



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE May 2013

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

May 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: info@southumc.com
Web address: southumc.com

June Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, May 19, 2013



THE CHALLENGE

MAY 2013

**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 (Children,
Youth and Adults)
- 11:45a - Contemporary
Worship with Wildfire
Worship Band

Life's Greatest Questions

Who and what are we living for?

*"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,
not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Dear Friends,

The events of last week were a reminder to me that we live in an extremely troubled world, filled with anxious, angry people who seem not sure where to turn for direction and help. I believe God has strategically placed the church in this world at this time to help people through these uncertain days. As those who have responded to the message of Jesus Christ, we have been entrusted with a message and a mission that offers real hope to every person, from teens searching for answers to addicts looking for a path to freedom, to parents seeking help in answering their children's questions about life and about God, to lonely seniors trying to find a meaningful way to live out their days.

**"God placed within each person a desire
to contribute,
to make a difference in our world,"**

As followers of Jesus Christ, as members of his body, The Church, he has given us the tools to provide real help. What's more, these tools, answer, the basic need every human has to make life better, in some small way, for ourselves, our families and the people around us. These tools answer life's greatest questions, "Who and what are we living for?"

God placed within each person a desire to contribute, to make a difference in our world, to live for something beyond ourselves. Living beyond ourselves means satisfactorily answering five fundamental questions. These questions are based on the five commitments people make when they join South Church. The commitments that we often **run from** are precisely those practices we need to **run to** if we desire to have our lives truly count: by helping the poor in spirit and resources. In the next five weeks during our worship services I will talk about how the world is a better place when we really pray, are truly present, generously live, serve others and tell our stories.

During these weeks, we will "provoke or motivate one another to love and good deeds," in the hope that we will better position ourselves to offer real help in the name of Jesus Christ to a world filled with people in desperate need. For when we answer life's greatest questions, when we make these five commitments, we will be able to offer Jesus, who is the greatest hope!

In Service to Christ, Pastor John

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May Worship Theme

APRIL 21-MAY 19 SERIES: Life's great questions, what are we living for?

God made us with a desire to contribute, to make a difference in our world, to live for something beyond ourselves. Questions based on the five commitments people make when they join South Church. The commitments that we often **run from** are precisely those practices that we need to **run to** if we desire to have our lives truly count: by helping the poor in spirit and resources. In the next five weeks we will talk about how the world is a better place when we really pray, are truly present, generously live, serve others and tell our stories.

May 5, 2013 Scripture: Luke 6:27-38 (I will be generous...)

Summary: Jesus instructs us to live generously.

Key Verse: Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Question/ Theme: What are we investing? What is our contribution? (giving)

May 12, 2013 Scripture: Mark 10:35-45 (I will serve..)

Summary: James and John ask to sit at Jesus' right and left hand.

Key Verse: Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Question/ Theme: 12. How can I best use the time given to me? (service)

May 19, 2013 Scripture: Acts 1:6-11 (I will witness...)

Summary: James and John ask to sit at Jesus' right and left hand.

Key Verse: Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Question/Theme: What do I stand for? Do others know what I think? (witness)

May 26, 2013 Trinity Sunday

Scriptures: Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

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Web address: southumc.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/southumc](https://www.facebook.com/southumc)

Twitter: twitter.com/southumc

Text (SMS): (860) 281-SUMC [7862]

South Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14
Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11
Interim Accompanist—Jill Smith
Director of Ministries - Terry Marshall ext. 15
Director Youth Ministries - Nick Adams ext. 13
Sexton - Ken Schaller ext. 20
Assistant Sexton - Don Wilby ext. 20
Office Managers - Colleen Olbert/Patti LaForest ext. 10
Rev. Richard Thompson (retired)

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Blanket Sunday: Mother's Day, May 12

A warm blanket. What can it do?

When your world has been torn apart by war, and your immediate wish for your children is a warm place to sleep, a blanket is something to hold on to, along with the hope for a better tomorrow.

When your home has been washed away by torrential rains, and a barren hillside offers the only shelter from a howling wind, a blanket is something to hold on to, along with the hope for brighter days ahead.

Hope never dies, but sometimes it needs a little help.

The Christian Outreach Commission is very pleased to announce that we are sponsoring a Blanket Sunday on Mother's Day. Beginning on Sunday, April 28, and then continuing on Sundays May 5 & 12 in Reception Hall you will have the opportunity to give the gift of a blanket to someone in need. Christian World Service blankets provide comfort as well as protection from harsh weather for refugees, the homeless, and victims of natural disasters throughout the world.

Blanket Gift Cards will be available to acknowledge your gifts. In addition, for each \$5 blanket purchased, you may fill out a "honor heart" with the name of an important woman in your life (mother, grandmother, wife, daughter, granddaughter, sister, . . .). The hearts will be pinned to our blankets in the sanctuary. By Mother's Day help us completely cover the blankets with hearts, as be blanket the world with love!

Thanks to your gifts of blankets, we are able to provide comfort and warmth - something to hold on to along with hope - for our neighbors in need around the block, and around the world.

By Mother's Day help us completely Blanket the World with Love!

Norman McFarlane steps down as organist.

Effective Sunday, April 21st, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) of the South Church accepted Norman McFarlane's resignation as organist. Norman has indicated that he feels it is a time for a change and is moving forward. Pastor John offered a prayer of gratitude for Norman's fifteen plus years of providing wonderful music for the members and friends of South United Methodist Church, asking for the Lord's continues blessing upon him into the future.

Meeting on April 16th the SPRC established a process led by Music Director, Earle Bidwell, to search for a new organist. It is hoped that a new person could be in place by Spirit Sunday in September.

For the present, Jill Smith will be serving as the accompanist both for the chancel choir and for congregational singing. Jill is an accomplished pianist, having played often at South Church, she should be well known to most of us. We are grateful for Jill's willingness to step in on such short notice.

CTWMA District Resource Day

Bishop Violet Fisher – Evangelist

All disciples – lay and clergy alike - are

“Called, Anointed and Appointed!”

Thursday, May 9, 2013 (Ascension Day!)

**Hazardville United Methodist Church
330 Hazard Ave, Enfield, CT 06082**

CLERGY 2pm-2:30 clergy gathering/fellowship
2:30-5:30 clergy session with Bishop Fisher

SUPPER \$7 5:30-6:30 available for all who register

EVENING WORKSHOP AND WORSHIP CELEBRATION
6:30-8:30 **LAITY AND CLERGY**

If you've ever had the privilege of hearing Bishop Fisher – you already know this will be a day full of the Holy Spirit! Come all who hunger for abundant life - renewal in your life and in the church! **You don't want to miss this!!!!**
Bishop Fisher retired in 2008, but there is no retirement from discipleship-making! She is a sought after revivalist, guest speaker/preacher, lecturer, teacher, conference leader and evangelist. She travels extensively as God's messenger! Her call into ministry came at the age of 16!

TO REGISTER – email or call District Office cwmumc@neumc.org 860-871-7149

Vacation Bible School at South UMC



Mark your calendars! Monday, August 19 - Friday, August 23, 9am to noon. Children will be a part of fun Bible learning experiences they can see, hear, touch, and even taste!! VBS is for children who are Pre-K (potty trained) through finishing 5th grade. Registration forms are available in Reception Hall and Classrooms. You can download a registration from our website at: www.southumc.com/vbs



Washington School Outreach

On May 23, 2013, Washington School will be holding a math/literacy night. Families will be participating in a variety of activities that include both math and reading skills.

We will be looking for 10-20 volunteers to work from 5:00 to 7:30. Training will be provided in the first half hour. No previous teaching skills are necessary.

We will also be collecting new math and reading games suitable for grades K-5. Playing cards, dominoes, dice, and any games that involve math or reading skills are some suggestions.

There will be a box in the reception hall for games and also a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Youth Summer Mission Trip

When: July 7th, 2013 — July 12th, 2013

Where: Lynn/Boston, MA

Who: Students in Grades 8-12

Cost: \$110 per student. \$55 deposit due May 19th. Scholarships available upon request.

Contact: Nick Adams. youth@southumc.com or (860) 647-9141 ext. 13

Another Mission Opportunity for Guys

When: July 21st, 2013 — July 26th, 2013

Where: Philadelphia, PA

Who: Guys in Grades 9-12

Cost: \$110 per student. \$55 deposit due June 1. Scholarships available upon request.

Contact: John Marshall. pastorjohn@southumc.com or (860) 647-9141 ext. 14

May 2013 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
5 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	6	7 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:00pm Commission/Committees	8 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	9	10	11 4:00pm Wedding
12 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am NO Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	13	14 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:30pm Ad Board	15 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	16	17	18 9:30am Knitting Group 11:00am Stop Hunger Now 1:00pm Youth Group
19 – Day of Pentecost 9:30 am Confirmation Service 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm No Youth Group	20	21 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm Staff Parish	22 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	23	24	25
26 9:30am Traditional Worship w/ Choir and Children's Story 9:45am Kindergarten, 1 st and 2 nd Grade Sunday School Class 10:45am Sunday School for All Ages (Children, Youth and Adults) 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	27	28 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance	29 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	30	31	1 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

Outreach News



Help Us Prepare Over 10,000 Meals!

Saturday, May 18, 11 am Cooper Hall

We successfully raised the funds (thank you!), so on May 18 our church will be sponsoring a **Meal Packaging Event** using the services of Stop Hunger Now. This is an approximately 2-hour immensely fun, hands-on and rewarding experience for anyone of any age. A group of us, using an organized assembly-line approach, will package thousands of meals in a short time.

Stop Hunger Now meals pack a big punch. Every dehydrated rice/soy meal is fortified with 21 essential vitamins and nutrients. Research has shown that one in three people in developing countries are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies. Addressing the problem of hunger is the single point where we can leverage relief for all humanitarian issues.

With your support, relief organizations such as Stop Hunger Now have the means to deliver to ongoing school feeding programs that sustain lifelong change. Providing a hot meal during school gives parents an incentive to send their children to school. Through receiving a primary school education, the cycle of poverty can begin to be broken by leveraging change in many other issues including education, maternal health, childhood mortality, gender equality and combating HIV/AIDS.

For more information, please see Pastor Dick (860-647-7009, spotanpuff@gmail.com) or Boris Gerber (860-647-7652, borisgerber1@cox.net).

50 Volunteers are Needed!

See the Display & Sign-Up Poster in Reception Hall



Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

Blankets for Mothers' Day

Mothers' Day is coming; that means it is time to donate a blanket to CWS in celebration of some "mothering" influence in your life (living or deceased). See our article for more info.

Another Volunteer in Mission

Word has it that Jake, Stephanie, and family are joining a group from the Wesley Foundation in Arizona to work at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Good news. Maybe we can get to hear a report when they get back.

Washington School

There is no word yet on Washington School Math Night for this year. However, we do have three people (and possibly four) who are going to get involved in some tutoring with the kids over there who need it. Beth Lavalette, her husband, Lenny, and Bill McGugan are the "definites". We wish them God's grace in their endeavors.

MACC Food Pantry

If you were in church in early April, you saw our non-perishable food items (many of them collected by our youth during the 30-hour Famine) had been displaced from the normal storage area because of the tile removal process downstairs. To get them out of the way, we took them to the Food Pantry; you would have thought we were bringing them gold. The mail carriers' drive is coming up soon, and that should help, but in the meantime food is going off the shelves very rapidly. If you see a sale on any kind of non-perishable food item, think about buying a little and bringing it in. Help out your neighbors.

Compassion International

The church received notice this spring that Saisa Kutata of Kenya, the young man we had been sponsoring for years, has now reached an age where he must leave the program. We have asked for a new child, this time from Haiti, that we might sponsor. After morning worship one Sunday in May, we offered a chance for folks to give a dollar or two toward a graduation gift for Saisa.

Rebuilding Together

We had our usual big group of people ready to work on April 27 to follow the leadership of Bill Bruno and Pat Lapworth as we transform the outside of a house in Manchester all in one morning. By the time this article was written, however, it was still uncertain whether we had been assigned a house to do. We'll let you know next month how this turned out.

Heifer Fair

Look for our usual spring Heifer Fair in June... your chance to change the whole style of living for a family in an undeveloped country.

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
March 12, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Patti LaForest, Jake Beverage, Bill Hyde, Brian Mohr, Deb Grehn, Kim Grehn, Pastor John Marshall, Terry Marshall, Don Wilby and Larry Fiano.

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John said a prayer. SUMC's vision and mission statements were read.

There were no minutes to be approved.

Unfinished Business:

Unfinished business was tabled.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

Kim Grehn reported that Logos is being upgraded.

Education:

Terry Marshall reported that 9 youths are participating in the Confirmation Class and it is going well. The class is being taught by Pastor John, Terry and Nick. Each youth has an adult mentor that participates in the class. Many of the youth will be going on a retreat March 22 through 24. Easter celebration, along with a Easter egg hunt is planned for March 30th. Fantastic turn out, 30 people, for Kingdom creation, craft day for VBS. New VBS dates are August 19th through the 23rd.

Lay Leader:

Don Wilby reported about a training opportunity for SPRC, Leadership Academy to take place April 20th at Christ UMC in North Hampton, MA. The cost will be \$12 and include lunch. Don is planning on attending Purple Heart Homes on March 14th at 5:30pm in the Hearing Room at Lincoln Center.

Trustees:

Larry Fiano reported that we are still waiting for delivery of partitions for the men's bathroom. Cooper Hall asbestos removal set to begin April 1st. Office doors set to have glass panel installed on left hand side. This is being done so people entering from Main Street door can be visible to office staff. LOGOS will be used by the Treasurer for functions including accounts and endowments. This should result in a net decrease in cost for the operating budget since Trustees will share the expense. Trustees have agreed to pay the cost of Ken Schaller's salary for one day per week as of 1/1/13 until his retirement October 2013. Loren Stolp reported that he and Phil Susag toured Jesse Lee House to determine what items belong to SUMC. Possession of the building will take place 3/22/13. Trustees are making an application to the Conference for permission to sell the Oak Street parsonage and the westerly half of 20 Hartford Road property including Jesse Lee House. Intent is to use the money for the elevator. Together for Tomorrow funds balance is approximately \$80,000, Elevator fund balance is \$20,000, and use of proceeds from Oak Street would put us in a strong position to approach the elevator and related improvement expenses. Trustees have accepted the proposal of Rick Lawrence to design the elevator, the price is \$10,000. Site plan work to be done by Design Professionals from South Windsor and once preliminary plans are drawn, they will be provided for all to review and comment. Discussion of the Wish List will begin in April. Repair to the Sanctuary front steps to be done in the spring.

Jake Beverage is helping with the upgrade to Logos which will have some new features. For example, Logman will allow you to create individual accounts and log in from home. It was discussed that Jake be part of the IT Committee and check computers and their needs.

There was a motion (Larry Fiano, Bill Hyde) for the creation of a Tech Team that will work with Director of Next Generation Ministries and report to Trustees and Ad Board regarding technical issues. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Treasurer of Finance and Stewardship:

Bill Hyde reported that two checks totaling \$3,110.00 were sent to MACC in February, \$1,500 from Seasonal Sharing and Outreach and \$1,610 from Souper Bowl Sunday. Income was down due to the weekend blizzard and people being away for Winter Break. There is a new account line item for Trash and Recycling at \$110 per month.

Seasonal Ministries:

Brian Mohr reported a successful Shrove Tuesday and we are beginning to think about fall activities.

Memorials:

Deb Grehn read the memorials report from Thelma Dickerson. We've received \$650 in memorial funds for the month of February.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor John reported that the Lenten Study is going well with 15-18 people attending the Wednesday class and 12 attending the Sunday class. The International Peacekeeping meeting will take place March 21 at 7pm at St. Mary's Church. John read Luke 21:37-38 regarding getting up early to "listen". Work is being done to repair the screen in the Sanctuary.

New Business:

Stephen Ministries – 8 people are going for training March 17th in Trumbull. April 7 through the 13, Pastor John, Terry, Don Wilby and Alberta Hoagland will be attending training in St. Louis for Stephen Ministries. Bill Hyde reported that 1 item was omitted from the budget for payroll taxes and we would need to amend the budget for \$10,400.

There was a motion (Brian Mohr, Larry Fiano) to amend the budget to include \$10,400 for payroll taxes making the line item for Salaries and Benefits \$165,535. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Adjournment:

The next meeting of the Administrative Board will be Tuesday, April 9th at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti LaForest

The Administrative Board

The Administrative Board is the governing body of South United Methodist Church. Any member of South United Methodist Church is invited to attend Administrative Board meetings. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30pm.

If you have any questions about the Administrative Board or about South Church, please feel free to contact Pastor John at (860) 647-9141 ext. 14 or e-mail pastorjohn@southumc.com.