

Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE January 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

February Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, January 18, 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

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THE CHALLENGE JANUARY 2015

Making the New Year Bright!

“Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun?” (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)”

Dear Friends,

The turn of the New Year can be a time to reflect and consider significant questions. Even if we are not among those who make resolutions or new commitments, many people do pause at least momentarily to observe that time is going by. It can be a time to take stock of who and what we are living for, a time to reflect on what we are doing and why.

For others the month of January can be a difficult time, following the joyous celebrations of Christmas and New Year’s. Research and experience tell us that many people struggle with the reduced amount of daylight and cold New England days. Where can we turn to look deeper at life? What can we read or do, when we are struggling with feeling low as we approach the middle of winter?

Life can have meaning when we live for God!

There is an ancient book in the Old Testament written by someone struggling with these very issues and challenges. The book of Ecclesiastes written by the “Preacher” or “Teacher” contains many valuable insights which help people like you and me answer some of life’s deeper questions or dilemmas.

Written by one who apparently experienced an abundant amount of life’s pleasures, riches and power, the preacher reminds us that all of these things are ultimately meaningless or pointless. In fact he writes nothing in life has value apart from God who gives us the ability to enjoy it. Life can have meaning when we live first “in” and “for” God. It is when we make God the end of existence, the ultimate point in our lives, that we discover life’s truest joy. If we heed his advice, we will be careful about depending too much on any experience, gadgets or possessions to provide us with real purpose or joy in life. The “key” the preacher/teacher would say, is to receive life as God’s gift, distributed to us in 24 hour/ day-size packages.

I invite and encourage you to join me in exploring these issues in the coming weeks during Sunday worship at South Church. Even now, you may want to begin reading the book of Ecclesiastes found in the Old Testament right after the Book of Proverbs. These are important steps that we can take to make the year 2015 a little brighter.

In Service to Christ,

Pastor John



January 2015 Worship Themes

January 4, 2015: Epiphany New Year's Sunday "That All Might Know"

Scripture: Ephesians 3:1-12

Focus Verse: "In Christ Jesus our Lord we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him." (Ephesians 3:12)

Theme: Christ came so that all people might have access to God.

Ecclesiastes: Facing Life's Deep Questions.

Description: Many people begin the year with a renewed commitment to improve themselves. Others struggle after the holiday season to find joy and meaning in life during the dark, cold days of winter. Wherever we are at, the writer of the ancient book of Ecclesiastes offers answers to some of life's most profound questions: what is the value of work? What is the place of pleasure? When all is said and done, how do we discover, or can we even know- life's ultimate purpose?

January 11, 2015: "What's the Point?"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Wrestling with life's futility and meaning.

Focus Verse: "Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity." (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

Theme: Apart from God, everything in life lacks an ultimate purpose.

January 18, 2015: "What are we living for?"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, 24-26. The limits of pleasure and enjoyment

Focus Verse: There is nothing better for mortals than to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in their toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God." (Ecclesiastes 2:24-5)

Theme: To enjoy life's pleasures to the fullest, we need to see them as gifts from God.

January 25, 2015: "What Time is It?"

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. "For everything there is a season..."

Focus Verse: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Theme: God invites people to discover, accept and appreciate each of life's passages.

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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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Silents in the Sanctuary!

South United Methodist Church presents

Harold Lloyd's famous comedy,

"Safety Last"



Accompanied on the Austin Organ by

Clark Wilson

January 30, at 7 PM,

\$10/adults \$5/kids

Hot Chocolate and Snacks to be served!

Fun for the whole family!



January 25, 2015

One Service at 10am

Followed by

All Church Meeting
and Potluck at 11am

Cooper Hall
All members & friends
Encouraged to attend



Reminder Committee Chairs

Annual Reports Due

January 11, 2015



Dear SUMC Congregation,
Our college students thank you for the care packages they received in time for Final exams! They really appreciated that South reached out to them during the push to the end. If you are aware of a college student that didn't receive a care package, please let JT know via e-mail (nextgen@southumc.com). Thanks, again!

Upcoming Youth Events

The youth are rolling into the new year with several Youth Groups this January! Come join the experience of worshipping God through song, reading and learning about His word, praying as one body, and playing great games together! Also, our Winter Retreat is coming up February 6-8. We're headed back to Monadnock, so please be sure to get your forms and deposits in on time (by Jan. 4)!

At the beginning of February there will be a Super Bowl party in the Cafe from 5-8 pm. That morning there will be a collection taken for the 'Souper Bowl'. Youth will be taking donations for MACC, so please come prepared that morning if you'd like to give!

Lastly, thank you very much to those who helped out before/during/after the Pancake Breakfast. It was such a blessing to see our church supporting one another and enjoying the food and song provided!

- 1/4 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 1/11 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 1/18 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 1/25 Youth Group 5pm at South

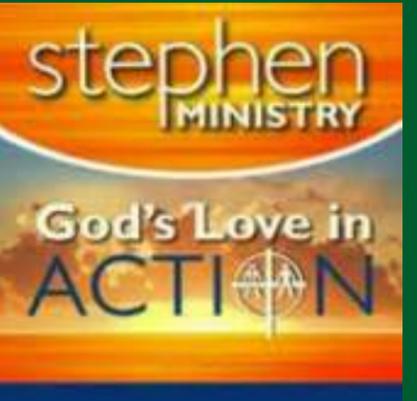
If you have any questions, please e-mail JT: nextgen@southumc.com



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 back in full swing after the Holidays...

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

Session Five-Distinctively Christian Caring (part 2)

This was the second of two sessions on this topic, our Stephen Ministers explored how Christian caregivers have something distinctive to offer that other caregivers cannot provide - God's unconditional love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. In this session Our Stephen Ministers specifically practiced and discussed the use of prayer, confession and absolution, and the Bible in caregiving relationships.

Session Six-Process versus Results in Caregiving

If ever there were a time for Stephen Minister Trainees to say "aha!" this class will be it. They will learn the key understanding that they don't have to (and indeed can't) fix whatever problem it is that their carereceiver faces. This session is a time for a collective sigh of relief. God is the caregiver; the Stephen Minister is the carereceiver. This establishment of roles is what makes Stephen Ministry possible. The concept runs counter to the strong results-oriented approaches of present-day society. But in caregiving, the more one pushes for results in another, the faster and farther they flee. Again...An important motto of Stephen Ministry is, "The Stephen Minister is the caregiver, and God is the curegiver."

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.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our Stephen Ministry program here at South UMC, as always we ask that you keep Stephen Ministry in your prayers as they seek together to minister and acquire new skills in order to bring Christ's love and care more adequately to hurting people on behalf of South Church.

Terry Marshall
Training Coordinator

January 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30pm NO Stephen Ministers	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
4 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	5 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	6 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	7 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm SM Supervision	9	10
11 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	12 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	13 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Ad Board (this month)	14 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	15 6:30pm Stephen Ministers	16	17 9:30am Knitting Group
18 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	19 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	20 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Staff Parish	21 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm SM Supervision	23	24
25 10:00am One Combined Service 11:00am All Church Mtg and Potluck 5:00pm Youth Group	26 6:30om Young Women Bible Study	27 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	28 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	29 6:30pm Stephen Ministers	30 7:00pm Silent Movie	31

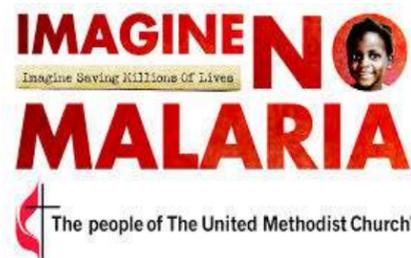
More South News



Help Capture the Giant Mosquito In our Sanctuary!

Please purchase a “link” that will be used to make a net to capture this mosquito - and help save the life of a child in Africa!

Can you imagine a world without malaria? Malaria is both preventable and curable. During January, the Outreach Commission will be selling the “links” in Reception Hall, for a donation of \$10 per link, and then using the links to make a net to capture the mosquito. Please join us as we join 11.5 million United Methodists worldwide to achieve a sustainable victory over malaria.



Mark your calendar
Saturday, April 18



Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

Mitten Tree We did well with our mitten trees for Washington School. It has been reported to us that when Bill McGugan showed up at the school with yet another bag full of your donations slung over his shoulder, that he was greeted with shouts of “Here comes Santa Claus.” Thanks for your contributions.

Seasonal Sharing By the time you read this, Christmas will have come and gone; we will have gathered up food and gifts for about twenty-five families (plus a few extra gifts for some folks in a small special care facility in town). You did great, by the way. All the gift cards were taken, and enough money came in that we could cover the few food items we were short and, in addition, purchase eggs, butter etc. at the last minute.

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday February 1, the Super Bowl Sunday, South Church will have its usual Souper Bowl offering, which will go to underwrite the work of MACC among the hungry.

No More Malaria We gathered up about \$3500 in the first year of our struggles to reach our commitment of \$5000. Maybe we can finish up in the month of January, 2015; we’re going to try. Word has it that there is a giant mosquito heading our way which must be restrained; watch for latest developments.

Thanks For A Good Year Your Outreach Committee has not heard any complaints about the degree to which we have asked you to reach into your hearts and pocketbooks for the various projects in 2014. We know it is a lot, and we don’t expect that everyone will want to respond to every appeal (or even be able to), but for those who are able and willing to respond at any time, we want to say, “Well done!” ... and to all: “Thanks for not complaining!”



Pecans!

United Methodist Women
still have pecans for sale
regular, milk chocolate covered and
dark chocolate covered!

See table in Reception Hall

**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

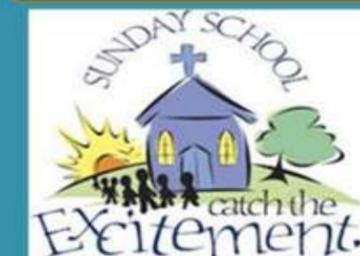
Adult
Social Justice

Pre-school

Jr. & Sr. High

Women
Cup of Joy

K – Grade 2



Men
Cup of Joe