



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE June 2017

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



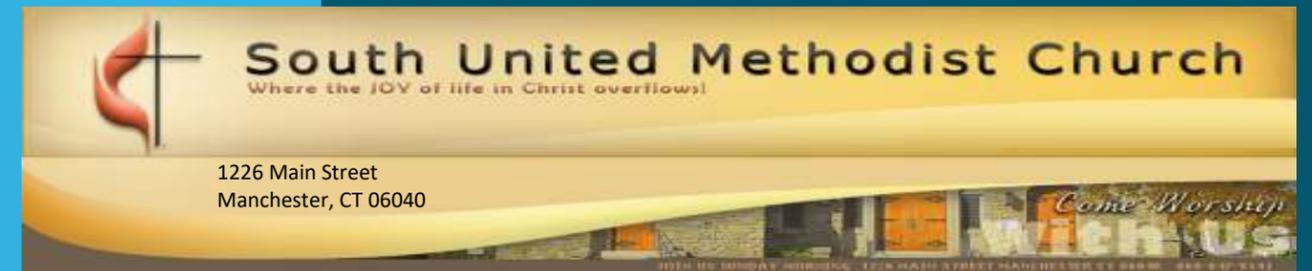
"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

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**
(11:15 a.m. **Contemporary Worship June 18-Sept 3)**
Wildfire Worship Band in the Café

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
Summer Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, July 23, 2017



**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
- June 11th 10am service
- June 18th
Summer hours begin
9:30a Traditional
11:15a Contemporary

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JUNE
ISSUE**

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THE CHALLENGE JUNE 2017

The One Who Helps...

"This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."

Dear Friends,

It's a windy day at the lake. I can't see the wind, however looking out my study window, I can see the leaves of the trees in constant motion, I can see branches bending. But I can't see the wind. I can see the smooth surface of the lake turn suddenly rough with white caps due to strong gusts. But I can't see the wind. I can see freshly nailed tar paper on a roof at a camp next door now loosely blowing in the wind. But I can't see the wind. I can see the effects of the wind. So it is with the Holy Spirit of God. Our Lord had much to say and teach about the person and activity of the Holy Spirit. Let's look at a couple.

God gives the Holy Spirit to be with us. Jesus himself physically lived in our world for a brief period of time, spending just three years with His followers. While living in our world, our Lord could only be in one place at a time. But he promised that he would ask His Father to send the Holy Spirit, "to be with you forever." (John 14:16). Now God is within every person, everywhere who believes in his Son. To believe in Jesus is to repent of our human tendency to be self-absorbed and to invite Him to reside in us. If you believe in Jesus, whether your faith is weak or strong, He is there.

We can't see the Spirit! But we can feel His peace; a persistent calm in the midst of turbulent, often stormy times of life. And yet even when we feel nothing, the Lord by his Spirit, is with us. How can I be so sure? Jesus himself said so. "Be sure of this, I am with you always to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b). No, we can't see the Spirit. But we can trust our Lord's words in the Scriptures given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

God gives the Holy Spirit to help us. Jesus taught that his followers would carry on his work with his help. The Holy Spirit is the "paraclete," which we translate advocate, comforter, counselor or helper. The Spirit teams up, or partners, with believers individually and collectively. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can do the "greater works" that Jesus promised in John 14:12. We can't see the Spirit. But we can see the help he provides. At the Spring concert, we could see how the Holy Spirit helped individual ringers, vocalists, organists and pianists, perform music that touched the hearts and souls of so many. We can't see the Spirit. But we can see the effect of the Holy Spirit working in us, with us, through us and beyond us empowering the work of our Lord. As we gather in worship this month in the sanctuary and the café, we will learn more about the One who helps!

In service to Christ, giver of the Holy Spirit,
John



June 2017 Worship Themes

June 4, 2017: Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: John 14:12-17. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
Focus Verse: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever." (John 14:16)
Theme: God gave his Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of those who believe in Jesus.

June 11, 2017: Youth Sunday

Scripture: John 1:14. The word became flesh and dwelled with us.
Focus Verse: "So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." (John 1:14, NLT)
Theme: In Jesus, God became human and lived with us.

June 18, 2017: There's No Need to Fear...

Scripture: Psalm 27:1-4. The Lord is my light, my salvation, my protection.
Focus Verse: "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)
Theme: With the Lord living in our hearts, what is there to fear?

June 25, 2017: How Long...?

Scripture: Psalm 13. A prayer in the midst in suffering.
Focus Verse: "How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?" (Psalm 13:2)
Theme: We trust in the Lord to see us through unpleasant times of life.

July 2, 2017: The Lord is our strength.

Scripture: Psalm 28:6-9. God gives His people help and strength.
Focus Verse: "The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." (Psalm 28:7)
Theme: We rely on the Lord for the strength needed to thrive in challenging days.

South United Methodist Church Contact Information

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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

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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The 2017 New England Annual Conference sessions will be held June 14-17. More than 1200 clergy and laity will gather at The Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH for worship, learning, and conference business.

The opening worship session will be Thursday, June 15 at 10:30am, and it will be available as a LIVE webcast at www.neumc.org/livestreamannualconference2017

A full webcast schedule for the duration of the Annual Conference session is available on that page as well.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for our Annual Conference, our Bishop, Sudarshana Devadar, our District Superintendent, Rev. David Calhoun, our Pastor John, our Lay Member, Don Wilby, Pastor Dick & Jane, Equalization members, Phil Susag & Terry Marshall, and all those who will be attending and/or representing South Church, Thank you!

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Heifer Special Collection - At Our All Church Picnic June 11



Almost 70 years ago, Dan West herded 17 heifers onto a boat in Mobile, Alabama, and shipped them to Puerto Rico, where they were given to families whose children had never before tasted milk. This was the beginning of Heifer International, a relief organization that from the beginning has been about giving the world's rural poor what is necessary for them to support themselves rather than making them dependent upon short-term relief. Heifers are young cows that haven't yet given birth, with a long life ahead of them to supply their owners with milk and calves. When Heifer International gives a family a heifer, it comes with the obligation on that family to make a gift of the first female calf to another family. Since 1944, when the first boatload of heifers were shipped, more than 12 million families in 125 countries have received livestock through the network of giving that Heifer International has built up.

And it is more than cows. Heifer International gives poor rural families in the developing world pigs, goats, sheep, geese, llamas, water buffaloes, chickens, rabbits, and beehives, all with the requirement that the first offspring of these animals be donated to neighbors. And if the know-how to care for these animals is lacking, Heifer International ensures that the families are trained and provided with the necessary equipment to raise and make use of the animals it gives.



Remember to Bring Your "Fill the Ark" Banks to the Picnic on June 11 to Buy Animals!



Young Adult Bible Studies are actively meeting right now, and a summer schedule for all YA Activities is going to be available by June 4! Our hope is to create opportunities for this group to serve God, grow closer together through Scripture and honest dialogue, and to have some fun together and with other Young Adults!

If you're interested in becoming part of the Young Adult Group (Ages 18-30) contact JT or Catey for specifics! nextgen@southumc.com.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the cards, letters, flowers and visits. Happy to be home in my new first floor apartment- 850 Parker Street, Unit 251, Manchester, CT 06042. Hope to see you all soon.
Bill Lennon

Upcoming Youth Events

The Youth Mission Trip is coming up soon: July 16-21 to Warrensburg, NY! The cost is \$175 per person, and forms are available in the Youth Room or upon request. Scholarship is also available. For those that have already signed up the 2nd deposit of \$75 and scanned copies of Health Insurance cards are due June 4th.

Also Youth Sunday is coming up on June 11th, and if you have a graduate in your family please let JT know the school your youth attends and what they intend to do after graduating high school.

- 6/4 Youth Group @5pm
- 6/11 Youth Group @12:30pm (picnic)
- 6/18 NO Youth Group
- 6/25 Youth Group @5pm



Save the date!
Day Camp, 2017
(Vacation Bible School)

When: August 21-25, 9am-12pm
Where: Here at South Church
Cost: On or before July 15: \$20/child
after July 15: \$25/child

Registration forms are available on the website

If you would like to volunteer, please let Terry M. know



Join us Saturday, June 17th
Hyde Park - Stafford Springs
12pm to 3pm
Our own Wildfire will be performing!
Come and support them!



Everyone is invited to our...
All-Church Picnic
Sunday, June 11
following our ONE 10am -
Youth Sunday Service
Bring a side-dish to share
Meat, Drinks and Dessert provided.
Hope you can join us!



South UMC VBS, 2017
August 21-25
9am-12pm

We need YOUR help for our Vacation Bible School to be the great success we all hope it will be. People of all ages, in all capacities with all kinds of talents are NEEDED. Please consider giving some of your time and talents to make this year's VBS the best one ever!

Please complete this volunteer survey and place it in the offering plate or the collection box by the donation board in Reception Hall or The Café. **Thank You!**

Yes I want to help with our VBS (Aug. 21-25)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

- I can be there every morning, all week (8:30am to 12:30pm) as a volunteer
- I am available on: M T W R F (circle)
- I can help with preparations prior to the week of VBS - Please call me

I am interested in helping in the following areas:
(Please check ALL that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader in Training (6/7grade) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Decorating | <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader (8th grade and up) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Ice Cream Social (Thurs, 24th) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Sciency-fun | <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Clean-Up (Fri, 25th) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Skits/Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Games |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/ Snack Time | <input type="checkbox"/> Help where needed |

June 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	29 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm NO Young Women's Studies	30 12pm Bulletin Deadline	31 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	1	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group 11:00am Beverly Winful Memorial Service
4 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Going Deeper 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	5 6:30pm Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	6 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	7 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	8 7:30pm SM SM Supervision	9	10
11 10:00am Combined Service 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:30am All Church Picnic 11:45 am NO Contemporary 12:30pm Youth Group - picnic	12 6:30pm Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	13 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	14 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	15	16	17 9:30am Knitting Group
18 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 10:45am Wildfire 11:15am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	19 6:30pm Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	20 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:00pm Lydia Circle Picnic at Judy Hyde's 7:30pm NO Staff Parish	21 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	22 7:30pm SM SM Supervision	23	24
25 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 10:45am Wildfire 11:15am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	26 6:30pm NO Young Men 6:30pm Young Women's Studies	27 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Committee	28 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	29	30	1 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News



Important update from Operation Christmas Child

Please read the following update I received from Samaritan's Purse recently, and keep it in mind as you plan for how you will fill shoeboxes this year. Please consider shopping year-round for items to fill a shoebox, so your expenses are spread out over several months.

For more than 10 years, Samaritan's Purse has asked for a \$7 donation to help pay the processing and shipping costs of each Operation Christmas Child shoebox. This year we are raising this slightly to \$9, due to increasing costs associated with collection, processing, shipping, and distribution. To ship a five-pound, gift-filled shoebox from the U.S. to Kenya via the post office would cost almost \$70! To send the same box to the Philippines or Argentina would cost about \$60. Those are just three countries, and we deliver to more than 100 countries worldwide every year!

In addition to logistics, the \$9 donation covers the cost of The Greatest Gift—a Gospel story booklet that accompanies most shoebox gifts. It also provides a resource that trains local churches around the world on how to host an outreach event and share the Good News in a child-friendly way.

Please also note that **candy and toothpaste** are no longer allowed in shoebox gifts due to customs regulations. These items can prevent or delay shoeboxes from entering an increasing number of countries, thereby hindering the opportunity to share God's love with children in need.

We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel and praise God that more than 11 million shoebox gifts were collected last year. Every shoebox gift is a tangible demonstration of God's love to a boy or girl in need.



Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

So much success So much to do

Thanks to all of you for the contributions you make to the SUMC Outreach programs! YOU make a difference! TOGETHER, we all make a difference! Highlights of our Outreach initiatives during late April/early May are:

COMPASSION SUNDAY ... Our thanks to Bill McGugan and Tatiana Lukyanova for offering the congregation the chance to sponsor a child through "Compassion International" We hear that at least sixteen children will be helped to flourish as they grow.

HEIFER PROJECT ... is in full swing! Both collection boxes and calendars remain available in Reception Hall and The Café. This fabulous international venture benefits poor and disenfranchised individuals throughout the world by providing tools, animals and other resources which give them the opportunity to help themselves. Our culminating activity and contribution collection will occur at the All Church Picnic on Sunday, June 11.

MOTHER'S DAY BLANKETS A project that is always a blessing for all involved! The "numbers" are not yet in ... but the donations were ever so generous. This generosity will help people in the United States and beyond when disaster strikes. More to come!

REBUILDING TOGETHER 20+ volunteers helped to bring a home in Manchester back to "life". Hard times and illness had plagued the homeowner who was ever so thankful for our help. The lawnmower even got fixed!!

WASHINGTON SCHOOL Numerous initiatives for this needy Manchester elementary school occurred during late April / early May:

CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION ... Sheridan Meek collected and donated over 100 books. Summer is coming ... keep the donations coming. Thank you Sheridan!

GROW CEREMONY Donna Costello and Lin Daniels attended this monthly event that recognizes the children's achievements and milestones

TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST ... we supported this great event with volunteers and food.

ZUMBA NIGHT ... 6 SUMC members helped out at the activity. Our church also donated water, juice and pretzels to the participants.

Did you miss a sermon or just want to hear it again?

Or

Want to start a daily devotional?

You can find both on our website Southumc.com!!

For the sermons - check out the Worship tab and choose Sermon Podcasts.

Choose Devos tab for your choice for daily devotionals.



If you have moved or are planning to move, don't forget to give the office your new address!!



If you know someone that has been admitted to the hospital and would like a visit, let Pastor John or Terry know.



Would you prefer to read the Challenge in color and on line?

Sign up at Southumc.com

Did you know you can read the Announcements online?

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

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

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered a Valentine-themed devotion and an opening prayer and Don Wilby read the SUMC Mission and Vision Statements. Deb Grehn welcomed those new to the group based on their 2017 Church Leadership roles: Nancy Dawson, Ed Dupont, Larry Fiano and Deb Ingraham.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the November 8, 2016 Administrative Board meeting were reviewed. *There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Phil Susag) to accept the November 8, 2016 Administrative Board minutes, inclusive of minor edits raised. All were in favor and the motion carried.*

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business to report.

Committee Reports:

Lay Leader: Don Wilby is now sharing the lay leadership role with Deb Grehn. They will be meeting together to develop their approach to the shared role. Deb Grehn reported that District Resource Day will be March 25 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield. The speaker will be Dr. Safiyah Fosua, on the topic of "Worship That Preaches." This event is designed for both laity and clergy.

Treasurer's Report and Finance: Bill Hyde shared the January Income and Expense Report. Thanks to five Sundays in January, income exceeded budget. We have paid 8.4% of our mission shares year-to-date. Kim Grehn reported that pledges now total over \$300,000 for the year, with more participation than we've had in recent years. Pastor John celebrated our excellent Finance Team and their dedication to their work.

Outreach:

A motion was made (Pastor John, on behalf of the Nominating Committee) to elect Bill McGugan as co-chair of the Christian Outreach Commission. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Pastor Dick reported that the Outreach Commission met and organized activities for the year ahead. Over \$3,100 has been raised to fund the Stop Hunger Now event on April 1 and volunteers are needed for this event. Donna Costello will lead Washington School initiatives. A Rebuilding Together activity will be held April 29; Ben Timmons will work with Pat Lapworth this year and transition to a leadership role next year. There will be a campaign for UMCOR on March 26.

Social Justice Class: Peter Tullson from the Building Healthy Families Program made a presentation to the congregation on January 22, between the two services. This organization is in need of space and Pastor Dick has submitted a proposal from Mr. Tullson to church leadership. Peter Millett, Margaret Callaway and Pastor Dick will attend a prayer gathering of the International Justice Mission in Washington, DC March 3-4.

Next Generation and Young Adult Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that over 20 care packages were sent to college students and there was good attendance at a youth and young adult gathering. The Young Women's Bible Study has started back up and the Young Men's Bible Study will start in the spring. Youth fund-raising events including parking for the Road Race have gone very well with lots of help and joyful, fun times. A laser tag event was held for the youth and the Souper Bowl fundraiser yielded \$1,082.80, almost double the amount from last year. All funds from the Souper Bowl go to MACC. J.T. commented that we have a very giving congregation. The youth retreat to Monadnock Bible Conference Center in NH went well, with nine youth and two leaders (J.T. and Michele Sawyers) in attendance. Thanks to drivers John Chandler and Jeff Kieft. The youth summer mission trip will be in the Adirondacks again this year, July 16 – 21.

Cub Scout Representative: Ed Dupont reported that the scouts did very well on Scout Sunday. There are currently 47 in the pack. Coming Cub Scout events include the Blue & Gold Banquet on February 25 and a church clean-up event, which is in the planning stage. Pastor John expressed his appreciation to Ed for taking on the role of Cub Scout Representative for the church.

Archivist: Phil Susag shared that there is excitement around the church about creating an archive. He is waiting for space to be ready in order to get started.

Trustees and Property Manager: Deb Ingraham reported for the Trustees. Walden Behavioral has backed out of purchasing 48 Hartford Road and this property will be put back on the market. Property Manager Larry Fiano provided updates as follows. We will do maintenance service on the heating system and fix a roof leak at 48 Hartford Road. Work on the 21 Hartford Road property is progressing, including securing the exterior, structural work, a new side entry, replacement of some roofing and siding, and installation of replacement windows and doors. We will wait on inside work until there is more clear direction on purpose and uses of the building. The group had a discussion about potential non-profit uses for 21 Hartford Road.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): Nancy Dawson reported that SPRC met monthly in the fall. They made recommendations to Finance for staff compensation and completed required forms including the Church Appointment Form. SPRC celebrated the service of Janet Schmidt at the conclusion of her term on the committee. They prepared and distributed staff gifts at a Christmas party. SPRC did not meet in January. The next meeting will be held February 28.

Education, Director of Ministries: Terry Marshall reported Education activities, as follows. Sunday School attendance has been a little down since Christmas. We're looking into starting a 3rd grade communion class and also a confirmation class. Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be August 21 – 25 and Flat painting for VBS is nearly complete. There will be an Easter Celebration on April 9 in the Café.

Terry advised that Stephen Ministry activities will likely be incorporated into the overall Congregational Care Program, which is really taking off. The All Church Celebration on January 29 went well, but we may not repeat the lunch aspect, given low attendance. Lent is coming. Ash Wednesday is March 1 and there will be a 7:00 p.m. service. The New Testament Bible class is marching forward and there is great attendance! Next class is March 2.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John commented that he has been very pleased with the New Testament Class. SUMC will be taking part in Community Prayer Services. On March 5, we will host a prayer service in the Café at 6:00 p.m.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Wing.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

**Now you can
give using a
text
message!**



Using your cell phone you can send a gift to the church by text message. The number is 860-512-7185, then type in the text message the amount of your gift followed by one of the key words listed below.

\$ amount SUMC
\$ amount MACC
\$ amount UMCOR
\$ amount BLANKET



We're still looking for 4x6 photos (2 copies please) of the members of your household who attend SUMC for our picture wall. Send your pics to terry@southumc.com or drop off in the church office. Thanks!