

Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE November 2012

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

October 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
December Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, November 18, 2012



**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

THE CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 2012

For All the Saints...

"God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

Dear Friends,

This is a great time of year to reflect on all the people and things that we are most grateful for. Certainly as we anticipate a general election on Tuesday, November 6th, we are thankful to live in a country where we can actively participate in our government by voting. As Christian people, God calls us not only to participate, but also to pray for all of our leaders(whether or not we voted for them.)

Our Sunday worship in November begins with a celebration of all the saints who have gone before us in the faith. We will gather to praise and worship the eternal, everlasting God, the maker of both heaven and earth. For from God the Father, in Christ Jesus our Lord and through the presence of the Holy Spirit, we have this promise of life after death. We all look forward to the day as followers of Jesus Christ when, ***"God will wipe every tear from (our) eyes. (When) death will be no more..."***

"On All Saints Day, we come together to celebrate the hope we all share in Jesus Christ."

Who are the saints that you will be remembering this All Saints Day? Who are the departed loved ones that you are looking forward to seeing again? Each of us remembers different loved ones: grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, brothers or sisters, husband or wife, perhaps children that we have lost. We also remember good friends, neighbors, former Sunday school teachers, pastors, or those who have mentored us in the faith in even the most informal of ways. In preparation for worship on the November 4th, perhaps we can reflect on those described in the hymn, "For All The Saints" by William How. ***"Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia, Alleluia!"***

On All Saints Day, we come together as the Community of Faith, certainly to grieve our losses but even more to celebrate the hope we all share in Jesus Christ our Lord. We look **to** God who is faithful; we look **through** the valley and beyond this mysterious parting that we call death. On this day, we remind ourselves of what this life is really all about; living and loving in preparation for the never-ending life to come. We reflect ever so briefly on the truth captured again in the words of the old hymn, ***"O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!"***

Looking forward to a day of remembering with you all, I remain...

Gratefully In service to Christ ,
Pastor John

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NOVEMBER
ISSUE**

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November Worship

Theme

Developing a Lifestyle of Gratitude

We are encouraged in the Scriptures repeatedly to give thanks in any and all circumstances. Researchers tell us that thankfulness is good for our health physically and psychologically, this month we will explore what happens when gratitude becomes a regular part of our attitude.

November 4, 2012 Scripture: Revelation 21:1-8

Celebration of All Saints Day: Our ultimate hope for this life and the next

Key Verse: "God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." (4)

Theme: We are thankful for the hope we have in Christ and for those who have gone before us.

November 11, 2012 Scripture: Isaiah 12:1-6

A Psalm of praise to God for His salvation

Key Verse: "And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted" (4)

Theme: We are thankful to God who is our strength, our courage, our rescuer!

November 18, 2012 Scripture: John 6:5-11, 22-23

Looking at the feeding of the 5000 from the perspective of thankfulness...

Key Verse: "Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted." (11)

Theme: There is real power in giving thanks to God. The power of a thankful heart!

November 25, 2012 Christ the King Sunday (Dick Thompson)

We are thankful for the reign and leadership of Jesus Christ.

South United Methodist Church Contact Information

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Office Hours: Mon Wed Fri 9:00a -12:00p
Tues, Thurs 6:00p-9:00p

Email address: info@southumc.com

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

Pastor of Outreach and Visitation

- Rev. Richard Thompson ext. 16

Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11

Organist - Norman McFarlane

Director of Ministries - Terry Marshall ext. 15

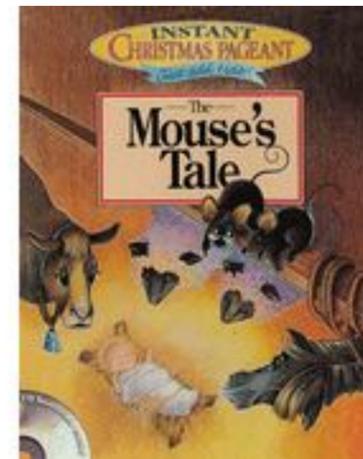
Director Youth Ministries - Nick Adams ext. 13

Sexton - Ken Schaller ext. 20

Assistant Sexton - Don Wilby ext. 20

Office Manager - Colleen Olbert/Patti LaForest ext. 10

Rev. Dr. Chaudoin Callaway III (retired)



South United Methodist 2012 Christmas Pageant The Mouse's Tale

What's that noise? Did you hear it? WHAT?! A mouse you say? It must be the squeak of those Christmas mice trying to break into our Christmas pageant! A pageant open for performers ages four through eighty-four! No memorizing needed, and many opportunities for acting and singing.

The **Mouse's Tale** is a pageant by Cindy Hansen & Bob Latchaw. It is the Christmas story, narrated by Granny Mouse, and told by the animals in the stable Christmas night. Meet the animals... -the donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem, -the cow who gave up his manger for the baby Jesus' bed, -the sheep who saw the angels on the hilltop, and -the camels who were guided by a bright star in the East... as they witnessed the miracle of Jesus' birth.

I am honored to be leading yet another pageant, which promises to be as delightful as last year's! Working with our youth is always a fantastic adventure for me! Although I am writing this in October for the November Challenge, we are only a week from the start of rehearsals! Do you believe that? So mark your calendars now for the annual pageant; one service on December 9th, at 10 a.m. See me (Denise Roman) or your Sunday school teacher if you wish to participate in this year's adventure!

Enjoy the season of giving and thankfulness!

Peace,

Denise Roman

2012 Christmas Pageant Schedule

Sunday, Nov 4th	1st rehearsal, Upper Ed Wing— 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Please be prompt; 30 mins only)
Sunday, Nov 11th	2nd rehearsal, Upper Ed Wing—11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Please be prompt; 30 mins only)
Sunday, Nov 18th	3rd rehearsal, Upper Ed Wing— 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 25th	NO Rehearsal, Thanksgiving weekend
Sunday, Dec 2nd	4th rehearsal, Upper Ed Wing— 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec 8th	Final rehearsal, Sanctuary—9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (pizza lunch to follow)
Sunday, Dec 9th	PERFORMANCE at the 10a.m. service

one service only today, please arrive at 9:30 a.m. (in Reception Hall)

Seasonal Ministries invites you to..

a decorating party! Advent begins December 2nd and there is much to get done and it certainly goes faster with helping hands!!

We will be meeting in Sanctuary Saturday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.

Lunch will be provided following the decorating!! A sign up sheet will be in Reception Hall and Café beginning Sunday November 18th!! Hope you will join in the fun. If you have any questions—just ask Patti LaForest or Brian Mohr.



An invitation



Ladies:

Come one, come all to the Holiday Tea in the Cafe on Sunday, December 2, from 3 - 5 p.m.

Tickets, at \$10.00 each, will be available for purchase in the Reception Hall after the 9:30 service on Sunday, November 11, 18, and 25th.

A variety of tea sandwiches and cookies will be served with scones and an assortment of flavored tea.

Entertainment will be provided by Legacy, a quintet of area women. Their performance will conclude with a seasonal sing-a-long to put you in the Christmas mood.



Questions can be directed to Alberta Hoagland at 860-643-0817 or through the church office.

Holiday Cookie/Candy Collection for Soldiers

The Holidays are coming and VFW Post 7659 and Post 7569 Ladies Auxiliary need your help to Support Our Soldiers in a big way. Candy and Cookies (homemade, commercial and bakery cookies) will be collected, packed and sent to our Soldiers in Afghanistan and other far away corners of the World where American Servicemen and Women will celebrate Holidays far from their families. Cookies will be collected Nov. 4th and Dec. 2nd noon to 2pm, at South Congregational Church, 1301 Forbes St., East Hartford. Volunteers are needed to help sort, organize, and pack cookies and make letters of support, cards and drawings for Thanksgiving. For more information call—860-690-2845 or glastonburyvfw@aol.com

Upcoming Youth Events

All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome

November 4—Youth Group at South SUMC. 5-7pm

November 11—Youth Group at South SUMC. 5-7pm

November 18- Thanksgiving Potluck. 5-7pm

November 22—Parking lot 8am to 10am at SUMC

November 25- No Youth Group

December 2—Bowling 5-7pm at Spare Time, Vernon

Share-A-Ride (Volunteer Opportunity)

It has come to South's attention that several members of the congregation, from time to time, may be in need of rides for various types of reasons, such as medical appointments, general shopping, to and from rehearsals and to and from church. These members may no longer be able to drive, or the car is in the shop, or the senior transportation option is not convenient. We at South Church are looking to help fill this need. We are looking for volunteers to drive during the week and also on the weekend. There would be one contact person to coordinate both those in need of rides and those who are available to provide the rides. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deb Ingraham at 860-645-1958 or quilter327@gmail.com.

It is time to order your Holiday Poinsettia!!

The plants will be placed in the Sanctuary for worship services and the Candlelight Concert on December 16th. The plants may be taken after the Candlelight Concert, however, we hope you will choose to leave your plant until after the Christmas Eve services.

Please make your checks payable to SUMC Flower Fund and mail with the following form to Jeanne Eagleson here at church, 1226 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040
Poinsettia Order @ \$8.50 each



The deadline for ordering Poinsettias is November 30, 2012

Please print all information.

In Loving Memory of:

In Loving Memory of:

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Will be left for shut in: _____

Will be taken: _____

November 2012 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group
4 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) 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal-Ed Wing 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	5	6 9:30am Crafting for Christ 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:00pm Commission	7 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	8	9	10
11 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) 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal-Ed Wing 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	12	13 9:30am Crafting for Christ 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:30pm Staff-Parish Mtg. NO AD BOARD	14 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	15	16 6pm Seasonal Sharing	17 9:30am Knitting Group
18 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) 10:45am Season Sharing delivery 11:30 Pageant Rehearsal-Ed Wing 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	19 6:00pm Staff-Parish Mtg 7:00pm Church Conference	20 9:30am Crafting for Christ 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship	21 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	22 Thanksgiving  8am Parking Lot	23	24
25 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	26	27 9:30am Crafting for Christ 12pm Bulletin Deadline 6:30pm Wildfire Worship 7:30pm Finance	28 1pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	29	30	1 10 am Advent Decorating Lunch to follow

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

Giving Tree

Each year, MACC gathers up a list of affordable dream gifts for the needy folks of all ages around town. They then post these on tags on a Christmas tree at Buckland Mall. People come by, take one or more of the tags and then buy the gifts and return them. There needs to be people at a table near the tree to offer advice, keep track of what tags have gone out, and collect and store the gifts when they come back.

Our church traditionally provides staffing for the table for three of these days. Our dates this year are: Monday, November 26; Tuesday, December 4; and Saturday, December 8. Sign-up sheets for two to three hour shifts will be in the reception hall to the left of the sanctuary, or you can call Jane Thompson at 860-647-7099.

Crop Walk

On Sunday afternoon, October 20, the annual town wide CROP WALK was held. We began up at St. Bridget, came down Main Street to South and then went back again. The money earned will be split between MACC and Church World Service. We don't have a complete total yet, but we certainly thank all the people who sponsored our pastor (or somebody else) or who came over to the table in the reception hall on Sunday mornings and volunteered to support someone. And we thank the Gerbers for representing us on the town committee and Linda Vesho for setting up the half-way stop here at South.

New Orleans Continued

We do have one person, Sylvia Gafford Alexander, joining the group of United Methodists from New England in New Orleans at the very end of October. We pray for a safe journey for her and anxiously await her return to hear what damage the most recent storms have caused.

Habitat Work Day

Our thanks to the nine people from South who headed into Hartford on the first Saturday of October to spend a day building for Habitat. They worked on porch roofs and the main roof for the last four of the sixteen units. Eight of the new units on South Marshall Street are pretty much finished, and families will soon be moving in, but there is still much to do on the other eight.

Wendy's Kids

We received word from Wendy that she won't be able to distribute our items before she comes home, but she has arranged with a church group which is there in mission to get them to the kids as soon as the present uproar has quieted down. She also sent a nice letter from her commanding officer which we are including elsewhere in this Challenge.

Our Church Fair

Outreach News

Mission Shares

It was exciting to hear in late June from our treasurer that we were up to date on our Conference Mission Shares (formerly called apportionments). It required some reduction in staff and some reduction in expectations by the Annual Conference, BUT WE ARE DOING IT.

Seasonal Sharing

South Church in cooperation with the Manchester Area Conference of Churches has identified many families in need in Manchester. Through the Outreach Commission, we have assumed the responsibility of providing groceries for the Thanksgiving meal for 25 families. Please bring non-perishable food item and put them in the grocery cart in the narthex or the box in Reception Hall. Non-perishable food items needed are: **juice, cranberry sauce, chicken broth, canned vegetables, canned sweet potatoes, gravy, stuffing, coffee.** Please sign up in Reception Hall to bring a turkey or ham prior to the 9:30 a.m. service on 11/18. Please make a monetary contribution to purchase perishable items such as: pies, rolls, milk, margarine, eggs, fresh vegetables, etc. (Please make checks payable to SUMC and note seasonal sharing.)

- On Friday, November 16th at 6:00 p.m., help is needed in Cooper Hall to organize and pack food.
- On Sunday, November 18th following the 9:30 a.m. service, help is needed to deliver food. Please sign up in Reception Hall. Please call Bill McGugan at 860-649-9072 with any questions.

Again, Thank You for Your Generosity!

We feel that we are in concert with the work of our Lord, and rejoice each time we see some good work being done.

27 September 2012

Dear Members of the South United Methodist Church:

On behalf of the military and civilian members of the NATO mission here at Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful and generous donations of school supplies, toys and clothing you have donated to the children of Afghanistan over the past 10 months. Because of the rampant poverty here, supplies for school children are not provided by their communities. Therefore, your gift will be greatly appreciated by the children, parents and teachers of one of our local schools.

Warm clothing is also difficult for parents to provide for their children. Many children died from exposure to the cold temperatures last winter. As the winter weather begins to set in, I'm sure many children will be better prepared to tolerate the cold as a result of your kind donations of coats and other winter wear.

Sincerely,
Cedric T. Wins
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Deputy Commander-Police

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
September 11, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Deb Grehn, Margaret Callaway, Kim Grehn, Bill Hyde, Bob Thulin, Larry Fiano, Thelma Dickerson, Phil Susag, Don Wilby, Pastor Dick Thompson, Deb Ingraham, Patti LaForest, Nick Adams, Terry Marshall, Pastor John Marshall, Brian Mohr and Jake Beverage

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John said a prayer and Nick Adams read SUMC's vision and mission statements. Kim Grehn read "My Church"

Because Carol Goodwin was not in attendance, Deb Grehn asked for a volunteer to be recording secretary for the meeting, Deb Ingraham volunteered.

Draft minutes of the June 12, 2012 meeting were reviewed: The following changes were brought forward:

Corrected the spelling of Patti and Alex LaForest's last name and also added Terry Marshall as being in attendance for that meeting.

Correction under Staff Parish Relations that the position for Pastor Dick Thompson should read - Pastor of Outreach & Visitation and the position for Terry Marshall should read Director of Ministries.

Phil Susag moved for the approval of the above corrections and Bill Hyde seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

21 Hartford Road Property: Larry Fiano reported that the interior has been cleaned out. Don Wilby did the job. Question was asked if the realtor has been notified that the house was cleaned and is now ready for showing. As of the date of this meeting, the answer was no, and it was decided that Bob Thulin would notify the realtor of the properties readiness.

Committee Reports:

Finance Report: Bill Hyde reminded the Board of the use of the expense sheet for reimbursement of expenses. Bill said that the income is still low, but expenses are under budget. Bill also mentioned he had something else to discuss under new business.

Trustees: Larry Fiano reported that the claim has been settled and repairs to the parapets will commence in the next two weeks. All stones will be sealed, all mortar and lead shields will be installed with a 10 year guarantee. Front step of church, which is tilted, will be addressed at the same time as the other work. All work on the main parsonage is complete. Work on the handicapped bathroom has been delayed, but will be underway soon.

Property Bob Thulin reported the plants have been moved, more plants have been purchased. Sue Bidwell and Joanne Thulin will address additional plantings.

Memorials: Thelma Dickerson reported that YTD 25,835.00 has been received, with \$25,000 of that for renovation and accessibility improvements to the lower level men's bathroom.

Lay Leader: Don Wilby said there was not much to report. He did mention several resources on the conferences website. Deb Grehn asked about the dates for School of Congregational Development. Dates are November 16 & 17 @ Grace Chapel

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that he is very pleased with the response for the food pantry, Washington Street School and now for Wendy's Kids. Crop Walk is October 21 and seasonal sharing is gearing up for Thanksgiving. September 29th, Bishop Welcoming Celebration in Worcester, MA, several members are going. October 7, District Celebration - Springfield MA. It was suggested that an email be sent as to what South UMC should bring to this event. There was brainstorming as to what should be put on a poster for SUMC, such as the Café, the beautification of the church, VBS, audio/visual, new professions of faith, new members, and Sunday school.

Discussion regarding giving to Washington School, Patti LaForest suggested that we give through the Town of Manchester Human Services Department, so all of the schools benefit instead of just to Washington School.

Staff Parish: Deb Ingraham reported that there is nothing to report at this time and the committee will be having its first meeting the next week.

Seasonal Ministries: Brian Mohr and Patti LaForest reported that decorating of the sanctuary will take place December 1, 2012 @ 10am and Christmas Caroling will be December 22, 2012 @ 3PM.

Education: Terry Marshall reported that there has been a re-designation of space for the new Sunday school year and the combining of some of the grade levels.

Nick Adams reported on the Youth. They are taking ownership of the youth group. There was an Eagle Scout and friends who built two benches for outside of the church. MACC has said that our youth group is one of the most helpful youth groups and when they need help they know that can call on our youth to help. Nick reported on a group that is in development called "Greater Manchester Youth Alliance" which is made up of all of the youth groups from area churches. He also reported that the mission trip to Rutland, VT was very successful.

Pastor's Report Pastor John reported on the seven things that successful church is doing; They are: Welcoming, Worshipping, praying, learning, serving and sharing. He also reminded us that next Sunday is back to church Sunday.

Deb Grehn brought up a new topic called "Congregant's Concerns" Under this heading members of the board can bring up any issues that have been brought to their attention by members of the congregation:

The First item is Parking between the parsonage and the church. Because there are so few handicapped spaces, it was suggested that during service times, those spaces be reserved for those individual with mobility issues. It was agreed that a sign would be developed and displayed on Sunday mornings for just that purpose. Also suggested that something be put in the bulletin and the Challenge.

The next item is Elevator - currently the church does not have the funds. Nick Adams moved to instruct the Trustees to investigate the need and possible funding for an elevator, Margaret Calloway seconded, Larry Fiano opposed. Larry also indicated that it would have been better to have been asked in a friendly manner to investigate instead of being instructed.

Third - The Screen - there has been a complaint regarding the screen being up all the time and blocking the window in the back. Because this is so new, it was suggested that there is a learning curve as to what will work and what doesn't.

New Business:

Bill Hyde presented a motion to the Board to transfer \$100 per month into a holding account for the purpose of Funding the expense of a future Pastor's moving. This would go into effect October 1, 2012. Dick Thompson seconded and all approved.

Adjournment:

Next Meeting of the Administrative Board will be held October 9. Closing Prayer by Pastor John and meeting adjourned at 9:22pm

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Ingraham

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, December 11th at 7:30pm. Everyone is invited to attend our Church Conference Monday, November 19th at 7:00pm

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.