month. No experience necessary!

Boy Scout Food Drive Follow-Up

As reported in the January-February Steeple Signal, our church-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 17 collected a record amount of food during its community food drive late last year... so much food that it could not be delivered to Southington Community Services during the holiday season.

Outreach members and other church volunteers came forward on two days to eliminate outdated



food, organize the goods, and box the items. Southington Community Services picked up more than 75 boxes.

In addition, the groceries that could not be distributed by community services were given to other families in need. It is always a blessing to share our abundance!



Above: Our crew of volunteers

Left: Loading the Southington Community services van

Music from page 4 ringer? Consider being part of our Bell Ringers group. We usually play the last Sunday of each month, with two to three practices before we share our music. It's lots of fun and there's no pressure. You can come during one of our practices to see what we are all about. We will put an announcement in the bulletin when we practice. See you there! – *Les Marsh*

Bloomin' News

Flower signup sheets are posted in the narthex. If you would like to give flowers for a specific Sunday, write your name and phone number on the form. Also, please give that Sunday's flower coordinator a phone call so she doesn't also provide flowers. If you are unable to get to the store, we are happy to get the flowers for you. Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday noon to include it in the bulletin. Any questions about flower donations? Call Robin at 860/620-2989. Thank you!

Flower coordinators for upcoming months are:
March - Dot Amundsen (860/747-8188)
April - Robin Michel (860/620-2989)
May - Joyce Olore (860/276-8061)

Support Your Neighbors

In support of our neighbors in need, we observe Compassion Sundays on the last Sunday of each month. Feel free to bring non-perishable food or items which will be donated to Southington Community Services. The Board of Outreach had suggested: April – breakfast



items; and May – pasta, sauce, macaroni and cheese. However, all items are appreciated including: canned fruits, pasta, snacks, peanut butter, jelly, paper goods, toiletries, pudding cups and juice boxes.

Donations can also be dropped off directly at SCS, 91 Norton Ave. (Route 10), Plantsville, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Southington Public Library, 255 Main St., is also a drop-off spot. Thank you!

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.

Remembering a Friend

Our long-time friend Eldon Hafford passed away in early February. We are so appreciative of all he did for the community and its residents in need. He put his faith and love in action.



Thank You!

We would like to thank all the generous people who have been keeping the parsonage driveway, walkways and deck clear of snow and ice. And those who have plowed the parking lot and entryways to our church. We'd be snowbound without you!

Is Your Information Up to Date?

We like to keep contact information up to date so we can make sure you continue to receive announcements or we can call if we need to reach you. Thanks for making sure we have your address, phone number and email address. And your birthday if you'd like it in The Steeple Signal. Send your updates to Pastor.Sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org.



Picturesque but we look forward to spring!

Steeple Signal Deadline

The next Steeple Signal will be for June/ July. Have news? Deadline is May 15. Items can be given or emailed to Robin Michel at robin.leemichel@gmail.com. Questions? Call her at 860/620-2989.



Stay in Touch!

Our website is 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.”



Thank You from the DR Team!

Jan. 13, 2022

Hello from La Romana, Dominican Republic!

I wanted to update you and thank you for your very generous gift toward the medical clinics we are holding this week in the Dominican Republic. These clinics are desperately needed as our volunteer clinicians and mission partners at the Good Samaritan Hospital work to serve this vulnerable population. Six separate clinics will be held this week, including two on Tuesday (Batey 50 and Batey La Papita) - a first for the DR Mission Team! Tomorrow (Friday), our medical team will hold its final clinic at the Joe Hartman School.

Your generosity is making a tangible difference in the lives of so many people - thank you!

God Bless,

John Powers



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

March



- 1 Zachary Jones
- 2 Sharon Boyce
- 4 Drew Michel
- 6 Ethan Amundsen,
Rona Corrigan,
Emily Olore
- 8 Dante Jones

- 14 Mildred Pugh
- 23 Katie Corrigan
- 28 Melanie MacDonald

April

- 3 Abby Corrigan
- 6 Barbara Burkhardt
- 7 Liam Paulette
- 9 Claressa Maheu
- 13 Rita Cabata
- 21 Doug Spain
- 30 Emily Lamy

Anniversaries

March

- 16 Arthur & Mildred Pugh



John 11:25-27 NRSV

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”