

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



May-June 2022



Looking Ahead in May & June



May 2022

- May 1 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.
- May 5 National Day of Prayer
- May 7 Camp Wightman Work Day 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. or any amount of time
- May 8 Worship 10 a.m. Mother's Day
- May 11 Outreach Committee 1 p.m.
- May 12 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.; Board of Deacons 4 p.m.
- May 15 Worship 10 a.m.
- May 22 Worship 10 a.m.

- May 29 Worship 10 a.m. Compassion Sunday
- May 22 -June 2: Savers Soft Goods Fundraiser
- May 30 Memorial Day

June 2022

- June 5 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.
- June 8 Outreach Committee 1 p.m.
- June 9 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.; Board of Deacons 4 p.m.
- June 12 Worship 10 a.m.
- June 19 Worship 10 a.m. Father's Day
- June 26 Worship 10 a.m. Compassion Sunday

Pastor Sharon's Easter Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On March 15, 2020, we went into COVID-19 lockdown. For two long years we ventured out only for essentials. Most of us would not go to restaurants, gyms, hair, or nail salons. We endured on-line school, to the social and academic detriment of our children. In 2021 vaccines became available and effective treatments were found to mitigate the deadly effects of the virus. Finally, this spring, we are taking a deep breath and returning to what we remember as normal. For the first time since 2019 we will gather in person for worship on Easter Sunday. It feels like a whole new, joyous beginning!

Jesus' ministry was also focused on new beginnings: In John 8, a woman caught in adultery was brought before Jesus, after he challenged the assembled mob to throw stones if they were sinless, her life was spared. Jesus told her to go forth and sin no more - a new beginning. The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15, Jesus told of the separation of a son from his father, his downfall and disgrace. Ultimately the prodigal son returned to his father who welcomed him with open arms - a new beginning. In John 10 we read of the miracle Jesus wrought in bringing Lazarus back to life - certainly, a dramatic new beginning!

Jesus' last days of his earthly journey, his trial, torture, and crucifixion would be a story of loss and desolation without the wonder of His resurrection on the third day - a glorious new beginning! The resurrection was not just a new beginning for Jesus, but for all who commit to follow him. God loved us enough to send us His only son, and we were granted a new beginning; a restored relationship with God.

We celebrate Easter as a commemoration of the new beginning for Christ and his followers; new beginnings are possible not just on Easter, but each and every day for those who profess their allegiance to the risen Lord. As part of our celebration this year, half of our Easter offering will support the work of Camp Wightman.

Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead! Rejoice in our new beginning!

Faithfully, *Pastor Sharon*



News from the Pews

Spring Cleanup Day

There was a wonderful day of fellowship (and hard work) done to spruce up our lower-level Sunday School, Children's Chapel and nursery rooms. The smell of Pine-Sol still lingers downstairs. So many tasks were completed in under three hours:

- We completed the sorting and cleaning of all toys in the nursery as well as windows, windowsills, furniture and floors

- The Children's Chapel needed lots of organizing, sorting and

cleaning. A storage shelving unit was cleaned out and moved to the Sunday School room;

painting supplies were assessed/organized and moved to the work closet; windows, windowsills and floors were cleaned; and furniture was dusted.

- The Sunday School room was the recipient of an additional storage closet, bookcase, table and chairs. The windows, windowsills and side shelf were washed down, and the rug vacuumed.

- The hallway was cleaned including the



See **Cleanup** on page 3

Cleanup from page 2

built-in shelving, tables were cleared and moved, the coat closet was washed down, and floors swept.



There was a yeoman's job of heavy-duty lifting of items going to the transfer station including a large refrigerator, small refrigerator, old broken tables, old broken five-drawer cabinet, two televisions (including the larger-than-life monstrosity taking up a lot of floor space on the stage in Fellowship Hall), large metal desk without two legs (being held up by paint cans), and lots more. Thanks to Skip Galayda for the use of his trailer to haul items to the transfer station and the incredible amount of manual labor from Skip, Jon Burdeshaw and Stefan Paneczko.

Thank you, everyone, for coming and helping to bring our downstairs rooms "back to life" following this pandemic!

Ron Tooley Memorial Service

Thank you to everyone who helped make the reception following the March 26 memorial service for Ron Tooley so meaningful. Your contributions of food for the reception, items for display on the tables, table set up, tablecloth ironing and placement, plating and serving the day of the event, and for helping clean-up following the reception. We are so fortunate to have a church family who has such a special way of embracing and showing our respect and love for our passing church family members.

Camp Wightman Work Day

On Saturday, May 7, from 9 to 3 p.m., we hope that you can join us for one of local mission opportunities here in Connecticut as we and other churches help camp get ready for their summer ministry.

Campers of all ages will soon be venturing to Camp Wightman, our beautiful American Baptist Camp in North Stonington that is less than an hour away from us. There will be jobs for everyone no matter your ability and a delicious lunch will be provided. Contact Linda Lamy 860/878-5310 if you can come for all or part of the day ... or may like to carpool.



Spring Savers 'Soft Goods' Drive

It's time for our spring Savers "soft goods" fundraiser – perfect time to clean out your closets. We are seeking gently used and clean soft goods items including clothes, coats, pocketbooks, backpacks, soft toys, fabric, belts, bedding, soft cloth or flexible luggage, linens, etc. If possible, please place in tall white kitchen bags instead of large black trash bags.

Donations may be brought to church on Sundays, May 22 and 29 or Wednesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 2, 10 a.m. to noon. Other times can be arranged by contacting Linda Lamy at 860/878-5310/ lindalamy8@gmail.com or Joyce Olore at 860-276-8061/jsolore@aol.com.

Remember to invite family and friends to donate also... the more the merrier, since we have the generous use of a large box truck, in addition to a kind driver for transporting. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser to benefit the general fund and mission opportunities of our church.

Compassion Sundays

Southington Community Services shelves are bare. They are currently seeking donations of canned or jarred pasta sauce as well as canned beans, vegetables, tuna and fruit to restock the shelves in the food pantry. Peanut butter and jelly are always appreciated, too.



Although our church usually collects the food on Compassion Sundays – the last Sunday of the month – donations are welcome at any time. 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 for food.

Thank you to anyone who is able to donate and help them fill up their shelves! Your continued support of providing non-perishable foods on Compassion Sunday for Southington Community Services is greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping those in need within our community.



P.S. Thank you for the donations of Easter candy. Southington Community Services made and delivered 400 Easter baskets!

From the Music Director:

Welcoming New Singers

In May, we will welcome back our Singing Ensemble to the worship service. They will be preparing music selections about every other month, as they alternate with our bell ringers. Anyone is invited to take part as we practice one or two Sundays before we sing during the service. You may sing with them each time or even two times a year. It's up to you.

On Sunday, May 1, we will be practicing one song after the worship service in preparation to sing during church on Sunday, May 15 with a practice at 9:20 a.m. that morning. We gather near the piano after fellowship time in the sanctuary. You don't need to read music to take part so feel free to give it a try or talk with Les Marsh, music director, if you have any questions or email fbcsouthmusic1@aol.com.

We will sing again in July and then in September. Dates will be listed in the bulletin or The Steeple Signal.

And people are also welcome to join our Bell Choir – no experience needed. You don't even need to read music!

Let us praise the Lord together through song!



One Great Hour of Sharing Report

We are proud to announce that First Baptist of Southington topped \$1,000 for Ukraine support during our One Great Hour of Sharing collection. Our church family has always been so generous in supporting individuals in great need worldwide. Thank you so much for your generosity.

In response to immediate needs resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, International Ministries, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, sent an initial grant of \$15,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing emergency relief to the European Baptist Federation to provide humanitarian aid for Ukrainian Baptists. This grant joins a larger, global Baptist response to this evolving situation.

Initial relief will provide basic provisions - food, shelter, medicine, and hygiene items - to at least 2,500 people who are fleeing their homes. Displaced people will be served by distribution centers set up by Ukrainian Baptists to provide temporary shelter and relief. In addition, the threat of the incursion and the invasion have resulted in refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. In those countries, Baptists are also responding.

There will be ongoing needs both within Ukraine and in the surrounding countries. Additional relief is urgently needed. Persons wishing to support relief efforts can do so through their American Baptist church, by giving online, or by sending checks directly to International Ministries. Please designate your contribution to "OGHS - Ukraine Relief."

Checks sent directly to International Ministries should be made payable and mailed to: International Ministries, 1003 W 9th Avenue, Ste A, King of Prussia, PA 19406, Attn: Gifts Processing, International Ministries.

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:
May - Joyce Olore 860/276-8061
June - Ginni Butler 860/628-5014

Thank You!

From Connecticut Baptist Homes: "Thank you so much for sending valentines to our CBH staff members! The cards were a wonderful boost to morale and Valentine's Day was a great holiday for showing appreciation. I am very grateful to FBC Southington for generously sharing their love and compassion!" – *Pastor Katherine Fagerburg*



Fellowship Hour

We are happy to finally enjoy Fellowship Hour in the hall following worship. Everyone is welcome to host or assist. We love when people donate goodies. However, to ensure we don't have too many treats on the same Sunday, if you plan to bring something, please contact Ginni Butler at 860/628-5014 by that Saturday. Thank you!

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.

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.

Steeple Signal Deadline

The next issue of The Steeple Signal will be July-August 2022. Have news? Deadline is June 13. 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."



Easter Flowers and Memorial Gifts 2022

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers to beautify our sanctuary on Easter and to those who chose to give a memorial gift, both to honor loved ones and glorify our Lord.

Flowers

Marvin Choquette in memory of Vincent & Fern Choquette
Bill & Barbara McKay in honor of our grandchildren with love
Bernadette & Skip Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda
In memory of William "Skip" Parker given by Sharon Kupiec, his wife
Margaret Shigo-Zembko in memory of grandparents Andrew & Catherine Shigo and Andrew & Anna Egri
Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams and Mason families
The Burkhardt Family in memory of Ernie Burkhardt Jr. and Ernie Burkhardt III
The Gworek family in memory of Ted & David Gworek and Mildred & Albert Bassett
A church member in honor of this congregation
Phyllis Wade in memory of Bobby Wade; Barbara Melvin; and Ora, Sidney & Charles Travis
The Olore Family in memory of Brandon Stallworth; Edward Schellhammer; and Dr. & Mrs. Louis Olore
Nik Paneczko in memory of Judith Barrows
Lisa Anne Devaux in memory of Cliff Devaux

Gifts

Bill & Barbara McKay in memory of our beloved parents
Betty & Warren Porter in memory of Emma & John Haskell and Alma & Ken Porter
Barbara Burkhardt in honor of "Chip"
In memory of Tom – Love, Liz
Barbara Adams in memory of Horace Adams
Phyllis Wade in memory of Bobby Wade; Barbara Melvin; and Ora, Sidney & Charles Travis
For Ron – Love, Lee
In memory of Bob & Lucy Lee given with love by the Michel grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Ginni in loving memory of Gert & Ken Butler
A church member in honor of this congregation

Our Holy Week Journey Through Photos

We had an amazing Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday, observance of Maundy Thursday and concluding with two worship services on Easter Sunday. And thank you to all who donated Easter candy so we could continue our tradition of an Easter egg hunt!



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays:

May

- 5 Alice Bogue
- 7 Walter Jones
- 8 Carrie Olore
- 10 Marissa Myska
- 11 Aimee Cunningham,
Nik Paneczko, Heidi Tata

June

- 17 Peg Lewis
- 21 Andrea Jones
- 24 Robin Michel, Annett Reid
- 30 Jean Chinigo
- 1 Sarah & Samantha Callaghan, Nathaniel Tata
- 6 Donna Burhoe
- 7 David Michel

- 9 Lee Burhoe
- 14 Kyle Chinigo, Les Marsh
- 19 Lauren Galayda
- 20 Maya Johns
- 23 Darlene Steele

Anniversaries:

May

- 20 Bonnie & Ray
Callaghan

June

- 2 Linda & Gary Lamy
- 14 Betty & Warren Porter
- 19 Joyce & Lou Olore

