

Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE March 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

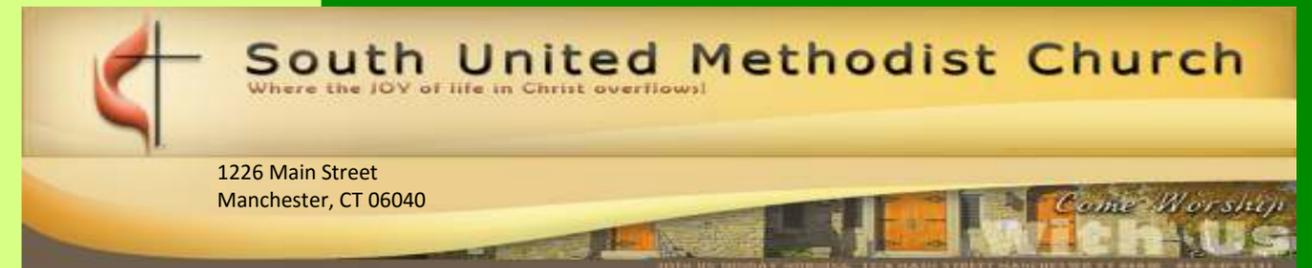
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
 For All Ages

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

April Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, March 20, 2016



THE CHALLENGE

MARCH 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

Palm Sunday
 Mar. 20, 2016
 One service at 10a

**Maundy Thursday
 March 24 ~ 7pm
 **Good Friday
 March 25 ~ 7pm

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Good News about the Good News!

"I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. . . ." (1 Corinthians 15:3-5, NLT)

Dear Friends,

Followers of Jesus are those who have received and believed the "Gospel". What makes us "Christians" is our trust in an ancient, yet timeless message. Taking our cue from Jesus himself, we, his followers, understand his core message to be, "Good News." The Gospel is news in that it offers information, instruction and ultimately inspiration based upon events that actually took place at a particular point in human history. We believe that God chose to reveal himself, as a human being at a specific time in recorded history. As author and scholar, Nancy Pearcey has written, "Biblical Christianity refuses to separate historical fact from spiritual meaning. Its core claim is that the living God has acted in history, especially in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus." (Saving Leonardo: A Call to Resist the Secular Assault on Mind, Morals, & Meaning by Nancy Pearcey page 35)

The core convictions of our faith rest upon the solid foundation of the historical death and resurrection of Jesus.

So what? You might ask, how does this affect the way I live today? In his letter to the first century, church of Corinth, the apostle Paul writes about how these events: the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, impact the way people like us live. The events of the death and resurrection of Jesus are foundational. Any security we have in life, rests not upon favorable weather, economy or current events, but upon what Christ accomplished for us on the cross and through His resurrection. Secondly, it is through our trust in the crucified, dead and risen Christ, that we find our healing, wholeness and salvation from sin.

So, if it is true that we base so much on Paul's description of these events in 1 Corinthians 15, then the question is: can we trust his account? For years, many scholars asserted that the New Testament documents were written over a century after the events took place and were thus questionable or even unreliable. Recent scholarship however, has discovered that this is not the case. In fact the words quoted at the top of this article are now believed to be part of an ancient creed originating in the year 35A.D., just a few years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. In other words, the Christian conviction that Jesus rose from the dead originated, not in a, "passed-on legend", but in an observed record of historical events. (Lee Strobel; The Case For Christ, 1998, page 35)

Friends, I have concluded that our faith is true! We can trust in Christ completely. We can invite our friends to share this faith without fear of embarrassment, intellectual or otherwise. Please prayerfully consider inviting someone to worship with you and experience for themselves the truth of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In Service to Christ,
 Pastor John



March 2016 Worship Themes

Description: We are midway through the forty plus day, 6 week spiritual journey called the season of Lent. This month we will reflect on the hard days of Holy Week, pondering on the events of the Upper Room, considering once again the meaning of our Lord's suffering. We will end with a glorious celebration on Easter Sunday of the truth which forms the basis for all human hope: Jesus Christ is risen!

March 6, 2016: A Hard Truth

Scripture: John 10:22-33 Jesus' claim to divinity.

Focus Verse: "The Jewish leaders replied to Jesus, 'We're stoning you not for any good work, but for blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God.'" (John 10:33)

Theme: Jesus' claim to be God, though difficult for some to accept, holds the key to life.

March 13, 2016: A Prediction from an Unlikely Source

Scripture: John 11:47-57 Caiaphas prophesies the significance of Jesus' death.

Focus Verse: The high priest, Caiaphas said, "You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." (John 11:50)

Theme: Jesus gave up His life so that people will not die without hope.

March 20, 2016: Palm/Passion Sunday

Scriptures: Liturgy of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 23.

Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 25 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

March 27, 2016 Easter Sunday

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Focus Verse: "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures." (1 Cor 15:3-4)

Theme: Christ's resurrection provides the basis for our security, strength and salvation.

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

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



U

Our Stephen Ministry Workshop was a great Success!

Our workshop took place on Saturday, March 5 - Thank you to EVERYONE and ANYONE who participated in anyway! Below is a recap of the days events.

M

The day had 3 different sessions:

1) Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

2) An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

3) How To Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

C

with breaks/snacks in between and opportunities to purchase good resources for helping others directly from Stephen Ministries.

Registration began at 8am - Marnie Meek was our registration coordinator and she had Carol Goodwin, Sylvia Bruno, Wendy Mohr and Jen Davis (SM from Emmanuel Lutheran) helping her with that task.

Ray Mckay, Dan Higgins, Phil Susag and Kevin Pearl helped in our parking lot directing people for not only parking, but about how to get safely to and from the church.

N

Don Wilby, our resource Coordinator, was in charge of books and supplies to be sold at the event and he was assisted by Bill McGugan, Amy Cooper and Alberta Hoagland.

Dave Bidwell was is in charge of audio and visual before and throughout the workshop

Susan Bidwell was our refreshments coordinator assisted by Marcia Memery and Alberta Hoagland.

E

Amy Cooper transported our Presenter; Nanette Dost (from headquarters in St. Louis) to and from the airport/hotel etc...

Alberta with the help of Deb Grehn did an outstanding job of getting the word out and publicizing our workshop. As of the date of this publication (March1) we had 58 people from other congregations registered as well as almost 30 from our own - representing 14 different congregations! Stephen Ministries' goal is that we would reach 10 congregations, so we are doing (or did) VERY well! (registration also accepted walk-ins)

W

Other names of people not listed above, Carlyn Arruda, Sarah and Mike Kania, Linda Vesho and Colleen Olbert all attended and were willing to help out wherever needed.

S

Many plans, preparations and prayers went into this event - Thank you everyone for your persistence and hard work, many people were and will be blessed!

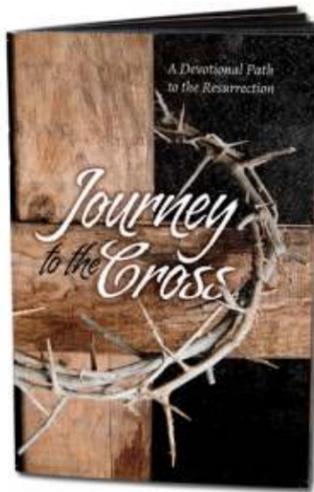
Please continue to pray for:

Each participant who attended, that the hearts and minds of all God gathered together on that day will be touched and blessed beyond what we could ask our imagine!

PS - as always - if you would like more information about Stephen Ministries, please ask any of the people mentioned in this letter.

Thank you all,
Terry Marshall
Workshop Coordinator

**Lenten Study
led by Pastor John**



Thursday evenings
at 7:30 p.m.
March 3, 10, & 17

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.



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 ~ 3rd floor Classroom

Flower Assistant Needed

Have you ever wondered how the beautiful flowers we see each Sunday morning in Worship and on special occasions (like Easter and Christmas) get there???? They not only grace our Sanctuary and Cafe with their beauty and fragrance, but they often are delivered to our home-bound members to be enjoyed beyond Sundays.

Jeanne Eagleson has overseen this ministry for many years and although she is not ready to "retire" just yet, she is looking for an assistant.

If you love flowers and would like to help this ministry to continue, please contact Terry Marshall at 860-647-9141 ext 15, terry@southumc.com or speak to Jeanne directly.

THANK YOU!



Meet the "Bargain Hunters for MACC"

These wild and crazy shoppers (plus other Outreach members not available for the picture, or too embarrassed to pose this way!) will search high and low throughout the Manchester area to find the best deals for food items desperately needed by Manchester families, yet missing from the MACC Food Pantry shelves. To try something different as an alternative to collecting food items every Sunday year-round (thank you so, so much to those who religiously bring in and drop food into the MACC shopping cart in the Narthex - please don't stop!) the Outreach Commission will be collecting your monetary donations on Sundays March 6 and 13. We will then search and shop to put your donations to the maximum use. Coupons needed too! Please put these into the collection box in the Narthex (collecting coupons all March and April). Our thought is to spend half of the donations this March and April, when the pantry shelves are annually bare, and the other half this summer, when children are missing their school lunches and the pantry shelves are bare again.

Shopping for MACC - Collecting Monetary Donations March 6 & 13

Upcoming Youth Events

This year's Mission trip will be July 24-29 to Niagra Falls, NY. Contact JT if you are interested or know someone who might be. Handouts will be available March 13th. If you have any questions send JT an e-mail: nextgen@southumc.com.

3/6	Youth Group at 5pm at South
3/13	Youth Group at 5pm at South
3/20	Youth Group at 5pm at South
3/27	NO Youth Group (Easter)



Schedule of Events ~ Mar 20—27, 2016



Holy Week

Palm Sunday
One Service at 10:00am
Sunday School Children are invited to pass out palms and process.
Interested children will meet in Reception Hall (adjacent to Sanctuary) at 9:45am

Upper Room Meal - Monday at 6:00pm
Begins in Café, meal in Cooper Hall

Maundy Thursday - Service at 7:00pm - in Sanctuary

Good Friday - Service at 7:00pm - in Sanctuary

Easter Sunday - 2 services to choose from!
9:30am - in the Sanctuary
11:15am - in The Café

March 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 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 6:00pm Ecumenical Prayer @Church of the Living God	29	1 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	2 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3 6:30pm SM Supervision 7:30pm Lenten Study	4	5 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9am Stephen Ministry Workshop
6 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 6:00pm Ecumenical Prayer @New River Community Church	7	8 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	9 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Rehearsal	10 7:30pm Lenten Study	11	12
13 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 6:00pm Ecumenical Prayer @South UMC	14	15 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm Staff Parish Mtg	16 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Rehearsal	17 6:30pm SM Supervision 7:30pm Lenten Study	18	19 9:30am Knitting Group
20 10:00am Palm Sunday Combined Service 11:15am Church School Event Café 5:00pm Youth Group 6:00pm Ecumenical Prayer @Memorial Park **Challenge deadline	21 6:00pm Meal in Upper Room	22 12pm Bulletin Deadline	23 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Choir	24 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	25 7:00pm Good Friday Service	26
27 Easter Sunday 9:30am Traditional 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	28	29 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	30 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Rehearsal	31	1	2 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News

Two Hundred Years of Methodism in Manchester, and the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary of South United Methodist Church

Celebrated on October 28, 1990

In October of 1990 a historical committee was formed to develop a program to celebrate and commemorate two hundred years of Methodism in Manchester and the sixty-fifth anniversary of South United Methodist Church. Members of that committee were: Robert Gordon, church historian, Priscilla Ather, Mildred Bell, Ruth Campagna, Herbert McKinney, Marian McKay and William Reid.

The events organized by the committee included a Sunday morning worship service and service of dedication renewal held on October 28, 1990 with Pastor Fred Yarger and several former pastors participating. The service was followed by a potluck luncheon and a program in Cooper Hall. Several former pastors addressed the attendees.

A ceremony was held on Spencer Street dedicating a plaque marking the site of the birthplace of Methodism in Manchester. Many people dressed in period clothing for the Sunday activities.

Other activities celebrating the dual anniversary included:

1. A historical narrative of Methodism in Manchester, tracing the history of those first two hundred years, beginning at the site where the first Methodist sermon was preached in 1790 in Thomas Spencer's house and ending in October 1990 with the story of South United Methodist Church. Included is a description of the exterior and interior of SUMC. Participants were Robert Gordon, Priscilla Ather, Phyllis Gordon, James W. McKay, Herbert McKinney, Bruce Ford, Fred Yarger, Ruth Campagna, Mildred Bell, Helen McKinney and David Morse, Music Director.
2. A panel discussion by senior members of the church as they reminisced about their experiences through the years. Participants were Robert Gordon, moderator; Marian McKay, Mildred Hall, Betsy Brown, Francis Burr, Tom Cordner and Thelma Woodbridge.

All of the activities were filmed by Bill Reid and made available to members of the congregation back in 1990. Copies (VHS tapes) were placed in the church library in Reception Hall, but have long since disappeared. Bill is once again making copies available. The VHS tape format is no longer available having been replaced by the newer DVD format. The entire proceedings have been recorded on two DVD videos and housed in one plastic case.

Two sets will be stored Terry Marshall's office and will be available for borrowing upon request. Please see Terry.

Anyone wishing to purchase a personal set please see Bill Reid. The price is \$5.00 per set. He's usually in the reception hall after each Sunday service. You may contact him by telephone, 860-528-2345, or email, wmc Reid@gmail.com.

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

REBUILDING TOGETHER It's a wonderful, town-wide, annual event of home repair and yard recovery work somewhere in Manchester. It will be held at the end of April, but our team needs to sign up between February 21 and March 13. See the list in the Reception Hall or The Café or call the church office, and join the fun.

SOUPER BOWL OFFERING On the first Sunday of February, our youth were lined up at the sanctuary doors with their pots to collect a few dollars from each of worshippers to help support the local work of MACC. If you put in some money, we thank you. We raised \$600.

LAST YEAR'S GIVING In addition to the portion of our missional shares sent off to the larger church which goes directly to help in missions, our congregation gave over \$4000 to designated Annual Conference missional projects and another \$9000 to everything from Heifer Foundation to MACC to Stop Hunger Now to Blankets for Mother's Day. In addition we have no way of knowing what lives we have touched through non-perishables for the soup kitchen and clothing for Washington School and the boxes we sent out for Seasonal Sharing and the Christmas shoebox project. It feels so good to have been a part of all that.

MAD SHOPPERS FOR MACC On the first two Sundays of March, the congregation will be given the chance to contribute toward an unlikely crew of exceptional bargain hunters who will use that money to buy goods when the shelves at MACC Food Pantry get bare. It's never too late to join in; just give your contribution to Boris.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Annual offering of the UMC was taken on February 21 - it will be used to underwrite a great deal of the relief work done by UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) around the world. To date we have raised \$1,030.

PREACHING In a different area entirely, we have heard that Don Wilby, Deb Grehn, and Lin Daniels have each gone out (or will soon be going out) to preach at churches in our District. That's certainly reaching out.



Meal in the Upper Room

Monday, March 21, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

This service attempts to re-create the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The service begins with worship, followed by a meal, readings, and hymns ending with the celebration of Holy Communion.

We invite all women of South Church (pre-teen to adult) to participate in this beautiful and meaningful service.

Tickets are \$8.00 and will be available February 21 through March 13 in the reception hall during the fellowship time.

Ecumenical Prayer Services

Reaching the children and youth of the city of Manchester is the motivation behind this year's series of prayer services. South Church in partnership with several Manchester churches. The services will be held on Sunday evenings at 6pm at a different host church each week, and they will last no more than an hour.

Feb 28: Church of the Living God,
199 Deming Street

March 6: New River Community
Church, 314 Woodbridge Street

March 13: South Methodist Church

March 20: Downtown park at memorial

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
November 10, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Carol Goodwin, Pastor Dick Thompson, Patti LaForest, Phil Susag, Janet Schmidt, Kim Grehn, Derek Wilson, J.T. Himmelstein, Terry Marshall, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, Bob Thulin, Bill Hyde, Margaret Callaway

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and scripture for reflection from Revelations. Bob Thulin read a passage entitled, "My Church."

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the October 20, 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 Directory: Janet Schmidt met with representatives from Life Touch and she shared information on a special offer available if pictures for the directory are taken in December. The tight timing was discussed, as well as the need for more volunteers to assist Janet and Deb Grehn with this project. It was agreed that we would put out an announcement to enlist volunteers and determine next steps, including the feasibility of the December timing.

Committee Reports:

Trustees: Bob Thulin reported for the Trustees. The elevator project is in the final stages. Items not yet complete are replacement of the Education Wing north side door and fencing. We are anticipating receipt of the Certificate of Occupancy, and the elevator is operational. Bob will consult with the phone company on the need for a dedicated phone line for the elevator. We've contracted to have the boiler updated at Susanna Wesley Hall and this is the first step in updating the overall heating system for this building. Walden Behavioral is planning to occupy Jesse Lee House next spring with residential as well as counseling and other services. Copley will be hired for snow plowing again this year.

Finance: Bill Hyde reported that we received more income in October than we did in September, but October income was still short of budget. Expenses were less than budget in October. We have paid 84.7% of our Mission Share Budget. The Finance Committee will use current budgets for committees/commissions for 2016, unless they receive a specific request otherwise. The draft 2016 Budget will be presented for approval at the December 8 Church Conference. There have been a few contributions in the form of stock transfers recently. The Finance Committee has a written procedure for anyone wishing to use stocks as a way to financially support the Church. Kim Grehn reported that letters should be going out in early December regarding year-to-date 2015 pledge status.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that seasonal sharing, the mitten trees and Operation Christmas Child are in full swing. In the new year, we'll be focusing on the Stop Hunger Now event. Pastor Dick reminded the group about matching funds available to support Imagine No Malaria and he hopes people will take advantage of this.

Social Concerns Group: Pastor Dick reported that the group is currently focused on Healthcare in our community and beyond. This interest has been generated by concerns about the threat to our local hospitals.

Seasonal Ministries: Patti LaForest expressed concern that the Seasonal Ministries Committee currently has only two active members. There was discussion and it was agreed that the Nominations Committee will work on ideas for a more successful structure.

At Large: Phil Susag reminded the group that November 12 is Bishop's Day in the District, with several from SUMC planning to attend. The Manchester Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held November 22 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC): Janet Schmidt reported that SPRC met with the District Superintendent on October 23 and they will meet next week to work on the Church Appointment Update Report and the Local Church Profile Report.

Pastoral Intern: Derek Wilson reported that the final Spiritual Gifts Class will be held this week and the class has gone very well. Derek will next focus on visitation and he will be working with Bill McGugan and Pastor Dick to identify needs.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that Bible studies are still going well and the youth group is meeting regularly.

Education: Terry Marshall reported that the children will be working on Advent Calendars at the Family Education Event to be held November 29 between services in the Café. Christmas Pageant rehearsals have begun. There is lots of closet shifting going on as a result of the new elevator. Jill Smith is in need of a helper for delivery of our Operation Christmas Child boxes to the distribution site on November 17. Getting Acquainted and Going Deeper classes are in process.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that he will be attending Bishop's Day in the District. He shared a few stories of how God is at work and reaching others through South Church. The Fair was a big success and Pastor John noticed many smiling faces throughout the Church that day.

New Business: Terry Marshall commented that she spoke with Phoenix Roasters, a coffee company, at the Leadership Conference. There are possible opportunities for SUMC to purchase/use their coffee and support Fair Trade.

The group was reminded that the Church Conference will be December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Café. The next regular meeting of the Administrative Board will be January 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary



EASTER

PLANTS

\$8.50

Make check payable to SUMC Flower Fund and mail with this form to:
Jeanne Eagleson, 172 Porter Street, Manchester, CT 06040
Other options: drop off @ the church office or place envelope labeled "Plants" in offering
- Ordering Deadline is March 15th -

Please **PRINT** all information

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Address & Phone# _____

Will be left for a shut in _____ Will be taken _____ Envelope # _____