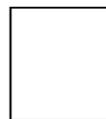




Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE April 2018

**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](mailto:office@southumc.com)**  
**Web address: [southumc.com](http://southumc.com)**

**May Challenge Deadline:**  
**Sunday, April 22, 2018**



**THE CHALLENGE APRIL 2018**

**The Very Best Morning!**

**"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."**  
(Mark 16:6)

Dear Friends,

If you were to describe an ideal morning, what would it look like? For some of us, a perfect morning would include sipping a favorite caffeinated beverage within minutes of gaining consciousness, perhaps coffee, tea or even a Diet Coke. The very best morning might include sleeping in, later than we typically do. Food is often a central ingredient of a good day; do you have a favorite breakfast you enjoy but don't always have time to prepare? Still others would say the very best morning is not so much about what we eat or drink or even the time we wake, but rather more about the people with whom we share those precious morning minutes.

I'm guessing this is precisely what made that first Easter morning so precious to Jesus' closest followers. The two Mary's early that Sunday morning faced the grim duty of completing the burial process for the one they loved so much. It would be a final farewell to the One they had thought might have been the Messiah. Their primary concern was a practical one, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb?"

**Followers of Jesus experience his presence every day.**

Upon arriving at the tomb, they discovered that they need not have worried, for the stone had been rolled back. The way in to the tomb was open and clear. Inexplicably the tomb was empty, no Jesus. Where they had expected to see the withering dead body of their Lord, they were met by a young man dressed in white. His message was unmistakably clear, "Do not be alarmed, you are looking for Jesus, He is not here, he has been raised." Of course they were afraid and alarmed, yet it was true, they were looking for Jesus.

Later that morning they would personally meet their now risen Lord for themselves. What a wonderful, tender, bewildering, overwhelming reunion that must have been! They later shared the news with Jesus' closest followers, who as a group were quite skeptical, unwilling to accept and believe their account. Yet nothing, no amount of questions or doubts could change the facts of what they had seen and heard. They saw the stone rolled away. They saw the empty tomb. They heard the words of a man they concluded must have been an angel. They had seen, heard and touched their Lord and friend for themselves.

Years later when asked about these memories by their children or grandchildren, they may have begun by saying, "It was the best morning!" They might have also said, "I still feel the presence of my risen Savior and Lord Jesus every day." Mary might have shared how Jesus had promised that, he would always be with her and that he had been true to his word. I hope and pray you experience the presence of the risen Christ in your life every day. If not look for him, look for Jesus and you will find him. I also hope you will celebrate Easter at South Church this year at 9:30am or 11:15am.

In service to the resurrected Christ, John



**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
- Easter Services  
9:30 Traditional Worship  
11:15 Contemporary Worship

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# April 2018 Worship Themes

## April 1, 2018: The Very Best Morning!

**Scripture:** Mark 16:1-8, The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Focus Verse:** "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him." (Mark 16:6)

**Theme:** Followers of Jesus experience can his presence every day!

## April 8, 2018: Eyewitness sharing his testimony

**Scripture:** 1 John 1:1-4, Jesus the Word of life.

**Focus Verse:** "We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3)

**Theme:** We are part of a community of people bound together by our common faith in the risen Lord.

## April 15, 2018: Rev. Dick Thompson leading worship at 9:30am, Lin Daniels leading worship at 11:45am .

## April 22, 2018: Healing in the name of the risen Christ

**Scripture:** Acts 3:1-10, Peter and John heal a man disabled from birth.

**Focus Verse:** Peter said to the man, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." (Acts 3:6)

**Theme:** We share the powerful message of the risen Christ who still changes lives.

## April 29, 2018: In Search of Refreshment...

**Scripture:** Acts 3:11-21, Peter shares the good news of Jesus with the crowd.

**Focus Verse:** "By faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you." (Acts 3:16)

**Theme:** As we repent, turning in faith to Jesus, our spirits are renewed and refreshed.

### South United Methodist Church 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](mailto:office@southumc.com)

**Web address:** [southumc.com](http://southumc.com)

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

**Prayer Chain:** (860) 337-2793 or  
[prayer@southumc.com](mailto:prayer@southumc.com)

**Text Giving:** 860-512-7185 (\$20 SUMC)

#### South Church Staff

**Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14**

**Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11**

**Organists - Christopher Walton & Tatianna Lukyanova**

**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)**

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"Bear one another's burdens,  
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."  
Galatians, 6:2

### Congregational Care At SUMC

We all experience times when we could use a little extra support. . .

Our Congregational Care Team is here to help. . .

*At South Church we are working to care for one another better...*

Home Communion, visitation, prayer, hospitality, transportation, One-on-One care for acute crisis or grief

We have 2 Expressions of Caring:

C.C.C. = Congregational Care Contact

1-1 = One-on-One Care Givers

**The Role of the C.C.C.:** To engage with Congregants and act as an additional contact between the Pastor/Staff and the congregation. C.C.C.'s are identified by wearing Name tags, and are assigned sections of the Sanctuary or Café. They will be given contact cards, and are encouraged to greet others regularly, be aware of attendance patterns, and reach out when someone has been absent outside of their regular pattern. They will assist in the filling out and handling of the Pew cards as well. Some C. C. C.'s have also agreed to help distribute Holy Communion, Flowers, cookies and prayer shawls to our homebound members as well. This group is encouraged to meet monthly(currently on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30pm) for planning, support and updates.

**The Role of the 1-1:** One-on-One caregivers are currently trained as Stephen Ministers (50+ hours of study). They are equipped to meet with individuals weekly - (or as needed) to offer Christian help to work through acute crisis or grief. They are not trained counselors. Their role is an extension of the Pastor's care. They are required to meet monthly(currently on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30pm) for support and accountability. Some 1-1's have also agreed to assist in the handling of pew cards as well.

Home Communion/Visitation/Delivery Coordinator: Bill McGugan

C.C.C. Coordinator (Sanctuary): Bill McGugan

C.C.C. Coordinator (Café): Dave Bidwell

Support Group Coordinator (for 1-1's): Dave Bidwell (Alberta Hoagland, Don Wilby)

1-1 Coordinator: Alberta Hoagland

Funeral Luncheon & Reception Coordinator: Alberta Hoagland

Staff Liason: Terry Marshall

Bill & Judy Hyde (C.C.C.)

Deb Grehn (C.C.C.)

Marilyn Broneill (C.C.C.)

Mary Koduah (C.C.C.)

Don Wilby (C.C.C.)

Amy Cooper (C.C.C.)

Carlyn Arruda (C.C.C.)

Dave Bidwell (C.C.C.)

Brenda Langford (C.C.C.)

Bill McGugan (C.C.C.)

Colleen Olbert (1-1)

Deb Grehn (1-1)

Dave Burgess (1-1)

Amy Cooper (1-1)

Sue Bidwell (1-1)

Sarah Kania (1-1)

Sylvia Bruno (1-1)

Marnie Meek (1-1)

Carlyn Arruda (1-1)

Linda Vesho (Ex-officio)

Denise Roman (Ex-officio)

Ray McKay (Ex-officio)

Alberta Hoagland (Ex-officio)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."  
Galatians 6:9-10



## Church Photo Directory

Photo Directories are here!

If you had your photo taken, you get a free directory for your household

Pick yours up in Reception Hall (adjacent to the Sanctuary) following the service.



You can NOW support SUMC with Amazon Purchases

The Finance Committee has registered South United Methodist Church on Amazon Smile. Instead of going to www.amazon.com to make your online purchases, just go to www.smile.amazon.com, enter your email, Amazon password, add the character image, identify South United Methodist Church as your selected charity, and then start shopping. Please make sure you select South United Methodist Church in Manchester, CT because more than one charity will be listed.

How is this helping SUMC? Each purchase through Amazon Smile will result in a payment to SUMC for 0.5% of your purchase. Say your order comes to \$100.00, SUMC will be paid \$.50.

Adding Amazon Smile as a convenient fund raiser for SUMC is a step being taken by the Finance Committee to keep up with current trends. You already have the opportunity to support SUMC through Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) from your checking account and supporting SUMC from your smart phone using Kindrid (text giving).

### Young Adults



THE CROSSING

College Care Packages will be prepared by the Youth program this month in time for the Spring Exams that begin at the end of this month. South Church has a long list of names that care packages were sent to in the Fall semester. If anyone's information needs to be updated or there are new additions to the care package list please let JT know through e-mail: nextgen@southumc.com.

The Young Adults will have a special dinner gathering on April 9th from 6:30-8:00 pm, and attendees are encouraged to bring something to share. After the meal the Young Women and Young Men will break off into their respective groups for a time of prayer, reading from Scripture and a devotion. Feel free to invite a friend to this event (or any of the other Bible studies throughout April)!



This year's Youth Mission Trip will be from July 22-27, and the Youth will be going to serve the city of Portland, ME. Information for this event will be released after Easter, and spots are limited so once you have paperwork in hand please return it ASAP. Please be praying for the Youth as God has been preparing their hearts for this great opportunity.

04/01	NO Youth Group (Easter)
04/08	Youth Group at 5pm
04/15	Youth Group at 5pm
04/22	Youth Group at 5pm
04/29	Youth Group at 5pm



Shopping at Community Threads can be lots of fun. Spring is around the corner. New items are appearing daily. Stop by and visit us.

You'll be glad you did. Community Threads is sponsored by MACC and provides services for our less fortunate neighbors.



Last Class—April 5th

### “A Guided Tour Through the Gospels”

Most of us have read one or more of the Biblical Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. We might say to ourselves after reading, “Didn’t I just read that somewhere else?” In this study we will seek to come to a better understanding of Jesus, the central figure of all human history.

Why do we have Four Gospels? We typically read the Gospel accounts individually, but in this class, we will study the life of Jesus, event, by event, comparing one Gospel to the others. The emphasis of this class will be on deepening our own understanding of Jesus and exploring further what it means to follow him.

This class will meet: in The Café-1st and 3rd Thursday's at 6:30pm - All are welcome to attend!

#### My Offering To The Church



I forgot my envelope.  
 Just visiting at this church today.  
 I am new here.  
 Please provide me with envelopes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  Request a visit by the Pastor.

Don't forget to get your new  
 Offering Envelopes  
 In the back of the Sanctuary



Terry Marshall is looking for a few people

who may be interested in resurrecting

Our

International Gift Shop

please contact her at  
 860-657-9141 ext 15  
 or terry@southumc.com

# April 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:15am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>3</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg	<b>4</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Tour of the Gospels	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
<b>8</b> 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	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Young Adult Special Gathering	<b>10</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	<b>11</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 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	<b>16</b> 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study	<b>17</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish	<b>18</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00am Rise Against Hunger 9:30am Knitting Group
<b>22</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 3:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Youth Group **Challenge deadline	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>24</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg.	<b>25</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am Rebuilding Together
<b>29</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 3:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>30</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>1</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg	<b>2</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

## More South News



Elizabeth Burchett enjoys her warm CWS Blanket on a crisp afternoon in Prestonsburg, Kentucky.

### CWS BLANKETS

*Our neighbors deserve warmth and comfort*

The outreach commission will once again be collecting money for blankets for Mother's Day. We will be collecting on April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day). All money goes to buying blankets for those in need here in the US and around the World.



The name may be changed, but the dream has not. We're trying to help stop hunger. Once again this spring, approximately sixty or so members of our congregation will gather together and pack bag after bag of lunches for school kids in some impoverished part of the world. All the teacher at those schools has to do is add a little water and cook the combination of rice, soy, flavoring and vitamins. We have collected our money (more than \$3200). We could use a few more volunteers to work on the packaging on Saturday, April 21 (from 10:00 am to 11:30 am). Sign up on the sheets in Reception Hall or call Jane Thompson at 860-647-7099 if you would like to help. Also talk to Jane if you have a strong back and would be willing to help us unload the truck at 9:00 am and set up Cooper Hall.

## Outreach News

### South Church is Reaching out Through:

**MACC:** We support the MACC Food Pantry throughout the year. Your food donations are always accepted in the grocery cart just as you enter the church. Throughout the year, special drives are conducted for specific needs of the Pantry. We'll advertise both in the Sunday bulletin as well as the Challenge to let you know of those drives.

**The HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SUMC** will continue to support Habitat for Humanity through funding and participation in specific projects. We would love for you to add your name to our list of interested participants. Please contact Jeff Kieft with your interest either by email or telephone: [gjkieft@yahoo.com](mailto:gjkieft@yahoo.com) / 720-882-8796.

**COMMUNITY THREADS THRIFT SHOP:** The MACC thrifty shop, located next to the food pantry (where the shelter used to be) invites you to come by and see all the great items they have been getting in. They would especially like you to see their great supply of winter clothing for children and adults. As always, prices on this previously used clothing is very low. You can call 860-647-8003 (x29 or x13) to get times and other details."

**MAD MACC SHOPPERS:** Last year we set aside two Sundays to let people who wanted to help fill the shelves at the MACC Food Pantry but didn't want to search for the bargains to do that (or kept forgetting) to put in a few dollars in with their offerings and fund a couple of the women on the Outreach Committee who love to do bargain hunting. We did very well with that; the last of the money was just spent on lunch items for kids who won't be getting free lunches at school during spring vacation. Just mark your check or the envelope in the pew "MACC SHOPPERS" on either April 8 or April 15, and we will see it gets well used.



### Mark your Calendars

This year we will be working the last Saturday in April, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Starting bright and early, between 7 and 8, we usually work until a little after 1 PM, and then adjourn to a local park for a picnic put on by the town.

Any questions, please Email Ben Timmons at [deaconbluz54@yahoo.com](mailto:deaconbluz54@yahoo.com) or call his cell at 916-599-3838.

Save the Date



### Music Ministries Spring Concert

**"Let All the World in Every Corner Sing"**

May 20th  
7:00pm

South is Alive!!



**For Children**  
Pre-K - Grade 6  
Join us any Sunday @10:45

Upper Ed Wing

**For Teens**  
Grades 7-12  
Join us any Sunday @10:45

Youth Room

**Adult Sunday School**  
For Women  
Cup of Joy  
Join us any Sunday @10:45

Cooper Hall

**Adult Sunday School**  
For Men  
Cup of Joe  
Join us any Sunday @10:45

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom

**Young Women' and**  
Young Men's Bible  
Study

Young Women's 6:30 to 8:00pm  
Young Men's 8:30 to 9:30pm

\*any questions contact Catey and JT

**Adult Sunday School**  
Social Justice Class  
Join us any Sunday @10:45

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Classroom

**What can I do on the church website?**

Read the Challenge

Look at Announcements

Do a daily Devotion

Listen to a Sermon

Check the Calendar

