



Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE March 2020

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
Children’s Story 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 22, 2020



THE CHALLENGE MARCH 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:30a - Traditional Worship with Choir and Children’s Story
- 9:45a - Sunday School for Nursery-Grade 3
- 10:45a - Sunday School for all Ages
- 11:45a - Contemporary Worship with Wildfire Worship Band

We Wish to See Jesus

“They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” (John 12:21)

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent is upon us, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and ending on Easter Sunday, April 12. Lent is a time to intentionally grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. The goal is that when we gather to celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday, we would do so with a renewed understanding and appreciation of who Jesus Christ is. During Lent we focus particularly on the suffering of Christ on our behalf, for his death for our sins. We reflect on the kind of love it took for someone to willingly give up their life for the benefit of others.

In the days leading up to Jesus’ death, some foreigners, perhaps converts to the Jewish faith, came to Jerusalem to observe the Passover feast. While they were there, they heard about Jesus of Nazareth. They may have heard about his teachings and of the bold claims he made. They may have heard about the miracles he performed like feeding thousands from a boy’s simple lunch. In any case, they wanted to meet Jesus for themselves. At any time, in any era, people are like that, if they hear about Jesus, it won’t be long before they come to the realization that he was unique. This was certainly true of these outsiders, visitors to Jerusalem from some other land.

“Lent is an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus.”

“We wish to see Jesus” they said. The word used for “see” indicates they didn’t simply want to observe Jesus from a distance. They didn’t want to only connect a face with a name, though that desire may have been part of it. The Greek word for “see” can also be translated as to behold, perceive or understand. Having heard about Jesus, his words and deeds, they wanted to come learn more about him. Perhaps, they had questions they wanted to ask him about the nature of life, in light of who he claimed to be. Maybe they were saying, “If Jesus is who he claims to be and who is actions indicate he is, this could change everything, certainly my life and the way I look at it.”

“We wish to see Jesus,” because we have a few things we would like to ask him. When they met the Lord, Jesus spoke to them and all who gathered around him about his imminent death and its significance for all people. Our Sunday service themes throughout the month of March, will be looking more closely at this passage as well as four others from John chapter 12. We will do so in the hope of coming to a firmer grasp of Jesus’ mindset as he approached the cross. My hope is that as we come together with the common desire to see Jesus, we will encounter him and choose to walk more closely with Him. I look forward to sharing these messages and times with all of you.

In Service to Christ,
Pastor John

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March 2020 Worship Themes

Description: As Jesus approached the final days of his earthly life and ministry, the intensity of his words and encounters with people increased. Throughout the season of Lent, we will explore six of those encounters taken from John 12.

March 1, 2020 “Extravagant Love”

Scripture: John 12:1-8. Jesus is anointed at a great cost.
Focus Verse: Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial.” (John 12:7)
Theme: Loving acts for our Lord often draw both attention and criticism.

March 8, 2020 “We would see Jesus”

Scripture: John 12:20-26 Some Greek people are looking for Jesus
Focus Verse: “Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.’” (John 12:23)
Theme: Following Jesus sometimes comes with great sacrifice.

March 15, 2020 “When Jesus is Lifted Up”

Scripture: John 12:27-36. Jesus predicts his death.
Focus Verse: Jesus said, “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” (John 12:32)
Theme: Jesus called people to trust in him and in his death for them.

March 22, 2020: “Some people don’t believe, but many do!”

Scripture: John 12:37-43. The unbelief of the people
Focus Verse: “Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue...” (John 12:42)
Theme: Following Jesus means seeking the approval which God gives.

March 29, 2020: “Jesus calls people to trust in him.....”

Scripture: John 12:44-50. Trusting in the Light
Focus Verse: “I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.” (John 12:46)
Theme: Trusting in Jesus Christ brings life and hope into our lives.

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 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)
Email address: office@southumc.com	
Web address: southumc.com	
Facebook: facebook.com/southumc	
Prayer Chain: (860) 337-2793 or prayer@southumc.com	
Text Giving: 860-512-7185 (\$20 SUMC)	

Schedule of Events ~ April 5 – April 12

S

Holy Week



Palm Sunday – one service @10am (April 5th)
 Children invited to pass out palms - meet in Reception Hall at 9:45am

U

Sunday School Easter Event – Palm Sunday
 11:15am in The Café

M

Monday @ 6pm – Upper Room Meal (April 6)
 Begins in The Café, meal in Cooper Hall

C

Maundy Thursday – service @ 6:30pm (April 9)

Good Friday – service @ 6:30pm (April 10)

Easter Sunday – 2 services to choose from (April 12)
 9:30am – in the Sanctuary
 11:15am – in The Café

N

E

Meal in the Upper Room for Women Monday, April 6th at 6:00 P.M.

W



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 in Reception Hall during the fellowship time, and in The Café following the service on March 22, 29 and April 5th

S

Plan to attend this inspirational and worshipful event.



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



THE CROSSING

Young Adults

The Young Women's Bible Study will be meeting to study The Book of Philippians throughout the month of March on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at 21 Hartford Rd! The Young Women's Bible Study is a great opportunity to get connected over tea and snacks in a relaxed, comfy, living room atmosphere, and the time of fellowship is focused on the Word of God and prayer with one another. If you're interested in attending or have questions, please text Catey: 802-274-4630

College Care Package Season will return soon, and our hope is to send as many packages to our college students as possible! Even if you signed your student up last semester, we are asking that you would communicate with us once again for this semester so that we have the most up-to-date address for our students as some packages were returned last year due to outdated info. Please put your student's Name, School/University, and Address on the designated sheets located outside of the Youth Office or outside of the Youth Room starting March 9!

Youth Group

Thank you to all who donated to the **Super Bowl of Caring** Offering that the Youth took on **February 2nd**. By God's grace and with your help we raised over \$1400 for MACC, and ALL of it went directly to them. We were also able to gather a variety of food items to support the Food Pantry at MACC! Praise God for these gifts, and please pray that it would be used to extend His gospel and great love to those in need in Manchester.

Our Youth will be at **Monadnock** Christian Ministries from **February 28-March 1** for this year's **Winter Retreat!** Please pray for our time there and for the month after that God will sow the seeds of His truth and grace deeply into our Youth program!

The **Youth Mission Trip** this summer will be **June 28-July 2**, and we will be returning to Hartford to serve with The Hartford Project! This event is for all of our Youth (Grades 7-12), and we are already praying for all that God will do in us and through us during this unique, faith-building opportunity! Please mark your calendars and save the dates.

3/1 NO Youth Group
2/9 YG @ 6pm
2/15 YG @ 6pm

2/22 YG @ 6pm
2/29 YG @ 6pm



"Take Courage": A Lenten Study

This courageous study is an invitation to grow deeper in our faith; to ask and answer honest questions. The goal of our time will be to help us come to a deeper faith, deep in the sense that we see how it impacts every area of our lives. It is a gentle invitation to get off the spiritual fence, to leave behind a faith in Christ that is one part of our life, and to fully commit ourselves to Jesus Christ who is our

life. It is designed to help us seek Jesus, the truth, the one we can count on and believe in, the one who uniquely offers the way to God, everlasting life and salvation from sin and death. We will constantly return to the basic questions: if this is true, then what? If this is true, how should I live, should I live differently?

We will gather Sunday evenings in March: March 8, 15, 22 and 29 in The Cafe at 6:30pm. If you have questions about our faith either your own or those you have been presented with, please send them to me at pastorjohn@southumc.com. We will incorporate as many questions as possible into our Lenten Study.



March Madness

The South Church Bracket Challenge has returned as **March Madness** is right around

the corner with Selection Sunday on **March 15** and Selection Monday on **March 16!** The NCAA Men's and Women's College Basketball Brackets will be available online and in your local newspaper...find a Men's and/or Women's Bracket, fill the bracket(s) out, and **return** your bracket(s) to the Office (or email your bracket(s) to [JT - nextgen@southumc.com](mailto:JT-nextgen@southumc.com)) by **Wednesday, March 18**, for your chance to win the trophy! All ages are welcome, and this is purely for FUN (i.e. no money is involved). We hope you take the leap and join us for this exciting season!



This year spring seems a little easier to find around the corner! We are looking for 25 volunteers with skills in painting, exterior repair, yardwork, landscaping, etc. to help our neighbors in Manchester. Last year we did yardwork for two special families.

This year we will be working on Saturday, April 25th, 2020. Starting around 8:30, we usually work until close to noon, and then adjourn to a local park for a picnic put on by the town.

Please look for sign-up sheets in the Reception Hall at church and the Cafe until March 15th. You will need to complete a waiver as well. Give it some real thought; it's always a rewarding day!

Any questions? Please email Teresa Dorer at mtdorer@gmail.com or call after 5 pm at 810-227-8373

March 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School for all 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm NO Youth Group 6:00pm Manchester United in Prayer	2 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	3 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:00pm Committee & Commission Mtg	4 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5	6	7 7:30am Christian Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
8 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School for all 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30om Lenten Study	9 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	10 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:30pm Ad Board Mtg	11 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	12 9:00am Connect for Woman	13	14
15 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School for all 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Lenten Study	16 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	17 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish Relations	18 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	19	20	21 9:30am Knitting Group
22 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School for all 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Lenten Study	23 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	24 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:30pm NO Finance Mtg This month	25 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	26 9:00am Connect for Women	27	28
29 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School for all 11:45am Contemporary in Café 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm Lenten Study	30 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	31 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering	1 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	2	3 4:30pm LaForest Brown Rehearsal	4 7:30am Christian Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group 10am Rise Against Hunger 4:30pm LaForest/Brown Wedding

More South News



INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MISSIONARY

If you were in morning worship toward the end of February, you would have found in the bulletin an addition to the church staff: our missionary in covenant, Dr. Belinda Forbes. Dr. Forbes has, for several years, been working as a dentist and community health organizer among the impoverished, rural communities of Nicaragua which are many miles from any regular dental services. She is one of more than three hundred missionaries serving under the direction of our United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and also interfaces with Accion

Medica Christiana, a Nicaraguan Christian ecumenical organization.

Dr. Forbes grew up in the Springfield area and went to dental school in Massachusetts. As she was increasingly involved in the United Methodist Church, she became excited about what our Annual Conference was doing through a covenant relationship with Christians in Nicaragua, and eventually felt called to use her training to be a part of that.

She now lives in Managua, the capitol of the country, with her husband, a doctor, and her two daughters, but she spends a lot of time traveling over crude roads to distant villages. In the villages, she responds to critical dental needs but also spends significant time training volunteers who will work with the local community to encourage basic dental health after she has left.

We will be regularly praying for her and will pass her reports on to you.



Every spring for the last several years South Church has gathered together and packed over 10,000 meals for children in identified areas of "food insecurity". This year it will happen on Saturday, April 4. The organization, Rise Against Hunger, brings the necessary supplies to us, manages our event, and then ships out the food in large containers as one part of their program to mobilize the resources to provide food and life-changing aid such that there might be an end to hunger in the world before our

children (or grandchildren, for some of us) grow old.

It takes about sixty volunteers to package everything in two hours (10:00 am to 12:00 pm), and we will be putting out sign-up lists for that in early March. We'll also be looking for strong people to show up at 9:00am and move all of the supplies off of their truck and into our church.

In the meantime, though, we need your money to cover the cost of all of this, about \$3,500. We're asking you to put a donation in an offering envelope on Sunday morning and mark it for "Rise Against Hunger" or send something to the church office with the same designation. We'll let you know how we are progressing as time goes by.

TEXT a gift by using the phone number 860-512-7185 and the key word: HUNGER

- Your Outreach Committee

Outreach News

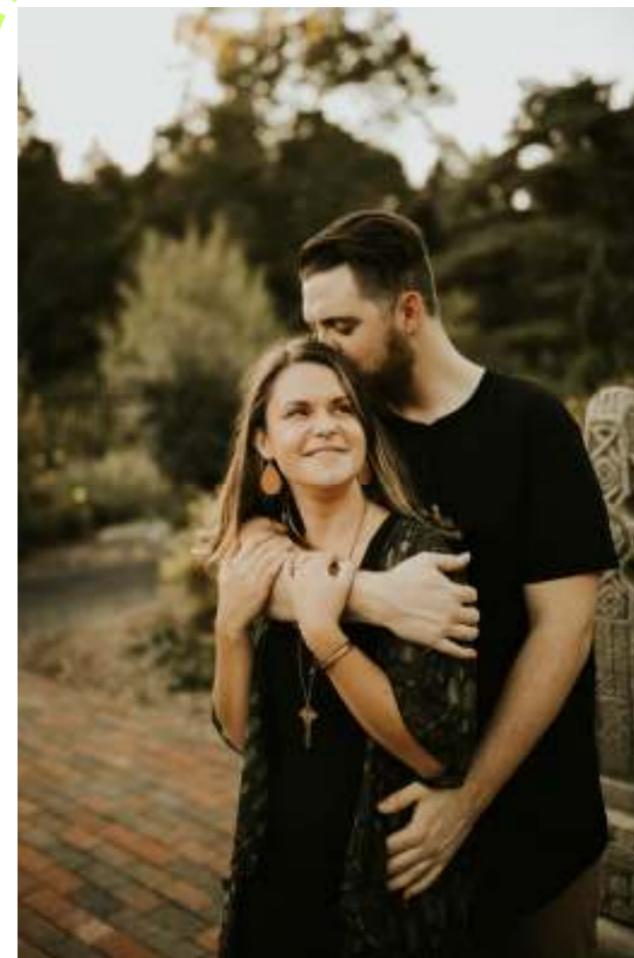
South Church is Reaching out Through:

Souper Bowl Sunday. On Sunday, February 2, our youth once again brought out the big pans and gathered \$1,452 and 50 food items after morning worship services. All of it will go to MACC to aid in their programs. Well done, youth!

Egg Cartons. A call went out from MACC for empty egg cartons (to be used in distribution of eggs) and our people have been responding ever since. Our estimate is that we took over at least fifty cartons during January.

Upcoming Programs. In the coming weeks we will be looking for support (volunteers and money) for Rise Against Hunger and Rebuilding Together. Sign up sheets will be available.

Funeral Receptions. Since we have a little space this month, how about a word of appreciation for the women who provide a time of food and fellowship after funeral services at our church.



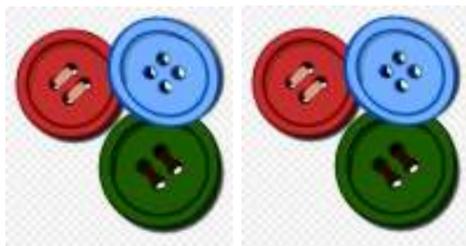
Dear SUMC Congregation,
Many of you have watched me grow up before your eyes. As a baby, you were there when I was baptized. When I was in elementary school, you were there when I took my first communion. In high school, you were there when I was confirmed. You've been there through songs, prayers, and everything in between. On April 4th, I am marrying a fantastic woman, Jocelyn Brown,. She and I would like to invite you to be present as the two of us take our next big step in our faith journey.

I am blessed to be able to call South United Methodist Church my home. Every one of you has touched my life in your own special way, and I sincerely appreciate everything you have done for me. Because of your guiding hands, I have grown into the man I am today. Jocelyn and I would love it if you could join us, along with our families, for the celebration of our marriage, officiated by Pastor John Marshall and Ryan Baker on Saturday, April 4th at 4:30pm here in the sanctuary at SUMC. We look forward to having you accompany us on our very special day!

With love,
Alexander LaForest

WHOEVER BELIEVES

March Message Series: from John 12



CRAFT GROUP NEEDS BUTTONS

The craft group has found a few projects that use buttons to make for the fall fair. We are looking for flat buttons, any size, in white, red and green. If you have any extra to donate, please put them in the "Button" box on the back table in Reception Hall.



The GIFTS OF LOVE ... EARLY SPRING EDITION IS OPEN TODAY!

Stop by the Gifts of Love ... a Shop in Reception Hall (after the 9:30 service) and outside the Café (before the Café service) to select a special gift that keeps on giving! Gifts available in this "episode" are items made by American veterans, international gifts made by craftspeople from seriously impoverished areas of India, Kenya, Ecuador, Philippines, Bangladesh and the West Bank. We are also offering coffee from the Phoenix Roasters, an Atlanta- based organization that works directly with impoverished farmers. In addition, beautiful gift Bibles are available for your purchase at the Shop. They make beautiful Easter gifts. Small brochures that focus on certain aspects of Bible study are also featured in the Shop. Gifts of Love will be open each Sunday in March. Please stop by and make a purchase that will help us to help others.

Easter Flower Order Form



It's time to order your Easter Flowers!

The plants will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Café for our Easter services. The plants may be taken after Easter, April 12 if you wish, otherwise they will be distributed to our homebound folks.

Please make checks payable to SUMC flower fund and mail with the following form to:

South UMC
c/o: Flower Committee
1226 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040

Number of Plants: _____ @ \$8.50 each = _____

The DEADLINE for ordering flowers is
Friday, April 1, 2020

Please print the following information:

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Best Telephone Number: _____

Offering Envelope Number: _____ (If you have one)

Will be left for shut in: _____ Will be taken: _____