

Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE February 2015

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

March Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, February 15, 2015

THE CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 2015

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
- Ash Wednesday Sevice
February 18, 2015
7:00pm

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Pastor's Annual Report

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Dear Friends,

It is with gratitude and enthusiasm that I can share that God is truly doing great things in and through the people of South United Methodist Church. As has been shared elsewhere in this booklet, by God's grace we are growing. Growing spiritually, growing in generosity, growing in vision and growing in numbers. Together, we praise God for His favor and blessing on our community of faith! Sometimes we wonder silently, or out loud even, why is this happening? Can we expect or hope for these good things to continue or perhaps even expand this year and in the years to come? If we hear and heed the above words of Jesus, the answer is a resounding "yes", absolutely!

"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

Jesus shared this teaching in the upper room as he gathered with his disciples one last time for a Passover meal. In the coming days, or during the season of Lent, I invite you to take some time to read and reflect on these precious words of our Lord found in the book of John, chapters 13-17. For now though, let's consider two verses: ***"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."*** (John 15:5) The one non-negotiable, required task for every follower of Jesus is to remain connected to Him. We can do many things to remain active; there is no shortage of work and ministry to do, so much so sometimes that we can become overwhelmed. But the one thing we must make a habit, is to cultivate, and never abandon, keeping Jesus on our mind and in our heart. We do this through daily prayer and Scripture reading. We do this through regular, consistent, hopefully weekly, worship. We do this through gathering with other followers in small groups to support and encourage one another in our walk with Christ. As we remain connected to Christ, he gives us all that we need in order to do the work that He calls us to. How is your connection? Everything that I do as your pastor is ultimately focused on helping each of you to remain connected to Christ.

I know that you the people of South Church are striving to stay connected to Christ. You might ask, "How can I tell?" The very real connection of the people of South Church to Christ is made evident by how much good work is being done. Jesus promised that this would happen, read His words: ***"Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."*** As you read through this booklet, I am sure that you will marvel at all that God is doing at South Church. Let me highlight a few items...

God is at work! For we see the fruit of that among our children...The Sunday School is growing! We had a wonderful VBS attended by nearly 100 children last summer! Plans are already underway for our 2015 VBS with the theme: "Everest: conquering challenges with God's almighty power!"



God is at work! For we see the fruit among the next generation...We have an active youth program as well as a growing outreach to young adults.

God is at work! For see the fruit of an active Outreach program...Thank you for your generosity in our various ministries to those in need all twelve months of the year. Together, we are feeding the hungry locally and globally, fighting malaria, supporting children and families attending Washington School and much, much more!

God is at work! For we see the fruit in wonderful music and seasonal ministries! We are grateful for edifying worship year round in the Sanctuary and in *The Café*. We are also appreciative of the work of those who help us celebrate the seasons of the year!

God is at work! For we see the fruit of an elevator under construction! Before this summer, our building should be accessible to all people, thanks to the hard work of the Trustees and Elevator Taskforce as well as the generous gifts of so many of you.

God is at work! For Stephen Ministers are at work! People are receiving one-on-one Christian care through our Stephen ministers. In addition, nine more men and women are being trained to provide this same Christian care!

I am grateful for the commitment of so many of you that makes this fruit-full ministry possible. We should all be appreciative of the work of our dedicated staff who put in far more time than they are compensated for! Thank you Colleen, Patti, Terry, Earle, Chris, Tanya, JT, Catey, Ken and Don! All of us are thankful as well for the work of Dick and Jane among us doing so much from worship to outreach to newsletters! Thank you for sharing your "retired" years with us!

What can we expect as we look to the future? With God's help and by His grace, more of the same! Jesus invites us to bring our concern for future fruitfulness to Him, *"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."* (John 15:7) As we stay connected to Christ, we individually, and corporately, can bring our needs and desires to God, with the full expectation that God will act upon them! If you have prayer concerns, please do use our prayer chain, led by Marnie Meek. Email your concerns and celebrations to prayer@southumc.com. As for 2015, I am determined to stay connected to Christ and to help you do the same. When we stay close to the Lord, we will continue to show ourselves to be followers of Jesus, bringing God glory, bearing much fruit!

Thank you for the privilege of being in ministry with you for another year...

In Service to Christ,
John

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

Web address: southumc.com

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

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)

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South UMC ASH Wednesday Service

February 18 at 7pm in The Sanctuary

Pastor John will bring an inspiring message and

The Chancel Choir will sing

As we embark on the Holy season of Lent for 2015,

Everyone is encouraged to attend

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Western Christian calendar. Occurring 46 days before Easter, it is a moveable fast that can fall as early as February 4 and as late as March 10.

According to the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke; Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day liturgical period of prayer and fasting or abstinence. Of the 46 days until Easter, six are Sundays. As the Christian sabbath, Sundays are not included in the fasting period and are instead "feast" days during Lent.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a celebration and reminder of human mortality, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Although generally seen as a Catholic practice, as it was mostly abandoned by Protestants except for Anglicans after the Protestant Reformation, it has become increasingly common in much of Christianity, now being observed by many Lutherans and Methodists in addition to Catholics and Anglicans.



Thank
you

Dear South Church Family,

Thank you for your cards, visits and prayers that saw me through my recent back surgeries and recuperation. At times like this, the warm fellowship found at South is truly appreciated.

Elaine Holcomb

Did you miss a sermon or just want to hear it again?
Or did you want to start a daily devotional?



Well, you can find both on our website **southumc.com**!! For the sermons - check out the Worship tab and choose Sermon Podcasts. Choose Devos tab for your choice for daily devotionals. Each day's devotional has a link to the Scripture reading of the day. Everything all in one place, it just doesn't get any easier than that!!



Young Women of South

Feel free to join our

Monday Evening Young Women's

Bible Study

6:30pm ~ Susannah Wesley

Upcoming Youth Events

The youth are kicking off February with a Super Bowl Party for all! Come down to the Cafe and enjoy the game and some goodies until half time. The following weekend we are headed on our winter retreat to Monadnock, and there will be no youth group that Sunday (2/8).

Please join us the following weekends for our regularly scheduled Youth Groups.

Let JT know if you have any questions by emailing nextgen@southumc.com.

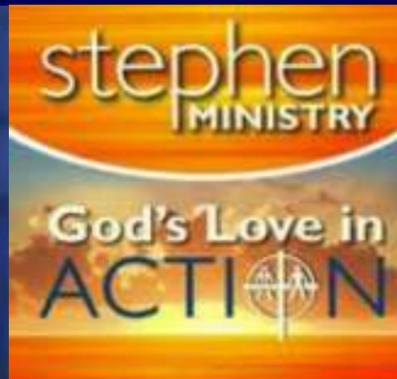
- 2/1 Youth Group—Super Bowl Party 6pm to 8pm
- 2/8 NO Youth Group—at Winter Retreat
- 2/15 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 2/22 Youth Group 5pm at South



South United Methodist Church

1226 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040 860-647-9141

Pastor: Rev. John Marshall
Stephen Leaders: Alberta Hoagland, Terry Marshall & Don Wilby



Our Stephen Ministry class is moving right along and we are now, at the printing of this newsletter, about to embark on class number 8 out of 20!

Here is a brief compilation of what they have been working through recently...

Session Seven and Eight: Assertiveness: Relating Gently and Firmly (part 1 & 2)

Assertiveness has gained a bad name for itself in some circles of the church. It has been taken to mean, "getting my own way", which is erroneous. In fact, assertiveness is about relating to others gently and firmly.

This two-part session will teach trainees how to apply principles they have read about in the book, **Speaking the Truth in Love: How to Be an Assertive Christian**, which uses Jesus as the model for assertive behavior. The class will also take a look at the differences between passive, aggressive, and assertive behavior.

Session Nine: Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving.

Our Stephen Ministers are learning the importance of establishing boundaries both to protect themselves from manipulation and also to guard against their own controlling impulses.

Also in Session Nine... Crisis Theory and Practice: Danger versus Opportunity.

Our Stephen Ministers will also be learning about the effects of crisis on people's faith. They will be exploring how to help a person experiencing a crisis to move toward greater wholeness.

We ask you to keep everyone involved, the trainees, as well as the Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they seek together to acquire new skills in order to bring Christ's love and care more adequately to hurting people on behalf of South Church.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our Stephen Ministry program here at South Church!

Terry Marshall
Training Coordinator

February 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm Youth Group – Super Bowl Party	2 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	3 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	4 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm SM Supervision	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Youth Winter Retreat</div>	7 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
8 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Youth Winter Retreat</div>	9 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	10 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	11 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 6:30pm Stephen Ministers	13	14
15 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	16 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	17 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Shrove Tuesday 7:30pm Staff Parish	18 11:00am Staff Mtg 7:00pm Ash Wed. Service	19 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm SM Supervision	20	21 9:30am Knitting Group
22 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	23 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	24 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	25 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26 6:30pm Stephen Ministers	27	28

More South News



REBUILDING TOGETHER is looking for volunteers for its 2015 program. The mission of this community based volunteer program is to bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners and to assist our elderly, disabled, and veterans who cannot make renovations themselves. Last year 900

volunteers came together to help their neighbors. Donations of time, talent, materials and money assisted 61 families so they could continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. This year's rebuilding day will take place on SATURDAY, APRIL 25. Look for the display in Reception Hall where you can sign up beginning February 22 through March 15 You will also need to fill out a waiver form which you will find next to the sign up sheet.

Please consider joining our SUMC team and this National non-profit organization celebrating its 23 year helping people rebuild their homes. Whether you choose to paint or participate in landscaping/ yard work, the gift of a free tee-shirt and the town barbecue that follows the event cannot compare to the gift of your time and the rewards of giving back to your community. Just ask those who have volunteered year after year!

If you would like to contribute to this meaningful program, please send your tax deductible charitable donation to: REBUILDING TOGETHER, c/o Scott Garman or Liz Tracy, 41 Center Street, Manchester, CT 06040-0191. As Liz Tracy said, "The current economic times are making it even more difficult for low-income homeowners to maintain their homes or to make much needed modifications for safe living. Now more than ever your donation will make a difference in rebuilding the hearts and homes of many Manchester families."

Pat Lapworth
Outreach Commission

Would you like to help prepare much needed meals for school children in developing countries?



Building on our success of the past two years, on Saturday, April 18, our church will be sponsoring a **Meal Packaging Event** using the services of Stop Hunger Now. This is an immensely fun, hands-on and rewarding experience for anyone of any age. A group of us, using an organized assembly-line approach, can package thousands of meals in a short time. We require 60 volunteers (1st come, 1st served, so sign-up early to reserve your spot!)

Before we bring the Stop Hunger Now program coordinator and food supplies to our church for the "assembly line" packaging event, we must raise a minimum \$2,944 to package 10,152 meals. **Each meal costs only 29 cents.** The more we raise, the more meals we will prepare, and the more school children we will help! Each and every donation is needed and will allow us to prepare additional meals. The Christian Outreach Commission will be collecting funds in Reception Hall on three Sundays, February 15, February 22, and March 1. Donations can also be mailed to the church, or dropped in the offering plate on any Sunday, make check to "SUMC" and note "for Stop Hunger Now". The volunteer sign-up will also begin on February 15. For more information, please see Pastor Dick (860-647-7009, spotanpuff@gmail.com) or Boris Gerber (860-647-7652, borisgerber1@cox.net).

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

Mitten Tree We did well on our mitten trees for Washington School. The trees are now down; the school nurse tells us that she is probably set for everything but socks and underwear to help out in those embarrassing moments. You'll find that a laundry basket has been substituted for the trees in the reception hall for any bargains you may come across (elementary school age).

Stop Hunger Now The date has been set for Saturday morning, April 18 for this increasingly popular food packaging event. We will be collecting money in February to underwrite it. We need to raise a minimum of \$2900, but we did that last year (more or less) so we figure we can do it again. Watch the poster of the rice bag in the reception hall to keep track of our progress.

Souper Bowl Sunday On the Sunday, February 1, South Church will have its usual Souper Bowl offering, which will go to underwrite the work of MACC among the hungry. Bring some extra money to church and be a part of this moment.

No More Malaria If you haven't made it to church yet to see the giant mosquito on the sanctuary wall that is rapidly being enmeshed in a paper link net, you really need to see that. The response in donations has been good, and we are down to only a few hundred dollars of our goal of \$5000 over three years.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 17, 2015
(Snow date - April 7, 2015)
5:30 p.m.

\$5.00 per person/\$15.00 per family

**All the pancakes you can eat.
Toppings galore!!
Bacon and sausage!!**



**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
October 14, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Carol Goodwin, Bill Hyde, Janet Schmidt, Don Wilby, Phil Susag, Pastor Dick Thompson, J.T. Himmelstein, Bob Thulin, Margaret Callaway, Earle Bidwell, Jane Zadnik, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, Terry Marshall, Patti LaForest, Brian Mohr, Kim Grehn.

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and Terry Marshall read the Vision and Mission Statements.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Several minor edits/corrections were raised. *There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Margaret Callaway) to accept the minutes inclusive of these edits; all were in favor and the motion carried.*

Unfinished Business:

- **Justice Ministry Task Force:** Pastor Dick explained that Task Force still needs to meet to further refine plans, and will have a report for the Administrative Board in November.
- **Elevator Addition Bids:** Earle Bidwell reported that we've received proposals from four contractors. All bids were within 3% of each other and Orlando Annulli (local contractor) had the lowest bid.
A motion was made (Earle Bidwell on behalf of Trustees) to move forward with the elevator project in an amount not to exceed \$700,000. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- **Thanksgiving Service:** Phil Susag reported that the Town-wide Thanksgiving Service will be held November 23 at 4:00 p.m. at Beth Shalom B'Nai Israel synagogue – 400 Middle Turnpike, Manchester.
- **All Church Conference:** Pastor John stated that the All Church Conference will be held November 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Church Directory:** Deb Grehn shared information on a possible option she has researched called "Instant Church Directory Online." Deb will continue to investigate this and other options for a new church directory. Janet Schmidt emphasized the importance of having up-to-date membership records for the success of this project. Terry Marshall suggested that we may be able to tackle the project in stages. Janet Schmidt and Denise Roman will assist Deb in the research process.

Committee Reports:

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that memorial gifts totaling \$9,846.75 have been received for the period July through October.

Music, Trustees: Earle Bidwell reported the following Music happenings: Jill Smith is starting a children's choir; concert choir is starting next week; the Christmas Candlelight Concert will be December 14 at 6:30 p.m. Bob Thulin presented the property manager's report. Details are available through the Trustees.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported on several youth events, including the Back to School Bash, the flashlight corn maze, an event at Community Crossroads Cathedral and the Halloween Town event. The youth will also participate in the Crop Walk.

Seasonal Ministries: Patti LaForest provided details on the upcoming seasonal harvest event, which will be November 8 at 4:00 p.m. and feature a soup cook-off, apple crisp and crafts.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that the Overlook Farm trip was a great event, with 25 in attendance. Also, over 25 are signed up to walk in the Crop Walk.

At Large: Phil Susag stated he feels there is the need for an SUMC archivist and a concentrated effort to preserve and organize information and articles related to the history of South Church. Pastor John noted his agreement and suggested this item be added to the unfinished business list.

Lay Leader: Don Wilby stated he will be at the Alleluia Sunday event for installation of our new District Superintendent. Don also commented that he feels the Stephen Ministry program is going great and is a wonderful addition to our church.

Finance: Bill Hyde reported that income in the month of September exceeded budget by approximately \$7,700. All cumulative expenses are within tolerance of the year-to-date budgeted numbers. We have paid \$51,685 (or 76.7%) toward our Mission Shares. The Finance Committee will assume that each Commission and Committee will want their 2015 budget to remain the same as their 2014 budget unless other information is received by the November Administrative Board meeting. Brian Mohr asked whether pledge/giving statements would be sent soon and Kim Grehn responded yes.

Education: Terry Marshall stated that new members classes are in progress and there will be a new series starting in November. Bibles will be distributed this Sunday. December 14 will be the Christmas Pageant, with one combined service and a Pancake Breakfast that day. Sunday School attendance is trending up. Training of new acolytes is also in process.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that he and Terry attended the Leadership Institute in Kansas City, with over 2,000 participants and 750 churches in attendance. He shared some thoughts on leadership. The computer upgrade for the church is complete, and Wi-Fi is now available throughout the church.

New Business:

CVS is proposing to construct a building on the Carter Chevrolet property. October 20 is the next Planning and Zoning meeting where this proposal will be considered. SUMC members are encouraged to attend and provide comments as concerned citizens of Manchester.

Pastor Dick shared a celebration: Don Wilby is attending a Walk to Emmaus event October 23 – 26.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

Don't forget... Sunday School for ALL
Sunday mornings
at 10:45 a.m.

Nursery

Grade 3 - 6

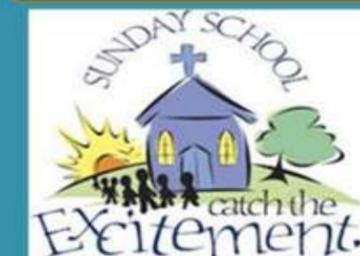
Adult
Social Justice

Pre-school

Jr. & Sr. High

Women
Cup of Joy

K – Grade 2



Men
Cup of Joe