

Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE June 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**
(11:15 a.m. **Contemporary Worship June 17-Sept 9)**
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

August Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, July 26, 2018



THE CHALLENGE JUNE 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
- June 10th 10am service
- June 17th Summer hours begin
9:30a Traditional
11:15a Contemporary

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Our Source of Courage...

“But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”
(Daniel 3:18)

Dear Friends,

I read today that a young man in Illinois, the valedictorian of his high school class was told by administrators that he could not give his speech unless he removed religious references. Sam Blackledge declined because he knew the whole basis of the speech was to encourage his friends and extended school community to follow Jesus. Here is an excerpt from the address he intended to share with the class of 2018 and their families. “

“Where did evil, justice, love and forgiveness converge at a moment in history? Can I take you to a hill called Calvary and show you the person of Jesus Christ? The cross of Christ shows us our own evil hearts, that we would put an innocent man there to die. Christ came to show us God’s justice in dealing with the unfairness of the world. The cross demonstrates to us the very love of God who died in our place and how we find, at the end of the day, that without His forgiveness, we would never make it. Graduates, I hope your life is devoid of evil, full of justice, full of love and full of forgiveness.”

Unfortunately he was unable to give the speech at the time he had planned to, but thankfully, as it turns out, Sam’s freedom to communicate this message is protected in the United States by our constitution.

In every age there are powerful forces pressuring us to deny our Lord.

Sam’s story which is still unfolding this year in the United States should sound familiar, as it may remind us of another young man named Daniel in the Bible. When the ancient Babylonians captured Jerusalem roughly 600 years before the coming of Christ, they handpicked several Jewish young men to serve in King Nebuchadnezzar’s court. These young men faced enormous pressure to conform to the ways of life found in Babylon. Daniel and his friends were expected to obey the dictates of the king no matter how unreasonable. This would prove an impossible task for these young who desired to remain faithful to the Lord and His ways. For the man-made rules of Babylon often conflicted with God’s law. (To learn more, read especially Daniel chapter 1-3 and 6)

Throughout the course of their lives, Daniel and his friends would learn in one desperate situation after another, that the God they worshipped could always be trusted. They, and more than one king, discovered there was a greater King who ruled every corner of the world. In the coming weeks we will meet various people in the Bible who courageously followed the Lord regardless of the cost, wherever He led. Through the examples of Daniel and people like Sam, may we be inspired to trust the Lord even when life is hard.

In service to Christ,
John



June 2018 Worship Themes

June 3, 2018: Global Worship

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-12. The Great Multitude
Focus Verse: "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands." (Revelation 7:9)
Theme: People from every part of the world follow and worship the Lord.

June 10, 2018: Youth Sunday

Scripture: Daniel 6. Daniel in the Lions' Den.
Focus Verse: "But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its window open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God." (Daniel 6:10, NLT)
Theme: God uses people like Daniel who are bold and brave.

June 17, 2018: The miraculous work of Jesus continues!

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10. A crippled beggar is healed.
Focus Verse: Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." (Acts 3:6)
Theme: We share the powerful message of Jesus Christ who changes lives every day.

June 24, 2018: Following the Lord in a Foreign Land

Scripture: Daniel 1:6-21 Daniel and friends in Babylon
Focus Verse: "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine; so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself." (Daniel 1:8)
Theme: Daniel and their friends remained faithful to God in trying times.

July 1, 2018: Daniel interprets King's Dream.

Scripture: Daniel 2:12-23. God reveal the future to Daniel
Focus Verse: "Daniel said: 'Blessed be the name of God from age to age, for wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons, deposes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.'" (Psalm 28:7)
Theme: God rules over all people and all time.

South United Methodist Church Contact Information

Church office: (860) 647-9141	South Church Staff
Office Hours: Mon Wed Fri 9:00a -12:00p Tues, Thurs 6:00p-9:00p	Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14
Email address: office@southumc.com	Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11
Web address: southumc.com	Organists - Christopher Walton & Tatianna Lukyanova
Facebook: facebook.com/southumc	Director of Ministries - Terry Marshall ext. 15
Prayer Chain: (860) 337-2793 or prayer@southumc.com	Director Next Gen Ministries - J.T. Himmelstein ext. 13
Text Giving: 860-512-7185 (\$20 SUMC)	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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"Bear one another's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians, 6:2

Congregational Care At SUMC

We all experience times when we could use a little extra support. . .
Our Congregational Care Team is here to help. . .

At South Church we are working to care for one another better...

Home Communion, visitation, prayer, hospitality, transportation, One-on-One care for acute crisis or grief

We have **2** Expressions of Caring:

C.C.C. = Congregational Care Contact
1-1 = One-on-One Care Givers

The Role of the C.C.C.: To engage with Congregants and act as an additional contact between the Pastor/Staff and the congregation. C.C.C.'s are identified by wearing Name tags, and are assigned sections of the Sanctuary or Café. They will be given contact cards, and are encouraged to greet others regularly, be aware of attendance patterns, and reach out when someone has been absent outside of their regular pattern. They will assist in the filling out and handling of the Pew cards as well. Some C. C. C.'s have also agreed to help distribute Holy Communion, Flowers, cookies and prayer shawls to our homebound members as well. This group is encouraged to meet monthly (currently on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:30pm) for planning, support and updates.

The Role of the 1-1: One-on-One caregivers are currently trained as Stephen Ministers (50+ hours of study). They are equipped to meet with individuals weekly - (or as needed) to offer Christian help to work through acute crisis or grief. They are not trained counselors. Their role is an extension of the Pastor's care. They are required to meet monthly (currently on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30pm) for support and accountability. Some 1-1's have also agreed to assist in the handling of pew cards as well.

Home Communion/Visitation/Delivery Coordinator: Bill McGugan

C.C.C. Coordinator (Sanctuary): Bill McGugan

C.C.C. Coordinator (Café): Dave Bidwell

Support Group Coordinator (for 1-1's): Dave Bidwell (Alberta Hoagland, Don Wilby)

1-1 Coordinator: Alberta Hoagland

Funeral Luncheon & Reception Coordinator: Alberta Hoagland

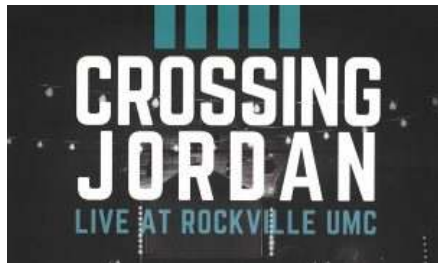
Staff Liason: Terry Marshall

Bill & Judy Hyde (C.C.C.)
Deb Grehn (C.C.C.)
Marilyn Broneill (C.C.C.)
Mary Koduah (C.C.C.)
Don Wilby (C.C.C.)
Amy Cooper (C.C.C.)
Carlyn Arruda (C.C.C.)
Dave Bidwell (C.C.C.)
Brenda Langford (C.C.C.)
Bill McGugan (C.C.C.)

Colleen Olbert (1-1)
Deb Grehn (1-1)
Dave Burgess (1-1)
Amy Cooper (1-1)
Sue Bidwell (1-1)
Sarah Kania (1-1)
Sylvia Bruno (1-1)
Marnie Meek (1-1)
Carlyn Arruda (1-1)

Linda Vesho (Ex-officio)
Denise Roman (Ex-officio)
Ray McKay (Ex-officio)
Alberta Hoagland (Ex-officio)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."
Galatians 6:9-10



Rockville United Methodist Church is happy to sponsor its 2nd Annual Christian Rock Concert on June 23, 2018 at 7pm at RUMC at 142 Grove Street in Rockville. The program will feature Crossing Jordan hosted by our own GSM (Grove Street Music) youth praise & worship band.

The concert is GSMs key fundraiser for 2018 and we'd love your support! Please share the event with your friends and family and join us for a great night of music and worship!!!

Tickets can be purchased online via Ticketleap at <https://grovestreetmusicproject.ticketleap.com/2018-summer-concert/>, directly at Rockville United Methodist Church after Sunday service or by contacting the RUMC office at 860-875-6562.



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).



There is still a spot or two available for the Youth Mission Trip, which is coming up soon: July 22-27 to Portland, ME! The cost is \$225 per person, and forms are available outside of the Youth Room and Youth Office. Scholarship is also available for those who need it. For those that have already signed up the 2nd deposit of \$75 is due June 3rd! Also Youth Sunday is coming up on June 10th, 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.



You are invited to attend the June 22, 3pm dedication of the Habitat for Humanity house at 66 Bliss St. in East Hartford. This home was built in honor of local caregiver, Dr. Moyer. SUMC volunteers contributed many hours building this house including a January Saturday putting up drywall. On that January day, it was great to see Dr. Moyer and his smile of approval when he stopped by to check the progress.



BLESSINGS..



IN THE BAG!!!!!!!

Crises happen at the most inexplicable times and in the most unfortunate of ways. The Outreach Committee is partnering with the Manchester Roz & Ali (formerly Dress Barn) to provide "Blessing Bags" to women in need in the MACC community. A Blessing Bag is a gently used (or new) purse filled with all kinds of "goodies" meant to delight and inspire a woman down on her "luck". Nail polish, lipstick, makeup, hand lotion, shower gel, etc.* ... a wallet with a gift card inside, feminine products ... you decide!! Consider:

- Putting a Blessing Bag together yourself; or,
- Donating materials as mentioned above (we'll make Blessing Bags based upon the materials we receive); or,
- Making a monetary donation to be used toward creation of a Blessing Bag (mark your envelope "Blessing Bags" or text your donation using the blessingbag designation).

You can drop off a completed Blessing Bag or your donation of materials in the designated box in Reception Hall or take it to the Manchester Roz & Ali (The Plaza at Buckland Hills; 1500 Pleasant Valley Road; Manchester, CT. *Please note that products enclosed in the Blessing Bags need to be new/unopened and unexpired. Questions? Contact Nancy Dawson at 860-978-5480 or dawsonaff@gmail.com.

Young Adults



THE CROSSING

Young Adult Bible Studies are actively meeting for the month of June, and we're hoping to release info on some special events soon! Our hope is to create space for Young Adults to come together in the name of Jesus for fun, fellowship, biblical study and prayer. If you desire to be part of an authentic community of Young Adults that are committed to God's Kingdom, then contact JT or Catey Himmelstein on Facebook for more specifics!



Come and join us for Teen Class (10:45-11:30) and Youth Group (5-7) most Sunday mornings and evenings! All Youth are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend and their game face for a fun time! After we play we will spend time in prayer and in deeper study of the sermon passage for the week!

- 6/3 Youth Group @5pm
- 6/10 Youth Group @12:00pm (picnic)
- 6/17 NO Youth Group (Father's Day)
- 6/24 Youth Group @5pm



Don't forget
The Café
Is
Air Conditioned!!



June 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	28 Memorial Day 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study	29 12pm Bulletin Deadline	30 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	31	1	2 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
3 8:30am Teacher's Mtg 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 3:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Youth Group	4 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	5 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg	6 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	7 7:30pm Cong. Care Mtg.	8	9
10 10:00am Combined Service 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:30am All Church Picnic 11:45 am NO Contemporary 12:00pm Youth Group - picnic	11 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	12 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	13 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	14	15	16 9:30am Knitting Group
17 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:15am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	18 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	19 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish	20 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	21 7:30pm 1-1 Caring Mtg.	22	23
24 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:15am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group **Challenge deadline	25 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	26 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Finance Mtg.	27 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm NO Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	28	29	30

More South News

Hi Ho Fair Saturday, November 3rd

Although the fair isn't until the fall, plans are already underway. Here's how you can help during the summer:

USED JEWELRY- contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843

The Used Jewelry booth is always very popular. So popular in fact, our jewelry supply is almost wiped out! Donations of used jewelry, scarves and jewelry gift boxes now would be very much appreciated, so it can be cleaned, boxed and priced for the fair. Donations can be brought to church throughout the summer. Please leave them in the "Used Jewelry" box on the table in Reception Hall.

TAG SALE & BOOKS - contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843

The "Trash & Treasures", "Antikews" and "Book Sale" booths are very popular places at the fair. Because of storage constraints, we are not able to take donations until after Labor Day. However, it's not too early to start saving a pile of "tag sale items." We are looking for household & decorative items as well as books. Small electrical appliances are ok, but please no TVs, computers, stereo systems, or records. Also, we do not accept clothing or large exercise equipment. Please watch the bulletin and September Challenge for information on where and when you can bring in your donations.

CRAFTS- contact Ginny Hartzog 860 646-3962 or ginhartzog@gmail.com

The crafters will begin meeting over the summer. If you are interested in helping, contact Ginny.

Crocheters - Our nylon scrubbies are always a big seller. We sold 150 last year and each year, as people discover how great they work, the demand increases! If you know how to crochet and would be willing to make some for us at home at your convenience, please let us know. We can provide the pattern and nylon netting for you to use.

Corks - The crafters have many ways to recycle wine corks into items to sell at the fair. Please save corks for us and leave them on the back table in Reception Hall. Or contact Ginny to have them picked up.

Home Crafters- If you can't make it to our meetings but have a craft that you would like to make and donate to our booth at the fair, we would welcome any contributions. To help with our planning, please let us know what you will be donating.

PLANTS - contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843

If your houseplants or perennials need splitting, please consider potting them and donating them in November for the plant table at the fair.

COUNTRY STORE - contact Nancy Dawson at 860-978-5480 or dawsonaff@gmail.com

We are always looking to "reinvent" this area. Our core purpose is to offer our customers jams, jellies, pickles and other culinary DELIGHTS that the congregation may have to offer. In addition to the regular offerings, ideas for items that could be awesome contributions would be homemade sausage, hostess gifts, "desserts in a jar" and/or handcrafted soup mixes. We have a strong demand for homemade jams and jellies and need individuals willing to prepare them. Please contact Nancy (contact info above) to discuss your ideas and how we can bring them to life.

THREADS (formerly QUILTS AND NEEDLECRAFTS) - contact Nancy Dawson at 860-978-5480 or dawsonaff@gmail.com

This area has tremendous opportunities and needs! We are trying hard to find a balance between the materials we produce and the customers' willingness and ability to afford. Simple fleece blankets focused on children's prints or specific sports and/or teams, holiday-themed pillows or other sewn items, or simple wall hangings are a few examples of ideas that seem to match both the time expended to create and our customers' interests. Please contact Nancy to discuss your ideas and how we can bring them to life.

COOKIES IN A CAN, BAKE SALE & CANDY

Once we get closer to fair time, we will be looking for cookies, baked goods, fudge, candies and other perishables. More info will be coming on that in the fall.

As you enjoy your summer, please keep the fair in mind, and think about how you can help. Remember, all the proceeds from the Hi Ho Fair go toward various mission projects, locally, nationally and internationally.

If you need further information, contact the person listed with each booth or call Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843, Linda Vesho at 860 646-4823 or Ginny Hartzog at 860 646-3962.



Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

MOTHER'S DAY BLANKETS

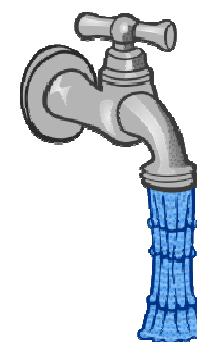
BLESSING BAGS (MACC)

MACC MAD SHOPPERS

May was a blessed month indeed! The Blanket the World with Love campaign AKA the Mother's Day Blanket Drive was a great success! Financial contributions were made in honor or memory of mothers and other women important in the lives of people within our congregation. We raised \$1,750. The Church World Service organization will use our contributions to support women in crises throughout the world. You can check the organization out at CWSglobal.org/blankets.

Upcoming events include ongoing MAD MACC shopping for the Food Pantry, continued assistance to Washington School as it is being phased out, and a new Father's Day event to honor and memorialize important male figures in our lives through contributions to World Hope International. This organization provides wells and solar powered piped water systems (among other things) throughout the world. Please feel free to check out this organization at WorldHope.org. There are many ways to give! Enjoy your summer! Do what you love ... love what you do!

Honor our Fathers and provide clean water!



Did you know...

More than 2.5 billion people worldwide lack access to basic sanitation services? Water-related diseases kill 1 out of every 5 children under the age of 5 worldwide?

Dirty water kills more people each year than all forms of violence, including war?

This year, the Outreach Committee has decided to partner with World Hope International. Among other things, they work to provide clean drinking water to impoverished communities around the world and areas affected by natural disasters. On the few weeks leading up to Father's Day, you

can donate in honor or memory of a father, grandfather, uncle, or father figure in your life. Donations will be sent to World Hope International to support their worldwide efforts to provide clean, fresh water around the world. Look for more information in Reception Hall and The Café, and in the weekly announcement page.



**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
April 10, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Nancy Dawson, Deb Grehn, Carol Goodwin, Kim Grehn, Jane Zadnik, Don Wilby, Rev. Dick Thompson, J.T. Himmelstein, Terry Marshall, Rev. John Marshall, Jim Hoagland, Bill Hyde, Jennifer Dupont.

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. There was a prayer by Pastor John and Kim Grehn read SUMC's Mission and Vision Statements.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the February 13, 2018 Administrative Board meeting were reviewed.

There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Terry Marshall) to accept the February 13, 2018 Administrative Board minutes as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Bill Hyde reported back to the group on an article previously shared by Margaret Callaway about churches being taxed for the use of natural gas. Bill clarified that SUMC gets its natural gas from CT Natural Gas and this company is not named in the article. He has inspected our bills and is confident that the issue raised in the article does not apply to our church.

Committee Reports:

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that no new memorial funds have been received in the past month.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported on activities of the Outreach Commission. A total of \$2,053 was received from the special UMCOR offering. MAD MACC Shopper offerings are being taken April 8 and April 15. Plans are moving along well for the Rise Against Hunger event and there will be a Rebuilding Together event on April 28. We'll be doing blankets for Mother's Day again this year and around Father's Day, there will be a special focus/collection for providing wells and drinking water. We are working to continue our support for Washington School in the midst of declining activities there. This includes "food suitcases" in partnership with Trinity Covenant and potential assistance with this year's graduation party.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported on his progress in seminary. After this semester, he will have eight more courses to take to complete his degree and his anticipated graduation date is May 2020. Twelve youth and three leaders attended Winter Retreat February 23-25 at Monadnock. Special thanks to Jeff Keift for help with the driving. The Youth took part in the Lenten prayer service and set up tables for a recent funeral luncheon. They visited a trampoline park a few weeks ago. The next mission trip is to Portland, ME July 22-27. Teen and young adult Bible classes are going well.

Director of Ministries / Education: Terry Marshall reported that we had a successful Easter Celebration activity between the services on March 25, with some new families in attendance. Confirmation classes will be held starting April 22 and Confirmation will be held June 10 at the 10:00 a.m. service, with a picnic to follow. VBS (August 20-24) is being advertised and new volunteers are needed in several areas. The new Directory is complete and most copies have been distributed. Shut-ins will receive copies of the Directory. Congregational Care activities have included delivery of plants at Easter and delivery of home communion to those who request it. Pew cards are being used to facilitate communication of needs. The Congregational Care Contacts (CCC's) are becoming more active – meeting monthly, passing out cards describing services offered and looking at other activities for us to get to know each other.

Trustees: Jim Hoagland reported for the Trustees. There is ongoing maintenance underway at 20 Hartford Road and 48 Hartford Road and some tree work is being done on church properties. A meeting was held with the Manchester Zoning Commission on our parking plan. A lot line adjustment is necessary to separate the 21 Hartford Road driveway and allow more property on the church side for 13-14 paved spaces and 8 limited mobility spaces near the elevator. This is a regulatory process and will take time. We have requested that the recently installed Historical District sign be moved farther toward the Great Lawn because it is limiting visibility at the church driveway exit. Professional cleaning of the church kitchen is under consideration by the Trustees.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Hyde reported that income for March is below budget by \$5,300, but year-to-date income is above budget. Expenses are all paid and in line with budget. We have paid 25% of our Mission Shares through March.

UMW Representative: Jennifer Dupont reported that UMW is working on their budget, including designing a request form for audit trail purposes. They are beginning to plan for the Fair.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): Nancy Dawson reported that SPRC met in March. This was the first meeting for two new members, Lou Carpenter and Rodean Gyrokeri. The Committee discussed potential doctrinal changes within the United Methodist Church and how changes could potentially impact our Staff. In response to a question, Nancy stated that the draft of a Church Covenant is still under discussion.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John stated that a recent need (rent support) was addressed through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This Fund currently contains less than \$500 and donations are needed. Church members responded very well supporting fellowship events for two recent funerals. There have been two recent baptisms and another baptism is scheduled. Easter service attendance was high, with approximately 400 at the 9:30 service and 90 in the Café. There are ten in the Confirmation class, which is great!

Lay Leaders: Don Wilby expressed his thanks to the Cub Scouts for raking our property on April 7. Deb Grehn noted a couple of upcoming events: April 21 "Connecting Neighbors – Preparing for Natural Disasters or Human Caused Threats" in Northampton, and May 4 "A Mindset for Renewal" in Springfield.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment:

There was a prayer by Pastor John and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Goodwin

A 21 Hartford Rd. Update. . .

The "GOOD" News is. . .
Exciting things have been happening at "21"
*Major construction is almost complete...
*Appliances and some furnishings have been moved in...
*Our Next Gen Director, JT and family have moved most of their belongings in...
*Some youth and young adults events are taking place there...
*Some safety issues that could have become a much bigger problem later have been uncovered...

The "BAD" News is. . .
*We were hoping to have a Dedication/Open house and Tours **before** summer and **now** that likely won't happen until Fall.

The plan was that after construction was complete, landscaping and then paving could take place (including additional paved/lined spaces for church use parking, with better lighting on this side of Hartford Rd.) Up to 14 additional spaces have been approved by the Town of Manchester, however we cannot begin paving until the Large stone wall dividing the church property from 21 Hartford Rd. Has been replaced. The Trustees have selected the contractor for the enormous project and construction of the new wall is slated to begin on August 1.

Due to this set back, paving and some necessary landscaping that will provide safe and secure access/ footing to the building must be delayed until after the wall is built.

Stay TUNED...

For a Fall Dedication Ceremony followed by an Open House and Tours of the property.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank you for your support and understanding of this worthwhile project.

