

Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE January 2013

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

January 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: info@southumc.com
Web address: southumc.com

January Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, January 20, 2013



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 (Children,
Youth and Adults)
- 11:45a - Contemporary
Worship with Wildfire
Worship Band

INSIDE THE JANUARY ISSUE

- January Worship 3
- SUMC News 3
- January Calendar 6
- Outreach News 8
- Admin. Board 10

THE CHALLENGE

JANUARY 2013

Pastor's Report: State of the Church, January 2013

"Abundant Blessings, Unlimited Opportunities!"

Dear Friends,

I write to you from the perspective of someone who has served as your pastor and spiritual leader for almost a year and a half. God is at work in us and through us. We are doing real ministry in Jesus' name. The activity of the Holy Spirit is evident in many aspects of the life of the church. I would like to begin by sharing a few observations of how God is abundantly blessing the people and mission of South Church.

Café Contemporary Worship Service: More and more people are experiencing worship in the informal coffee house atmosphere each Sunday at 11:45am. There is a wide cross section of children, youth and adults. If you haven't tried or experienced Sunday Worship in the café, why not give it a try?

Active Outreach Ministry: Each month our Outreach Commission gives us at least one opportunity to help people in need locally or around the world. For example, this year through the October Crop Walk you the people of South Church raised over \$3000 to feed hungry people locally, in the nation and around the world! Be watching the website, the Challenge Newsletter or our weekly bulletin for the latest project.

"Every believer in Jesus, has been gifted, equipped and called by God to do their part to make a difference in the world."

Energetic Sunday School for all ages: Our education commission does a phenomenal job of coordinating the educational, disciple making ministry of South Church. This outstanding program includes our highly successful Vacation Bible School each summer, June and September picnics, weekly Sunday school for everyone from nursery through adults and a memorable pageant each Christmas season.

Inspirational Music: The Chancel Choir, Wesley Ringers, Wesley brothers and Wildfire Praise band providing uplifting worship leadership throughout the Sundays and seasons of the year.

Active Youth Program: We are truly blessed to have an active program for youth from Grades 7-12. In addition to a weekly gathering on Sundays from 5-7pm, the youth take part in a winter retreat, a July mission trip and midweek basketball in the summer months.

I could go on and on, but it's easy to see how abundantly blessed we are by God here at South United Methodist Church. I deeply appreciate the faithful work so many of you do to make the ministries of South so outstanding!

But Friends we all know, if we are honest, there is much more that we can and should be doing. The account of Jesus feeding the 5000 (recorded in John 6, Luke 9, Mark 6 and Matthew 14) reminds us of our Lord's concern for the masses in our world who have yet to experience the need-meeting, life-changing, soul-saving Gospel message. As followers of Jesus, we truly have, **"All received one gracious blessing after another"** (John 1:16). Every believer in Jesus, has been gifted, equipped and called by God to do their part to make a difference in the world. It is my role as your pastor, with the support of the staff and lay leaders, to provide you with opportunities and training to make a difference through simple service in the church, community and world.



Pastors' Report: page 2.

Stephen Ministries: People receive training to care for others in Jesus' name through one-on-one intentional support in times of significant need or crisis. In the past, South church, like most others, has relied on the pastor(s) and staff to do most of the pastoral care needed. As I read the New Testament, and in light of our needed staff reductions, it has become clear to me that God intends everyone in the church, lay and clergy alike, to care for one another in need. Once the church makes the decision to enroll, we will be sending a team of three people to be trained at a national event, it is these leaders who will train the Stephen ministers. Training for Stephen ministers consists of 20 sessions for a total of 50 hours. It is my hope that this program would help to address the many needs existing in the congregation for support and caring.

Building Accessibility: We have a wonderful facility here at South Church that is showing its age in many ways. As you know our building has four levels, and this can present a multitude of challenges for carrying on the ministry and program of the church. To participate in our musical ensembles or to take part in a meeting or class on the second floor requires being physically capable of navigating 20 stairs. To attend a gathering Cooper Hall or the Café one has to go down a long flight of stairs or go outside and walk or drive around to the ramp. We are discovering every day how significantly this is undermining and limiting our ministry to people. I have heard from many of you and concur that we need to continue to seriously explore our accessibility at South Church.

An Inviting Facility/Building: In addition, many have noticed that areas in the original building as well as the education wing are in need of renovation or upgrading. These areas include Cooper Hall, the hallways and entrances to the church. South Church needs to be the kind of facility that people are drawn to, that they want to be in. It is precisely these qualities that have made South UMC a strong presence for Christ in Manchester for well over a century! The trustees have already sought and received the input of many committees and commission and we are hoping to work together some of these issues.

Sharing Our Faith: No ministry more defines the essence of a Christian church than communicating the message of Jesus Christ. Every member and friend of South Church needs to be able to be an effective witness for Jesus, and to be able to share what the Lord has done in our lives. We aren't called to be "Bible thumpers," but we are all challenged to be able to testify and report what God is doing in our lives, our homes and our church. I will look for ways in the coming year to equip you to share your faith or even invite a friend to South.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we celebrate and serve together. Truly God is abundantly blessing we the people of South Church. And as always there are also unlimited opportunities for expanding our work here in Manchester and beyond! **Do you believe that?**

In Service to Christ,

Pastor 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: info@southumc.com

Web address: southumc.com

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

Twitter: twitter.com/southumc

Text (SMS): (860) 281-SUMC [7862]

South Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14
Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11
Organist - Norman McFarlane
Director of Ministries - Terry Marshall ext. 15
Director Youth Ministries - Nick Adams ext. 13
Sexton - Ken Schaller ext. 20
Assistant Sexton - Don Wilby ext. 20
Office Managers - Colleen Olbert/Patti LaForest ext. 10
Rev. Dr. Chaudoin Callaway III (retired)
Rev. Richard Thompson (retired)

January Worship Themes

S
U
M
C
N
E
W
S

January 6, 2013 - Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men travel to Bethlehem to present their gifts to Jesus and worship Him.

Key Verse: "On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

Theme: The beginning of a New Year is a great opportunity to reflect upon our commitment to Jesus Christ.

Beatitudes: The blessed life? Is it a matter of happiness or is there something deeper that we can look for? In the opening to His landmark Sermon on the Mount, (found in Matthew 5:1-12), Jesus provides practical and profound insights into the human existence and how to have joy even during the darkest and coldest days of the year.

January 13, 2013 - Scripture: Matthew 5:1-5

The first three beatitudes are explored,

"Blessed are: the poor in spirit, those who mourn and the meek."

Key Verse: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)

Theme: Our relationship with God and our quest for meaning in life starts with humility.

January 20, 2013 - Scripture: Matthew 5:6-8

The heart of the beatitudes:

"Blessed are: those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, for they will see God."

Key Verse: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

Theme: The Christian life is marked by an insatiable hunger for God and a desire to live graciously toward others.

January 27, 2013 - Scripture: Matthew 5:9-12

The final two beatitudes: "Blessed are: the peacemakers, those who are persecuted for righteousness sake."

Key Verse: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10)

Theme: Those who are growing in their relationship with God, while seeking to bring people together, often attract, or experience, significant opposition from others.

COME PRAY WITH US!

To answer God's call for the church to "Carry each other's burdens" Galatians 6:2, SUMC is going to **re-establish an emergency prayer chain**. This will primarily be an email prayer chain. Its purpose will be to cover urgent prayer request needs that arise during the week until they can be passed onto the congregation for prayer on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in learning more or being a member of this prayer chain please contact Marnie Meek 860-646-6377 or sign up in Reception Hall.

Thank you to my church family

You have made it possible for me to go to Haiti. I will be working alongside Haitian masons building houses for the community, as well as completing various work projects at multiple construction sites. I will have an opportunity to build relationships with local Haitians, learning the local culture and living in community. This will be a phenomenal experience to engage in a new culture and see God's work first hand.

Thank you for your support and care.

Alex LaForest



Cleaning Buckets



To help UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) prepare for the next disaster to strike - every year there are massive storms causing widespread damage and destruction, our church will be putting together "Cleaning Buckets" (5 gallon buckets full of cleaning supplies). These buckets will be used to replenish UMCOR's supply, empty after Hurricane Sandy, to be ready for the next disaster. Families may put together their own bucket, the list of items to include (approximate value \$55) is available in Reception Hall, or contribute funds that will be used to purchase the needed items in bulk. Pastor Dick has already obtained the empty buckets, a donation from Home Depot. For more information or to make a donation, please visit the display in Reception Hall (directly adjacent to the Sanctuary). Donations may also be sent to the church office, or submitted in the Sunday offering plate - please note "for Cleaning Buckets". Working together with UMCOR, we'll be ready to help when the next storm hits!

South Church Ministry Celebration Set for January 27!

God is at work in the lives of people at South Church and we have much to celebrate. There will be a gathering downstairs in the Café at 11:45am on Sunday, January 27. We will have a potluck lunch, please sign up in Reception Hall to bring a main or side dish (dessert and drinks will be provided.) At this celebration, ministry and committee leaders will share what is happening in their areas and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year. We will also have the opportunity to answer questions that you may have about an area on the church. In order to have the most productive discussion, it would be helpful for the leaders to know your questions before the meeting. If you have a question that you would like to see discussed at our meeting, please talk to, email or call Pastor John by Friday, January 25th. He will share your question with the responsible person or persons.



Tea with Amanda

Join us Sunday, January 13th at 10:45 to hear about Amanda Costello's semester of nursing education in South Africa. Get yourself a cup of tea (or coffee) in Reception Hall and join us on the Main Street side of the Sanctuary.

Upcoming Youth Events

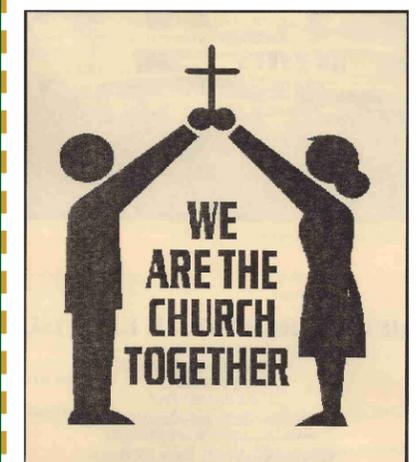
All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome

January 6—Youth Group at South SUMC. 5-7pm

January 13—Youth Group at South SUMC. 5-7pm

January 20—Youth Group at South SUMC. 5-7pm

January 27—Area Youth Gathering at Second Congregational Church 3-5pm



January 2013 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
6 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	7	8 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:00pm Commission/Committee Night	9 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	10	11	12
13 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	14	15 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:00pm Lydia Circle NO Ad Board	16 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17	18	19 9:30am Knitting Group
20 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	21	22 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship NO Staff Parish 7:30pm Prayer Chain Mtg	23 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	24	25	26
27 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am All Church Mtg/potluck 3:00pm Youth Group @ Second Congregational Church	28	29 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:30pm Finance	30 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	31	1	2 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

Crop Walk Report



We had a very successful walk on Sunday afternoon, October 21, a beautiful New England fall day. 165 walkers, representing 12 area congregations (5 churches more than last year) walked to raise funds to alleviate hunger and suffering both here in our own community (the MACC food pantry, soup kitchen and homeless shelter) and worldwide through the programs of Church World Service. In total \$10,872 was raised.

Representing South Church, we had 32 walkers (vs. 19 last year) and raised a total of \$3,530 (vs. \$2,646 last year). Our church earned the coveted "gold sneaker" as the congregation raising the most funds (2 years ago we earned the "bronze sneaker", last year we moved up to the "silver sneaker", this year top honors!).

Thank you to all the walkers and those that financially supported the walkers with their donations. Also thanks to the day-of-walk volunteers: Linda and Jane who ran the turnaround rest-stop at SUMC, and Marilyn, Edith and Clare who helped with registration and t-shirt sales at the start of the walk. Everyone helped make a difference in the lives of refugees, displaced people, and those struggling just to survive.

Other Money Matters

We were able to send in \$2200 for the special UMCOR offering for the victims of Storm Sandy. On top of that, our church is working to respond to the special request from our Bishop for the United Methodist churches and parsonages in New Jersey that suffered storm damage (UMCOR is limited in what it can give to those needs as over against people's homes). And finally in response to the request from North UMC for items for a train heading off to bring Christmas gifts to the kids in that area, we collected up six to ten grocery bags of items to send along. Merry Christmas to All!

Mission Trips

Alex LaForest will soon be heading off with a mission group at his college to spend several days in Haiti working on various mission projects. Many of our members joined with family and friends at a fund-raising pasta dinner in early December, and now we look forward to hearing about his experiences.

We are also looking forward to hearing about Amanda Costello's semester in South Africa as a part of her nursing education. According to her face-book page, she has had any number of wonderful experiences, from watching wild animals on safari to playing with very ill children in an understaffed medical facility.

And then a third traveler. Stephen McKay will be heading out to Taiwan for a geological study during the college semester break. Who knows what might come of that?

Cleaning Buckets

In response to many inquiries, we will be focusing during January on filling up cleaning buckets to replenish the supply used up by UMCOR in recent weeks. See Boris Gerber's report elsewhere.

Outreach News

Winter Clothing for Washington School ~ Mitten Tree



Help keep children wrapped in caring warmth this winter.

Needed donations: for kindergarten through Grade 5

Gently used or new coats. New hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, boots sweatpants, underwear and socks
Pants/sweatpants in sizes 6-7 are especially needed.

Place your donations on our "Giving Tree" in the Narthex and Reception Hall.



Thank you for supporting our outreach for the families and children at Washington School. Your clothing donations are greatly appreciated.

Seasonal Sharing

Our food and gifts went out on December 23 to 25 homes (with another 20 gifts for the residents of Green Lodge). Several of us had a chance to fill the boxes on the Friday evening before. We can only hope that they enjoyed opening them as much.

MACC Giving Tree at the Mall

The work is done. Thanks to all you tree-minders who helped people select tags and return the purchased gifts.

Providing warmth and planning recovery after Storm Sandy

In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Church World Service has shipped more than \$750,000 in material resources to agencies in affected areas, including Church World Service Blankets, Kits and Clean-up Buckets. Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible through "Blankets for Mothers' Day" and the "Crop Walk".

Pill Bottles

Keep them coming in. Estimates are that we have sent approximately 2500 bottles so far to be used in a mission in Haiti. Many people have begun collecting from their friends as well as bringing in their own bottles. Collection boxes are located in Reception Hall and the Café.

Food for MACC

Speaking of collecting up things, another of our members has begun collecting food from family and friends for the MACC pantry. That's good to hear. Meanwhile we noticed that the member we reported on some months ago stated in their Christmas letter that they had collected some 3500 non-perishable items from their neighbors over the past year and delivered them to the MACC Food Pantry. Anybody else want to join in?

Invitations

And finally we want to congratulate all the people who went ahead bravely and lived out their mission calling by inviting a friend or neighbor to come to church at some point during this Christmas Season. Well done!

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
October 9, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Carol Goodwin, Bill Hyde, Patti LaForest, Phil Susag, Don Wilby, Pastor Dick Thompson, Kim Grehn, Terry Marshall, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, Earle Bidwell, Margaret Callaway, Bob Thulin, Brian Mohr, Nick Adams.

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John said a prayer. Earle Bidwell read SUMC's vision and mission statements and Terry Marshall read a brief message, entitled "My Church."

Draft minutes of the September 11, 2012 meeting were reviewed. The following changes were brought forward regarding Committee Reports:

- Correct the spelling of Nick Adams' name in the Education Report.
- "Seasonal Sharing" should be corrected to read "Seasonal Ministries."
- First sentence in the Trustees' Report requires clarification to specify that the parapets are being repaired.
- "Human Resources" should be corrected to read "Town of Manchester Human Services" in the Outreach Report. Under Memorials, clarify that accessibility repairs are being made to the lower level men's bathroom.

There was a motion (Brian Mohr, Kim Grehn) to approve the Ad Board's September 11, 2012 meeting minutes with these changes. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

Committee Reports:

Outreach: Pastor Dick noted that he looked into Patti LaForest's suggestion that we donate backpacks through larger Town of Manchester Human Services efforts, however Washington School who currently receives our direct donations has come to depend on our help in this area. Plans for the Crop Walk and Seasonal Sharing are coming along nicely.. Pastor Dick read a letter received from Cedric Wins, Brigadier General U.S. Army, thanking us for school supplies sent to children in Afghanistan.

Director of Next Generation Ministries: Nick Adams explained that while the Youth Group has managed the Thanksgiving Day parking lot fundraiser for the past several years, he is looking for another committee or group to manage the effort this year. He will assist and provide guidance to whoever takes this on. A discussion followed and it was determined that the Property Committee, chaired by Bob Thulin, will manage it this year and work with Nick on the preparations.

A motion was made (Terry Marshall, Margaret Callaway) that the Ad Board receive a report of funds raised from the Thanksgiving parking lot fundraiser at their December meeting and make a determination as to how the funds will be used. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Finance: Kim Grehn stated that envelopes have been ordered. Quarterly statements are also ready to go out. The Finance Committee is working on the 2013 budget and we will likely have another spring pledge drive. Brian Mohr suggested it would be helpful if November month-end statements were sent, to inform giving decisions before the end of the year. Bill Hyde stated that September was a good month for income, with 5 Sundays. Expenses were just under budget for the month. We made an \$8,405 contribution in September towards Mission Shares and we have paid \$46,948 in total year to date, or 72.4% of our annual goal.

Education: Terry Marshall reported that Sunday School is generally going very well, with steady attendance and a well-received curriculum. There is some fluctuation in attendance at adult classes, and a current challenge is finding more handicap accessible spaces to meet. 3 were in attendance at the first newcomer's event last Sunday.

Music: Earle Bidwell informed the group that he is recruiting participants for the Christmas Candlelight Concert, which will involve 7 rehearsals. Everyone is welcome. There is also one slot open in the bell choir. The John Nilsen concert was a success.

Memorials: Deb Grehn read the memorials report from Thelma Dickerson. We've received \$25,835 in memorials year to date. There were no memorial funds received in September.

Property Committee: Bob Thulin reported on several property-related projects. The parsonage work is near complete and lots of compliments have been received. Accessibility work on the lower level men's room is near complete. Tile work is also being done on the lower level women's room to address some water damage. An estimate is being obtained for work on the Reredos, related to the new sanctuary screen that has been installed. Parapet and front step repair work are coming soon, and insurance money will help with the parapet work. Regarding the property at 21 Hartford Road, a small group met with Barbara Weinberg. Barbara is checking with Manchester Planning & Zoning to see if the lot may be divisible and if it is, the church may be able to sell a portion and keep a portion. The Historical Society will also be contacted again to see if there's any new interest. On the topic of an elevator, Bob has met with Architect Rick Lawrence and he shared with the group some drawings of a possible elevator placement adjacent to the Education Wing, with the elevator providing access to all three floors. We do not have estimates yet and discussions are at a very early stage.

Nick Adams requested that noise aspects be considered as part of planning for the elevator. Pastor John stated that available funds for an elevator total about \$109K (\$29K in designated funds and \$80K from Together for Tomorrow campaign, designated for accessibility). The Trustees are looking to prepare their plan and budget for next year. Committees should get their requests in by December 4 at the latest.

Seasonal Ministries: Brian Mohr informed the group of the following upcoming events: 12/1 is Christmas decorating and soup lunch, 12/15 is placing of the poinsettias, 12/22 is caroling at a nursing home and 1/6 is "un"decorating. The 2/12 Shrove Tuesday event will include a Pancake Olympics with expanded activities, including games and contests.

Lay Leader: Don Wilby reported that he had a great time at Alleluia Sunday. We will be the host church for Alleluia Sunday next year and the date is 10/6/2013. Don will form a planning committee in January for this event.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John attended a Stephen Ministries workshop in New Britain and is exploring the possibility of starting up this ministry at South Church. Stephen Ministries is focused on providing an extension of pastoral care by lay people, for those in crisis or in need. Pastor John's designated housing expenses for tax purposes were briefly discussed, as was the idea of inviting the Bishop to speak at South Church.

There was a motion (Nick Adams, Bill Hyde) to change Pastor John's housing expenses for tax purposes from \$1,000 to \$6,000, starting in 2012. All were in favor and the motion passed.

There was a motion (Brian Mohr, Phil Susag) to invite Bishop Devadhar to South Church to speak in 2013 or 2014. All were in favor and the motion passed.

New Business:

Terry Marshall reminded the group that there are 2 new people in the church office.

- Patti Laforest – Tuesday and Thursday evenings
 - Colleen Olbert – Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings
- Nick Adams is taking on new responsibilities, with two focus areas: (1) Director of Next Generation Ministries and (2) Technology.

Adjournment:

The next meeting of the Administrative Board will be Monday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. and this will be the Charge Conference. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

The Administrative Board

The Administrative Board is the governing body of South United Methodist Church. Any member of South United Methodist Church is invited to attend Administrative Board meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 12th at 7:30pm.

If you have any questions about the Administrative Board or about South Church, please feel free to contact Pastor John at (860) 647-9141 ext. 14 or e-mail pastorjohn@southumc.com.