



Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE November 2017

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 19, 2017



THE CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 2017

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

With Your Help...

"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

Dear Friends,

God is doing great things at South Church. People of all ages are, "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...", through worship, classes and various service opportunities. Here are a few examples of what is happening at South Church now and what we are hoping to achieve in 2018.

Ministry to children: Each week we have infants and toddlers in the nursery. In fact we have more young one's three and under attending South Church now, than in the past several years! What an answer to prayer. With your help, we will continue to expand our nursery program in 2018 insuring that each child receives the quality of care they deserve. Our Sunday school program for children (age 3-Grade 6) has switched to a more engaging, interactive curriculum which seeks to teach our children how to better live as Christians in today's ever-changing world. With your support we will continue to reach even more children in new ways with this life-changing message.

Ministry to youth and young adults: This year our youth have been active with not only Sunday school, but youth group, retreat, mission trip and service projects. They completed over 83 hygiene kits for UMCOR disaster relief, with your help.

With your help, South Church will reach and serve even more people in Jesus' name in 2018

In addition, we have many young adults taking part in our Bible Studies as well as mission projects, such as filling cleaning buckets to help people recover from disasters across the U.S. and around the world. As you may be aware, work is underway to restore and remodel the 21 Hartford Rd. house for Next Gen ministries. We are excited to have a home and central location for our ministry to youth and young adults. The first floor is planned to provide a home away from home for our various ministry activities with, and to young people: these will include studies, group meals and other fellowship and mission events.

This is another answer to our prayers to reach more young families! With your generous support in 2018, we will be able to continue to expand and develop our "Next-Gen" ministry program.

Ministry to adults: Although we have a multitude of opportunities for growth, discipleship and mission for our active adults, we have a large group of members at South Church who are not able to easily attend Sunday worship and other activities. We are in the process of developing a more comprehensive ministry of Congregational Care. Currently many "shut-ins" are receiving regular visits and communion. We would like to expand this ministry in 2018 and perhaps hire an intern to help in this critical area of ministry. With your generous support in 2018, we will be able to continue to grow this vital program to ensure that those who have served our Lord well in past years, know that they are still valued and treasured members of our faith community.

We are doing great things in our local area as well as globally in Jesus' name. With your personal commitment through prayer, attendance, giving, serving and inviting, 2018 will be another great year for South Church. Do you believe that? Will you join me in helping to make it happen?

In Service to Christ,
John

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November 2017 Worship Themes

Description: God loves and is deeply concerned about the wellbeing of needy people. At a time when it is estimated that 1.5 million households across the United States are made up of people living on \$2.00 a day or less, we in the church need to be concerned as well. Sharing the good news and meeting the physical needs of under resourced people was a high priority for Jesus. As followers of Christ, ministering to poor and needy people, in our community, region, across the country and around the world needs to be one of our top concerns as well. Throughout this month we will look into what the Bible says about those living in poverty and how we are to serve them.

November 5, 2017: "Choosing Favorites"
Scripture: James 2:1-7 **Examining our attitudes toward wealthy and needy people.**

Focus Verse: "Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?" (James 2:5)

Theme: God honors the poor and calls His people to do the same.

November 12, 2017: "Open Your Hand to the Poor"
Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:7-11 **Caring for the poor among you.**

Focus Verse: "Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land." (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Theme: God's people are to care for the poor in their midst.

November 19, 2017: "Guidelines for Inviting"
Scripture: Luke 14:12-24 **The Parable of the Great Banquet.**

Focus Verse: "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:13-14)

Theme: Followers of Jesus are to give top priority to serving those most in need.

November 26, 2017: "The Final Evaluation"
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46 **Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.**

Focus Verse: "The king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

Theme: We serve Jesus when we help those in greatest need.

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

Organist - 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)

Finance Update

S With fall upon us, it is time for our annual pledge campaign at SUMC. We are kicking things off a bit early this year, with a goal of getting all wrapped up by the end of October. There has been a notable decline in the number of households pledging over the last few years - some of this can be explained, but we've also found that there are many people who support SUMC and for whatever reason opt not to pledge. Please prayerfully consider filling out a pledge card for 2018. Below are some common questions we on the Finance Committee receive about the fall pledge campaign:

U **Q. Why should I fill out a pledge card?**

M **A.** Pledging is important! We will use the information provided on the pledge card when we develop our 2018 budget. All of the many programs and activities at SUMC are supported by the congregation through our collective prayers, presence, gifts, service and our witness. It is very difficult to plan next year's activities without having an idea of what resources will be available to us.

C **Q. What happens to my pledge card after I turn it in?**

A. Your pledge card information is kept private. The card itself is only seen by people who need to see it as part of their work at the church. Our financial secretary, Kim Grehn, takes the pledge card info. and inputs the giving amounts into our church financial system. Pledges of time and talent are referred to Pastor John and the Lay Leadership Committee as they seek to align committee/commission activities with those looking to help. Even as the chair of Finance, I don't see the individual pledge cards.

Q. What happens if my circumstances change and I need to alter my pledge?

A. Your pledge is not a binding contract - it is simply an estimate of what you plan to give next year. If you need to increase or decrease your pledge amount, you can privately speak with Kim Grehn, Pastor John, or any member of the Finance Committee.

N **Q. Can't you just assume that I will give the same amount next year as I did this year?**

A. We could, but with history as our guide, we know that there are a lot of things that can impact giving. We on Finance don't claim to know what is going on with everyone - hearing from you directly is far more meaningful.

E **Q. I have a job where I don't earn a straight salary - I get paid via commission, or I'm a contractor and I don't have a line of sight as to what my income will be next year. How can I fill out a pledge card if I don't know what my income will be?**

A. You are not alone - we have many members of the congregation in similar circumstances. All you can do is make an estimate of what you plan to give. As noted above, please know that if you need to change your pledge it can be done discreetly.

W **Q. Is pledging all about money?**

A. No! We want to encourage faithful stewardship of all the resources God provides. Our pledge cards have areas where you can pledge time, talent, and treasure to the work of SUMC. Given the many numbers of activities at SUMC, there are plenty of ways to get involved in the life of the church.

S Pledge cards, along with a letter from Pastor John will be mailed to you during October. Please take the time to fill out a pledge card. Consider all the many wonderful activities your giving supports (Sunday school for all ages, VBS, bible study, outreach, global mission work, congregational care programs, our music program, next generation ministries, to name just a few). Also, as part of your pledge, please consider serving on a commission or committee, or volunteering at a SUMC event.

Jason Smith
Finance Committee Chair



THE CROSSING

The Young Men's and Young Women's Bible Studies will be continuing throughout this November with the exception of the last Monday, November 27th. The Young Men and Young Women have been covering the Sermon on the Mount in their time of study and have been/will continue to be challenged to deeper faith in Jesus through the study of the gospel of Matthew 5-7. College Care Packages are in the works for the undergraduate and graduate students within our church body. These packages are filled with hope and grace for the rigorous days of study coming up this Finals season. If you are a student or someone you know is a student please pass along your contact information, particularly your name and address, to the Office or JT and Catey by e-mail (nextgen@southumc.com), and if you do we will make sure you receive a care package!

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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).

The Youth are busy making a difference this month! The Youth will be raising money for the Youth Mission Trip this upcoming summer through both of the parking events on the calendar, and in particular the Youth need a great deal of help for parking before the Road Race on November 23rd. The event itself runs from 7:30-9:30, and we will be parking a lot of cars really quickly! The more people we have helping the greater chance we will have to do a great job, so if you are willing and able to help please contact JT ASAP. We ask for your prayers for not only this event but for what God is doing in our Youth program!



The Youth Winter Retreat has been scheduled for the weekend of February 23rd to the 25th, and the Youth will be going to Monadnock Bible Conference in Jaffrey, NH! If you are a Youth and are interested in attending, or if you have a Youth you would like to go to this great event, please contact JT and Catey as spots are first come first serve! For more information about this retreat you can check out Monadnock's website @ <http://www.monadnockbible.org/encounter/>, and you can pass along any additional questions to JT and Catey.

Upcoming Youth Events

This year our Youth will have service projects and fun outings throughout the year in addition to regular Youth Group!

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 11/04 | Youth - Hi Ho Fair Parking 8am |
| 11/05 | NO Youth Group |
| 11/12 | Youth Event 1pm Rake & Run |
| 11/19 | Youth Group at 5pm at South |
| 11/26 | NO Youth Group |



Hi Ho Fair Saturday, November 4th 9am-2pm



Did you know that the 2016 UMW fair proceeds are being used to support:
Locally - MACC, SUMC Scholarship Fund, SUMC Vacation Bible School & Seasonal Sharing
Internationally: UMCOR, Heifer International, Christmas Shoeboxes, Stop Hunger Now, Compassion International and the blanket drive.

For 2017, again 100% of the HI HO Fair profits will go to charity or mission work and it has already been decided that **20% of this year's profits will go to UMCOR for Hurricane Relief.**

Come and support the Fair!!

The Joy of Community Sharing!

MACC needs our help to provide support to 20 local families for Thanksgiving. Starting immediately, we need to collect the following items. Please bring them to the bin in the reception hall or outside of the café each week:

- Canned vegetables (no yams/sweet potatoes)
- Stuffing Mix
- Cranberry Sauce
- Juice
- Gravy
- Coffee
- \$20 Stop & Shop gift cards
- Cash donations

In addition, there is a sign-up sheet to provide a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. If you sign up to buy a turkey, please bring it into the church kitchen on the morning of November 19th.

We will meet on Friday evening, November 17th, to pack food baskets. On Sunday morning, November 19th, we will need families to deliver the food baskets to families. A sign-up sheet will be made available in the coming weeks.

We will provide more information, and possibly add more food to the list, as information is made available from MACC as to additional specific needs.



"A Guided Tour Through the Gospels"

Most of us have read one or more of the Biblical Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. We might say to ourselves after reading, "Didn't I just read that somewhere else?" In this study we will seek to come to a better understanding of Jesus, the central figure of all human history.

Why do we have Four Gospels? We typically read the Gospel accounts individually, but in this class, we will study the life of Jesus, event, by event, comparing one Gospel to the others. The emphasis of this class will be on deepening our own understanding of Jesus and exploring further what it means to follow him.

This class will meet: in The Café-1st and 3rd Thursday's at 6:30pm beginning this Thursday, November 2, all are welcome to attend!



"Habitat Build Day for South"

Hartford Habitat will be building two houses in East Hartford in coming months. Some of us would love to be a part of that. We have a tentative registration for Saturday, January 13, but we need to have the names of at least five definite workers to get a firm reservation. If you would like to be one of those five, be in touch with Jeff Kieft at gjkieft@yahoo.com or at 720-882-8796 or in person at church ASAP."

November 2017 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 10:45am Going Deeper 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	30 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	31 12pm Bulletin Deadline	1 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	2 6:30 pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm SM Supervision	3	4 7:30am Men's Fellowship 8:00am Youth Parking 9:00am Hi Ho Fair
5 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	6 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	7 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Commission Mtg	8 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	9	10	11
12 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 1:00pm Youth Event	13 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	14 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board Mtg	15 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	16 6:30 pm Tour of the Gospels 7:30pm SM Supervision	17	18 9:30am Knitting Group
19 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 Youth Group **Challenge deadline	20 6:30pm Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm Young Men Bible Study	21 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7pm Lydia Circle 7pm Staff Parish	22 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	23 7:30am Youth Parking	24	25
26 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	27 6:30pm NO Young Women Bible Study 8:30pm NO Young Men Bible Study	28 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Finance Mtg	29 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	30	1	2 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News

Trustees News

Submitted by Earle Bidwell

Over the last six months, significant changes and improvements have been realized in virtually every part of our church campus, including all five buildings, and the grounds on which they lie.

Church The library-study, above Pastor John's office, is near completion with a beautifully refinished floor, and new furniture to accommodate quiet study, group meetings and adult Sunday school. Electrical improvements and some additional technology capabilities will finish the project. Work is also nearing completion on a room to house the South Church archives on the 4th floor.

21 Hartford Road The exterior work on the building is virtually complete with new paint, energy efficient windows, and a new front porch. Tedone Building and Remodeling, a company with experience in working with churches and historic buildings, has been contracted to remodel the interior. Work is rapidly progressing to provide first floor space for Next Generation Ministries and a second floor residence for the family of the Director of NextGen Ministries.

20 Hartford Road (Chamber Building) Second floor office space has been provided to Building Healthy Families, Inc.™ a nonprofit, Christian based organization dedicated to promoting healthy development of infants and toddlers. The space includes a small office and meeting room for director Peter Tullison, a small group meeting area, and a play room for infants and toddlers.

48 Hartford Road After being vacant for several years, 48 Hartford Road is being leased to United Schools Association (USA). This organization is dedicated to offering a quality learning experience to international high school students wishing to study in America. About 12-16 students from several foreign countries are living there and attending East Catholic High School. Not only does this arrangement allow international students a chance to live and learn in America, it provides our students the opportunity to interact with young people of other nations.

Parsonage New energy efficient windows have been installed in the parsonage along with modern 200 amp electrical service.

Campus Several ornamental trees and shrubs (memorial gifts) have enhanced the beauty of our campus in the Memorial Garden, around the parsonage and at the Main Street entrance to the church. Additionally, efforts are being made to try to save the many Hemlock trees, suffering from drought and Woolly Adelgid disease, through chemical injections. We have also invested in a new tractor to allow Ken and Don to handle jobs that that otherwise would be done by outside contractors.

Maintenance Overseeing the work on a plethora of upkeep projects on our buildings is Larry Fiano. We are indeed fortunate to benefit from his considerable expertise, his passion for the work and his unwavering commitment to serving God and South Church.

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

It's finally FALL and Mother Nature has put on her prettiest dress! South Church continues to be busy, busy, busy with our Outreach efforts. You will find individual articles throughout this newsletter on specific upcoming events.

The Manchester Area Community of Churches (MACC) is doing a considerable amount of "tweaking" of their seasonal programs. **2017 Joy of Community Sharing** is the overarching name being given to all of this year's MACC seasonal initiatives. Separate articles in this newsletter detail South Church's participation in a portion of their program - the adoption of families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas and how you can help. However, we would like you to be aware of other parts of the program and, potentially, participate directly through MACC. The following activities could use your help and support:

Santa's Pancake Dinner - Thursday, December 21

Special Holiday Party at the Senior Center

Blessing Bags

You can gain further details on these and all MACC activities by visiting their website, MACC-CT.org, or you can reach out directly to Meaghan Sprague, Community Engagement Manager, 860-647-8003. Ext 13, or msprague@macc-ct.org.

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

Gift Shop
CURRENTLY DOWN
FOR REFURBISHMENT

Terry Marshall is looking for a few people

who may be interested in resurrecting

Our

International Gift Shop

please contact her at
860-657-9141 ext 15
or terry@southumc.com



Shoebboxes are here!! Pick them up in Reception Hall or in The Café. Return filled shoeboxes by November 12th. **Thank you** to our UMW and Outreach Committee! They have donated enough money to cover the shipping costs for **155 boxes!!**



**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
September 19, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Terry Marshall, Pastor John Marshall, Randy Meek, Pastor Dick Thompson, Nancy Dawson, Jane Zadnik, Bill Hyde, Don Wilby, Phil Susag, Ed Dupont, JT Himmelstein, Carol Goodwin and Kim Grehn.

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Pastor John Marshall, who offered an opening prayer. Ed Dupont read SUMC's vision and mission statements from his smartphone.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the June 13, 2017 Administrative Board meeting were reviewed.

There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Terry Marshall) to accept the June 13, 2017 Administrative Board minutes inclusive of minor edits raised. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business discussed.

Committee Reports:

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that memorials year-to-date through September 20 totaled \$5,455.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): Nancy Dawson reported that SPRC will meet September 26, focusing on the 2018 staff budget proposal.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Hyde provided a report for the June, July, August timeframe. We had an exceptional summer income-wise due to the receipt of some large gifts. For this period, income exceeded budget by nearly \$30,000 and year-to-date income is approximately \$29,000 above budget. We have paid 70.5% of our mission shares budget as of the end of August. Bill also reported on two other items of note: (1) \$2,380 was mailed to UMCOR for future U.S. storms and disasters, and (2) \$910 has been received in cash and supplies for disaster kits that the Youth are preparing.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported on activities of the Outreach Commission. The Young Adults are assembling cleaning buckets for disaster relief. 26 buckets have been completed so far, based on contributions from the congregation, and Outreach is also contributing \$650 toward the contents. The Crop Walk will be held at the end of October. MAD MACC Shoppers will ramp up again this winter and there will be opportunities for contributions. Outreach has set aside \$250 for the Washington School program, under direction of Donna Costello. Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will start up in October, and UMW will make a contribution to cover shipment costs this year. SUMC received a thank you note from Heifer International for our contribution in June.

Social Concerns Group: Pastor Dick stated that the Social Concerns Group wants to join with a few hundred other churches around the country to celebrate the work the International Justice Mission is doing on Freedom Sunday, September 24. There will be a short introduction during announcement time and the congregation will be invited to return to the sanctuary with their coffee after the service to learn more about this organization and their important work.

Lay Leader's Report: Don Wilby commented on his experience at Annual Conference in June. One item that stood out was the conversation on racism. Don brought back some DVDs that he'll share with Deb Grehn and may consider using for a future class. September 30 is Resource Day for the District. The event will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield and the subject is Generosity. Pastor John shared additional event information on behalf of Deb Grehn: October 16 is Bishop's Day on the District from 5-8 p.m. and September 23 is a UMW Fall gathering celebration at Wesley Memorial UMC in East Hartford.

Archives: Phil stated there have been delays with the archive initiative. He is still looking for volunteers to help, including physical help. People have been making contributions to the archives, but these contributions need to be ordered and organized.

Finance: Kim Grehn advised the group that he is working on the quarterly report.

Scouts: Ed Dupont reported that there is continuing discussion on the future of scouting and the prospect of family scouting, and changes could begin within the next few years. Pack 47 did some summer camping and had a successful Joining Night. The first pack meeting is September 22. The requested Scout Sunday for this school year is February 4.

Trustees: Randy Meek spoke about MISAC, a Manchester inter-faith group with representatives from 19 churches, whose mission is to support housing opportunities for low income individuals and families in Manchester. There are openings for an additional two SUMC representatives to serve at MISAC, along with Randy. Trustees activities were reported by Randy as follows: United Schools Association is entering into a 5 year lease to occupy 48 Hartford Road. This organization works with Christian schools, including East Catholic High, and international students attending East will occupy the top two floors. Building Healthy Families, Inc. now occupies two offices on the second floor of Susannah Wesley Hall. Other activities completed/underway by Trustees include window replacement and new back stair carpeting at Susannah Wesley Hall,

work at 48 Hartford Road in anticipation of occupancy by United Schools Association, outside work and beginning inside work at 21 Hartford Road, water issue repairs at the parsonage, and tree and gutter evaluation on all our properties. Hot water issues need to be addressed at 20 Hartford Road. Earle Bidwell will summarize the many recent activities and improvements undertaken by the Trustees throughout our campus in a Challenge article.

Next Generation Ministries: JT reported that Next Generation Ministries had a very good summer and a great start to the year. There were 10 in attendance (including 2 leaders) at the mission trip to Warrensburg, NY. The Youth Group met all summer and a highlight was juggling taught by Pat Conti and Lin Daniels. Two from Young Adults will help with teen classes this year. Young Adults held meetings and Bible studies over the summer and the new year is starting well. College care packages are coming up in November/December. Both Young Adults and Youth are working on cleaning and hygiene kits for UMCOR.

Director of Ministries / Education: Terry Marshall reported that the Church Directory is moving forward. It will be a smaller version than in the past. If you don't get your picture taken, you don't receive a Directory, so all are reminded to get their picture taken! Plans for the Fair are well underway. All Fair proceeds will go to mission and 20% of this year's proceeds will go to UMCOR for future disaster relief. Vacation Bible School was highly successful this year, with 93-96 children and 75 adult and youth helpers. Many children learned how to be closer to Jesus. Sunday School has started and there are some new offerings this year, including Young Women's and Young Men's classes. The Congregational Care and Stephen Ministries programs are being reviewed with the goal of revamping them.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that he will be doing a class on the Life of Jesus, event by event. This will start at the beginning of November. The annual Church Conference will be held January 29.

New Business:

There was no new business discussed.

Adjournment:

There was a prayer by Pastor Dick and the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Goodwin

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 17th. 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, 2017

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: _____

Envelope # (if you have one) _____