



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE April 2017

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

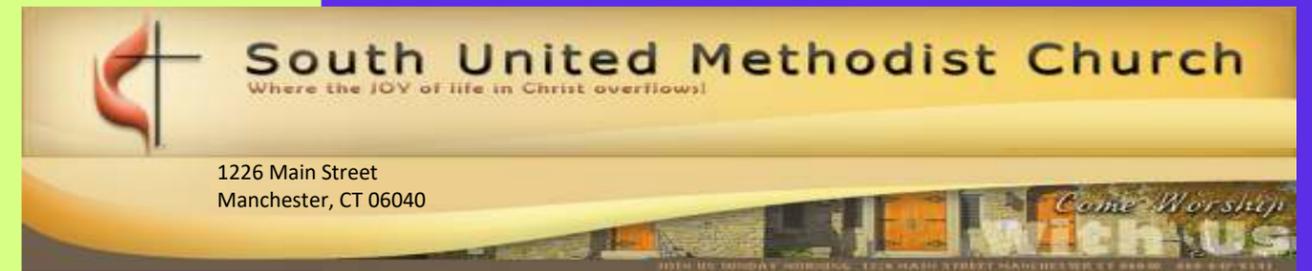
Sunday Worship Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. **Traditional Worship with Choir**
Children's Story in the Sanctuary
Communion served monthly
- 10:45 a.m. **Sunday School**
For All Ages
- 11:45 a.m. **Contemporary Worship with**
Wildfire Worship Band in the Café
Communion served monthly

Contact Information:

Church office: (860) 647-9141
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00a-12:00p
Tues, Thurs 6:00p-9:00p
Email address: office@southumc.com
Web address: southumc.com

May Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, April 23, 2017



THE CHALLENGE APRIL 2017

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

- 9:30a - Traditional
Worship with Choir
and Children's Story
- 9:45a - Sunday School
for Nursery-Grade 2
- 10:45a - Sunday School
for all Ages
- 11:45a - Contemporary
Worship with Wildfire
Worship Band

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ISSUE**

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Help For This Life and Beyond!

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection..."
(Philippians 3:10a)

Dear Friends,

Life is filled with challenges, some can be quickly and simply conquered, others take more time, effort and commitment to get beyond. When we are young, most of us soon learn that life can be very hard. We can all reflect back on tasks we were expected to complete or master which we struggled with. It is especially disheartening when something that is extremely difficult for us is easily overcome by someone else; a family member or friend. Maybe all your siblings or friends, quickly learned how to ride a bike while you struggled with training wheels for weeks on end. Life can be like that. As we get older, we discover, the challenges don't stop, they just grow in complexity, often just beyond the reach of our capabilities at the time.

What? you might ask, does dealing with life's challenges have to do with Easter? For many of us, the biggest task on Easter is to hunt for and find all of the hidden eggs, or as we get older to get through the extended family Easter dinner, without incident! While finding help for this life and beyond has little to do with Easter egg hunts and family meals, it has everything to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We can know the power of Christ's resurrection even today!

Let us think back briefly to one challenge Jesus faced as he went to suffer and ultimately die on the cross. His followers could have thought that his claims and promises would die with him. Listen to a few of his promises: "I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me will live even though they die..." (John 11:25) "Because I live, you also shall live." (John 14:19b) "Everyone who believes in (Me) will have everlasting life." (John 3:15) **The good news is that Jesus after dying a violent death on the cross, and being buried in a rich man's tomb, actually rose on the third day!** God, in a tremendous display of life-giving power, raised Jesus from the dead! He was seen by as many as 500 people alive after he had risen.

What the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Philippi was that he longed to experience this kind of death-defying power in his own life. Knowing something of the success this world offers and how little it satisfies our soul, Paul said that he longed to simply know Jesus better. As he faced so many trials and difficulties in his own life, Paul sought the power of God to overcome them. When we read Paul's and the other apostles' stories in the book of Acts, we see how through the power of the resurrected Christ, they found and received God's power for themselves.

The good news, the wonderful news, is that today in our lives, we too can experience that same power that God exerted when he raised Jesus from the dead. Most of us, like Paul the apostle want to experience the power of Christ's resurrection; for all of us need God's help in this life and beyond! My prayer for us all is that as we worship our resurrected Lord this Easter Sunday, it might be about more than just our familiar traditions, but a personal and shared experience of his divine help and resurrection power.

In service to the resurrected Christ,
John



April 2017 Worship Themes

April 2, 2017: The Passion Predicted

Scripture: Matthew 20:17-19 Jesus predicts his suffering, death and resurrection.

Focus Verse: "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death..."(Matthew 20:18)

Theme: Jesus knew in advance that he would suffer, die and be raised.

April 9, 2017: Palm/Passion Sunday

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

Focus Verse: "Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:7-8)

Theme: We should strive to be like Jesus in our readiness to serve.

April 16, 2017: Easter Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10, Philippians 3:10a.

Focus Verse: "I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection..." (Philippians 3:10a)

Theme: As we trust in Jesus Christ, we can experience the power of his resurrection.

April 23, 2017:

Deb Grehn and Lin Daniels leading worship at 9:30 and 11:45am.

April 30, 2017:

JT Himmelstein, Director of Next-Gen Ministries leading worship at 9:30 and 11:45am.

South United Methodist Church Contact Information

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Tues, Thurs 6:00p-9:00p

Email address: office@southumc.com

Web address: southumc.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/southumc](https://www.facebook.com/southumc)

Prayer Chain: (860) 337-2793 or
prayer@southumc.com

South Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14
Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11
Organist - Christopher Walton
Director of Ministries - Terry Marshall ext. 15
Director Next Gen Ministries - J.T. Himmelstein ext. 13
Sexton - Ken Schaller ext. 20
Sexton - Don Wilby ext. 20
Office Managers - Colleen Olbert/Patti LaForest ext. 10
Rev. Richard Thompson (retired)

Guided New Testament Tour is wrapping up.

How are you doing in your Bible reading? If you have been following along with the readings from the Guided NT tour, that's great! However, if not and you feel a need or a nudge to become more consistent, why not consider using the South Church New Testament readings? You will find a list of this month's readings below, in the bulletin and the complete list at southumc.com (click on the devos tab). On the two Thursdays of the month, from 6:30-7:30pm in *The Café*, Pastor John will lead a session previewing the New Testament material to be read in the coming weeks. The last scheduled session will be held April 6th.

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117	4/3/17	Hebrews 11:1-22
118	4/4/17	Hebrews 11:23-40
119	4/5/17	Hebrews 12
120	4/6/17	Hebrews 13
		Intro to John

Readings 121-130: John

121	4/7/17	John 1-2
122	4/10/17	John 3-4
123	4/11/17	John 5-6
124	4/12/17	John 7-8
125	4/13/17	John 9-10
126	4/14/17	John 11-12
127	4/17/17	John 13-14
128	4/18/17	John 15-16
129	4/19/17	John 17-18
130	4/20/17	John 19-21

Schedule of Events ~ Apr 9—16, 2017



Palm Sunday (April 9th)

One Service at 10:00am

Sunday School Children are invited to pass out palms and process.

Interested children will meet in Reception Hall (adjacent to Sanctuary at 9:45am)

Upper Room Meal - Monday at 6:00pm (April 10th)

Begins in Café, meal in Cooper Hall

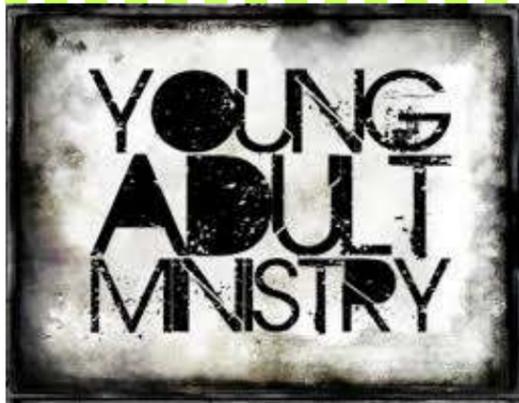
Maundy Thursday - Service at 7:00pm - in Sanctuary (April 13th)

Good Friday - Service at 7:00pm - in Sanctuary (April 14th)

Easter Sunday - 2 services to choose from! (April 16th)

9:30am - in the Sanctuary

11:15am - in The Café



College Care Packages will be going out mid-to-late April, and we need your help filling and sending them! Be on the lookout for signs and instructions for doing so, which can be found in both Reception Hall and the Café. Parents of recipients should let JT know if a student's address has changed!



Save the date! Day Camp, 2017 (Vacation Bible School)

When: August 21-25, 9am-12pm
Where: Here at South Church
Cost: On or before July 15: \$20/child
after July 15: \$25/child

Registration forms will be on our website soon

If you would like to volunteer, please let Terry M. know



Cup of Joy ~ Women
Join us any Sunday
10:45am ~ Cooper Hall

Cup of Joe ~ Men
Join us any Sunday
10:45am ~ 3rd floor classroom



Social Justice Class
Join us any Sunday
10:45am ~ 3rd floor classroom

Upcoming Youth Events

The Youth are going to be serving in Warrensburg, NY, this summer for our annual mission trip! The trip is July 16-21...due to this year's fundraising each student will receive \$100 off, so the cost is \$175. Spots are first come, first serve, so reserve a spot with JT ASAP! If you have any questions send JT an e-mail: nextgen@southumc.com.

- 4/2 Youth Group @5pm
- 4/9 Youth Group @5pm
- 4/16 NO Youth Group
- 4/23 Youth Group @5pm
- 4/30 Youth Group @5pm



Lenten Prayer Opportunity

There will be a weekly prayer time in the Cafe during the Lenten season. It is an opportunity for church family and friends to come together and explore ways to pray. Focus of prayer would be based on the book, "Draw the Circle, the 40 Day Prayer Challenge" by Mark Batterson. This is the tool that is being used by all of the Manchester churches who are part of Manchester CT United Prayer. There will be a prayer "leader" present to guide the group at each session. Our final two back to back sessions will be April 7th. The times will be 5:30 - 6:00 and 6:00 - 6:30. Please come and experience the joy and blessing of prayer and together we can seek what God wills to do in our midst. "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14



New Testament Class
Ends on
4-06-17



Lenten Community Prayer @6pm
Sunday, April 2nd
Church of the Living God
Deming Street

Sunday, April 9th
Trinity Covenant Church
Hackmatack Street



Washington School News

Several new opportunities are available for our congregation to support Washington School. Some are 1-time commitments, others are ongoing, or ways to support the school from home. Please consider volunteering!

1. Consider buying a box of plastic bags (all sizes needed) and leaving them in the Washington School container. These are materials that are needed by teachers, and often not provided for in their budgets!
2. Interested in volunteering? Once you submit your one page application to the school office, you can begin! The school is looking for volunteers from 12:10 to 1:00 pm daily to be involved in small group activities and games with Kindergarten and First Graders. The school is also interested in volunteers to attend their monthly "Grow Ceremony". Many students do not have parents who can attend. This time commitment is only an hour a month!
3. Two Family Nights, A Zumba Night (April 26th), and a Math Night (Sometime in May) are opportunities for people to volunteer in all capacities, from sign in to snacks, to Zumba participation!!! More details to follow!!

Please consider these wonderful opportunities to be active in our community! Any questions, please call Donna Costello at 860-539-8151, or email donna.costello@sbcglobal.net



The Young Men's Bible Study and the Young Women's Bible Study are going to be starting up after Easter for Spring studies, and each of these will meet on Monday nights from 6:30-8:00. If you are interested in joining a study please let JT or Catey know. They can be contacted at the following e-mail: nextgen@southumc.com

April 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Community Prayer	27 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm NO Young Women's Studies	28 12pm Bulletin Deadline	29 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	30	31 5:30pm Prayer Event 6:00pm Prayer Event	1 7:30am Men's Fellowship 10:am Stop Hunger Now Event
2 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Community Prayer	3 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm NO Young Women's Studies	4 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	5 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	6 6:30pm New Testament Class 7:30pm SM Supervision	7 5:30pm Prayer Event 6:00pm Prayer Event	8 9:30am Knitting Group
9 10:00am Palm Sunday Combined Service 11:15am Church School Event Café 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Community Prayer	10 6:00pm Meal in The Upper Room 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm NO Young Women's Studies	11 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Ad Board	12 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	13 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	14 7:00pm Good Friday Service	15
16 Easter Sunday 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:15am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	17 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm NO Young Women's Studies	18 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm NO Staff Parish	19 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	20 7:30pm SM Supervision	21	22
23 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group **Challenge deadline	24 6:30pm Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	25 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Committee	26 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	27	28	29 8:00am Rebuilding Together
30 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	1 6:30pm Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	2 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	3	4	5	6 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News

moment for mission

Relief Supplies for Refugees

Our congregation is actively involved with the Church World Service Blanket Program. For many years, our church has been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world.

Imagine you are a young parent who is forced to leave your home with your two children. It is a dark night, and you are walking on a dirt road from Macedonia to Serbia, far from your home town. You stop at the registration center in Presevo, where you receive critical supplies to help you and your children before continuing the journey.

Among those emergency supplies were blankets, including baby blankets. You quickly wrap them around your children to keep them warm. You also receive a light-weight blanket to use for carrying your family's belongings.

In the next room at the registration center, you and your children are served a hot meal, including bread and milk. Following the meal, you receive emergency food rations to take with you on your journey. You are able to wash your children using the hygiene kits you received.

This is a reality for many journeying across Europe right now.

These gifts of hospitality are only possible because our congregation supports the CWS Blanket Program.

This year, we can help young mothers and so many families. Our church will be taking a special offering on Mother's Day to help provide blankets and other emergency items to mothers and their families all around the world.

For only 10 dollars, you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care.

These blankets might be the best gift you ever give and you can change a life all at the same time.

Please give generously.



Celebrating 70 years of service • 1946-2016
P.O. Box 968 • Elkhart, IN 46515 • 800-297-1516 • cwsglobal.org

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

The Christian Outreach Committee sponsors and participates in many, many local, regional, national and international events. In addition to the following highlights of upcoming programs, three members of the Social Justice Class attended a prayer gathering celebrating the International Justice Mission in Washington, DC on March 3-5. Please prayerfully reflect on the following events and consider how you might participate. Together we make a huge difference in this wonderful world of ours.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER AKA STOP HUNGER NOW

Saturday, April 1
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Cooper Hall

Over the past few weeks, we have collected enough money to provide lunches for impoverished school children all over the world. Now, it's time to bag that food and send it off to the schools. If you already signed up to help, please be sure to be there, or call Jane Thompson at 860-647-7099 to let her know.

MAD MACC SHOPPERS

The Mad MACC Shoppers are poised to begin their quest for the best bargains on food to help fill the shelves at the Food Pantry. Both March/April and the summer months are traditionally times when the shelves are bare. We will divide our collected funds between those two times. Please continue to provide food and/or coupons as you are able (a basket is in the Narthex).

READY - SET - GO!!
BLANKETS FOR MOTHER'S DAY
May 14

A warm blanket. What can it do? When your world has been torn apart by war, and your immediate wish for your children is a warm place to sleep, a blanket is something to hold on to, along with the hope for a better tomorrow.

When your home has been washed away by torrential rains, and a barren hillside offers the only shelter from a howling wind, a blanket is something to hold on to, along with the hope for brighter days ahead.

Hope never dies, but sometimes it needs a little help. Christian World Service blankets provide comfort as well as protection from harsh weather for refugees, the homeless, and victims of natural disasters throughout the world.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWS
Please consider volunteering!

Several new opportunities are available for our congregation to support Washington School. Some are 1-time commitments, others are ongoing or ways to support the school from home.

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