

Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE January 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

February Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, January 24, 2016

THE CHALLENGE JANUARY 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

(Re) Discover Jesus

"Jesus said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon." (John 1:38-42)

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of a new year, many people set goals or make resolutions to improve their lives. One of the main areas we strive to grow in is spiritually. While it is true that many people are disillusioned with established churches, most are still open to spiritual growth or even striving to gain a better understanding of who Jesus was, and is. For those of us who consider ourselves to be followers of Jesus, we too are open and interested in learning more about him, learning how to live in, and for him. These two thoughts led me to the idea that starting 2016 with a study of Jesus would be helpful both to those of us in the church and those who we might invite to be a part of it.

Reading and reflecting on the Gospel of John can truly be life changing!

The Gospel of John is a wonderful place to start. The apostle John wrote with a particular intended spiritual outcome in mind. He hoped to help people discover, or rediscover who Jesus really was, and is. *"These (chapters) are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."* (John 20:31) To accomplish this goal, the apostle provides an intimate portrait of Jesus. In his Gospel, we find many detailed teachings as well as several extended conversations. These conversations are some that different individuals had with Jesus and they proved to be life-changing.

During these initial weeks of winter, we are going to explore together five of these conversations, or encounters with Jesus. Of course, on Sunday mornings, we will be highly selective, only having time to look at a fraction of John's Gospel, so it is my earnest hope and prayer that you will take the time to study this wonderful New Testament book on your own. The Gospel, having only twenty one chapters, can easily be read in a month's time or less. As you read you may find it helpful to trace certain words. The first of which is "sign". John chose seven signs, or miracles which demonstrate why He believed Jesus was the unique son of God. Another essential word to reflect upon when reading the fourth Gospel is, "believe". John describes people's response and reaction to Jesus in terms of either coming to believe in him or refusing to believe. His hope, of course, in writing is to provide the reader the basis needed for joining him in fully trusting (or believing) in Jesus for their salvation.

I hope that you will join me in worship at South Church whenever you are able this month. I would also encourage you to prayerfully consider inviting a friend or family member to join us. Everyone can benefit from accepting Jesus' invitation to, "Come and see" for themselves!

In Service to Christ,
John



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January 2016 Worship Themes

Description: At Christmas, our eyes are reopened to the wonder and miracle of God visiting our world in the person of His Son; Jesus Christ. As we begin the New Year, we will explore together how we can enter into a strong relationship with Jesus. We will discover, or rediscover that God meets us most often in ordinary places: by a tree, at a celebration, at the market, at a medical clinic. Texts from the Gospel of John will provide our access point.

January 10, 2016: "What does It Take to Believe?"

Scripture: John 1:43-51. Jesus finds a skeptic under a fig tree.

Focus Verse: "Jesus said to Nathanael, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.'" (John1:50)

Theme: We can trust the Lord who knows where we are and what we are going through.

January 17, 2016: "Supernatural Help at an Awkward Moment"

Scripture: John 2:1-11. Jesus turns water into wine at Cana in Galilee

Focus Verse: "His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'" (John 2:5)

Theme: We can trust the Lord to help us in life's challenging moments.

January 24, 2016: "An Evening Conversation Turns into a Night Class"

Scripture: John 3:1-17. Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

Focus Verse: Jesus said, "If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?" (John 3:12)

Theme: Truly trusting in the Lord is the foundation of our spiritual growth.

January 31, 2016: (one service at 10:00am) "Spiritual Refreshment at the Well"

Scripture: John 4:1-15. Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman.

Focus Verse: "Jesus said, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'" (John 4:10)

(John 4:10)

Theme: We can turn to the Lord when we are exhausted and in need of refreshment.

South United Methodist Church Contact Information

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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)

S

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

M

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. . .

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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:

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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

W

SESSION 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

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

S

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

Thank
you

From Joan Taylor

To All My Friends at SUMC,
Words cannot begin to express the outpouring of love I experienced last week. From the plant and prayers to communion and music filling my home, I cannot thank you enough. Also, the wonderful dinner on Christmas Day and later wrapping myself in the beautiful prayer shawl given to me by South.



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 ~ Sanctuary "round table"

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.



Upcoming Youth Events

Youth will be having Youth Group every Sunday other than the weekend of January 22-24 when we are away on the Winter Retreat to Berea, NH! We will be leaving from South on Friday, Jan. 22, at 3:00 pm and arriving back on Sunday, Jan. 24, at approximately 4:00 pm. Also, the Youth will be collecting money on Sunday, February 7th, for the Souper Bowl, and these donations will go straight to MACC. Please help us fight hunger! Later in the day there will be a Potluck Super Bowl Party starting at 6 pm in the Cafe for all who want to watch (start of the game to half time).



- 1/10 Youth Group at 5pm at South
- 1/17 Youth Group at 5pm at South
- 1/22-24 Winter Retreat (Leave at 3:00pm/Arrive back 4:00pm)
- 1/31 Youth Group at 5pm at South

South United Methodist Church

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

Pastor: Rev. John Marshall
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stephen
MINISTRY

God's Love in
ACTION

There are times when everyone of us experiences difficulties. . .

Please consider this excerpt taken from a letter written by one of our current Stephen Ministers. . .

"For those of you who don't know me, my name is Amy Cooper. I have attended SUMC since 2005. I joined the church and was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

As I came to know more of you and was so richly embraced, I wanted to find ways to be a better servant of God. On May 18, 2014, I was commissioned as a Stephen Minister.

At some points in life, everyone faces periods of crisis, transition or difficulty. It is during these times, people can receive great benefit from a confidential, caring relationship with someone who will faithfully listen, empathize, pray with, and for them, and encourage them with Christ's love and care.

Since my involvement with the Stephen Ministry, I have been faced with many things in my personal life including: a change in employment after 13 years with a company, the suicide of my former boyfriend, personal health concerns, long distance care giving for my mother and father in Northern NY, the death of my father the day after my 49th birthday, my Aunt's diagnosis of breast cancer, not to mention bouts of frustration, depression and anxiety.

I want to encourage each and every one of you to consider the real people in our congregation who care about you and have gone through at least 50 hours of training as well as making a 2 year commitment to "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2.

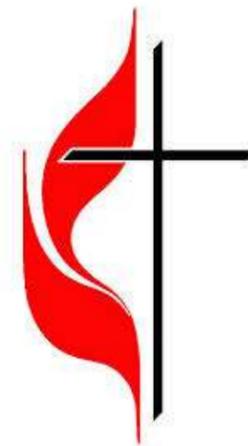
There are no small or inconsequential challenges, everything is real and relative to the individual facing it. Whether you, or someone close to you, is going through grief, relationship struggles, cancer, financial difficulties, job loss, spiritual crisis, or just want to have someone to talk with, Stephen Ministers are here in our congregation to care for you.

My life has been blessed through my training, and through the support of our Stephen Ministers."

If you are interested in more information about Stephen Ministry, please see Pastor John or Terry, or call the church office at [860-647-9141](tel:860-647-9141).

January 31, 2016

One Service at 10am
Annual Church Celebration
& light lunch



Reminder Committee Chairs
Annual Reports Due
January 17, 2016

January 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 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	28	29 12pm Bulletin Deadline	30 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	31	1	2 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
3 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	4	5 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	6 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	7 6:30pm SM Supervision	8	9
10 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	11	12 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Ad Board	13 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14	15	16 9:30am Knitting Group
17 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	18	19 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm Staff Parish Mtg	20 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21 6:30pm SM Supervision	22 23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Winter Retreat - Youth </div>	
24 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 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;"> Winter Retreat </div> **Challenge deadline	25	26 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	27 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	28	29	30
31 10am One Combined Service Annual Church Celebration 11:30am Fellowship time	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

More South News



Stop Hunger Now - Fund Raising in January

This program has become very popular here at South these past few years, and we invite you to join in again this year. On Saturday morning April 16, we will 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 are collecting money on Sundays, January 10, 17, and 24 (or you can send a check to the church office).

The lunches are distributed primarily through schools, which brings a double blessing. Parents are much more likely to send their children to school in impoverished areas if they can count on them being fed, so the kids not only get to eat, they also get to learn.

If you'd like to know more about the program, their web site has some great stuff. One of the things we learned was that in 10 years, the group has sent out over 234,000,000 meals to 71 countries.



Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

HI HO FAIR All of the profits from the Fair (and the Mini-Fair) go directly into mission work around the world through United Methodist Women. What a great gift.

MITTEN TREE The mitten trees are up and winter clothing is coming in for Washington School so the school nurse can hand items out to kids who are in need of them. We got a head start on this with a special appeal this fall, but items are still coming in, and we're going to leave the trees up for a little longer in case you should come across any post-Christmas bargains on mittens, hats, scarfs, sweat pants, etc.

SOUPER BOWL Once again we will honoring the Super Bowl on February 7 with soup bowls full of money for the hungry. Watch for more news.

SEASONAL SHARING Our food and gifts went out on December 20 to 27 homes (with another 20 gifts for the residents of Green Manor). Several of us had a chance to fill the boxes on the Friday evening before. We can only hope that they enjoyed receiving them as much as we did putting them together.

STOP HUNGER NOW We will be collecting money for this popular project in January. The actual program is not until April 16, but we can't wait that long to send in the money for the food we will package.

THANKS FOR A GOOD YEAR Once again, during 2015, we have asked you to reach into your hearts and pocketbooks many times for various projects. We know it is a lot, and we don't ever 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, we say, "Thanks for not complaining!"

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!



Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias to help make our Sanctuary look festive and helped to deliver to our members unable to attend church. Thank you!

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.

2016 Offering envelopes are in! You can pick up your envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary.

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
October 20, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Carol Goodwin, Jane Zadnik, Pam Carpenter, Terry Marshall, Deb Grehn, Pastor John Marshall, J.T. Himmelstein, Margaret Callaway, Patti LaForest, Pastor Dick Thompson, Phil Susag, Derek Wilson, Don Wilby, Bill Hyde

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 shared a verse from 1 Corinthians 15: "Be Strong and Immoveable," and an opening prayer.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting were reviewed and minor edits were raised. *There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Margaret Callaway) to accept the minutes inclusive of the edits; all were in favor and the motion carried.*

Unfinished Business:

Church Archives: Phil Susag asked whether there had been any progress on the idea of a Church Archivist and an Archives Room. Pastor John responded that he has brought this idea to the Trustees for their consideration, but there has been no action yet.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Bill Hyde reported that after being on budget for income through the end of August, there was a significant drop in September and income was \$11,000 below budget. As a result, \$3,000 from our Reserve Mission Fund was used to pay our monthly budgeted mission shares. We have paid 76% of our annual mission shares, to date. We have also received notice that our mission shares will increase 2.24% for 2016. The Finance Committee will use current budgets for committees/commissions for 2016, unless they receive a specific request otherwise. The Church received and is holding a \$200 donation to assist with the establishment of an Archive Center.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that corn maze events were held for both youth and young adults. The youth group is meeting regularly and young adult Bible studies are going well.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that the Outreach Commission is reaching out through many activities, including the following: Washington School (clothes are coming in slowly, but more underwear, socks and sweat pants size 6,7 and 8 are needed); Crop Hunger Walk (19 from South Church attended and over \$4,300 was raised!); Operation Christmas Child (Jill Smith has introduced this program in connection with Samaritan's Purse and many boxes are being filled); Mitten Tree (the trees are up in the Narthex and Reception Hall and hats, mittens, sweatpants are needed); Seasonal Sharing (activities are gearing up for us to assist 25 families by providing Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Dinner as well as Christmas gifts).

Social Justice Group: Pastor Dick reported that the Social Justice Group is still struggling to define their identity and specific role for serving those in need. Prayers are requested for this to be made clear.

Pastoral Intern: Derek Wilson reported that the basic structure of a congregational care system is now in place at South Church. He is getting input from several SUMC leaders as he builds the program, which should be rolling out soon. There were 15 in attendance for the first Spiritual Gifts Class.

Lay Leader: Don Wilby reported that several from South Church attended Alleluia Sunday at Wesley U.M. Church in Springfield, MA, where Terry Marshall and Phil Susag were voted in as Equalization Members to Annual Conference. Don also listed the following upcoming events: Equipping Church Leaders Resource Day November 7 at Trinity U.M. Church in Springfield, and Bishop's Day in the District November 12 at First U.M. Church in Stafford Springs. Deb Grehn notified the group of a History of Gospel Music event being planned by the District Ministry Team for February, with SUMC as the possible venue.

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that the memorial fund received \$1,275 in gifts for the period September 16 through October 20. Memorials receipts year to date total \$2,675.

Trustees: Pam Carpenter reported for the Trustees. Elevator update: We're down to punch list for the inside work and we're awaiting inspection from the State. There's more to be done outside, but progress is good. Heat has been restored temporarily in the Education Wing, but we are awaiting a new heat pump. A signed contract is now in place for the sale of Jesse Lee House to Walden Behavioral. The housing option being investigated for our pastoral intern at Susanna Wesley Hall is not viable due to Town restrictions at the site.

Education: Terry Marshall reported that this Sunday is Bible Sunday, with 4 receiving Bibles. An Education family event will be held the first Sunday of Advent. The Christmas Pageant will be December 6, with a combined service followed by a pancake breakfast. Adult Sunday School classes are going very well, with excellent attendance. Newcomers classes are starting up again this Sunday. The Education Commission has received a monetary gift and is looking into purchasing a paging system for the Nursery. SUMC will host a Stephen Ministers workshop for area churches on March 5, 2016.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that our District Superintendent has assigned an Elder, Ho-Soon Han, to preside at our church conference on December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Café. We will approve our 2016 Budget at this meeting. D.S. David Calhoun will meet with our Staff Parish Relations Commission on October 23 at North UMC. Pastor John stated that the new elevator has been a struggle on a number of fronts, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. We're happy with the quality of the work and anticipate being pleased with the end product.

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC): Deb Grehn gave the SPRC report for Janet Schmidt, who was unable to attend the meeting. SPRC met on September 29 to address staff salaries for 2016. SPRC will be completing the Church Appointment Update Report and the Local Church Profile at their next meeting on November 17.

New Business: Terry Marshall stated that with the change in the Fair date to November 7, we're looking for some more volunteers to assist with set up, clean up, and working the Fair.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

What can I do on the church website? (southumc.com)



Read the Challenge



Look at Announcements



Do daily Devotions



Listen to a Sermon



Check the Calendar