

Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE May 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](mailto:office@southumc.com)**  
**Web address: [southumc.com](http://southumc.com)**

**June Challenge Deadline:**  
**Sunday, May 22, 2016**

**THE CHALLENGE MAY 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

**Help is on the Way!**

*Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever." (John 14:26)*

Dear Friends,

Do you ever find yourself to be in need of help, assistance, relief or aid? There are moments, or even phases in our lives, when the best we can do is not sufficient. Jesus' followers found themselves in just such a position at a time we would not expect. After seeing Jesus alive on several occasions after His resurrection over a period of forty days. During that time, Christ told his followers that he was soon physically departing and they were to carry on and continue his work. Imagine how overwhelmed the disciples must have been. Jesus told them that he would provide all the help needed for his followers to carry on his work and to thrive in the world. But they would have to be patient, **"I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)"** The good news for those who follow Jesus today is that God offers the same "power" or help to us. It is ours for the asking, all we need to do is admit our need of the assistance that God alone can provide.

**God offers the help of His Spirit to followers of Jesus today.**

Like us, the disciples no doubt wondered about the form this divine help would take. Jesus said, **"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...(Acts 1:8)"** God would pour his Spirit out on every disciple of Jesus. This first happened ten days after Jesus' ascension in dramatic fashion with the sound of wind and something like candle flames over every disciple's head. The growth of the Christian church, the exponential expansion of Jesus' message and mission can be tracked back to that day. The formerly frightened and intimidated apostles were now courageously able to share Jesus' ministry by their words and kind, powerful deeds.

Today we still find ourselves in need of help individually and collectively as the church. To receive the help we lack, we need the same Holy Spirit who made such a dramatic difference in the lives of the first century believers. We have to remind ourselves that today, in the twenty-first century, as believers in Jesus, **His Spirit resides in us.** But often what can happens is that our own self-sufficient and independent nature squeezes out or limits the Spirit of Jesus in us. When this happens we should turn to God and honestly admit, **"Lord I have been leaning too heavily on my strength, fill me once again with yours."** When we turn to God with such a request, God answers, and truly, "Help is on the way!"

In service to the risen Christ,

John



**INSIDE THE MAY ISSUE**

- May Worship 2
- SUMC News 3
- May Calendar 6
- Outreach News 9
- Ad Board Minutes 10

# May 2016 Worship Themes

## May 1, 2016: Worth the wait

**Scripture:** Luke 24:44-49. Prelude to the Ascension

**Focus Verse:** "And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

**Theme:** God's help is available to those willing to wait for it.

## May 8, 2016: Help is on the way...

**Scripture:** Acts 1:1-11. The Ascension of Jesus

**Focus Verse:** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

**Theme:** Through the Holy Spirit God gives help to His people.

## May 15, 2016: Help is in the Wind...

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-13. The day of Pentecost.

**Focus Verse:** "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:4)

**Theme:** The church was born when the help of God's Spirit was given to His people.

## May 22, 2016: The Help is Shared...

**Scripture:** Acts 2:14-21 The Spirit is offered to all people.

**Focus Verse:** "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." (Acts 2:17)

**Theme:** Every believer receives the Spirit of Christ and thus His help

## May 29, 2016: No Greater Love...

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17. A lesson in true friendship

**Focus Verse:** "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

**Theme:** True friendship is being willing to lay down one's life for another.

### 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](mailto:office@southumc.com)

Web address: [southumc.com](http://southumc.com)

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

Prayer Chain: (860) 337-2793 or  
[prayer@southumc.com](mailto: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

VBS



NEWS

U

**VBS Craft Night**  
**Sunday, June 5**  
**5-7pm**  
**in Cooper Hall**

Anyone and everyone  
(children to adult)

is invited to come and help assemble 180  
"bats" for decorating our VBS.  
No crafting experience necessary!

Over the next few months, we would like to collect a few items for this year's VBS 'CAVE QUEST'. If you come across any of the following, please put in the bin found in Reception Hall or in The Café.  
Thank you!  
VBS Crew

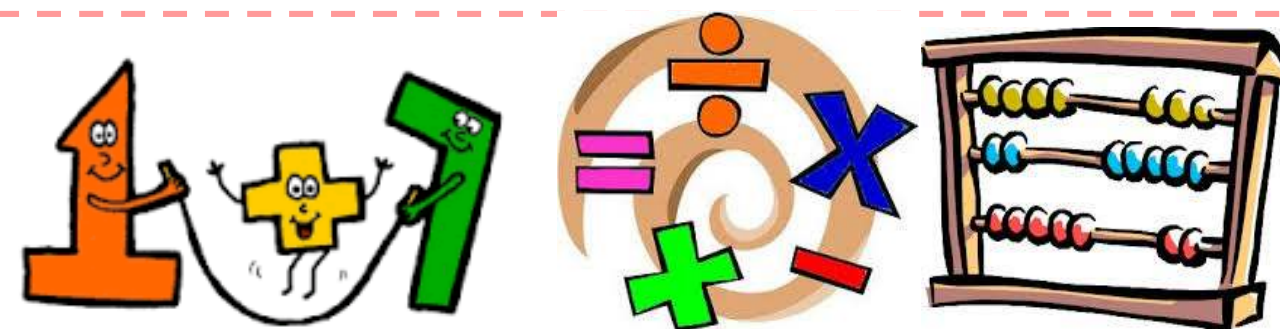
- Dark brown, black, gray, or dark blue sheets or plastic table cloths ( for our cave walls)
- Styrofoam shipping coolers from meds

M

C



N



E

W

**Math/Literacy Night at Washington School**

**Volunteers are needed from 5:15-7**

**Thursday, May 19th**

S

To play simple math games (grades K-5) which have been designed by the staff at Washington School. Everyone is invited to stay and have pizza with the families after the games. Sign up in the Reception Hall. Questions to Bill McGugan at 860-380-0070, [runbillrun01@gmail.com](mailto:runbillrun01@gmail.com)



A big thank you to the Youth Group for packing our congregation's Care Packages, which send some hope and love to our college students, and another big thank you to those in the congregation that helped to fill them! Join us in praying for a great Spring Exam week for each of our students!

Also the Young Men's/Women's Bible Studies are continuing to meet Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 through the end of May. Contact JT/Catey if you're interested in attending!

### 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.



General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, and meets every four years.

General Conference will meet May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, OR.

Follow events via live stream starting 5 p.m. EDT May 10 at:  
[www.umc.org/who-we-are/general-conference-2016-live-video-stream-english](http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/general-conference-2016-live-video-stream-english)

on Twitter: @UMCGC  
on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/umcgeneralconference](http://www.facebook.com/umcgeneralconference)  
For more, visit: [www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016](http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016)



**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

## Upcoming Youth Events

Spring is here and that means most of the youth activities will be outside! Come and join us for Sunday School from 10:45-11:30 on most Sunday mornings and Youth Group from 5-7 most Sunday evenings. In honor of the mothers in the congregation the Youth will not have Sunday School or Youth Group on Mother's Day.

Also, Mission Trip paperwork has gone out, and there are still spots available! The Youth will be serving in Niagara Falls from July 24-29...please pray that God would prepare our hearts for this opportunity and contact JT if you're interested in going!

5/1	Youth Group at 5pm at South
5/8	NO Youth Group (Mother's Day)
5/15	Youth Group at 5pm at South
5/22	Youth Group at 5pm at South
5/29	NO Youth Group (Memorial Day)



## Fill the Ark for Heifer International!

This year, the Outreach Commission is asking for your help to support the work of Heifer International in a fun, new way! It's a 4-week program called "Fill the Ark." On May 15th, each participating family can take home a calendar of daily activities and a bank, or "ark." Each day, the Fill the Ark Calendar provides an opportunity for you, as a family, to learn more about Heifer's work around the world, and a way for you to provide a small contribution to your ark. For example, one day's entry is about bees, and how they provide income and medicine to families in Guatemala. Then, the calendar instructs you to add 25 cents for every jar of honey in your kitchen. Easy, right?

We will have Fill The Ark kits available after each service on May 15th. Follow your calendar for the next 4 weeks and work on filling up your ark. Then, on Youth Sunday, June 12th, bring it back to church and turn it in at the picnic. For every dollar you collect in your ark, there will be a fun activity for you and your family to take part in.

*Let's shoot for a nice big contribution to Heifer International!!*



## Blanket Sunday: Mother's Day, May 8



Blanket the world with love.



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
BLANKETS**

[www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org)

In Reception Hall on Sundays May 1 and May 8 you have the opportunity to give the gift of a blanket to someone in need. Church World Service blankets provide comfort as well as protection from harsh weather for refugees, the homeless, and victims of national disasters throughout the world.

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

**Have you purchased a blanket and an "honor heart" yet?**

# May 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 4:30pm Music Ministry Concert 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>3</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committee & Commissions	<b>4</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30pm Silent Movie Night	<b>7</b> 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
<b>8</b> 9:30am Traditional 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	<b>9</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>10</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	<b>11</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 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	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>17</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Staff Parish	<b>18</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Washington School Math Night	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30am Knitting Group
<b>22</b> 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 **Challenge deadline	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	<b>24</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline	<b>25</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	<b>1</b> 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

## More South News



**South UMC VBS 2016**  
**August 15-19**  
**9am–12pm**

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

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

### THANK YOU!

Yes I want to help with our VBS (Aug. 15-19)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I can be there every morning, all week (8:30am to 12:30pm) as a volunteer

I am available on : M T W R F (circle)

I can help with preparations prior to the week of VBS - Please call me!

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader in Training (6/7 grade)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Decorating   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Leader (8th grade and up)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Nursery      | <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Ice Cream Social (Thurs, 18th) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Sciency-fun  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Clean-up (Fri, 19th)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Skits/Drama  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Games                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help w/Snack Time   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help where needed                     |

## Outreach News

### South Church is Reaching out Through:

Approximately forty people packed almost 11,500 lunches for children (six lunches to a bag) on April 16 through the Stop Hunger Now program.

South has a team of people taking part in the Rebuilding Together event in Manchester on April 30th.

The Blankets for Mothers' Day project which is always a big money-raiser in our congregation, and is well underway. Contributions may be sent to the church with the name of a woman who has been like a mother to you, and we will honor her with an honor heart on our blanket banner. Five dollars buys a blanket and an honor heart. All money collected goes to Church World Service for its relief work around the world.

The four people from our congregation who joined in the Good Friday Walk over in Rockville: Bob Mattern, Bill Keyt, Jeff Schmidt, and Dick Thompson. A small part of the money raised goes to the Rockville Shelter, but most of it goes to a group called Sharing Inc., which supports self-help projects among poor people in the rural southeastern USA.

Joan Everson, now that she is retired, will be giving a try at being an every-week saint, building houses with Hartford Habitat.

The five people who attended the Public Hearing on the sale of Manchester Memorial Hospital and brought some of our concerns to that gathering.

Don Wilby who continues to do good work with the Gideons.

The people who are hard at work getting ready for Vacation Bible School this summer. This program not only enriches the lives of our children but draws in a number of unassociated, or loosely associated, kids (as many as seventy or eighty of them). It's another way to reach out.



### Music Ministries Spring Concert

Save the date

May 1, 2016

4:00pm



**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting  
February 9, 2016  
Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Carol Goodwin, Janet Schmidt, Phil Susag, Bill Hyde, Pastor Dick Thompson, Earle Bidwell, Terry Marshall, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, J. T. Himmelstein, Bob Thulin, Margaret Callaway.

**Meeting Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and J. T. Himmelstein read the Mission and Vision statements.

**Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:**

Draft minutes from the November 10, 2015 Administrative Board Meeting were reviewed. *There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Margaret Callaway) to accept the November 10, 2015 Administrative Board minutes as drafted; all were in favor and the motion carried.*

Draft minutes from the November 14, 2014 Church Conference were reviewed. *There was a motion (Terry Marshall, Bill Hyde) to accept the November 14, 2014 Church Conference minutes as drafted; all were in favor and the motion carried.*

**Unfinished Business:**

Church Directory: Janet Schmidt reported that several people have expressed interest in helping with the directory. The next step will be to convene a meeting and get started with the planning.

**Committee Reports:**

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that the youth retreat at Camp Berea went well, with 12 youth and 3 leaders participating. 22 were in attendance at the Super Bowl party. The young women's bible study is going well. The next mission trip is planned for Niagara Falls, July 24 – 29.

Property Manager: Bob Thulin reported that an addition (den) is in process for the Susannah Wesley Hall apartment and is progressing well. The Property Committee will be meeting soon. The Trustees are working to prioritize potential projects on the SUMC "wish list".

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC): Janet Schmidt reported that SPRC met in January and welcomed new member, Nancy Dawson. Job descriptions, a personnel Handbook and some other forms are on the work plate. The next meeting will be in March.

Finance: Bill Hyde reported that we didn't take in the total receivables budgeted for January, but this is largely to a timing issue with the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday deposit occurring on February 1. January expenses were in line with budget. We're on target with our Mission Shares and \$1,820 has also been paid to Conference for the Refugee Relief Fund.

Social Concerns Group: Pastor Dick reported that the Social Concerns Group is sending a letter to the editor of the Journal Inquirer, expressing appreciation and welcome to the Islamic community in Manchester. The Group is hoping to attend the next ECHN hearing, in March. The hope is there will be an Ombudsman appointed to represent the community.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported on several activities that are ramping up. March 6 and 13 will feature Bargain Hunters for MACC. In a fun presentation, the congregation will be given the opportunity to give money for the Outreach Committee to search out non-perishable food bargains. April 16 is the Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event. Blankets for Mothers Day campaign will occur April 24 – May 8. A Rebuilding Together event will be held on April 30. Jill Smith is working on the possibility of a Heifer International project/program for the Church School.

Music: Earle Bidwell reported that the Children's Choir will perform in March. There are currently 12 active members.

Trustees: Earle Bidwell reported that Jim Hoagland is exploring potential options and related costs for future use of the 21 Hartford Road property. Walden Behavioral has reconfirmed their intent to purchase Jesse Lee House, with a goal of moving in by the end of 2016. The existing option contract remains in force for this year.

Phil Susag asked about the status of the requested Archive Room. Pastor John responded that this will be put on the Trustees list for prioritization.

Stephen Ministries, Visitation, Education: Terry Marshall reported that a regional Stephen Ministries Workshop will be held at South Church on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The event is open to SUMC members free of charge. Bill McGugan and Amy Cooper are moving forward with the visitation component of our Congregational Care Plan. Visits to the homebound are active, with a team of 8 engaged. 14 shut-ins are receiving monthly communion. Flowers will be delivered at Easter as part of this program. The carpets in the Education Wing have been cleaned. There will be an Easter celebration for children and their families on March 20<sup>th</sup>, including a Holy Week activity.

Finance: Kim Grehn reported that giving statements have been mailed. There has been some confusion on the fiscal year designations in the communication.

Memorials: Deb Grehn reported for Jane Zadnik, who was absent. There were no memorial funds received in January.

Lay Leader's Report: Deb Grehn reported for Don Wilby, who was absent. Don preached at Wesley Memorial UMC and Vernon UMC Sunday Feb 7.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reminded the group that Lent begins February 10. A new devotional, "Journey to the Cross", will be available. There will be a Lenten Study in the Café Thursday evenings at 7:30 throughout Lent. Also, the Town of Manchester will have Ecumenical Prayer Services Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. during Lent. The Ecumenical Service will be at SUMC on March 13.

**New Business:**

There was no new business to report.

**Closing Prayer / Adjournment:**

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

**What can I do on the church website?**



Read the Challenge



Look at Announcements



Do daily Devotions



Listen to a Sermon



Check the Calendar

[www.southumc.com](http://www.southumc.com)