

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



January-February 2023



January & February 2023 Church Calendar

save
the
date

January 2023

Jan. 1 Communion

Sunday 10am

Jan. 8 Worship 10am, Fellowship
Celebration follows

Jan. 15 Martin Luther King Celebration
and Worship 10am

Jan. 17 Book Club 1pm

Jan. 18 Outreach 11am

Jan. 19 Music Committee 3:30pm,
Deacons 4pm

Jan. 22 Worship 10am, Church Board
meets afterward

Jan. 29 Worship 10am

February 2023

Feb. 5 Communion Sunday 10am

Feb. 9 Music Committee 3:30pm,
Deacons 4pm

Feb. 12 Worship 10am, Fellowship
Celebration follows

Feb. 19 Worship 10am

Feb. 21 Book Club 1 pm

Feb. 26 Worship 10am,

Outreach to be announced.

Church Board to be announced.

The Pastor's Prayer for 2023

As we begin a new year, my thoughts turn to prayer for 2023.

God, please grant us peace personally, locally and around the earth.

Although it seems impossible, with God all things are possible, so I pray for an end to war so that the young men and women who serve as fodder for bombs around the world may return unscathed to their loved ones.

That no one should live in want for food, shelter, safety, health care or education.

May each of us seek to be honest in all our dealings with one other and may all others, including leaders at home and abroad seek the same.

I pray that the pandemic will be vanquished worldwide by the development and use of effective treatments and vaccines.

That the great dragon of social media misinformation would be slain and replaced with

sincere attempts at communication.

May we work together to attain an equitable and sustainable environment where all can enjoy the fruits of their labors without decimating our planet.

Lord, may all who labor be paid fair wage for their efforts. May the cruel abuse and exploitation of women and children around the world end.

May the curse of addiction be met with understanding and treatment, not derision and condemnation.

Every day, may we all seek to glorify You through our respect for all your people. May we see the face of Jesus reflected in every person we meet.

All these things we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Happy New Year, *Pastor Sharon*



Albrecht Durer

News from the Pews

Outreach Committee Updates

- The mitten tree is up and we are looking to have all its branches filled with hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and men's socks. One of the biggest donors was a woman named Mary Lou who with other knitters from the Calendar House gave dozens of hats, lap afghans, mittens and more. Thank you for the generous donations received so far! We will keep the tree up through January.



- The Christmas tags from Southington Community Services were quickly grabbed up and wrapped gifts were delivered to community services for their distribution to neighbors in need. Thank you to everyone who shared Christmas joy with those in need in our community.

- The committee was overwhelmed by the generosity of our church family. We exceeded our budget donations for 2022 and were able to share additional monies with Team Brownville for migrant support, La Romana, DR, and Christian Community

Action of New Haven. Each of these programs brings services and support to those in need. We are happy to be able to extend additional financial resources for God's work being done by these groups.

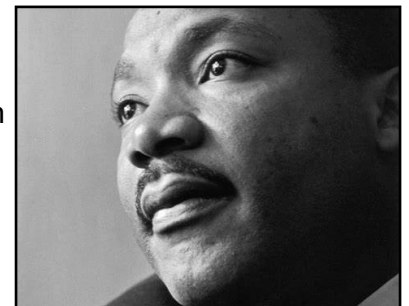
- We will be collecting for the America for Christ offering throughout January. Envelopes will be available on the offering table.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

First Baptist Church of Southington is proud to announce it is hosting the 25th Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Jan. 15. This is Southington's only ceremony recognizing

the late Dr. King, his mission and accomplishments. The event, which is themed "Equality in the Future/Quality of Education," will be at 10am and will include a special luncheon afterward.

Guest speaker will be Veronica Marion, EdD., manager of the Connecticut Statewide Family Engagement Center. Her professional life, which has been dedicated to working with and for children and families, is a direct reflection of her personal values and beliefs.



Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring guests.

All Saints Day

During the Nov. 6 service, we remembered our loved ones who passed away in the previous 12 months. They were: Alice Bogue, Sharon Boyce, Warren Porter and Ron Tooley.

Remembrance Boards

Several display boards are now updated thanks to Nancy Shaw, church treasurer. The displays – the original in the church entrance and the new board in the narthex – list names of various donors of items (such as pews) and memorial gifts. The three-year project was quite the undertaking; Nancy spent much time reviewing 68 years of documentation and records to determine what names were missing. She also referenced historical information that Al Bassett had given her.



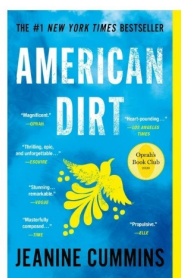
The original board dates to 1953 and lists those who gave items, many when the church was built. The new board lists memorial names.

Nancy said she is still awaiting six plaques which will be added to the displays. If anyone has a question, please call her at 860-628-6307.

Boy Scout Food Drive



Boy Scouts gathered at our church on Nov. 12 to sort food collected throughout town during Scouting for Food. Nearly 13,000 pounds was collected - 12,729 lbs. or 6.36 tons!



Book Club to Meet Jan. 17

Our monthly Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 1pm in the church parlor. The book we will be discussing is "American Dirt" by

Jeanine Cummins. The book is available at local libraries in hard copy, e-book and audiobook. It can also be purchased through Kindle, Amazon, Better World Books, and eBay. If you have any questions, please contact Ginni at 860-628-5014. Feel free to come!

Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army on Nov. 19 at Tops. The Baptist ringers received donations of \$244.03. Ringers included: Pastor Sharon, Jon Burdeshaw, Laureen Galayda, Ginni Butler, Robin Michel, Joyce Olore, Ethel Graham and Phyllis Wade, Stefan Pancezko and Jen Egan. We are so grateful for the community's support ... and for the beautiful sunny day we had to stand outside and ring!



Tag Sale News

Tag Sale Wrap-up

What a great tag sale fundraiser we had on Nov. 5! We raised \$5,000 and have some items that will go on eBay that will be added to our total.

The tag sale's success is due to all the support from our volunteers - donating, sorting and pricing during prep week... as well as the turnout of volunteers on the day of the event and for clean up on Sunday afternoon! As a special bonus, volunteers enjoyed lunch during set up week as well as on Saturday. We are blessed with some great chefs at First Baptist!

This year we were supported by the Boy Scout Troop that meets at our church. They took down all the tables after their own food drive.

Thank you to everyone for all your support. – Joyce Olore & Dot Amundsen, tag sale chairwomen

Tag Sale Thank You Note

Dear Friends of The Summit at Plantsville,

I want to take a moment to thank you for allowing me to choose donations for our Christmas store. As you are aware, The Summit has a Christmas store that offers residents the opportunity to "shop" for Christmas gifts for their family. Our store was open on Dec. 8. Residents enjoy shopping at no cost to them. Your generosity will go a long way. - Barbara Blau, *director of Therapeutic Recreation*



Note from a Shopper:

I attended your tag sale on Nov. 5, 2022. Upon arriving home, I realized I did not pay for a table scarf set and a delft blue windmill knickknack. Please accept my apology and the enclosed late payment of \$5. The table scarf set was priced at \$4 and the knickknack was \$1.

Thank you for bringing joy and smiles at your tag sale. It was a wonderful way to spend some time away from home. I commend you on how organized each section of tables were. You all did a great job preparing. – Cheri H.

Wedding News

Pastor Sharon officiated at the Dec. 10 wedding of Stephanie Tata and Justin Guerrero. The bride is the granddaughter of Barbara & Bill McKay. Congratulations!



Savers' Fundraiser

We are already thinking of our Savers' Fundraiser to benefit the church's General Fund and mission opportunities. Our past collections have been very successful – let's top our record of 4,020 pounds that we set last summer!

So, while you are spring cleaning, think about saving any soft goods: clothes, bedding, coats, fabric toys, belts, pocketbooks, towels, fabric luggage and boots. The dates for collection will be announced later this spring.

Mysterious Santa

Robin Michel met Santa at the holiday party for PARC, an organization that serves people with developmental disabilities. He may be the twin of someone who solos at our church. Who is it? Answer is on page 6.



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."

Help Our Neighbors - Food Needed!

The shelves at the Southington Community Services food pantry continue to be depleted. Donations can be made 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.

Bloomin' News

Flower sign-up 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. If you are unable to shop, we are happy to get the flowers for you. Pastor Sharon needs the dedication information by Tuesday noon for the bulletin.



Thank you, Dot & Joyce for this beautiful harvest arrangement!

Flower Coordinators 2023

- January - Ginni Butler - 860-628-5014
- February - Peg Lewis - 860-384-4123
- March - Dot Amundsen - 860-747-8188
- April - Robin Michel - 860-620-2989
- May - Joyce Olore - 860-276-8061
- June - Ginni Butler - 860-628-5014
- July - Robin Michel - 860-620-2989
- August - Joyce Olore - 860-276-8061
- September - Peg Lewis - 860-384-4123
- October - Joyce Olore - 860-276-8061
- November - Dot Amundsen - 860-747-8188
- December - Robin Michel - 860-620-2989



Questions? Call Robin at 860-620-2989.

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of notices for our weekly bulletin insert is Tuesdays 12pm. 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. No musical knowledge is required.” – Les Marsh

Steeple Signal Deadline

The next issue of The Steeple Signal will be March-April 2023. Deadline is Feb. 19. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin Michel at robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

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. If you plan to bring a treat, please contact Ginni Butler at 860-628-5014 by that Saturday.

The Way to A Happy New Year

Author Unknown – Submitted by Phyllis Wade

To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that’s past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that’s new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world’s good cheer,
Is to have and give a Happy New Year.

Christmas Flowers 2022

Bernadette & Skip Galayda in memory of Margaret & John Galayda
Jen Egan in memory of Florence Howes
Miss Laureen in honor of our Sunday School students
The Gworek Family in memory of Mildred & Albert Bassett and Ted & David Gworek
Sharon Kupiec in memory of the Parker and Sloat Families
Shirley Mason in memory of the Adams-Mason Families
Bill & Barbara McKay in honor of our grandchildren with love
Nikolaus and Stefan Paneczko in memory of Judith F. Barrows

Margaret Shigo-Zembko in memory of Steve Zembko and John & Elizabeth Shigo

Christmas Memorial Gifts 2022

Barbara Adams in memory of Horace Adams
In memory of Ron – Love, Lee
Barbara Burkhardt in loving memory of her beloved husband and son, Ernie Burkhardt Jr. and Ernie “Chip” Burkhardt III
Ginni Butler in loving memory of Gert & Ken Butler
Bill & Barbara McKay in memory of our loving parents
Michel grandchildren & great-grandchildren in loving memory of Lucy & Bob Lee and Addie & Bill Michel
Betty Porter & Family in memory of Emma & John Haskell, Alma & Ken Porter, and Warren Porter

Birthdays



December 2022

1 Janet Mellon
5 Youngsun Kim
8 Matthew DiGioia (Troy Jones’ son)

January 2023

1 Jason Urso
6 Jessie Nardini
13 Liz Harwood
17 Phyllis Wade
30 Amanda Olore

February

1 Raegan Burdeshaw, Phil Heim

3 Julia Graikoski
4 Rudy Cabata
8 Ted Cabata, Gary Lamy
14 Caleigh Cunningham
21 Lily Dixon
22 Sarah Strosahl-Kagi
25 Shirley Mason
27 Marvin Choquette

Anniversaries

January

6 Bill & Barb McKay
(It’s a milestone!)

February

10 JoAnn & John Myska



Scenes from the Season



**Merry Christmas &
a Blessed New Year!**

(Answer: John Myska)

