

# 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 2023



## March & April 2023 Church Calendar



### March

- March 5 Communion Sunday, 10 a.m.; New Members Sunday; Church Board meets after worship; Deadline for annual reports
- March 7 Lenten Book Study, 12-1:30 p.m.
- March 9 **\*\*New times:** Deacons, 3 p.m., Music Committee, 4 p.m.
- March 12 Daylight Saving Time – move clocks forward one hour. Worship, 10am, Fellowship Celebration follows
- March 14 Lenten Book Study, 12-1:30 p.m.
- March 15 Outreach, 11 a.m. (No meeting in April.)
- March 19 Worship, 10 a.m.; Annual Meeting follows, lunch will be served; deadline for Easter flowers (See last page for order form.)
- March 21 Lenten Book Study, 12-1:30 p.m.
- March 26 Worship, 10 a.m.

March 28 Lenten Book Study, 12-1:30 p.m.

### April

- April 2 Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.
- April 6 Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m.
- April 9 Easter Sunday: Merriman Cemetery, 6:30 a.m.; church, 10 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship Celebration follow
- April 13 Deacons, 3 p.m., Music Committee, 4 p.m.
- April 15 Spud Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- April 16 Worship, 10 a.m.
- April 18 Book Club, 1 p.m.
- April 23 Worship, 10 a.m.
- April 29 Camp Wightman Work Day
- April 30 Worship, 10 a.m.
- April Church Board meeting to be determined.

## Pastor's Ponderings: What is Lent?

What is Lent? We've all heard the word, and we know it occurs in the weeks and days that lead up to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and ultimately, Easter.

Lent is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning lengthen, as in when the days lengthen in the spring; it became associated with rites of preparation that early Christians practiced prior to Easter, the great celebration of Jesus's resurrection. As early as the second century believers prepared for Easter by observing times of fasting and prayer. It is commonly believed that the period of 40 days associated with Lent was to commemorate the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness.

If you count the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, you'll discover there are actually 46 days. Our Christian predecessors believed that Sunday should never be used as a fast day. Jesus' resurrection was on a Sunday, so all Sundays were to be considered mini-feast days, thus we don't include six Sundays as part of the 40 days of Lent.

Since many converts to Christianity were Jewish, the observation of Passover also took on additional meaning. Passover commemorated the liberation of the ancient Hebrews from the yoke of Egyptian slavery. It was also during Passover that Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, and resurrected.

Easter is always observed within a 35-day "window" between March 22nd and April 25th in order to coincide with Passover. Easter and Passover aren't always observed during the same dates, because the observation of Passover is based on the lunar calendar and Easter is based on the solar calendar. Easter is observed on the



first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox (also known as the first day of spring).

During Christianity's early years, Lent was also a time of intense preparation for those wishing to join the church. Catechisms were learned and new converts were baptized in a river or lake at dawn

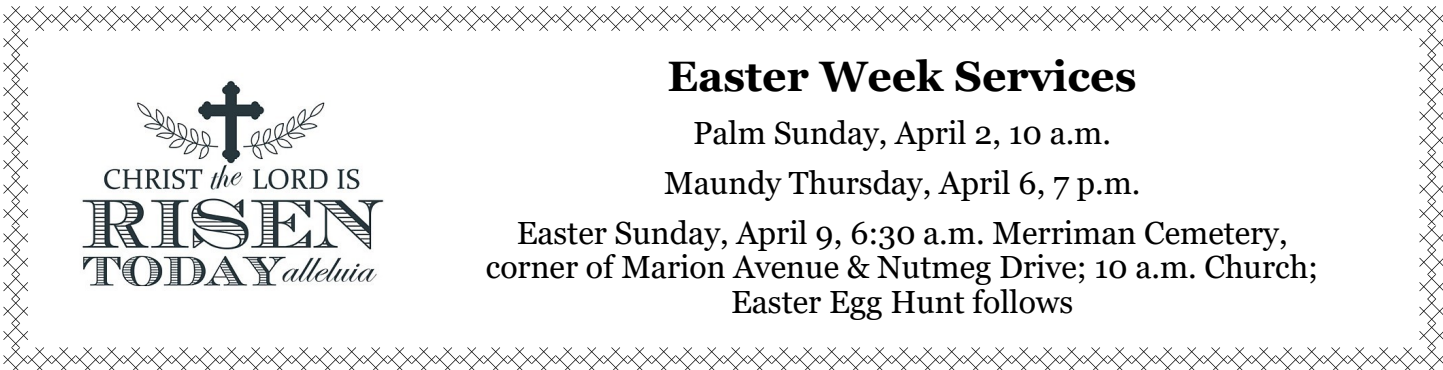

on Easter morning. I suspect we wouldn't have too many new baptisms if we still embraced the same tradition.

Not too long ago, a child asked me, "Why do we call it Easter?" I sagely replied, "Uh, er, I'll have to get back to you on that." After doing some research, I discovered that Easter is derived from the Scandinavian word "Ostra" and the Teutonic "Ostern" or "Eastre," both of whom were mythical goddesses of fertility whose celebrations were held on the first day of spring. Rabbits became associated with the celebration of Easter because they were a time-honored symbol of fertility (and anyone who has ever owned or observed rabbits knows why!). Eggs were also a symbol of fertility and were painted in bright colors to signify the bright sunlight of spring following the long darkness of winter. They were given as tokens of affection and used in egg rolling contests.

So, as with our Advent celebration, Christians assimilated many cultural traditions into their Lenten and Easter observations. Just as early Christians were able to incorporate many diverse elements into their faith tradition, let us join together in celebrating the wonderful diversity that all brothers and sisters in Christ bring to our celebration of Christ's triumph over the grave.

In Christ,

*Pastor Sharon*

  
  
CHRIST *the* LORD IS  
**RISEN**  
TODAY *alleluia*

### Easter Week Services

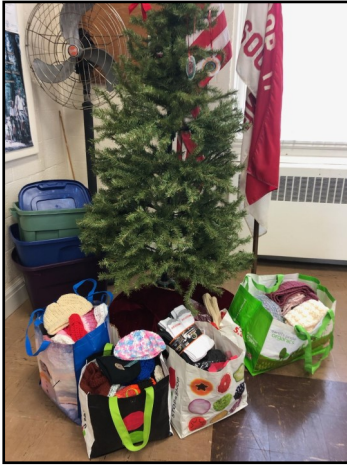
Palm Sunday, April 2, 10 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 6:30 a.m. Merriman Cemetery,  
corner of Marion Avenue & Nutmeg Drive; 10 a.m. Church;  
Easter Egg Hunt follows

# News from the Pews

## From the Outreach Board:



After our extremely busy holiday season we have but a couple of updates from Outreach:

Thank you for trimming the tree in Fellowship Hall with hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and socks! We collected four shopping bags full of winter items to keep our community warm

during the cold temperatures of the winter. In addition, a woman from the Calendar House knitting group contacted us and donated several bins of handmade items. Recipients included Southington Community Services, Friendship Service Center homeless program and The Summit. The Outreach Committee is so thankful for our church family's generosity throughout the year.

The America for Christ offering is underway and will continue throughout February. Thank you in advance for your willingness to support the wonderful programs that are funded through your generosity.

Compassion Sunday has been changed to a weekly food collection. Due to the shortage of items at the food pantry, our church is assisting by donating items weekly rather than on a monthly basis. We appreciate your support of this extremely important service being provided to individuals in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. This is just one way we can make a difference. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Right Hand of Fellowship

Several new members will receive the Right Hand of Fellowship on March 5. Photos will be in the May-June issue of The Steeple Signal.

### Deacons/Music Committee – new time

The Deacons will now be meeting at 3 p.m. followed by the Music Committee at 4 p.m.

### Lenten Book Study

The Lenten Book Study began Feb. 28 and will continue until March 28. The lunchtime study



focuses on the booklet, "Henri Matisse and the Colors of Lent." The group meets at noon in the parlor with our brown bag lunches from home and discussion follows until 1:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Peg Lewis, 860-384-4123.

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, March 19. Lunch will be served. Reports are due to the pastor by March 5.

### Easter Egg Hunt

We appreciate donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg hunt planned for after worship on April 9. The deadline is April 2.



### Our Spud Nite and Silent Auction Is Back!

Spread the news to family, friends and neighbors that our proposed date for our long-awaited Spud



Nite is Saturday, April 15 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Our freshly baked potatoes will have array of toppings to choose from ... unless you indulge in the "Garbage Can Potato" with everything on it! The cost is only \$8 and includes a

drink and dessert. There will be both dine in and takeout too. Homemade soup will again be an option.

You are welcome to donate or regift new items to the silent auction. Your donations are greatly appreciated. On Sunday, March 12 and Sunday, March 26, you'll again have an opportunity to be a "Spud Sponsor" by donating a few dollars to sponsor a topping or other items needed for the event. For more info and if you would like to be a volunteer, please talk with Joyce Olore or Linda Lamy.

This year's funds will benefit our church's general fund and enhance our music ministry.

## Daylight Saving Time

Move your clocks forward one hour on March 12 or else you will be late for church!



## Camp Wightman Work Day Saturday, April 29

We have a mission service opportunity at our own Camp Wightman right here in eastern Connecticut. It is less than an hour away in Griswold and located on beautiful Lake Billing. On Saturday, April 29, we will help spruce up camp both outdoors and indoors. We may be raking, washing windows, clearing walking paths, vacuuming, or maybe even painting, too. The work begins at 9 a.m. but volunteers are welcome to work for any length of time.

There's something to do for everyone both youth and adults, and it's a great time of fellowship with folks from other Baptist churches. Camp also will be providing lunch for all the volunteers. Call 860-376-2179 by Wednesday, April 12 to let them know that you are attending. If there is enough interest, we may be able to arrange a car pool from our church. Questions? Contact Linda Lamy.

## Savers Collection - Coming Soon

It will soon be time for spring cleaning. Our proposed annual Savers "soft goods" collection welcomes any clean, soft goods such as clothes, bedding, coats, belts, fabric toys, pocketbooks, vinyl/ leather soft luggage, shoes, linens and also boots.

Please invite family and friends to join in as our goal is 4,444 lbs. of donations which is about 430 bags. We can do it! Thank you for placing your donations in kitchen-size trash bags. **We will be collecting throughout May.**

If you have any questions or need a drop-off time other than when the church is open, just contact Joyce Olore (860-276-8061 or [jsolore@aol.com](mailto:jsolore@aol.com)) or Linda Lamy (860-878-5310 or [lindalamy8@gmail.com](mailto:lindalamy8@gmail.com)).

## Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

First Baptist Church of Southington proudly hosted its 25th in-person 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 was themed "Equality in the Future/Quality of Education." The guest speaker was Veronica Marion, EdD., manager of the Connecticut

Statewide Family Engagement Center. The special musical guest was Saul Olivas. Honorees were Mame Diop of John F. Kennedy Middle School and Jack Denorfia of DePaolo Middle School.

Kudos to our committee for another successful MLK event!



Members of the MLK Committee with guest speaker Veronica Marion.



From left, DePaolo Principal Palmieri, Jack Denorfia, Mame Diop and JFK Principal Susanne Vitcavage

## Condolences

Jim Danis passed away on Jan. 30. He served as co-chairman of Board of Deacons for many years. Condolences are extended to family and friends.

## New Sign

The permanent sign located on the brick base was recently refurbished with new Plexiglas and movable letters making it more visible to



passing motorists. It will also have exterior lighting. The project was made possible through the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee. Looks great!



## 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. All you need is a love of and sharing music with our church family. Please see me for more information." – Les Marsh

### Fellowship Hour

We are happy to offer 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.

### 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](mailto:pastor.sharon@firstbaptistsouthington.org) or drop them off at the church office.

### Stay in Touch!

Our website is [www.firstbaptistsouthington.org](http://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." If you would like to join our Sunday worship services via Zoom, contact Pastor Sharon.

### Bloomin' News



The order form for Easter flowers or memorial gifts is on the last page of this issue of The Steeple Signal. Deadline is March 19.

For regular Sundays, 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, 860-620-2989.

### Flower Coordinators 2023

- 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

### Prayer Requests

Prayer Group no longer meets on Fridays. If you have a prayer request, feel free to write it in the prayer book located on the table in the parlor. Prayer requests made on Sundays are included in prayers during the week. Questions or requests? Contact Robin or Ginni.

### Steeple Signal Deadline

The next issue of The Steeple Signal will be May-June 2023. Deadline is April 16. Share your milestones or news with our church! Email Robin at [robin.leemichel@gmail.com](mailto:robin.leemichel@gmail.com).



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

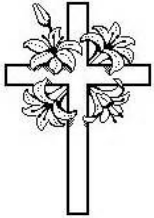
#### March

- 1 Zachary Jones
- 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

(No anniversaries for March or April.)



# Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

**Remember or honor your loved ones  
with flowers or a memorial gift**

Please use this form to memorialize or honor a loved one with beautiful flowers or gift on **Easter Sunday, April 9**. You can place this completed form and payment in the offering box in the narthex or return it to the church office. The flower/gift list will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin and May/June Steeple Signal. Please make your check out to "First Baptist Church of Southington" with "Easter flowers/gift" on the memo line.

**Deadline is Sunday, March 19.** Sorry, after that we **cannot** order your flowers.

You can take your plant home after the Easter service unless you would like to have it given to a shut-in. For more information, contact Robin Michel, (860) 620-2989 or email robin.leemichel@gmail.com.

Please fill in the number of flowers you are ordering or the information for a memorial gift.

(# ) **Lilies** (6-inch pot) \$12

(# ) **Tulips** (6-inch pot) \$8.50

(# ) **Daffodils** (6-inch pot) \$8.50

( ) **Gift** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount included or **IOU** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** or **in Honor of** as you would like it listed (circle one):

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Giver's Name (as you would like it listed) and phone #

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Designation of gifts, i.e. general fund, music, missions, flowers, etc.

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