



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE January 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

February Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, January 21, 2018



THE CHALLENGE JANUARY 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

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Rules to Live By!

"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)

Dear Friends,

Most of us, if we are being honest would say that we struggle with rules. We find it difficult to obey, follow, and heed warnings. "The speed limit is a guideline, a suggestion, I need to keep up with traffic." Ever heard that? Ever said something like it? We live in a society filled with people like us, who chafe at the rules and struggle with authority. As we begin a new year, we would do well to remind ourselves of God's intention for humanity. God presents His law not as a plan to kill our joy or limit our fulfillment, but rather so that we might live and thrive in the world God made. In the book of Deuteronomy, we will look at four texts which demonstrate God's purpose in giving humanity rules: that we might live.

Near the end of his life the ancient prophet Moses wanted to instruct those younger than him on how to live God's way in the world. The Old Testament book we know as Deuteronomy consists of three speeches given by Moses in which he summarizes God's instructions for his people. While there are many specific statutes in regulations in the law God gave to Moses, in Deuteronomy we also find many overarching principles stating how God intends His people to live and thrive in the world. "Love God, serve God, fear God..."

We see the heart of God behind the rules He gives: "Oh that they would always have hearts like this, that they might fear me and to obey all my commands! If they did, they and their descendants would prosper forever." (Deuteronomy 5:29)

God wants people to live well and to live long. God wants people to have manageable levels of stress. God intends for people to get along with each other. God loves children, orphans, widows, the poor and all those without resources and power in this world and wants to protect all of these groups. The world in which we live can be a dangerous place and God wants to protect people from making choices He knows are destructive. Indeed, God wants people to live well and live long in this world.

Ultimately of course all of this points to the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ who came into our world saying, "I have not come to abolish the law rather to fulfill it. (see Matthew 5:17)." It was Jesus who said, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10). Without His help, we will always struggle to truly live God's way, that is keeping His commands. However, as we trust Jesus, who perfectly kept the law, through His Spirit at work in us, we find the help we need to live by God's rules.

God wants people to live well and live long in this world.

In Service to Christ,
John



January 2018 Worship Themes

January 7, 2018: "Loving God"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:1-9. "...That you may enjoy long life."

Focus Verse: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Theme: God gave His law to people so that we might truly live and thrive in the world.

January 14, 2018: "The Ten Commandments: Part 1."

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:6-15. Honoring God, the first four commandments

Focus Verse: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me." (Deuteronomy 5:6-7)

Theme: We find life by loving and honoring God above anyone and anything else.

January 21, 2018: "The Ten Commandments: Part 2."

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:16-20. Loving on another, the last six commandments

Focus Verse: "You shall not murder. Neither shall you commit adultery. Neither shall you steal." (Deuteronomy 5:17-19)

Theme: We find life by truly respecting and valuing other people.

January 28, 2018: "The Blessings of Obedience"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-14. The blessing of following God's path

Focus Verse: "The LORD will make you the head, and not the tail; you shall be only at the top, and not at the bottom--if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today, by diligently observing them." (Deuteronomy 28:13)

Theme: All things being equal, life is better when we live by God's commands.

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.

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: 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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Trustees News

Submitted by Earle Bidwell, Vice-Chair

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Aging Campus Much of what has occupied the Trustees time, energy and resources, over the last three months, has been attending to issues related to an aging campus. Electrical service has been upgraded in several areas of the church. Plumbing and heating problems have been addressed in the main building and at Susannah Wesley. Two trees have been removed from between the church and 21 Hartford Road to address safety concerns. Trustees have also approved replacing the sound systems in both the Sanctuary and *The Café*. This work will commence, under the direction of Nick Booth and David Bidwell, after Christmas.

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21 Hartford Road Because of the age of the house, it was necessary to upgrade all of the utilities including new water pipes, gas lines and electrical service from the street. All of this was accomplished before the cold weather set in. Jim Hoagland has been working with Andrew Bushnell to draw up a site plan to address parking for the church and the NextGen house, access to the barn, repairs to the retaining wall and general landscaping.

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Inside, the house has been insulated, walls are up, rough plumbing and electrical completed, and painting is progressing at a rapid pace. Hardwood floors have been installed and/or refinished on most of the second floor, appliances have been purchased, and cabinetry is being mounted in the kitchen.

The Administrative Board has authorized the Trustees to spend additional money from the estate of Virginia Ryan to finish the work. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in the spring, and that our five building campus will be fully utilized in furthering our mission to support the growing ministries of South United Methodist Church.

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Reminder Committee Chairs
Annual Reports Due
in the office

January 14, 2018

Submit electronically or
in print

Thank You!



Annual Church
Conference

Monday,
January 29th
7pm

All members are invited
and encouraged
to attend



THE CROSSING

Thank you to all of those that prayed for the College Care Packages that were sent to college and graduate students from South Church! Several students responded with heart-felt gratitude and joy, so it seems to clearly be a difference-maker during Finals season.

There was a combined Youth/Young Adult Christmas Party on December 17, and the group had an opportunity to make up 30 Blessings Bags to help those in need during this winter season. Thank you to those who donated the items and food to make this event possible!



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).



South Church is sponsoring a Habitat For Humanity Build Day in East Hartford on January 27, 2018. Habitat helps to make home ownership affordable for those who might otherwise not have been able to afford their own home. Volunteers work alongside prospective homeowners as they invest their "sweat equity."

We are supporting Habitat and a homeowner partner with our skills and financial support. Come share your building/handyperson skills or learn a new skill. The house will most likely be in the finishing stages in January. There are a limited number of volunteer spaces, so contact Jeff Kieft to reserve your place: gjkieft@yahoo.com or 720-882-8796. Whether or not you want to volunteer on site, if you have a heart for Habitat and would like to contribute monetarily, text Habitat directly at <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/SUMC> or donate through SUMC.



"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!



Thank you to all of those who made the Pancake Breakfast possible! It was a great event, and the Youth really enjoyed hosting the congregation for a meal. And thank you to all of those who donated and tipped the Youth in support of the Youth Mission Fund.

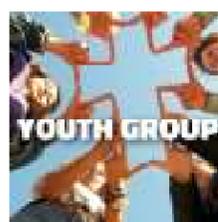
The Youth program will be going on its Annual Youth Winter Retreat to Monadnock from February 23-25, and this weekend-long event will be all about "Knowing Hope". See Monadnock's website (www.monadnockchristianministries.org/encounter) for details. For those that have already committed to the Retreat the 2nd deposit and scanned copies of health insurance cards are due on January 21. If you/your Youth is interested in attending the event and has been unable to turn in paperwork please see JT ASAP.

The Youth program will be going to Portland, ME from July 22-27 for its Annual Youth Mission Trip, and this week-long event will focus on helping the community through word and deed. If you/your Youth would like to attend the trip please let JT know. FYI Paperwork has not been made available yet.

Upcoming Youth Events

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

- 01/07 Youth Group at 5pm
- 01/14 Youth Group at 5pm
- 01/21 Youth Group at 5pm
- 01/28 Youth Group at 5pm



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

January 2018 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|-----------|--|
| 31 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 | 1 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study | 2 12pm Bulletin Deadline | 3 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 4 6:30pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm Congregational Care | 5 | 6 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group |
| 7 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 | 8 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study | 9 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg 7:30pm NO Ad Board | 10 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 11 6:30 pm Stephen Leaders 7:30pm Lay Leadership | 12 | 13 |
| 14 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 | 15 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study | 16 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish | 17 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 18 6:30 pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm Stephen Ministries | 19 | 20 9:30am Knitting Group |
| 21 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 **Challenge deadline | 22 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study | 23 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg. | 24 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 25 | 26 | 27 9:00am Habitat Work Day |
| 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 | 2 | 3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group |

More South News



PREPARING TO STOP HUNGER

Each spring, approximately sixty members of our congregation gather together and pack bag after bag of lunches for school children in an impoverished part of the world. We have a great time. All the teacher has to do is add a little water and cook the combination of rice, soy, flavoring and vitamins.

Before that, however, we need to collect at least \$3000 to pay for the ingredients and for shipping (that's to insure it's worth the commitment of their truck and driver). If we get more than \$3000, we get to pack and send even more food. There will be three Sundays during January (the 7th, 14th, and 21st) to collect your financial contributions and send them to Rise Against Hunger. Please help us to meet our goal.



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."

A Glimpse of the Pageant!



**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
October 10, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

**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

More Pageant!

