

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



September-October 2022



September & October Church Calendar



September 2022

- Sept. 4 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.
- Sept. 8 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.;
Board of Deacons 4 p.m.
- Sept. 11 Worship 10 a.m.
- Sept. 18 Worship 10 a.m.
- Sept. 21 Outreach Committee 11 a.m.
- Sept. 25 Worship 10 a.m. Church Board meets after worship

October 2022

- Oct. 2 Communion Sunday 10 a.m.
- Oct. 9 Worship 10 a.m.
- Oct. 13 Music Committee 3:30 p.m.;
Board of Deacons 4 p.m.
- Oct. 16 Worship 10 a.m.
- Oct. 19 Outreach Committee 11 a.m.
- Oct. 23 Worship 10 a.m.
- Oct. 30 Worship 10 a.m.

Looking ahead:

*Church Board October meeting to be announced.
Church tag sale on Nov. 5!*

The Minister's Meanderings: Take Care of the Least

The long, hot summer is drawing to a close, giving way to cooler nights and pleasant days. The long, seemingly endless pandemic is giving way to acceptance that COVID-19 is here to stay, and we need to adapt and resume our lives. Yet is that really possible?

The pandemic has had long-term ramifications for our world, our community, our families, and our church. While we have taken care of one another as best we can through difficult days, we have all been affected by the pandemic of the last two-plus years in so many ways. We have lost loved ones, taken by COVID-19 or its complications, many have lost their jobs, and now we are coping with the highest rates of inflation we've seen in over forty years. Supply chain issues continue to make it difficult to put food on the table, clothes on our backs and now, due to Russia's attack on Ukraine, putting gas in our vehicles is further draining our already strained resources.

Fortunately, many of us continue to have enough financial resources to continue our lives without too many sacrifices. But what about those who were already stretched to the limit before the pandemic and the events of the past two and a half years? Where do people turn when there simply isn't enough money for food, utilities, clothing, and other necessities?

In Southington, we are blessed to have Bread for Life and Southington Community Services who assist our residents in so many ways. Both of these amazing groups help fill the gap in providing badly needed services. They provide hot meals, weekly groceries, clothing, assistance with utilities and so much more. They desperately need our ongoing help!

While our church donates to both organizations through our Outreach budget, we also collect non-perishable foods for Southington Community Services. You can bring canned goods to our church every week and we will deliver them for you. You can also pick up a few extra items when you shop and drop them off at either Bread for Life, 31 Vermont Ave., or Southington Community Services at 91 Norton St. You can also drop items off for Community Services at the library and they will be picked up. Perhaps this is the year to cut back on buying so "things" for Christmas and instead honor someone you love by making a monetary donation to either, or both, of these organizations.

However, you choose to respond, it is deeply appreciated, and you are obeying Jesus' command that we take care of the least of these.

In Christ, *Pastor Sharon*

News from the Pews

Updates from your Outreach Committee

Basement Clean-up

The basement clean-up continues! The next room to be organized, cleaned and spruced up is the 'Basket Room' (the room at the bottom of the stairs where all the baskets, wrapping, ribbons and goodies for the silent auction items are kept). An initial work group got together to begin the process.

This is still a work in progress and an additional day will be scheduled in the near future. We were fortunate to receive filing cabinets from Jen and Stefan to use in the Basket Room. Thank you for this great donation - it will certainly



Double rainbow over the church.



See **News** on page 3

News from page 2

help in organizing donations. AND a HUGE THANK YOU to Stefan and Nik for transporting and placing them in their new home.

Hygiene Kits

Our congregation outdid themselves yet again! We collected **85** completed hygiene kits this year. Each kit contained a hand towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, band aids, comb and nail clippers. With the fires and flooding occurring this year, there are so many opportunities to put them to good use. Thank you for your support of this important project.

Help Our Neighbors - Food Needed!

The shelves at Southington Community Services food pantry



continue to be depleted. Our church has been asked to donate canned fruit to help stock the shelves. Donations can come in any Sunday or can be dropped off at Community

Services at 91 Norton St. (Route 10) in the Plantsville section or at the library. If you drop off items at community services, let them know you are from First Baptist Church - they weigh and record donations. Thank you!

Upcoming Offerings

The Retired Ministers & Missionaries offering will be collected in October. Look for updates in the bulletin.

The next Outreach meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 11 am.



New cabinets in our "basket room." Thank you, Jen and Stefan!



Helpers preparing the hygiene kits include, from left, Pastor Sharon, Dot Amundsen, Joyce Olore, Phyllis Wade, Peg Lewis, Lori Koritkowski and Ginni Butler.

Save the Date! Annual Tag Sale – Saturday, Nov. 5

Please begin planning what gently used items you would like to donate to our 2022 tag sale set for Saturday, Nov. 5.

Items to consider donating include: toys, small appliances, dishes, glasses, mugs, knick-knacks, jewelry, crafts, CDs/ DVDs, holiday decorations, tools, vases, bedding such as comforters/blankets, tablecloths, pictures, books, puzzles, etc.

Items we are **not accepting**: televisions, computers, printers, furniture, sharp kitchen knives.

Please check and recheck to make sure your donations are clean and not broken, chipped, stained or torn. Disposing of unusable items costs us time and money.

Items can be donated the week of the event from Monday, Oct. 31 to Thursday, Nov. 3.

We would appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time to assist in set-up the week of Oct. 30 as well as the day of the event Nov. 5. Many hands make light work!

More detailed information will be included in the weekly bulletins leading up to the event.

If you are interested in co-chairing, please see Joyce Olore.



Other News

Long-time church member Alice Bogue passed away on July 21. We offer condolences to her family and friends.



Due to the current high level of COVID transmission, our **Spud Night** and Silent Auction unfortunately must be postponed once again. It is our hope that we will be able to enjoy this event next spring.

Our fall **Rally Day picnic** has also been cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to resume potluck suppers when it is safe to do so.

AARP will meet at our church on Sept. 27, 1 p.m.

Interested in a Book Club?

Some people are interested in a Book Club. A suggestion was made to discuss "Finding Me" by Viola Davis. Other ideas? What time is good? Please contact Ginni Butler, 860/628-5014.

Bloomin' News



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 noon to include it in the bulletin. Questions? Call Robin at 860/620-2989. Flower coordinators for upcoming months are:

September – Peg Lewis 860/384-4123

October – Joyce Olore 860/276-8061

Fellowship Hour

We are happy to finally enjoy Fellowship Hour in

the hall following worship. Everyone is welcome to host or assist. It is a treat when people donate goodies.

However, to ensure we don't have too many snacks on the same Sunday, if you plan to bring something, please contact Ginni Butler at 860/628-5014 by that Saturday. 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.

From the Music Director:

"Hi everyone. I would like to invite anyone and everyone to take part in our Bells Group or Singing Ensemble. We alternate between the two groups (Bells in September, Singing Ensemble in October). No musical knowledge is required. All you need is a love of and sharing music with our church family. Please see me for more information."



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."

Steeple Signal Deadline

The next issue of The Steeple Signal will be November-December 2022. Deadline is Oct. 17.



THE
STEEPLE
SIGNAL

Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin Michel at robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

Without God Our Week Would Be:

Sunday
Mournday
Tearsday
Wasteday
Thirstday
Fightday

Shatterday

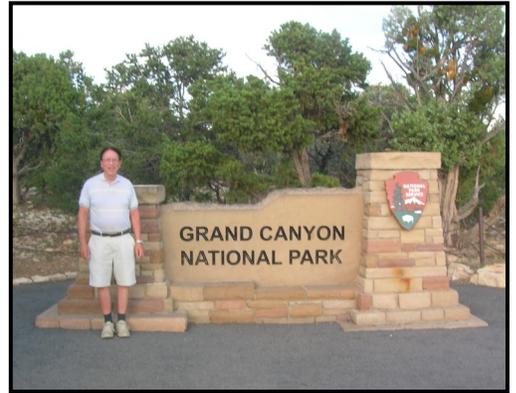
7 Days Without God Makes One Week.

From Pinterest – Submitted by Phyllis Wade

What We Did on Our Summer Vacation

Our church members have had a busy summer!

Marvin Choquette and his brother Keith took a trip to the great Southwest and didn't let the extreme heat dampen their adventures. "Our 8-day tour started in Las Vegas, Nevada and ended in Phoenix, Arizona. We visited Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks in southern Utah. Also, Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon in Arizona. We also made a stop in Sedona, Arizona. It was a great tour and we both really enjoyed it."



Marvin covered many miles on his trip to see western national parks.



Marissa Myska, left, and her sister Karin enjoyed a day in Maine with their parents John and Brenda.

John and Brenda Myska with their daughters Marissa and Karin have an end of summer tradition: a day trip to Maine. "It begins at Kittery Trading Post... includes a stop at Nubble Light... some time at Wells Beach... topped off with dinner at The York at River Landing... complete with a sweatshirt and memories!"

Joyce and Lou Olore had a Canadian adventure with family members. Their excursion included a five-day excursion "from Vancouver to Lake Louise to Banff to Calgary on the Rocky Mountaineer train – it was a trip of a lifetime!"



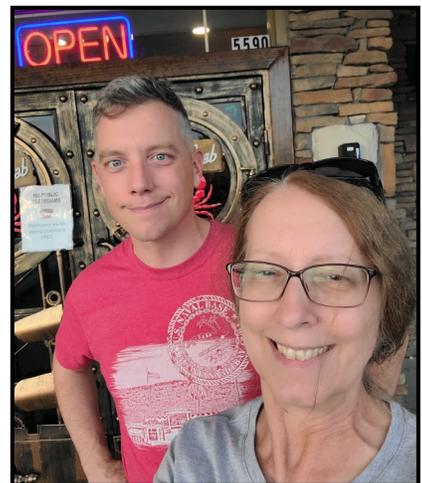
Joyce and Lou Olore visit a glacier during their trip to Canada.



Maya Johns (front center) had another great time at Camp Wightman.



Spencer Burdeshaw, (top row, blue shirt) and his grandfather Joe Burdeshaw (white shirt, baseball cap) shared adventures at Grandparents Camp.



Impromptu vacation! Liz Harwood and son Brian, outside a restaurant in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Liz drove 12 hours to see him!

Bible Crossword

Submitted by Laureen Galayda

The following are the names of some of the places in Acts 13.

Can you arrange them in the blank spaces? ANTIOCH, CYPRUS, PAPHOS, SALAMIS, SYRIA

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays



September

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

October

- 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

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

Anniversaries

September

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

October

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

