



Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE May 2018

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



“Where the joy of life in Christ overflows”

Sunday Worship Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Choir**
Children’s Story in the Sanctuary
Communion served monthly
- 10:45 a.m. Sunday School**
For All Ages
- 11:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship with**
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

June Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, May 20, 2018

THE CHALLENGE MAY 2018

Our Hidden Advantage

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” (John 16:7)

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite movies as a kid was, “The Absent Minded Professor” starring Fred MacMurray in the title role. In the movie, Professor Brainard, a chemist, invents a substance (flubber) that gains energy when it hits a surface. There are many humorous applications of the substance including ironing a small amount on to tacks which were then placed under the soles of basketball sneakers. The predictable result was an incredibly high-flying basketball team, performing dunks that would not be seen until players like Julius Erving or Michael Jordan entered the game. The flubber helped the players make the most of their natural abilities. Obviously, the use of a substance in a game at any time would be, and is, considered cheating. But, the story illustrates a powerful truth; people often need a little extra help, a hidden advantage in order to do their best.

After rising from the dead, through several appearances Jesus convinced his disciples that he was alive in fulfillment of the ancient Scriptures. But, our Lord told his followers that his physical presence with them would only be temporary. His work needed to continue, his word needed to be shared and his message needed to be taken to the ends of the earth. In their own strength, relying on their own abilities, Jesus and his followers knew this would be impossible. But Jesus said that if they would be patient and wait, these same followers, “Would be clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49) On the day of Pentecost, just a week and a half after Jesus left them, all 120 followers were filled with the Holy Spirit and were immediately able to communicate the message of Jesus in a language they hadn’t been able to speak before to thousands of people they didn’t know. (see account in Acts 2)

Jesus had taught his followers a great deal about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The most critical point for Jesus’ followers to remember in his day and throughout history up to the present day is this, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit or the helper, would be, “with you and will be in you.” (John 14:17) Our Lord taught that all of his followers would have the Holy Spirit within them from the moment he or she first believed.

The gift of the Holy Spirit can make a tremendous difference in the life of every Christ-follower. The Spirit helps us to grow in our faith and to know Jesus better. The Spirit can help us to grow to be the people our Lord calls us to be. The Spirit helps us to do the work Jesus calls us to do. This presence of the Lord, the Spirit, in every believer truly is our hidden advantage!

In service to our risen Lord,
John

This presence of the Spirit, in every believer is our hidden advantage!

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

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May 2018 Worship Themes

May 6, 2018: Holiness: Just Like Jesus

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13-21 - A call to holy living.

Focus Verse: "As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Theme: The Lord calls his followers to strive to be like Him and to be holy.

May 13, 2018: Discipleship: A Growing Community

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission

Focus Verse: Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a)

Theme: The mission of the church is to invite people we know, and those we are yet to know, to follow Jesus.

May 20, 2018: Pentecost: for Our Own Good!

Scripture: John 16:7-15 - Jesus describes the work of the Holy Spirit

Focus Verse: Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7)

Theme: We need the Holy Spirit in order to be the people, and do the work, for which we are called.

May 27, 2018:

Rev. Dick Thompson leading worship at 9:30am.

Lin Daniels leading worship at 11:45am

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

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)



"Bear one another's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
Galatians, 6:2

Congregational Care At SUMC

We all experience times when we could use a little extra support. . .

Our Congregational Care Team is here to help. . .

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

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

We have 2 Expressions of Caring:

C.C.C. = Congregational Care Contact

1-1 = One-on-One Care Givers

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

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

Home Communion/Visitation/Delivery Coordinator: Bill McGugan

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

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

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

1-1 Coordinator: Alberta Hoagland

Funeral Luncheon & Reception Coordinator: Alberta Hoagland

Staff Liaison: Terry Marshall

Bill & Judy Hyde (C.C.C.)

Deb Grehn (C.C.C.)

Marilyn Broneill (C.C.C.)

Mary Koduah (C.C.C.)

Don Wilby (C.C.C.)

Amy Cooper (C.C.C.)

Carlyn Arruda (C.C.C.)

Dave Bidwell (C.C.C.)

Brenda Langford (C.C.C.)

Bill McGugan (C.C.C.)

Colleen Olbert (1-1)

Deb Grehn (1-1)

Dave Burgess (1-1)

Amy Cooper (1-1)

Sue Bidwell (1-1)

Sarah Kania (1-1)

Sylvia Bruno (1-1)

Marnie Meek (1-1)

Carlyn Arruda (1-1)

Linda Vesho (Ex-officio)

Denise Roman (Ex-officio)

Ray McKay (Ex-officio)

Alberta Hoagland (Ex-officio)

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



Church Photo Directory

Photo Directories are here!

If you had your photo taken, you get a free directory for your household

Pick yours up in Reception Hall (adjacent to the Sanctuary) following the service.



You can NOW support SUMC with Amazon Purchases

The Finance Committee has registered South United Methodist Church on Amazon Smile. Instead of going to www.amazon.com to make your online purchases, just go to www.smile.amazon.com, enter your email, Amazon password, add the character image, identify South United Methodist Church as your selected charity, and then start shopping. Please make sure you select South United Methodist Church in Manchester, CT because more than one charity will be listed.

How is this helping SUMC? Each purchase through Amazon Smile will result in a payment to SUMC for 0.5% of your purchase. Say your order comes to \$100.00, SUMC will be paid \$.50.

Adding Amazon Smile as a convenient fund raiser for SUMC is a step being taken by the Finance Committee to keep up with current trends. You already have the opportunity to support SUMC through Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) from your checking account and supporting SUMC from your smart phone using Kindrid (text giving).

Young Adults



THE CROSSING

The Young Men's and Women's Bible Studies are eagerly expecting to see any and all college students that are returning home from their spring semesters! The Young Women are meeting 6:30-8:00 pm on Monday nights, and the Young Men are meeting 8:30-9:30 on Monday nights. Both groups are meeting at 21 Hartford Road aka the Virginia Ryan Next Generation Ministries Home. There will be a special dinner event for all Young Adults on May 21 from 6:30-8:00, and anyone interested in coming is encouraged to bring a friend and something to share like a dessert, salad, fruit or drink.

The College Care Packages have been sent off! A big thank you to the Youth who put them together and to all who have prayed for these. It's a simple way to impact nearly 30 college students that are within our own congregation. Praise God for each one of them!



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

05/06	Confirmation at 3:30pm/Youth Group at 5pm
05/13	NO Youth Group
05/20	Confirmation at 3:30pm/Youth Group at 5pm
05/27	NO Youth Group



Youth Mission Trip paperwork is now available! The Youth are going to Portland, ME, from July 22-27, and the cost per Youth is \$225. There are 3 due dates for deposits: May 6 (\$100), June 3 (\$75), and July 15 (\$50). Financial scholarship is available upon request. Please see the bulletin boards outside of the Youth Office or Youth Room for the South Church info sheet and the Registration and Liability Release forms from Experience Mission, which need to be returned to JT no later than Memorial Day Sunday, May 27.

Youth Sunday will be held on Sunday, June 10, and the Youth will have the chance to give the sermon! Any graduating seniors need to send their information, which should include name, college/university that will be attended, and even a major if it's known, to JT prior to June 3.



There is a workshop being held on June 8-9 in New Hampshire for any couples that are looking for an even deeper relationship. It has been recommended by people in our Annual Conference. If you want to learn more about it, go to positivecouples.com/workshops.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the many cards, memorials, prayers, and simply the kind spoken words of sympathy we've received during our recent loss of Dave. We have been truly lifted up and blessed by your caring and support.

Many attending the funeral remarked not only about the beauty of the church, the service and the wonderful reception, but about how friendly everyone here was... and that has made us feel very proud, indeed.

Gratefully,
Elaine Holcomb
& family

BLESSINGS..



IN THE BAG!!!!!!!

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

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

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

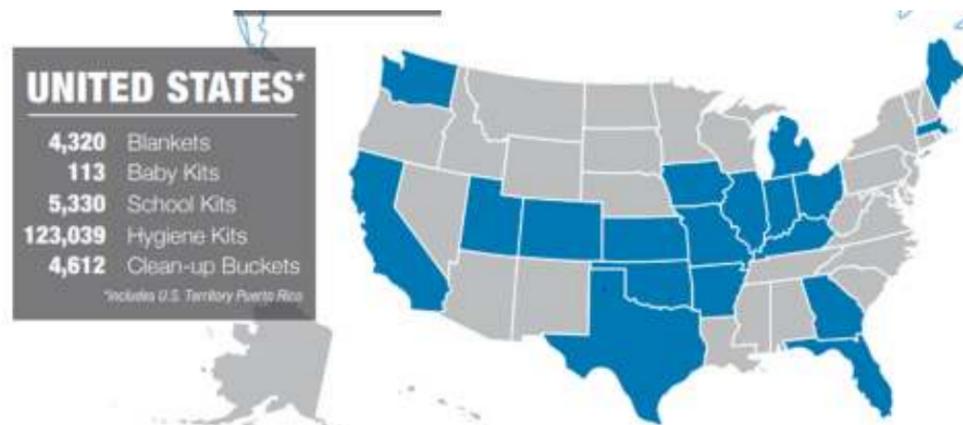
May 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 3:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Youth Group	30 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	1 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg	2 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	3 7:30pm Congregational Care Mtg.	4	5 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
6 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 3:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Youth Group	7 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	8 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	9 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	10	11	12
13 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	14 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	15 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish	16 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	17 7:30pm 1-1 Care Mtg.	18	19 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
20 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 3:30pm Confirmation Class 5:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Music Ministries Concert **Challenge deadline	21 6:30pm Young Adult Special Event	22 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg.	23 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers	24	25	26
27 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am NO Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> Memorial Day </div> 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study	29 12pm Bulletin Deadline	30 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers	31	1	2 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News



Mother Day Blanket Drive - Sunday April 29th, May 6th and Mother's Day May 13th - \$5.00 each, in Reception Hall or in The Café. You can also text your gift to #Blanket. Below are some of the locations that received blankets in 2017. They were also sent to several other countries.



Exciting Opportunities At Washington School

Come help us support your town, Washington School and it's children in one or more of these ways!!

1. Field Day is June 1st (with a rain date of June 8th). Volunteer for part or all of the day to man a station, and meet the children of Washington School. Cheer them on as they participate in Field Day activities!
2. We are helping to participate in fundraising to support Field Day. Bring in your pennies (or other change) to leave in our Penny Wars jar after Sunday Services. The students at Washington School are participating in this also.
3. Help prepare or set up Teacher Appreciation Day breakfast on May 8th in the Washington School Cafeteria, sponsored by SUMC.
4. The School Nurse is once again looking for gently used, or new clothing, sizes 5/6, 7/8 - especially boys. School is running late this year- so don't forget those shorts!!
5. There are 25 families in the Washington School district who are in great need. For this reason, SUMC has joined in with Trinity Covenant Church to reinstitute a Federal Back Pack Program which had disbanded due to lack of funds. Thirty rolling suitcases have already been purchased, and the Hyacinth Williams Foundation has committed to filling these suitcases with healthy foods and snacks to be taken home by students on the weekend. (25 families from Washington, 5 families from Keeney). We are seeking volunteers to pick up and deliver suitcases from the schools on Wednesdays in June and deliver them to the Foundation in Bloomfield. They will pack the suitcases. Then we need volunteers to return on Friday in the morning to pick up the suitcases, and bring them to the schools. This is a very exciting opportunity we hope you will all consider.

Like to find out more????
 Please contact Donna Costello at 860-646-4346
 Or email donna.costello@sbcglobal.net
 Or- Let an Outreach Member know of your interest!
 Thank you!

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

UMCOR
 GOOD FRIDAY WALK.....
 RISE AGAINST HUNGER.....
 REBUILDING TOGETHER

UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church) We raised \$2,053 in March and April. Please donate to UMCOR as you are able - the need for help throughout the world is HUGE. Just mark your donation envelope with "UMCOR" or text your donation. We will make sure it gets to the right place. For more information on UMCOR, please visit their website, www.umcor.org.

Pastor Dick continued his tradition of making the Good Friday Walk (Sharing, Inc.) on Good Friday, He thanks all of the individuals who supported him. He contributed almost \$800!!!

Rise Against Hunger on April 21 was a 100% win-win! After all was said and done, we packaged 11,000 meals that will be distributed to people in need throughout the world. 11,000!!!! The event was fast-paced, and very fun. Thanks to all who participated!

Rebuilding Together is coming up soon (April 28). Thanks to all who signed up to support this most worthy event that helps a homeowner in need in the Manchester area "rebuild" his/her home. We'll report details of the event in the June Challenge.

Clearly, the Outreach group is busy, busy, busy right now. Upcoming events include the collection for Mother's Day Blankets, ongoing MAD MACC shopping for the Food Pantry, assistance to Washington School as it is being phased out, a new Father's Day event, and initial preparation for Fall 2018 activities. Stay tuned!

Do what you can ... love what you do.

Rebuilding Together!



Rebuilding Together!





United
Methodist
Women

Each year in the fall, there is a fair at South Church. This has been sponsored by United Methodist Women, which is a mission arm of the church. Since we are no longer an official unit of UMW, it is a group of women who put the fair together, using the help of many volunteers. Publicity for the fair states that the proceeds are used for local, national and international mission projects.

At the April meeting of Lydia Circle a budget was presented and approved for the use of the \$10,733 proceeds from the 2017 fair.

Here is the breakdown:

Local (27.49%)	\$2,950
• includes, but is not limited to, MACC, SUMC Scholarships, SUMC Vacation Bible School, and Seasonal Sharing.	
National (10.71%)	\$1,150
• includes Red Bird Mission and Cooper Community Center.	
International (58.52%)	\$6,281
• includes UMCOR, Heifer International, Rise Against Hunger, a Compassion Child, the May blanket drive, and postage for the Christmas boxes.	

We keep approximately 3.28% (\$352) for programming, administrative costs, and miscellaneous contingencies.

Planning for the 2018 fair has begun. If you are interested in helping with this fun event, or wish more detailed information regarding the spending of funds, please contact anyone in Lydia Circle.

Alberta Hoagland

EARLE BIDWELL
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

TATIANA LUKYANOVA
CHRISTOPHER WALTON
ACCOMPANISTS

SUMC MUSIC MINISTRIES PRESENTS

LET ALL THE WORLD IN EVERY CORNER SING

A CONCERT OF INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC

SUN. MAY 20, 2018 | 7PM
SOUTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1226 MAIN STREET
MANCHESTER, CT

FEATURING
THE
CHANCEL CONCERT CHOIR
& WESLEY RINGERS BELL CHOIR

FREE WILL OFFERING GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

WWW.SOUTHUMC.COM