

Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE April 2019

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

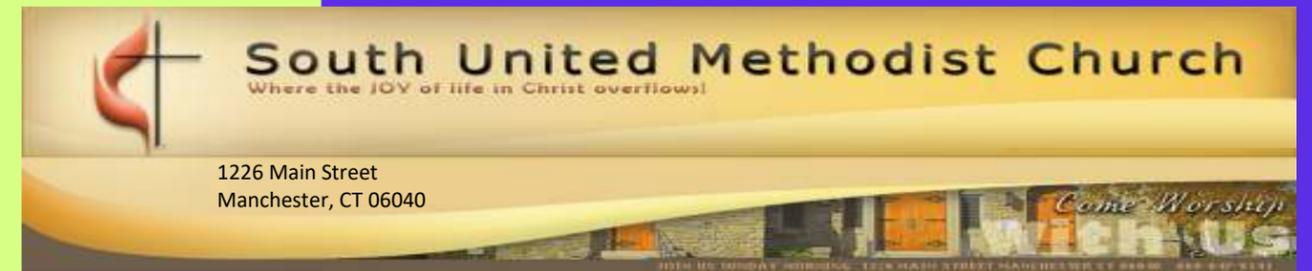
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
 For All Ages

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 21, 2019



THE CHALLENGE

APRIL 2019

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

Palm Sunday
 April 14
 One 10a Service

See inside for
 Holy Week & Easter
 Schedule

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Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..." (Mark 16:6)

Dear Friends,

Often when sharing our faith with those who don't have a relationship with the Lord, they will raise a question we are unable to answer. It may have to do with an Old Testament story, "Do you really believe God made the world in six days?" or "How could a man like Jonah survive in a whale's stomach for three days?" While there are good, and I believe satisfactory answers to questions like these, it is often most helpful to simply point people to the Lord. Invite people to read about Jesus Christ in the Gospels for themselves. Christianity after all can be summarized in one simple sentence, "Keep your eyes on Jesus!"

After Jesus was crucified and died, his body was wrapped in a linen cloth and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Those largely responsible for his death, the chief priests and Pharisees were worried his disciples would come, steal the body of Jesus and claim he had risen from the dead. So they went to the Roman governor, Pilate with their concerns who told them to make the grave as secure as possible, posting a guard. In essence they were all saying, "Keep your eyes on Jesus." As we know, God raised Jesus physically from the dead and in his new body he left the tomb without disturbing either the stone that sealed it or the guards who watched it. Later there was an earthquake that dislodged the stone, allowing all who desired to look in and observe that, "He is not here, he has risen!" (Luke 24:6)

Christianity can be summed up in the sentence, "Keep your eyes on Jesus!"

In spite of this wonderful news, most of Jesus' disciples refused to believe that He had in fact risen from the dead as he had promised. For the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to his disciples in a variety of locations. Typically, upon appearing, Jesus' first words were, "Peace be with you." (Luke 24:36, John 20:19,21,26.) Understanding their doubts, when Jesus met with his disciples, he provided physical evidence that he was truly alive and not a ghost. Christ ate and drank with his followers, encouraged them to touch his body and to even examine his wounds. (Matthew 28:8-10, Luke 24:13-53, John 20:19-21:14). Just before physically departing for the final time, the Lord reminded his disciples that the message to be shared with the world was to be entirely centered on him, Jesus. "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-7). At his first opportunity to proclaim the good news on Pentecost, after being filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter's first words were, "Jesus of Nazareth..." (Acts 2:22). In essence the message of the church has always been, "Keep your eyes on Jesus, who died on a cross for your sins and who rose from the dead to give you new life."

So it is no surprise that the writer to the Hebrews in that ancient book encouraged them to "Keep looking to Jesus." For it was Jesus who originated their faith. It was and is Jesus who is the object of our faith today. And it is Jesus, in and through whom we find our hope of everlasting life. So we will celebrate Easter this year on April 21st at 9:30am in the Sanctuary and 11:15am in The Café (Note the change in time!), encouraging one another to, "Keep your eyes on Jesus," for He has risen from the dead!

In service to the resurrected Christ,
 John



April 2019 Worship Themes

April 7, 2019: It starts with faith
Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-6 The definition of faith.
Focus Verse: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)
Theme: Faith is believing that what we hope for will actually happen.

April 14, 2019: Palm/Passion Sunday
Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25 A call to persevere
Focus Verse: "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)
Theme: Since Jesus suffered and died, those who follow him can live in confident hope.

April 21, 2019: Easter Sunday: Keep Your Eyes on Jesus
Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-4, Luke 24:1-12 The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Focus Verse: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:2)
Theme: We can face life's challenges by remaining focused on the resurrected Christ.

April 28, 2019:
Scripture: Hebrews 13:1-8 Service well-pleasing to God
J.T. Himmelstein, Director of Next-Gen Ministries, shares the message at both the 9:30am and 11:45am worship services.

South United Methodist Church Contact Information

| | |
|--|--|
| Church office: (860) 647-9141 | South Church Staff |
| Office Hours: Mon Wed Fri 9:00a -12:00p Tues, Thurs 6:00p-9:00p | Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14 Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11 |
| Email address: office@southumc.com | Organists - Christopher Walton & Tatianna Lukyanova Director of Ministries - Terry Marshall ext. 15 |
| Web address: southumc.com | Director Next Gen Ministries - J.T. Himmelstein ext. 13 |
| Facebook: facebook.com/southumc | Sexton - Ken Schaller ext. 20 Sexton - Don Wilby ext. 20 |
| Prayer Chain: (860) 337-2793 or prayer@southumc.com | Office Managers - Colleen Olbert/Patti LaForest ext. 10 Rev. Richard Thompson (retired) |
| Text Giving: 860-512-7185 (\$20 SUMC) | |

Schedule of Events ~ April 14 – April 21

S

Palm Sunday – one service @10am (April 14th)
 Children invited to pass out palms – meet in Reception Hall at 9:45am

U

Sunday School Easter Event to follow service in The Café



M

Monday @ 6pm – Upper Room Meal (April 15)
 Begins in The Café, meal in Cooper Hall

C

Maundy Thursday – service @ 6:30pm (April 18)

Good Friday – service @ 6:30pm (April 19)

Easter Sunday – 2 services to choose from (April 21)
 9:30am – in the Sanctuary
 11:15am – in The Café

N

Meal in the Upper Room for Women

Monday, April 15th at 6:00 P.M.



E

This service attempts to re-create the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The service begins with worship, followed by a meal, readings, and hymns ending with the celebration of Holy Communion.

W

We invite all women of South Church (pre-teen to adult) to participate in this beautiful and meaningful service.

S

Tickets are \$8.00 and will be available in Reception Hall during the fellowship time, and in *The Café* following the service.

Plan to attend this inspirational and worshipful event.



South Church Name Badges

are now available to anyone who would like one.

\$10 suggested donation

They have a magnetic back so clothing is not damaged (not able to be worn with a pacemaker; other options are available)

****Now! Nametag storage in Reception Hall & The Narthex
See Terry Marshall or contact her at 860-647-9141 ext 15
(terry@southumc.com)**

**"One more way to know and care for one another better!"
See nametag storage in Reception Hall & Narthex**

Bracket Challenge



The South UMC Bracket Challenge is well underway, and the standings are neck and neck! Winners will be announced this month after the Men's and Women's National Champions have been crowned! Thanks to all who submitted brackets, and good luck the rest of the way.



Facebook Page

Do you want to help South Church in an incredibly simple yet powerful way? Then like our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/southumc/) with your friends! We post all sorts of things to the page: Sermons, Special Events, Devotionals, etc. It's a great way to spread the Good News that Jesus is our Lord and Savior so if you haven't already done so please like us on Facebook and share each of our posts as they are published!

Young Adults



College Care Packages will be prepared by the Youth program this month in time for the Spring Exams that begin at the end of April! 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) or on the Sign-Up Sheets located outside the Youth Office or Youth Room. Please pray for our students as they prepare for these Finals and their summer plans!



The Youth had a great time this past month on their Winter Retreat at Monadnock Christian Ministries! We thank everyone who made the event possible particularly our 2 volunteer trip leaders, Kerri Doyle and Catey Himmelstein, and we are especially grateful to those of you that prayed for us! God blessed this experience and spoke to us, and perhaps you'll see a glimpse of that this coming Youth Sunday, June 9th! This year's Youth Mission Trip will be from July 21-26, and the Youth will be going to serve the city of Wayne County, NY. Information for this event will be released after Easter, and spots are limited so please see JT asap if you intend to go. He can be reached by e-mail: nextgen@southumc.com or phone: 623-670-2612. FYI this trip is for Current 8th Graders through Graduating Seniors. Please be praying for the Youth as God prepares their hearts for this great opportunity!

- 4/7 Youth Group @5pm
- 4/14 Youth Group @5pm
- 4/21 NO Youth Group
- 4/28 Youth Group @5pm



Connect for Women

A Study of the Psalms for Women
1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month
This month Apr. 4th and 18th
8:30-10am - 21 Hartford Rd.
led by Terry Marshall & Catey Himmelstein
all women welcome,
please let Terry know (860-647-9141 x15 or terry@southumc.com)
if you plan to attend.

SAVE THE DATE!

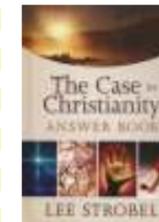


SOUTH UNITED METHODIST SPRING CONCERT

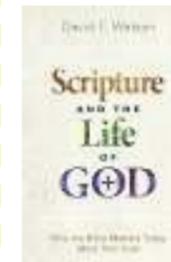
**SUNDAY, MAY 5TH
7:00pm**

Pastor's Reading Recommendations: April, 2019

Here are two books, I have been reading recently...



The Case for Christianity Answer Book by Lee Strobel (Zondervan, 2014)



Scripture and the Life of God (Why the Bible matters today more than ever) by David F. Watson. (Seedbed, 2017)



Pastor John's sermons on YouTube are now accessible directly from our Church website! Click the link at the bottom of our Home page (www.southumc.com) or on the Sermon Podcast page (www.southumc.com/sermons), and you will be taken to all of our uploaded sermons! This is a great way to grow deeper in your faith, catch up on a missed week, and share a piece of our church with others. We pray that this opportunity is a blessing for you and others, and that His Kingdom will grow because of this!

April 2019 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 31 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group | 1 | 2 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Commission & Committee | 3 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir | 4 8:30am Connect for Women 6:30pm Congregational Care Mtg. 6:30pm Young Men's Bible Study 7:30pm 1-1 Caring Mtg. | 5 | 6 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group 10:00am Priscilla Shirer Simulcast |
| 7 9:00am Easter Mini Fair 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group | 8 | 9 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board Mtg. | 10 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir | 11 6:30pm Young Men's Bible Study | 12 | 13 10:00am Rise Against Hunger |
| 14 10:00am Combined Palm Sunday Service 10:15am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School for all 11:15am SS Easter Event 11:45am NO Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group | 15 6:00pm Meal in The Room | 16 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm NO Lydia Circle 7pm NO Staff Parish Relations | 17 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir | 18 8:30am Connect for Women 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service | 19 6:30pm Good Friday Service | 20 9:30am Knitting Group |
| 21 9:30am Traditional Easter Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:15am Contemporary Easter in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group **Challenge deadline | 22 | 23 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg | 24 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir | 25 | 26 | 27 8:00am Rebuilding Together |
| 28 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group | 29 | 30 12pm Bulletin Deadline | 1 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir | 2 8:30am Connect for Women 6:30pm Congregational Care Mtg. | 3 | 4 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:00am Concert Rehearsal 9:30am Knitting Group |

More South News



EASTER MINI-FAIR Sunday, April 7th

Mark your calendars - the Easter mini-fair will be in Reception Hall on Sunday, April 7th from 9 -9:30 and 10:30- 11:45. Stop by to check out our unique little gifts and basket stuffers for all your favorite people, along with spring selections from Trash and Treasures. Proceeds from the fair benefit missions and charities, both local and around the world.



Once again this spring, 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 been collecting our money (more than \$3200). We could use a few more volunteers to work on the

packaging on **Saturday, April 13 (from 10:00 am to 11:30 am)**. Sign up on the sheets in Reception Hall and *The Café* or contact Alex Dupont adupont2003@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Greater Manchester Interfaith Peace and Justice Committee

The newly formed Greater Manchester Interfaith Peace and Justice Committee began meeting in December to discuss peace and justice needs in the Manchester area. The group includes a few of us from South UMC and we are seeking to grow in numbers and interfaith diversity. With more voices in the conversation, we hope to foster peace by getting to know our neighbors. We will work for justice by helping to meet the needs of the community with mercy and compassion. Thus far, the group has identified many issues impacting our community including immigration, the opioid crisis, homelessness, education justice, racism, and human trafficking. We intend to be action-oriented, but understand we need to educate ourselves so that we can make the best use of resources.

Current efforts of the group include:

- Organizing a Narcan (opioid antidote) and CPR training sometime in the Spring.
- Networking with our brothers and sisters from other interfaith social justice groups.

All are welcome to attend our meetings held on the second Mondays of each month at North United Methodist Church in Manchester. Contact Jeff Kieft for more info: gjkieft@yahoo.com

South Church is Reaching out through:

RISE AGAINST HUNGER. On Saturday morning, April 21, a number of us will be gathering (sign up if you would like to join us) and we will pack bags and bags of a nourishing soup mix for hungry children. Set up is at 9:00 am and packaging begins at 10:00 am.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. Jeff Kieft took about a dozen people into Hartford to do sheet rocking at a home on Main Street. We hear they has a wonderful and productive time.

REBUILDING TOGETHER. On April 27th, we will be painting a house and restoring a yard as a part of this town-wide project, and then we will join a lot of other teams for a picnic in the park. Teresa Dorer, new to the Outreach Committee, is organizing this (with a little help from her friends). Sign-up sheets are available, or you can leave a message at the church office.

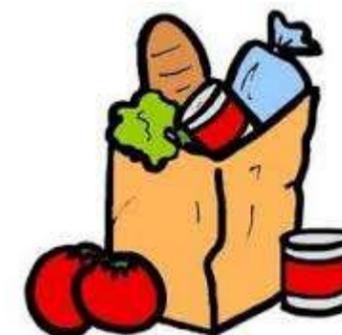
UMCOR Special Sunday was on March 31st, and we want to remind you that even though writing a check or putting cash in the offering doesn't feel exciting, you really are making a difference. Your gifts on UMCOR Special Sunday underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific project will go toward that mission, not administrative costs.



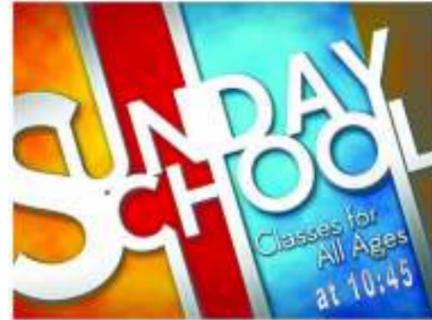
CURRENT NEEDS

As always we are grateful for all donations. Below is a list of our needs for the weeks ahead.

- Beef stew
- Salad Dressings
- Cereal
- Tuna
- Pasta sauce
- Chicken noodle soup
- Condiments
- Paper Towels



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
 Today @10:45

Cooper Hall

Adult Sunday School
For Men
Cup of Joe
 Today @10:45

3rd Floor Classroom

Adult Sunday School
Social Justice Class
 Today @10:45

3rd Floor Classroom

Connect for Women
 1st & 3rd Thursday - 8:30am to 10am

21 Hartford Road

All Women Welcome

Sunday School Easter Event



Children and their families are invited to attend.

Palm Sunday, April 14
after our one 10am service

The event will be held downstairs in The Café following the service.

Come and make an Easter terrarium centerpiece and hear once again the Story of Holy Week and the resurrection of Jesus.

Guest's are welcome. . .

Supplies for making centerpieces are available on a first come-first serve basis
 So hurry downstairs after worship on April 14!



Habitat for Humanity



Youth Winter Retreat