



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE February 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
Web address: southumc.com

March Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, February 18, 2018



THE CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 2018

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 14
6:00p

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State of the Church

Jesus said, I pray, "That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:21)

Dear Friends,

Have your ever thought about whether the church as we experience it today is in fact what Jesus established it to be nearly two thousand years ago? Or have you wondered as he was giving final instructions to his apostles, what were his top concerns? In the John 17, we find the answer to these critical questions. These twenty-six verses are actually a prayer of Jesus from the night before he gave his life for the world. Jesus prayed for himself that his death would bring glory to God the Father, next he prayed for the protection of his disciples and lastly he prayed for, "those who will believe in me through their message." (John 17:20)

Jesus' concern was for the nature of the church community he left behind, for how we would interact with each other. Our Lord prayed that those who follow him would experience the same kind of relationship he enjoyed with his Heavenly Father. Specifically, Jesus prayed that the community he died to establish would be characterized by the same type of unity, or oneness that is enjoyed within the Godhead. Over the years these verses have been interpreted as a basis for working out unity between churches or even denominations. While this is no doubt one valid interpretation of the text, perhaps an even greater concern for our Lord was the nature of unity *within* local churches. It is vitally important that within local congregations, there would be clear communication between people and mutual concern for one another. Our Lord directly connected the love and trust between local church members and the impact that community has on it's unbelieving neighbors. If outsiders are able to observe a community of people who genuinely care for one another, they might be willing to consider that the One we believe in might actually love them as well!

"The unbelieving world will take notice of a community of Christians who genuinely care for one another."

South Church is truly a friendly, caring community in which its members share concern for one another. Yet it is no doubt true that we can do better. It is my hope in the coming year to help us grow in this important area. I plan to share a series of messages on, "The church: a community Jesus died to establish" this spring. I also hope to encourage practical ways that we can all experience true Christian community, such as establishing a covenant for how we communicate with each other.

I would like to close this report by giving you an overview of my efforts to continue my education as your pastor. Seminary prepared me well to teach you the Bible, to give theologically sound messages. I learned much about the history of the church in general and the United Methodist Church in particular. What seminary did not adequately prepare me to do was to actually lead a local church like South. Therefore, for the past several years, I have attempted on my own, to strengthen this vital area of ministry through my plan of continuing education. Each August, I attend a two-day event called the Leadership Summit sponsored by the Willow Creek Association. At these events I have learned a great deal about the importance and practical exercise of leadership in my setting. Attending these events and reading books by the various speakers has helped me to be a much more confident, competent pastor-leader of South Church.

It continues to be a great honor and privilege to serve as your pastor. I look forward to another year of ministry and service together in the Jesus' name.

In Service to Christ,
John



February 2018 Worship Themes

February 4, 2018: "In the end, it's our Choice"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:11-20. The offer of life or death

Focus Verse: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Theme: God gives all people the opportunity to choose life and follow His commands.

February 11, 2018: "A Glimpse of His Glory: Seeing Jesus as He really is!"

Scripture: Mark 9:2-13. The transfiguration of Jesus

Focus Verse: "Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'" (Mark 9:7)

Theme: We need to listen carefully to the words of Jesus, the Son of God.

February 14, 2018: "Ash Wednesday: service at 6:00pm." Lent begins

February 18, 2018: "The One Who Defeats Evil"

Scripture: Mark 9:14-27. Jesus heals a boy possessed by evil spirit.

Focus Verse: "Jesus said to him, 'If you are able! --All things can be done for the one who believes.'" (Mark 9:23)

Theme: We can trust the Lord who has power to overcome all that is evil.

February 25, 2018: "A Lesson in Leadership"

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45. James and John want the top spots, the best positions.

Focus Verse: "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Theme: Jesus came to serve people and calls his followers to do the same.

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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

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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South United Methodist Church

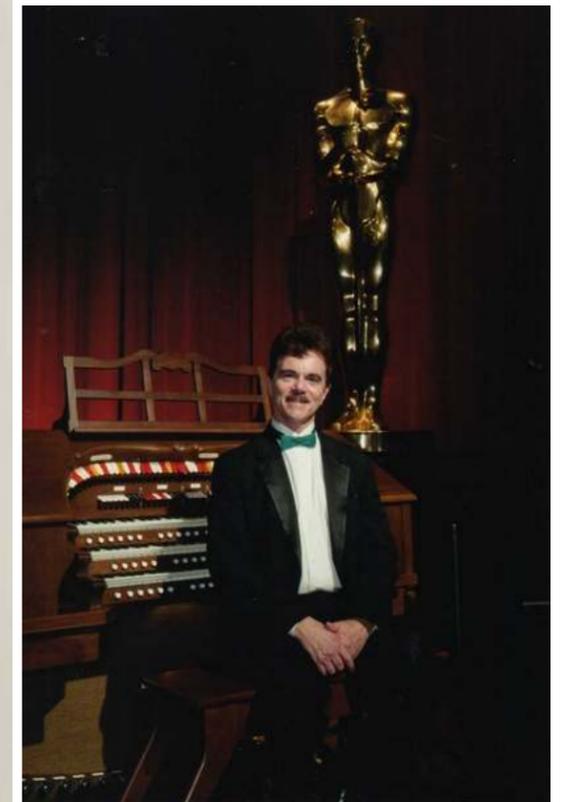
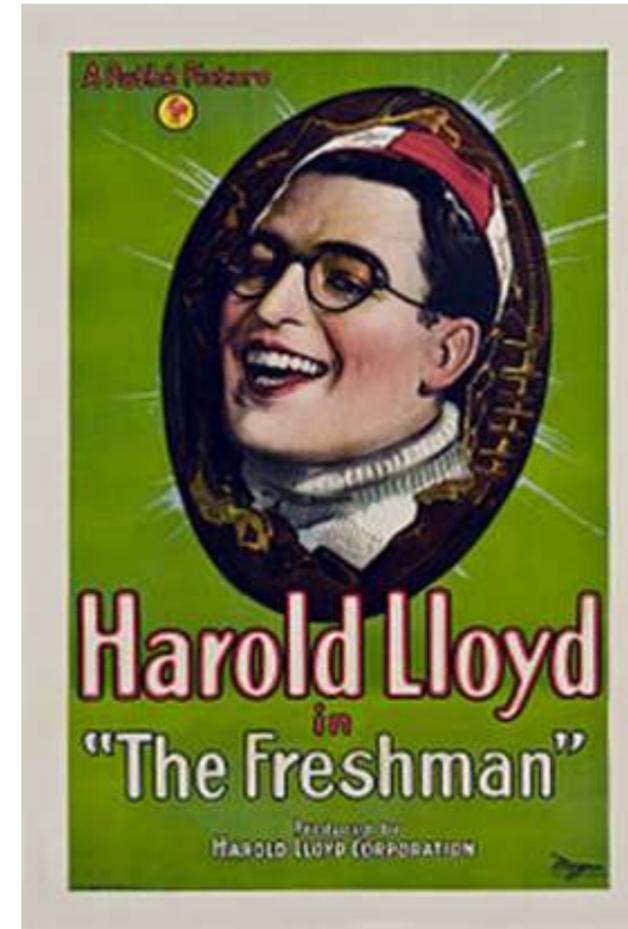
Presents

A silent movie classic

"The Freshman"

With

Clark Wilson on the "Mighty Austin Organ"



Clark Wilson

Friday, February 23, 2018

7:00 p.m.

1226 Main Street, Manchester, CT

Adults \$10

Children under 14 \$5



THE CROSSING

Young Men's and Young Women's Bible Studies will be continuing throughout the month of February! The Young Women, meet at 6:30 pm on Monday nights in the 20 Hartford Road apartment and will be studying the book of Ephesians. The Young Men meet at 8:30 pm on Monday nights in the Youth Room and will be studying 1, 2 and 3 John. If you're interested in joining a study contact JT or Catey.

Be on the lookout for some neat ways to serve such as the VBS Flat Painting Night or Rebuilding Together!



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).



This month is a very exciting one in our Youth program! We will be kicking off the month by taking the Souper Bowl of Caring offering on February 4th after both morning services, and all the proceeds will be given directly to MACC! Later that day the Youth will be hosting a Potluck



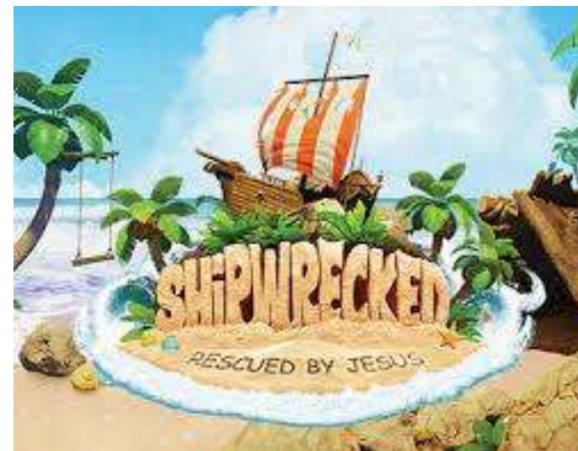
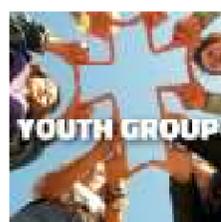
Super Bowl Party for the congregation and friends. The party will start at 6 pm and will end after the 1st half.

The Youth Winter Retreat will be held from February 23-25, and the Youth will be attending Encounter at Monadnock Christian Ministries, which is located in Jaffrey, NH. The retreat is a great opportunity for our Youth to spend intentional time in worship and God's Word. It'll be lots of fun, too! We will be leaving at 4 pm on Friday afternoon and returning around 3 pm on February 25. Please be praying for this special event!

Upcoming Youth Events

This year our Youth will have service projects and fun outings throughout the year in addition to regular Youth Group!

- 02/04 Potluck Super Bowl Party at 6pm
- 02/11 Youth Group at 5pm
- 02/18 NO Youth Group
- 02/23-02/25 Youth Winter Retreat



Please come and help
PAINT THE FLATS
for our Summer VBS

Be on
The
Lookout
for dates

No artistic ability necessary
Anyone welcome!



"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

February 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 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	29 6:00pm Staff Parish 7:00pm Annual Church Conference 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study	30 12pm Bulletin Deadline	31 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	1 6:30 pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm Congregational Care	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am NO Knitting Group
4 9:30am Traditional Service w/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	5 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	6 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg	7 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8	9	10
11 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	12 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	13 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	14 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	15 6:30 pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm 1-1 Support Group	16	17 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 5:00pm NO Youth Group **Challenge deadline	19 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study	20 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish	21 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22	23 Youth Winter Retreat 7:00pm Silents In The Sanctuary	24
25 Youth Winter Retreat 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	26 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	27 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg.	28 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	1 6:30 pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm Congregational Care	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News



Update—as of January 28th, \$3,191 has been raised!! It is not too late to give to increase the number of meals we will prepare!



Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

MITTEN TREES.

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.

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."

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Washington st school is all set with winter clothes for now. They are still in need of school supplies. Please check the full list in the reception hall. Also, they have a birthday bin, in which they give a present to a child on their birthday. They would appreciate any donations for that.

Grade	Requests
1	Crayons (individual boxes of 8 crayons), kid size scissors, glue sticks, play dough toys (plastic cookie cutters, etc. ANY books especially easy readers, noise blocking headphones, indoor recess games, poser board, cardstock, post-its, markers, dry erase markers, tape, level A, B, and C
2	Pencils, erasers, glue sticks, crayons (boxes of 32), indoor recess games (Connect Fore, Go Fish, Trouble, etc.)
3	Pencils, eraser, lined loose leaf paper
4	Multiple boxes of dry erase markers and 3-5 timers
5	Pencils, glue sticks, tape, lined paper, pens, snacks
Sped K-3	Glue sticks, construction paper
K-5	Box of dry erase markers, pocket folder, notebooks (10 if possible), self-adhesive chart paper, No. 2 pencils, playing cards (or number cards)

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
November 14, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Deb Grehn, Jane Zadnik, Margaret Callaway, Phil Susag, Larry Fiano, Don Wilby, Pastor John Marshall, Terry Marshall, Bill Hyde, Pastor Dick Thompson, Kim Grehn, Pam Carpenter, Carol Goodwin, Nancy Dawson, Ed Dupont, J.T. Himmelstein.

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and Pam Carpenter read SUMC's vision and mission statements.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the October 10, 2017 Administrative Board meeting were reviewed.

There was a motion (Margaret Callaway, Bill Hyde) to accept the October 10, 2017 Administrative Board minutes inclusive of minor edits raised. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business discussed.

Committee Reports:

Scouts: Ed Dupont reported that BSA national has officially opened Cub Scouts to girls, starting next year. There will be a family-oriented focus and girls will be afforded the exact same program as boys. The transition process will begin with Cubs next year and move to Boy Scouts the following year. District Executive Sally Clement will be contacting Pastor John for the annual meeting with him as head of a chartered organization. There are 71 cub scouts currently registered.

Trustees: Pam Carpenter reported for the Trustees, stating that the work at 21 Hartford Road is progressing nicely and sheet rock and insulation are underway. The remainder of the Virginia Ryan estate has been received and the 21 Hartford Road property will be named the Virginia Ryan Next Generation Ministry Home. During the recent storm, a tree fell on a student's car at 48 Hartford Road. We are in contact with our insurance carrier for a determination of whether we are liable for damages. Two other trees that present risk will be taken down.

Finance: Kim Grehn advised that we have received 86 commitments and \$263,000 in pledges, and pledges are still coming in.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported on activities of the Outreach Commission. We are trying to keep up with MACC and respond appropriately to the families we have adopted for Joy of Sharing. Donna Costello has indicated that there is a great deal of organizational change at Washington School, with key contacts no longer in place, and a lot of foundation work has to be redone. The Crop Walk went well. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be delivered to their pick up point on the 15th. The Rise Against Hunger event has been slated for Saturday, April 21. Rebuilding Together activities are in a state of transition after years of faithful service by Pat Lapworth and the next event will be April 28. Prayers are appreciated.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Hyde reported that income for the month exceeded budget thanks to the fact that there were five Sundays and five weekly EFT days in the month of October. Our year-to-date income exceeds budgeted income by \$18,000. Expenses for the month were less than budgeted and actual year-to-date expenses are about \$9,000 less than budgeted. We have paid 87.5% of our 2017 Mission Share budget. The 2018 budget will be presented at next month's meeting.

Director of Ministries / Education: Terry Marshall reported that the Christmas Pageant is set for December 10, and 20 children are signed up to participate. A pancake breakfast hosted by the youth will also be held that day. The new Church Directory is going to be great and is in the proofreading stage. We're hoping it will be published by the end of the year. Stephen Ministries and Congregational Care are being joined under one umbrella and this will allow us to streamline meetings, etc. Five or six individuals from the getting acquainted sessions in the fall have indicated that they want to join the church.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that it's been an exciting month for Next Gen Ministries. The youth program is becoming more mission-oriented. With extra money that came in, they assembled 20 more cleaning buckets for a total of 61 buckets. There was a pie making night held for the young women's study group and a fun time was had by all.

The youth went to the Foster Farms Corn Maze on October 28. The youth and young adults helped park cars for the Fair and this service was greatly appreciated by those who attended. A youth "Rake and Run" was held November 12, providing leaf raking for some from the church who are unable to rake their own lawns. The youth winter retreat will be held February 23-25 at *Monadnock* Christian Conference Center in New Hampshire. The youth will do parking for the Road Race again this year. Young women's and young men's Bible studies are continuing.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): Nancy Dawson reported that SPRC met September 26 and came up with staff salary recommendations. They will be recommending to Finance a 3% increase across the board. The next meeting of SPRC will be held November 21.

Lay Leader's Report: A number from our church attended Bishop's Day in the District. Don Wilby and Deb Grehn are still reviewing materials brought back from annual conference for a possible class project or other activity.

Property Manager's Report: Larry Fiano reported that two telescopic ladders and two rope ladders have been purchased for the apartment, for use in case of fire or another emergency. We've been responding to the fire marshal's questions regarding our fire safety infrastructure. The snowplow contract for this winter will be \$300 less than last winter.

Archives: Phil Susag reported that he is reviewing materials for our archives. Storage of blueprints continues to be a big challenge and he wants to get digital copies made of some blueprints, while others related to Cheney properties may be better placed with the Manchester Historical Society. Phil is actively working on this project.

Social Concerns: Margaret Callaway presented a report of her research into whether the United Methodist Church provides any guidance on the subject of "sanctuary" and providing safe harbor for immigrants. While she found no specific information on the topic, she shared entries from the Discipline and the Book of Resolutions on how we should respond to the needs of other human beings. A discussion was held on the potential benefits and challenges of establishing a policy for SUMC. Margaret provided a copy of her report and it was agreed that we will bring information on this topic to future meetings, as appropriate.

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that Memorials year-to-date total \$21,000. Jane also reported on the Fair proceeds. After expenses, we made \$9,187 and these funds will go to UMCOR and other mission activities.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John advised that he recently provided a report on our 21 Hartford Road Project to District Superintendent David Calhoun. Regarding the 2018 staff salaries currently under consideration, Pastor John reminded the group that as an employer, we need to be just with our employees, in terms of salaries and related communications, and we need to pray about the choices we make. In response to a question, Pastor John advised that he is talking with Manchester Police about an appropriate safety plan for SUMC.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment:

There was a prayer by Pastor John and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Goodwin



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 18th ~

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 # _____