



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE December 2016

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

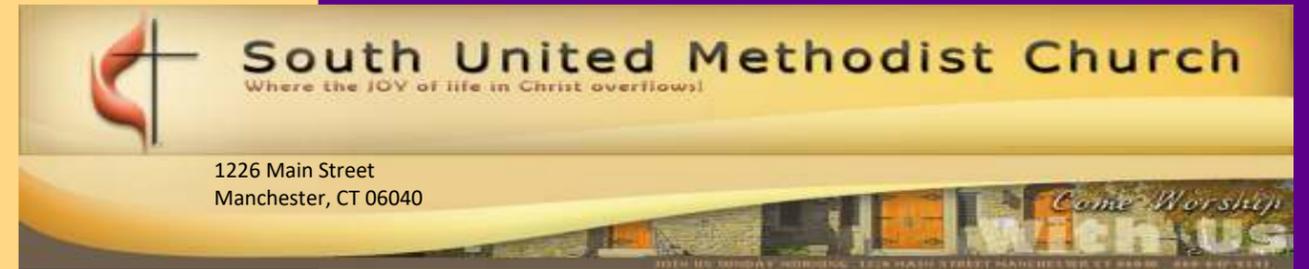
Sunday Worship Schedule

- 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

January Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, December 18, 2016



THE CHALLENGE DECEMBER 2016

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
- **December 11th
One Service 10am
- **December 24th
5:30pm Family Service
10:00pm Traditional
- **December 25th
One Service 10am

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The Gift of God

"The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23b)

Dear Friends,

For most children, Christmas is about the gifts. To be sure, the food, like Christmas cookies, is a close second. But when all is said and done children are interested in seeing what Santa Claus will leave them in their stockings or under the Christmas tree. As people mature and grow older, they typically discover the joy of giving. Many even discover the truth taught by our Lord that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

The heart of Christmas is the giving of ourselves to others. Often this is demonstrated in the gifts we share with one another. At other times, we give of ourselves by sharing our best with those we love. We share our most patient, most joyful, least grumpy, least uptight self with our relatives and friends.

The heart of Christmas is giving!

Of course all of this is inspired by what God has given to the world. So many of the Scriptures that we reflect upon during the Advent/Christmas season center on the theme of God gifts to humanity. Isaiah the prophet wrote in ancient times: **"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6). Perhaps the best known verse in the Bible declares this powerful truth: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:16) The apostle Paul echoed this truth in his letter to the church in Rome, **"The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Romans 6:23b)

What an amazing truth! To the world filled with people like us so in need of direction, understanding, grace and love, God offers precisely those things in and through His Son. May we each receive the gift of life in Jesus once again this Christmas season. May we be inspired to share such a wonderful message with people in our world near and far by our words and by our generosity.

I invite you to make South Church an important part of your celebration of Advent and Christmas once again this year. As we look forward to Christmas Eve, we will be having two worship services: a more informal gathering suitable for families with young ones at 5:30pm and a more traditional candlelight service at 10pm. Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, so we will have one worship service in The Sanctuary at 10am.

I pray that during this Holy Season, you are once again filled with the gifts of His HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE, and on behalf of Terry and the rest of our family

Merry Christmas,

John



December 2016 Worship Themes

December 2016: Worship Themes: Christ is Coming

Description: The word advent is derived from the Latin words adventus for “arrival” or advenire which can be translated “to come.” Together, we will reflect on the meaning of Christ’s advent, or coming, to earth from the perspectives of Isaiah the Prophet, his cousin, John the Baptist and from his mother, Mary. We will prepare ourselves to meet the King.

December 4, 2016: “Preparing our Hearts and Minds”

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12. Introduction to the ministry and message of John the Baptist
Focus Verse: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Matthew 3:11)
Theme: Receiving Christ into our lives requires a change of heart and mind.

December 11, 2016: “Christmas Pageant” (one 10am worship service!)

Our Sunday school children and youth will present the Pageant entitled “Christmas Party,” followed by a pancake breakfast (downstairs in Cooper Hall) hosted and prepared by our youth.

December 18, 2016: “Hope for the Weak”

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55 Mary’s Song of Praise
Focus Verse: Mary said, “God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly...” (Luke 1:52)
Theme: God raises up those who are often overlooked by the world.

December 24, 2016: “Christmas Eve” (Family service 5:30pm, Candlelight 10pm)

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20, Romans 6:23b The birth of Jesus Christ
Focus Verse: “The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23b)
Theme: Abundant, everlasting, life is God’s gift to the world through His Son, Jesus Christ

December 25, 2016: “Christmas Day” (One 10am service in The Sanctuary)

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 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)
Email address: office@southumc.com	
Web address: southumc.com	
Facebook: facebook.com/southumc	
Prayer Chain: (860) 337-2793 or prayer@southumc.com	

Guided New Testament Tour is under way...

S It’s not too late to join in reading the New Testament with other members and friends from South Church. We started on October 20 and will finish April 20, 2017. A list of readings can be found below, in the bulletin and at southumc.com (click on the devos tab). The best approach is to begin with the current days reading. On the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 6:30-7:30pm in the cafe, Pastor John will lead a session previewing the New Testament material to be read in the coming weeks. The next scheduled sessions will be held: December 1, 15 and January 5, 2017. Prayerfully reading the New Testament is a great way to grow in your faith. If you haven’t started reading, begin today! If you have already begun, keep up the good work.

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Readings 31-40: 1, 2,3 John, James
31 12/2/16 1 John 1
32 12/5/16 1 John 2
33 12/6/16 1 John 3
34 12/7/16 1 John 4
35 12/8/16 1 John 5
36 12/9/16 2 John
37 12/12/16 3 John
38 12/13/16 James 1
39 12/14/16 James 2-3
40 12/15/16 James 4-5 Session 5 Introduction to Luke

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Readings 41-55: Luke
41 12/16/16 Luke 1
42 12/19/16 Luke 2-3
43 12/20/16 Luke 4-5
44 12/21/16 Luke 6-7
45 12/22/16 Luke 8
46 12/23/16 Luke 9
47 12/26/16 Luke 10-11
48 12/27/16 Luke 12-13
49 12/28/16 Luke 14-15
50 12/29/16 Luke 16-17
51 12/30/16 Luke 18-19
52 1/2/17 Luke 20-21
53 1/3/17 Luke 22
54 1/4/17 Luke 23
55 1/5/17 Luke 25 6: Intro to Galatians, Ephesians, Philipians, Colossians



Come join us on Sunday, December 18th, from 6-8 pm for our Youth Group and Recent Alumni Christmas Party! Games, Eggnog, music, and snacks...friends from Youth Group, Youth Group's Past, and other Young Adults. This is a night you won't want to miss!



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

SUMC 2016 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:



Dec 10th Dress Rehearsal
and pizza lunch
10:00 to 12:00 in Sanctuary

Showtime
Dec 11th at 10am Service
(only service)

Pancake Breakfast
At 11:00
In Cooper Hall

\$3 Kids/\$5 Adults
\$15 max



Youth will be serving and singing
for tips!!

Upcoming Youth Events

Thank you to those who helped park cars for the Road Race! We have another opportunity to support the Youth Mission Fund on 12/11 when the Youth program will be hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast after the Christmas Pageant. If you are willing and able to help with this event please contact the office or sign up on the Sign-Up sheets located in Reception Hall and outside the Youth Room.

The Youth program will be going on its Winter Retreat February 10-12, and information has been made available to Youth parents by e-mail and through posted signs. The Retreat this year is at Monadnock Bible Conference in Jaffrey, NH, and the cost is \$110. If you/your Youth wants to go please let the church know *no later than* the day of the Pancake Breakfast (12/11)!

We will be taking a break from Youth activities for both of the holidays, so have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- 12/4 Youth Group—Time to be determined
- 12/11 Pancake Breakfast 9:30am (One Service at 10am)
- 12/18 Youth Christmas Party 6pm at South
- 12/25 NO Youth Group

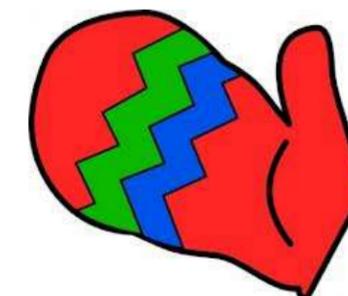


Join the rest of us at South Church as we pray for our college and graduate students who are nearing the end of their semesters! Again a big thank you to all who helped to fill the care packages. We sent over 20 this year! Praise God for His provision, and may the Lord guide our students during this time of academic rigor. We're excited to see you, the students, when you return home!



Washington school needing
sweat pants, sizes 5 and 6, hats
and mittens.

Contact Bill McGugan for any
questions (860)649-9072 or
runbillrun01@gmail.com



We Did IT!

Forty pairs of mittens. Thank you! Late in September we were asked to knit 40 pairs of mittens for the children of the Lakota Indian tribe in South Dakota. With the help of church family and extended church family members we accomplished the task and had the mittens ready by November 5. A monetary donation was made to the fair proceeds for the mittens.

The mittens will be useful for the children this winter as we have heard the temperature is already at zero. Thank you to all who knitted or donated yarn. Know that your time and efforts are appreciated.

We have been asked to do it again in 2017. So, if you are a knitter and want to help, please let me know. We have plenty of time this year to reach the same goal.

Alberta Hoagland

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE



Tuesday, December 13
7:30pm
in The Cafe

Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend

December 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 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 NO Youth Group	28 6:30pm NO Young Women or Men Bible Study	29 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Lay Leadership 7:30pm Finance Mtg	30 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Concert Choir	1 6:30pm New Testament Class 7:30pm SM Supervision	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
4 9:00am UMW Mini Fair 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	5 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	6 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	7 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Concert Choir	8	9	10 10:00am Pageant Dress Rehearsal/Pizza
11 10:00am One Service w/Pageant 11:00am Pancake Breakfast w/Youth	12 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	13 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Annual All-Church Conference	14 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Concert Choir	15 6:30pm New Testament Class 7:30pm SM Supervision	16	17 9:00am Candlelight Concert Rehearsal 9:30am Knitting Group
18 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 4:30pm Candlelight Concert 6:00pm Youth Group **Challenge deadline	19 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	20 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm NO Staff Parish Mtg	21 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers	22	23	24 5:30pm Family Service 10:00pm Traditional Service
25 10:00am One Combined Service 11:45am NO Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	26 6:30pm NO Young Women or Men Bible Study	27 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Finance Mtg	28 11:00am NO Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers	29	30	31

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

DECEMBER 24

5:30PM

FAMILY SERVICE W/CHILDREN'S STORY

10:00PM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE W/ CHOIR

EVERYONE WELCOME

SOUTHUMC.COM

South Church is Reaching out Through:

MITTEN TREE.

The annual mitten trees are up in Reception Hall and outside The Café. We are hoping people will pick up some inexpensive hats or mittens or sweat pants for sizes 6, 7, and 8 and put them on the tree. They will be given to the school nurse at Washington School to have on hand for emergencies or to use with children who don't have adequate clothing for the winter.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD.

Our thanks to Jill Smith and her crew for introducing this program for children around the world through Samaritan's Purse. The faithful people of South have filled 163 Shoeboxes. Lots of love will be heading out.

SEASONAL SHARING.

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and it appears that the new system for distributing Thanksgiving meals worked pretty well. Now we need to keep MACC in our prayers as they add Christmas presents into the mix. There are gift suggestions on the table in Reception Hall and in The Café, at the contemporary service. We will again be collecting items for a great holiday meal.

HEARING ABOUT BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

Several weeks ago, the Social Justice Class invited Peter Tulson to talk with them about what his group is doing in Manchester. They were so excited they invited him to come back on Sunday, January 22 at 10:45 am to speak to anyone from the congregation who might like to understand the program.

VISITING OUR SHUT-INS

A group of concerned church members have decided to extend out beyond the work of our Stephen Ministers and bring prayers and holy communion to those who might most appreciate it. What a great service?

PARKING FOR THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY RACE

You might have noticed the number of cars on the lawn across the street as our youth raised money for their mission project next year.

HI HO FAIR

As always the fair served as outreach, both for the message it brought to the people of the community who came and for the good all the money earned will do for the people of the world through the mission of the larger United Methodist Church.



Candlelight Christmas Concert
South United Methodist Church
1226 Main Street ~ Manchester
Sunday, December 18, 2016
4:30pm

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
October 11, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Carol Goodwin, Pastor Dick Thompson, Phil Susag, Don Wilby, J.T. Himmelstein, Terry Marshall, Jane Zadnik, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, Bill Hyde, Bob Thulin, Kim Grehn.

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and shared scripture from Hebrews 1: 1-4. He reminded the group about a New Testament class, meeting the first and third Thursdays of the month from 6:30 – 7:30 in the café. All are encouraged to attend, as we hope to increase our understanding and application of scripture as a congregation. Bill Hyde read the Mission and Vision statements and John Wesley's Rule: "Do all the good you can..."

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the September 13, 2016 Administrative Board meeting were reviewed.

There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Terry Marshall) to accept the September 13, 2016 Administrative Board minutes with a minor addition. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Archivist and Archive Room – In October, Phil Susag attended an Archives and History event sponsored by annual conference. Phil has volunteered to serve as our church archivist and is looking for a team to work on this project. Pastor John stated that Phil will be officially elected as Archivist at our next church conference.

Committee Reports:

Director of Ministries, Education: Terry Marshall reported that in addition to the Directory project under discussion, there is another initiative underway for putting names to faces. Members and friends/worshippers are asked to submit two 4"x6" pictures, which will be displayed outside the café and in a prominent place near the main sanctuary. Congregational Care activities are moving forward, with outreach to regular worshippers who have not been in attendance at Sunday service. Terry reported the following Education activities: On October 2, 14 Bibles were distributed during the two services. A family Advent celebration will be held November 27 between the two services. The Christmas Pageant will be on December 11, when there will be a combined 10:00 a.m. service, followed by a pancake breakfast in Cooper Hall.

Memorials: Jane Zadnik stated that there was no memorial activity to report. Fair preparations are moving along well. Also, there is a big mitten project underway - 40 pairs of mittens are being made for Lakota Indian children.

Next Generation and Young Adult Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein shared that the youth went to Fairways mini-golf and ice cream, but the corn maze activity had to be rescheduled due to rain. Kim Grehn and Michelle Sawyers filled in as leaders for Youth Group on September 25. Bible studies for both young women and young men are continuing.

Lay Leader: Don Wilby notified the group that Bishop's Day on the District will be November 12 from 9:00 a.m. until noon, at Wesley United Methodist Church in Springfield, MA.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that shoeboxes are getting filled and seasonal sharing is coming along. MACC has changed the seasonal sharing program this year, to ensure equitable distribution to recipients. Dianne Philopena is taking over the International Gift Shop and coming up with ideas for a different approach to operating the Shop. Plans for the Crop Walk are going well. We'll be looking to firm up a date for the Stop Hunger Now event, likely in late April or Mid May next year. The Mad MACC Shoppers offering went well, with almost \$600 raised and many needed items purchased.

Social Concerns Groups: Pastor Dick stated that the Social Justice Sunday School Class is working to firm up their definition of "what is justice?" i.e., what does it include? They are currently focused on what would constitute justice for children who come from poor families. A recent guest speaker at their class was Peter Tullson from the Building Healthy Families Program, who works with parents and preschoolers in a program of creative play and socialization. They hope to invite Mr. Tullson back to address the larger congregation and see where this might lead.

Property Manager and Trustees: Bob Thulin reported that the Trustees are signing a five year contract for elevator maintenance. Proposals have been requested for necessary roof maintenance at the church, and at Susanna Wesley House. Pastor John reported that work is continuing toward upgrades in the room above the pastor's office. Exterior painting of the parsonage is nearly complete. Carpet will be replaced in first floor corridors at the church. A contractor is being sought for work at 21 Hartford Road – critical flooring repairs, sealing up the house for the winter, etc. The Trustees have approved a landscaping proposal for in and around the parsonage area. A meeting was held with Walden and they have agreed to extend their payments to us through the end of the year. They still intend to purchase the property but have some remaining governance hurdles to work through.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Hyde explained the monthly income and expense report for September, noting that income for the month and year-to-date appears to exceed budget, but this is due to a recent large stock transfer received that represents a giving unit's gift for calendar year 2017. Without this transaction, income receipts for the month and year-to-date are less than budget. The financial secretary will produce and mail giving reports through the end of September, in hopes that supporters will "catch up" during the last quarter. Other income and expense line items are in line with budget, year-to-date. Through September, we have paid slightly more than 75% of our mission share budget for 2016. Committee and commission chairpersons are advised that unless the Finance committee receives a written request for a budget change by the end of October, 2017 budget will remain the same as 2016. Notification has been received that our 2017 mission share budget will decrease by \$1,820 from the current budget amount.

Finance: Kim Grehn reported that he is working on the January through September giving reports and they should go out soon.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that the parking problem experienced the prior Sunday (due to a soccer event) is being addressed with the Recreation Department. The SUMC church conference will be held December 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Café.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Administrative Board will be held November 8.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

It's not too late!!

**South United Methodist Church
CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS**

The perfect Christmas Gift for:
SUMC Members and Friends
Children, siblings, relatives who grew up at SUMC
Members and friends who have moved away
Manchester neighbors

\$12.00 each

These are quality, commemorative brass ornaments custom made for our church and presented in a keepsake box with church history on the back.

All proceeds from the sale of these ornaments goes to UMW and church mission projects.

Get yours today! On sale in Reception Hall after the 9:30 service or contact Carol Goodwin at 860-966-4288.

