



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE February 2016

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

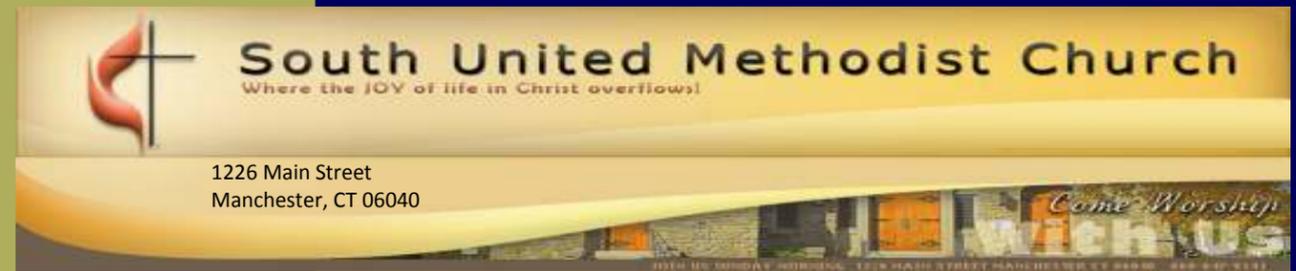
Sunday Worship Schedule

- 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

March Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, February 21, 2016



THE CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 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
- Ash Wednesday Service
February 10, 2016
7:00pm

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Pastor's Annual Report

*Jesus said,
"Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.
The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14)*

Dear Friends,

In the reports you will read or glance through, it will become clear that God is at work in many wonderful ways in, and through, the people of South United Methodist Church. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve with you as your pastor. The congregation of South Church is diverse in so many ways. Many of us have been members of the church for decades, having been baptized, confirmed or perhaps married here. Others have been attending South for a year or two, having discovered the depth of the worship, the friendliness of the people and this church's commitment to make a difference locally and globally. Some of us register to vote as democrats, others as republicans or independents. We enjoy different types of music classical or contemporary or some of us both. As diverse a community of people as we are, what unites and draws us together is our love for God and each other. We share a common commitment to follow Jesus Christ and carry out His mission in the world.

"As we return to Christ, our source of living water, I'm hopeful that we will continue to grow in our dependence upon Him through prayer."

As a church, we have much to celebrate as well...this booklet is filled with many examples so I will only highlight a couple in my report.

Certainly the completion of the elevator stands out...the construction of the elevator took much longer than anyone, including the contractors expected. I appreciate the patience of Sunday school teachers, other volunteers as well as the staff throughout what turned out to be a 12 month process (ordeal at times!). Yet as difficult as the construction was, everyone seems to be pleased both with the appearance of the final product, as well the quality of the workmanship. Already the elevator is used every week and often most days of the week. We are thankful to God for His faithfulness!

Café service growth: It is hard to believe, but it was just a little over three years ago that we converted the old scout room into our present café. It has taken a lot of patience, prayer and hard work, but now we can say that the 11:45 café service is strong and growing. Each Sunday between 40 and 60 people of a variety of ages gather for worship. Many who attend the café also occasionally choose to worship upstairs at the traditional service in the sanctuary, when their schedule doesn't allow them to be present at 11:45, and vice versa. South Church is truly blessed to be able to offer two distinctively, truly Methodist, worship experiences.



February 2016 Worship Themes

Individually and as a church, we are striving to grow as followers of Jesus . We are people who are striving to, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ." There is no higher priority for Christians or churches than to help one another develop in their faith in Christ. In my preaching and in my leadership, my goal is always to help you grow to know Jesus more fully. More than that, my hope is that each of us might have our spirituality fully integrated into every aspect of our lives.

One way that Methodist's have historically grown in our faith is to ask one another the question, "How is it with your soul?" A contemporary version of this is, "How is your walk with God?" At VBS each year, our children are invited to, "watch for God." They are learning that following God and knowing Jesus should be a part of everyday life. For God, as Jesus taught, is always working! In the coming year feel free to pose this question to me, and one another, and know that I will be raising this with you as well! For reflecting upon the state of our soul and our walk with the Lord, is a great way to partake of the living water Christ offers to all of us.

As we return again and again to Christ, our source of living water, I'm hopeful that we will continue to grow in our dependence upon Him through prayer. I'm reminded often in my own life, of God's willingness to respond to the simple, sincere prayers of His people. If you ever have a prayer concern, please feel free to use our email emergency prayer chain coordinated by Marnie Meek. The email address is prayer@southumc.com or you may call: 860-337-2793.

I am grateful for the commitment of so many of you that makes the ministry of South Church abundantly fruitful. I know I speak for all of us in expressing gratitude for the hard work of our committed staff who put in far more time than they are compensated for! Thank you Colleen, Patti, Terry, Earle, Chris, Tanya, JT, Catey, Ken, Don and our nursery coordinators Karen Bufford and Jen Robert! I also appreciate the ongoing ministry of Pastor Dick and Jane Thompson in our midst and in the community.

As we continue to be in ministry; to one another, our community and our world in 2016, I pray that we will continue to offer Jesus Christ, the living water by our words and our actions.

Gratefully in service to Christ,
Pastor John

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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)

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)

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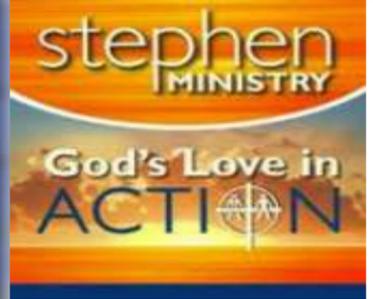
South United Methodist Church

1226 Main Street

Manchester, CT 06040 860-647-9141

Pastor: Rev. John Marshall

Stephen Leaders: Alberta Hoagland, Terry Marshall, Don Wilby
& Dave Bidwell



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We, here at SUMC, are hosting a Stephen Ministry Workshop

Saturday, March 5, ~ 9am-1pm ~ in Cooper Hall

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Anyone from our congregation who thinks they may be interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry, may attend for free, with NO obligation - please see Terry Marshall for more info. Below is a bit more info about what is included in a workshop. . .

C

Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshops are half-day events where you and others from your congregation can:

- catch a vision for lay caring ministry;
- experience a sample of Stephen Minister training; and
- learn the basics about Stephen Ministry—how it works, the benefits it offers, and how to bring Stephen Ministry to your congregation.

You'll come away with a clear understanding of the difference Stephen Ministry makes

Three Engaging Sessions



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Saturday workshops run from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., All workshops are hosted by Stephen Ministry congregations.

Each workshop has three sessions:

E

SESSION 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

- Sample the quality of Stephen Minister training firsthand
- Develop grief ministry skills you can put to use right away

SESSION 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

- Explore the life-changing value of this ministry
- Discover how to bring Stephen Ministry to your congregation

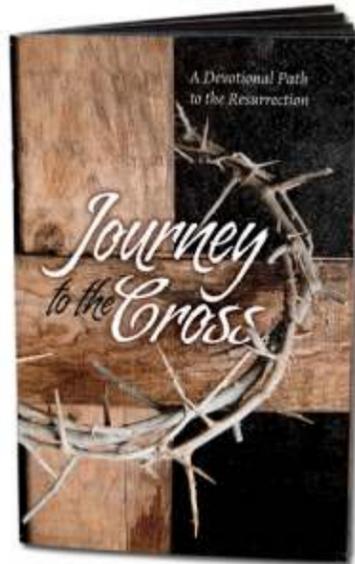
SESSION 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

- Learn to integrate faith into everyday caring and relating
- Experience the Christ-centered nature of Stephen Ministry

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S

Lenten Study



Watch for details coming soon!



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

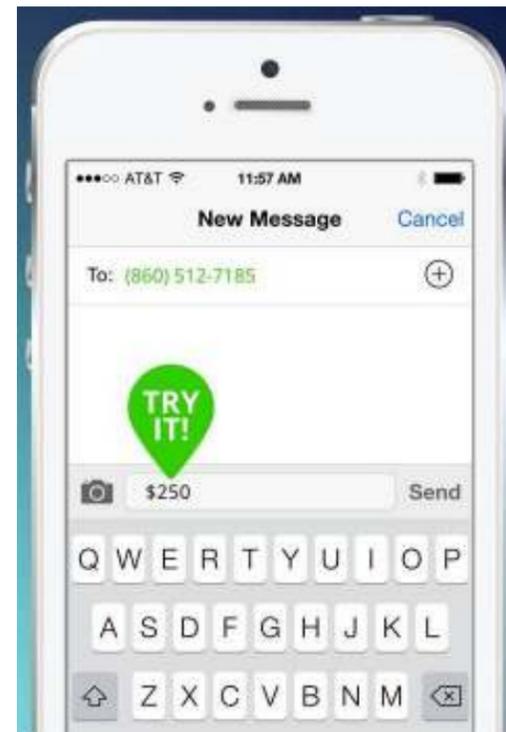


Social Justice Class

Join us any Sunday
10:45am ~ 3rd floor Classroom

Now you can give using a text message!

If you don't have cash or a checkbook and would like to give, now there is a way! Using your cell phone, send a text message to 860-512-7185. Then Type in the text message with the amount of your gift followed by the keyword, SUMC. (For example: \$20 SUMC) You will receive a simple one time form in reply that requires your name, email, zip code and the information for the card to be charged for your gift.



One Great Hour of Sharing February 21, 2016



Melissa Crutchfield

Be There. Be Hope.

Join United Methodists everywhere by participating in this special offering that supports UMCOR's (the United Methodist Committee On Relief) vital work. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to seek justice and mercy for suffering people everywhere. If you are not able to be at church on February 21, you can mail your offering to the church office, or put your donation into the offering plate on another Sunday (make check to SUMC, note for OGHS).

You can be assured that when catastrophes cause suffering, your church, impelled by Jesus' love and compassion will be in the lead to ease the pain.

The compassion of Jesus makes all things new. As Christians we're called to do the same: to offer the hands, the heart and the hope of the church wherever people are suffering. Your gifts to the One Great Hour of Sharing, channeled through UMCOR, enable the church to answer that call.

Please Give Generously on February 21

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth will be kicking off this month by taking donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring at both services as well as hosting a Super Bowl Party in the Cafe from 6 pm to Half Time. The party is a potluck and all are welcome! See the schedule below for details, and if you have any questions send JT an e-mail:

nextgen@southumc.com.



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|------|--|
| 2/7 | Potluck Super Bowl Party 6pm - Half Time |
| 2/14 | NO Youth Group (President's Day) |
| 2/21 | Youth Group at 5pm at South |
| 2/28 | Youth Group at 5pm at South |

Lost and Found



Please check the Lost and Found box located in the Narthex. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity. We have:

- 5 Jackets
- 5 Umbrellas
- 2 pairs of gloves (+ 3 single)
- 1 earmuff
- 3 coffee travel mugs
- Bracelets, pin and earring

February 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10am One Combined Service Annual Church Celebration 11:30am Light Lunch	1	2 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	3 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	4 6:30pm SM Supervision	5	6 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
7 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm Potluck Super Bowl Party	8	9 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	10 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	11	12	13
14 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	15	16 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm NO Staff Parish Mtg	17 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	18 6:30pm SM Supervision	19	20 9:30am Knitting Group
21 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 **Challenge deadline	22	23 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Finance Mtg	24 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	25	26	27
28 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	29	1 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	2 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3 6:30pm SM Supervision	4	5 7:30am Men's Fellowship 8am Stephen Ministry Workshop

More South News



Stop Hunger Now

This program has become very popular here at South these past few years, and we invite you to join in again this year. On a Saturday April 16, we gather to package and seal little bags of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a flavoring mix that includes 23 essential vitamins and minerals. Each bag is designed to feed six children a healthy lunch when a little boiling water is added. Our minimum goal is 10,152 lunches at a cost of about \$3000, but we can do more if more money comes in.

So we collected money on three Sundays in January. We did pretty well, but we would love to see broader participation. Remember that \$10 will feed about 35 kids a lunch. Boris will accept your money on Sundays, or you can send a check to the church office. You can also sign up in the reception hall to reserve a space on April 16. Anybody over five or six years old should fit in just fine next to their parent.

Text message to 860-512-7185, type \$amount STOPHUNGER



REBUILDING TOGETHER is looking for volunteers for its 2016 program. The mission of this community based volunteer program is to bring volunteers and communities together to ensure that our neighbors are living in warmth, safety and independence. Last year 700 volunteers came together & their donations of time, talent, materials and money assisted 61 families. This year's rebuilding day will take place on **SATURDAY, APRIL 30**. Look for the

display in Reception Hall where you can sign up beginning February 21 through March 13. 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 24 years of service. You can help by choosing to paint or participate in yard work. Everyone is invited to attend the Town barbecue that follows the event & is given a free tee-shirt, but those gifts cannot compare to the gift of your time and the reward of giving back to your community. Just ask those who have volunteered year after year!

As one grateful recipient wrote: "To us Rebuilding Together is an impressive display of community spirit to see so many people helping a neighbor whom they don't know..." Won't you please join us on April 30 to improve the home and enrich the life of a homeowner less fortunate than we are? You'll be so glad that you did.

Pat Lapworth
Outreach Commission

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

REBUILDING TOGETHER It's a wonderful annual event of home repair and yard recovery work somewhere in Manchester. It will be held April 30, but our team needs to sign up between February 21 and March 13. See the special article in this newsletter for more information, and sign up to join the fun.

SHOEBOXES You did a great job on filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in November and December. Jill Smith has shared with us that her group will be doing this again in 2016, and you may want to be looking now for items to stuff in your boxes.

STOP HUNGER NOW We have scheduled another event at our church for April 16, but we have to collect money to make that happen. Several people have given very helpful amounts, but we would love to see more \$5 and \$10 donations from a wide circle of participants. Every \$10 means another 35 meals will be going out to hungry kids around the world, and if we get more than the \$2900 we are committed to, we will be able to package more meals at our event.

VISITING SHUT-INS Some of the members of our Stephen Ministries Group have committed themselves to making sure our members who are suffering from very limited mobility do not feel forgotten. We celebrate their ministry and affirm it as part of our church's reaching out.

SOUPER BOWL OFFERING In traditional fashion, on the first Sunday of February (Super Bowl Sunday) our youth will be at the doors of our Sanctuary and Café with their pots to collect contributions from folks heading out. The money collected will be donated to MACC.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL ITEMS At last count, Bill had delivered 119 sweatpants, 72 pairs of underwear, 90 pairs of socks, 90 hats, and 82 pairs of mittens/gloves to Washington School, for kids who are inadequately clothed or who have "accidents" during school hours. Our thanks to all those who brought items in during the fall of 2015 or placed them on our mitten trees. It is, by the way, not too late to pick up something at one of your favorite discount places; we still have cold days ahead.

UPPER ROOM Lin Daniels had another article accepted by the Upper Room and it is published in the January/February booklet as the January 20 reading. Well done!

Shoobox Update!

We will be doing the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes again this year, but you don't have to wait until this fall to shop for items to fill your shoeboxes! Keep an eye out for clearance items and seasonal bargains **all year long**. Very soon, hats, gloves, and scarves will be marked down to make way for summer merchandise - they are great shoebox stuffers. Also, there's usually a clearance shelf or section in stores for items they have discontinued, so make it a habit to find it at your favorite shopping spot and regularly check out what might be good shoebox stuffers. Thanks for your enthusiasm. I'll continue to post updates occasionally to the church's Facebook page, or send me a friend request on Facebook (Jill Burnworth Smith) so you get my regular Facebook page updates about Samaritan's Purse and their work with shoeboxes too.

Knitting help needed



Are you bored these winter months? Would you like to help us? The knitting booth for the fair could use help. We did quite well at the 2015 fair. Most everything was sold. The cupboard is empty. There are patterns and yarn available.

We could use mittens, hats, cowls, scarves, fingerless mittens, sweaters, baby things and baby blankets. Please consider using your talents. Our knitters would have to be knitting 24/7 to get enough to sell.

Items can be left at the church office. Questions, call Jane Zadnik, 860-647-9925 or Marilyn Broneill, 860-649-9843.



South UMC

ASH Wednesday Service

February 10 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 2016,

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.

Ecumenical Prayer Services offered beginning February 14.

Reaching the children and youth of the city of Manchester is the motivation behind this year's series of prayer services. South Church in partnership with the Manchester Church of the Nazarene, the New River Community Church, the Salvation Army and Church of the Living God will be gathering for simple worship and prayer. The services will be held on Sunday evenings at 6pm at a different host church each week, and they will last no more than an hour. Below is a schedule indicating the host church and address. This promises to be a wonderful time to gather with other followers of Jesus desiring to impact the Manchester community with the love of Christ and EVERYONE is encouraged to attend. See Pastor John, if you have questions, or email him at pastorjohn@southumc.com.

All services will begin at - to be announced

Feb 14: Manchester Church of the Nazarene, 218 Main Street.

Feb 21: The Salvation Army, 661 Main Street.

Feb 28: Church of the Living God, 199 Deming Street

March 6: New River Community Church, 314 Woodbridge Street

March 13: South Methodist Church

March 20: To be announced



Meal in the Upper Room

Monday, March 21, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

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.

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

Tickets are \$8.00 and will be available February 21 through March 13 in the reception hall during the fellowship time.

Plan to attend this inspirational and worshipful event.



EASTER PLANTS

\$8.50

Make check payable to SUMC Flower Fund and mail with this form to:
Jeanne Eagleson, 172 Porter Street, Manchester, CT 06040
Other options: drop off @ the church office or place envelope labeled "Plants" in offering
- Ordering Deadline is March 15th -

Please **PRINT** all information

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Address & Phone# _____

Will be left for a shut in _____ Will be taken _____ Envelope # _____