



Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE November 2015

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



"Where the joy of life in Christ overflows"

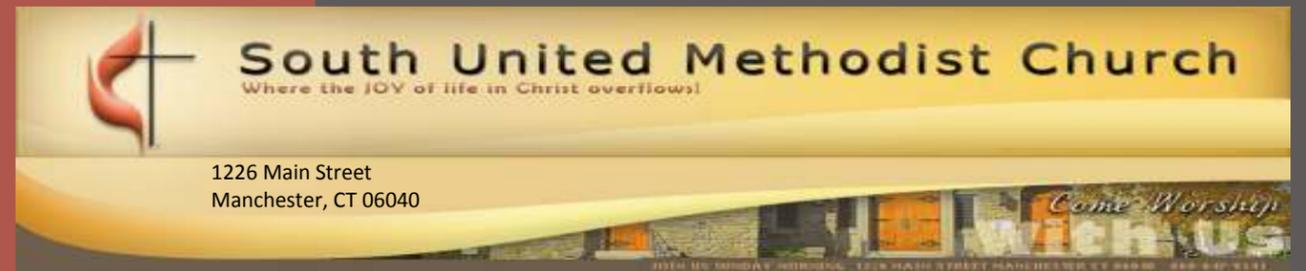
Sunday Worship Schedule

- 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

December Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, November 22, 2015



THE CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 2015

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

A Faith to Contend For

"Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. (Jude 3)"

Dear Friends,

Do you ever feel misunderstood? Have you had the experience of someone describing who you are, your likes and dislikes and getting you all wrong? Perhaps you had the experience as an adult child visiting your parents, when they have prepared, "Your favorite dinner." As you find out what is being served, you discover the main dish was never your favorite, it was your brother or sister's but not yours. It is hard to be misunderstood. We live in a day when as followers of Jesus, our faith can easily be misunderstood and even misrepresented. Obviously dealing with this type of issue requires a great deal of humility on our part.

We may not be able to fully describe the particulars of every Christian's faith. But we can discover those convictions and traits that should be common to every follower of Jesus. To be sure, sincere Christian people differ on a great many things ranging from style of worship, to time of baptism to even how a church should be structured and governed. But there are a few core convictions that every church, every denomination, shares in common. It is these core beliefs which in fact identify us as The Church, diverse in so many ways yet united in Jesus Christ.

We can discover the convictions and traits common to every follower of Jesus

This essential faith we have in common is focused upon Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, and was thus fully human and fully divine. We believe that Jesus died on the cross to atone for the sins of humanity. We believe that Jesus rose physically from the dead on the third day. In the resurrection of Jesus, we find the basis for our hope of everlasting life. We believe He will return some day and will in fact judge all people. We believe that He sent His Holy Spirit to indwell every follower of Jesus. We believe that there is one God, who reveals himself in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Bible, the Word of God, contains everything necessary to be saved and to practice the teachings of Jesus in this world. Clearly there are shades of interpretation as to what these convictions mean in our time, yet this is what we have in mind when describing the Christian faith.

Throughout the month of November, we will seek to discover what it means to hold and live out this faith in our world. On November 1, we will remember those from whom we received this faith, celebrating the eternal life they now enjoy. On the second Sunday, we will reflect on what it means to struggle and contend for the faith. On the 15th, we will remind ourselves that we cannot live out our faith alone, we need each other. Finally on the fourth Sunday, we will remind ourselves of our hope of entering eternity free from any kind of guilt or shame. Hopefully as a result of our time in worship together, we will have a better grasp on our faith and be able to dialogue not only with those who misunderstand it, but those seeking to have faith of their own.

In Service to Christ,

John

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November 2015 Worship Themes

Description: We begin this month with All Saints Day, remembering those who have gone before us in the faith. In a world filled with religious choices and options, it is important that we hold firmly to our own faith. The New Testament book of Jude is a one chapter letter which will encourage us to deepen, strengthen and pass on our faith in Christ.

November 1, 2015: "All Saints Day Celebration"

Scripture: John 5:19-29. Jesus offers everlasting life to all

Focus Verse: Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. (John 5:24)"

Theme: Our hope of everlasting life is rooted in our faith in Jesus, the giver of life.

November 8, 2015: "Contend for the faith..."

Scripture: Jude 1-4

Focus Verse: "Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. (Jude 3)"

Theme: We need to struggle to hold on to the faith that we have received.

November 15, 2015: "Build yourselves up in your faith..."

Scripture: Jude 17-21.

Focus Verse: "Beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; (Jude 20)."

Theme: We need to help one another consciously grow and develop our faith.

November 22, 2015: "The One Who is able to keep us from falling..."

Scripture: Jude 22-25.

Focus Verse: "Now to God who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

Theme: God who allows us to face our eternity unafraid deserves ultimate praise.

November 29, 2015: "First Sunday of Advent"

Scripture: Luke 21:7-11 Signs of a troubled world in need of help

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: 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

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

Pastoral Intern - Derek Wilson ext. 16

Sexton - Ken Schaller ext. 20

Sexton - Don Wilby ext. 20

Office Managers - Colleen Olbert/Patti LaForest ext. 10

Rev. Richard Thompson (retired)

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SOUTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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TAG SALE

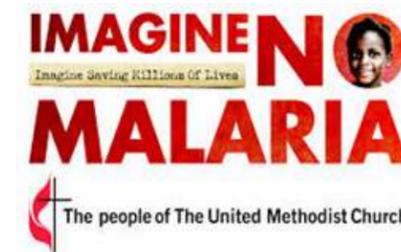
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

9AM-2PM

1226 MAIN STREET, MANCHESTER

860-647-9141 for more info www.southumc.com

All proceeds benefit our women in mission



Thanks to all for your enthusiasm and support for the Imagine No Malaria campaign over the last few years! Although our church has met our pledge, our Bishop has asked that every church do one more offering or event this fall. With just two months left in the campaign, our conference just needs \$135,000 to reach our \$1,000,000 goal. If you are able to make another donation, please put it into the offering plate, on any Sunday this fall, noting "ImagineNoMalaria" on the pew envelope. Please also visit the display in Reception Hall, and help yourself to a bright orange fly swatter, a wrist band, or a "mosquito" as a reminder how we are going to see the world change in our lifetime!

A member of our church will match every contribution for Imagine No Malaria up to \$800! Double the impact! Let's send \$1,600! We can imagine a world without malaria!



Care Packages are being prepared to ship to college students in our congregation, and we need their addresses! Please send the info to nextgen@southumc.com no later than November 14th to ensure that packages arrive in a timely fashion!



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 ~ Sanctuary "round table"

Upcoming Youth Events

We have 5 Youth Groups this month (11/1, 8, 15, 22, 29) and our Parking Event on Thanksgiving morning for the Manchester Road Race. Donations go to the Youth Mission Fund to help cut costs for our mission trip to Niagara Falls this upcoming summer. If you are willing to help park cars, please let JT know. Also Winter Retreat information is available at each YG and by e-mail. Please let JT know ASAP if you're interested! It's first come, first serve for spots!

- 11/1 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 11/8 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 11/15 Youth Group at 5pm at South
- 11/22 Youth Group 5pm at South
- 11/29 NO Youth Group 5pm at South



SUMC 2015 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: ORNAMENTS OF CHRISTMAS



Following is the schedule for rehearsals. Permission slips and information will be available at the November 1st meeting.

Please contact Terry Marshall or Denise Roman at 860-643-6234 or jeroman1956@outlook.com with any questions.

- 11:30 to 12 in Ed Wing
- Nov 1st Assign parts
- Nov 8th Rehearsal
- Nov 15th Rehearsal
- Nov 22nd Rehearsal
- Nov 29th NO Rehearsal

10:00 to 12:00 in Sanctuary
Dec 5th Dress Rehearsal and pizza lunch

Showtime
Dec 6th at 10am Service
(only service)

South United Methodist Church

1226 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040 860-647-9141

Pastor: Rev. John Marshall
Stephen Leaders: Alberta Hoagland, Terry Marshall, Don Wilby & Dave Bidwell



There are times when everyone of us experiences difficulties. . .

Please consider this excerpt taken from a letter written by one of our current Stephen Ministers. . .

"For those of you who don't know me, my name is Amy Cooper. I have attended SUMC since 2005. I joined the church and was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

As I came to know more of you and was so richly embraced, I wanted to find ways to be a better servant of God. On May 18, 2014, I was commissioned as a Stephen Minister.

At some points in life, everyone faces periods of crisis, transition or difficulty. It is during these times, people can receive great benefit from a confidential, caring relationship with someone who will faithfully listen, empathize, pray with, and for them, and encourage them with Christ's love and care.

Since my involvement with the Stephen Ministry, I have been faced with many things in my personal life including: a change in employment after 13 years with a company, the suicide of my former boyfriend, personal health concerns, long distance care giving for my mother and father in Northern NY, the death of my father the day after my 49th birthday, my Aunt's diagnosis of breast cancer, not to mention bouts of frustration, depression and anxiety.

I want to encourage each and every one of you to consider the real people in our congregation who care about you and have gone through at least 50 hours of training as well as making a 2 year commitment to "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2.

There are no small or inconsequential challenges, everything is real and relative to the individual facing it. Whether you, or someone close to you, is going through grief, relationship struggles, cancer, financial difficulties, job loss, spiritual crisis, or just want to have someone to talk with, Stephen Ministers are here in our congregation to care for you.

My life has been blessed through my training, and through the support of our Stephen Ministers."

If you are interested in more information about Stephen Ministry, please see Pastor John or Terry, or call the church office at [860-647-9141](tel:860-647-9141).

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE



Tuesday, December 8
7:00pm
in The Cafe

Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend

November 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Getting Acquainted 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	2 6:30pm Young Men & Women's Studies	3 12pm Bulletin Deadline 1:00pm Lydia Book Sorting 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	4 11:00am Staff Mtg 1:00pm Lydia Book Sorting 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	5 5:30pm Lydia Circle Book sorting 7:30pm Spiritual Gifts	6	7 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:00am Hi Ho Fair 9:30am NO Knitting Group
8 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Going Deeper 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	9 6:30pm Young Men & Women's Studies	10 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	11 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	12 7:30pm Spiritual Gifts	13	14
15 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Getting Acquainted 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	16 6:30pm Young Men & Women's Studies	17 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Staff Parish Mtg	18 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	19	20 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal 6:00pm Seasonal Sharing packing	21 9:30am Knitting Group 11:00am Antonio/Gerrick Wedding
22 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:30am Seasonal Sharing delivery 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Going Deeper 11:30am Pageant Rehearsal 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group **Challenge deadline	23 6:30pm Young Men & Women's Studies	24 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	25 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	26 7:30am Youth Parking Event	27	28
29 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Getting Acquainted 11:30am NO Pageant Rehearsal 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	30 6:30pm NO Young Men & Women's Studies	1 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	2 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	3	4	5 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group 10:00am Pageant Rehearsal

More South News

How you can help for the Hi Ho Fair, Saturday, November 7th (Notice date change!!)



DONATIONS FOR THE FAIR BOOTHS

Your donations of baked goods, candy, plants, homemade pickles, jams, jellies, relishes, knitted goods, crafts or quilted items are all very much appreciated and can be brought to the church the week of the fair (11/2 - 11/6) - Monday, Wednesday & Friday starting at 9 am, Tuesday & Thursday starting at 11 am or anytime the church office is open. If the church is locked, ring the bell by the Main St door to get in.

Cookies in a Can Booth

This is a popular booth. Customers select a coffee can covered in bright, colorful fabric, hand it to the worker who fills it as the customer chooses, from the trays of cookies on display. Last year we sold over 150 cans, filled with thousands of delicious cookies! There is a box in Reception Hall for donations of clean coffee cans, along with a sign-up sheet for donations of homemade cookies. We will need to know what kind of cookie you are baking, if it has nuts or any special ingredients, like coconut or raisins and approximately how many you will make for us. These can to be any type of cookie (not squares or bars), must be small enough to fit into a coffee can and should be delivered to our booth in Reception Hall on Friday, 11/6, the day before the fair. If you have any questions on the Cookie in a Can booth, please contact Marcia Memery at 860 646-4513.

Tag Sale items & Books - help needed

Thanks to all your generous donations, the stage on Cooper Hall is overflowing! Now we need help getting it all set up to sell! From 10/26 - 11/6, Marilyn Broneill will be in Cooper Hall organizing all the donations on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. If you have time, please stop by to help out, no experience needed J! If the church is locked, ring the bell by the Main St door to get in.

Fair Workers

Last, but not least, volunteers are needed to help at many of the booths on November 7th, the day of the fair. The fair hours are 9 to 2, but we can use help before and after, for set up and clean up. If you need further information on the fair or to sign up to help, please contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843 or Linda Vesho at 860 646-4823.

Remember, all the proceeds from the Hi Ho Fair go toward various mission projects, locally, nationally and internationally. Your help is very much appreciated!

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

WASHINGTON SCHOOL. Clothes are slowly but regularly coming in to demonstrate God's love for the children at Washington School. We are gathering a supply of underwear, socks, and sweat pants for sizes 6, 7, and 8 for the school nurse to have on hand for emergencies. There is a box in Reception Hall at church for you to make your contributions. As of mid October, we had collected 60 pairs of socks, 44 underwear, and 67 sweat pants. Thanks also for pencils and other school supplies.

CROP HUNGER WALK. We had a wonderful cool Fall day for our annual CROP Walk. There were 64 people who walked from St Bridget's Church up to the MACC Food Pantry and back (19 from South Church). We raised over \$4300 (\$1120 of it coming from South). Congratulations to all those who walked or sponsored a walker.

TRIP TO HEIFER FARM. We'll be setting up another date to try to get to Overlook Farm up in Massachusetts (but maybe not until Spring). Talk to Boris Gerber or Dick Thompson if you and your family would like to go sometime. They'll stay in touch.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Our thanks to Jill Smith and her crew for introducing this program for children around the world through Samaritan's Purse. Shoeboxes are being filled even as you read this. Lots of love heading out.

MITTEN TREE. On November 17 (and maybe before) the annual mitten trees will be found in the Narthex and Reception Hall. You could pick up some inexpensive hats or mittens or sweat pants and put them on the tree. They will then be passed on to Washington School to use with children who don't have adequate clothing when they come to school this winter.

SEASONAL SHARING. Thanksgiving is coming, and we will be gathering food to help about twenty-five families enjoy their Thanksgiving dinners. Bill McGugan and Ginny Hartzog already have a list of family names and you can check with them if you have any questions or want to contribute cash for things like pies or fresh vegetables or butter and milk and eggs that have to be purchased at the last minute. You might also want to join in on sorting and packaging the food on Friday, November 20, at 6:00 pm

Sometime in November, Bill will also have requests for Christmas gifts posted in the church. These will go with the food items we give out for Christmas.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA. See the good news from Boris elsewhere in this [Challenge](#).

Seasonal Sharing Thanksgiving Food

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 items 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 service on 11/22.

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 20th at 6:00pm, help is needed in Cooper Hall to organize and pack food.

On Sunday, November 22nd following the 9:30 worship service help is needed to deliver food. Please sign up in Reception Hall.

Please call Bill McGugan at 860-649-9072 with any questions.

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
September 15, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Carol Goodwin, Jane Zadnik, Derek Wilson, Pastor John Marshall, Margaret Callaway, Pastor Dick Thompson, Kim Grehn, Patti LaForest, Bill Hyde, J.T. Himmelstein, Randy Meek, Don Wilby, Janet Schmidt, Terry Marshall

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn and Derek Wilson read John Wesley's Rule.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the June 9, 2015 meeting were reviewed and minor edits were raised.

There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Margaret Callaway) to accept the minutes inclusive of the edits; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Church Directory: Janet Schmidt reported that another meeting was held to discuss plans for a new church directory and the small group working on this does not have sufficient resources to carry out the project. They suggest establishment of a dedicated team to take on this large project. Pastor John will explore recruiting a point person and a team to work on the new directory.

Terry Marshall introduced Derek Wilson to the group. Derek is serving as an intern for Pastor John and he will be working on a congregational care plan and program for our church. There may be an opportunity to address the need for a directory as part of this larger initiative.

Committee Reports:

Trustees: Randy Meek reported that Trustees have been working to resolve heating issues in the education wing. The Susanna Wesley Hall conversion to natural gas is experiencing challenges and more analysis is needed. Options are being explored to address a housing need for the pastoral intern. A new refrigerator has been purchased for the church kitchen and a generator for the church is also being considered. We are moving forward with the sale of Jesse Lee House to Walden Behavioral.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that young men's and young women's bible studies were held through the summer and are continuing this fall. Youth Group met over the summer as well. Youth and young adults (17 total) attended a concert in Boston where two Christian bands performed. Most of the youth volunteered at VBS. There will be a corn maize event September 26 for the youth.

Finance: Bill Hyde presented a June through August view of income and expenses. Income has exceeded budget and expenses are also running well. We've paid over 67% of our annual mission shares budget, we're in a good cash position and all bills have been paid. The Finance Committee will use current budgets for committees/commissions for 2016, unless they receive a specific request otherwise.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that the Outreach Commission has been trying to respond to needs at Washington School including socks, sweatpants and underwear. October 18 is the Crop Hunger Walk. VBS food contributions for MACC were very generous – two carloads full! Though we've already raised our committed funds for the Imagine No Malaria campaign, more is needed to reach the goal, and we will attempt to raise additional funds.

Social Justice Group: Pastor Dick reported that the Social Justice Group met. Several topics are under discussion for further exploration.

Education: Terry Marshall reported that the Fair has been moved to November 7 due to concerns about the elevator not being finished. Nichole Taggart and Karen Bufford have been submitted as new additions to the Education Commission.

There was a motion (Education Commission, Bill Hyde) to add Nichole Taggart and Karen Bufford to the Education Commission. All were in favor and the motion carried.

There will be some shifting of Sunday School classes on completion of the elevator. We had a very successful VBS with 86 volunteers and over 90 children each day. Spirit Sunday was also a success. There is a new adult education offering – a Spiritual Gifts Class taught by Derek Wilson. The class starts October 1 and runs for 7 weeks on Thursday evenings in the Café.

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that the memorial fund received \$445 in gifts for the period July 1 through September 15.

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC): Janet Schmidt reported that SPRC will meet the last week of September. The 2016 budget and Conference reports are the first items on the agenda. Nursery coverage is another focus. A church clean up day after completion of the elevator is under consideration.

Lay Leader: Don Wilby attended Annual Conference in Manchester, NH. It was a good experience and he shared some highlights. Don shared information about several upcoming events, including Bishops Day November 12 at Stafford U.M. Church, Alleluia Sunday October 18 at Wesley U.M. Church in Springfield and several upcoming District Ministry Team events.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John commented that the elevator construction has been a long process, but the work is high quality and the end is in sight. We received a recent contribution from Allen Ward Jr., in memory of his father, to be used toward Christian education.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

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 13th. 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, 2015

Please print all information.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Address & Phone # _____

Will be left for shut in: _____

Will be taken: _____

Envelope # _____