



Return Service Requested

The CHALLENGE November 2019

**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**  
Children's Story in the Café  
Communion served monthly

**Contact Information:**

**Church office: (860) 647-9141**  
**Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00a-12:00p**  
**Tues, Thurs 6:00p-9:00p**  
**Email address: [office@southumc.com](mailto:office@southumc.com)**  
**Web address: [southumc.com](http://southumc.com)**

**December Challenge Deadline:**  
**Sunday, November 24, 2019**



THE CHALLENGE NOVEMBER 2019

**Why South Church?**

*Jesus said, "By standing firm, you will gain your souls." (Luke 21:19)*

Dear Friends,

Last month I shared a few reflections on what life was like for me growing up as part of a church. This month I'm remembering what the world seemed like from one kid's perspective. We did little or no shopping on Sundays because all the major stores were closed. There were no practices or games on Sundays. School events were not held on Sundays. In short, it was a time, when Christianity and Judeo-Christian values dominated the culture. The world of 2019 is much different than the world of 1969 or even 1979. Today many leaders in the political, entertainment and academic world do not embrace the Christian faith, and some seem to struggle to understand it.

Jesus spoke of times when his followers would face open and widespread opposition and persecution at the hands of those in power. Here is some of what he predicted: "They will arrest you and persecute you...you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name...You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death...You will be hated by all because of my name." (See Luke 21:12-19) In studying church history, this was the experience of many Christians in the first three centuries. In looking around the world today, this is the experience of many brothers and sisters in Christ where believers are attacked and church buildings are burned. Thankfully this is not our experience as followers of Jesus in Manchester, Connecticut.

**Carrying on the ministry of Jesus is up to us!**

So the world we live in today is not as good as it once was in terms of the treatment of Christians, but it certainly is not as bad as it could be - and in fact will be someday again, according to Jesus. As a church we are not truly threatened or put at risk because of what we believe, but neither is following Jesus as easy and acceptable as it once was. What is the role of local congregations in such a time as this? Why has God placed us in this place, at this specific time in history? What is the answer to the question, "Why South Church?"

Why South Church? What are we to do? If people are to worship the living God in both traditional and more contemporary ways, we need to make it happen. If people are to hear the message of Jesus' death and resurrection, we need to share it. If children and youth are to learn about what it means to follow Jesus, we need to teach them. We as a church need to support families who are forced to make tough choices as to how their children will spend their time. Will our children be great athletes, scholars and musicians and if so, will they also know Jesus? How will we teach them Who and What is most important? Again, these are difficult questions. South Church exists to help people grow as followers of Christ. We are here to encourage people to live out the counter-cultural values of Jesus. As a Christian church we believe God cares for the innocent, the weak, the powerless and the young woman or child caught in slavery. We strive to carry on Jesus' ministry of feeding the hungry and serving the poor, but in order to accomplish this, we need to be a thriving church.

These are challenging days to follow Christ. We can't do it alone; we were never meant to. We were meant to be part of strong Christ-filled communities of people who join together to worship the one triune God, to grow in faith and to serve those in need. A Church. This month we will each have the opportunity to renew our commitment to make South Church be all God plans for us to be. After we have explored together why we, South Church are here, we can then answer the call to do our part by serving, praying, attending, sharing and giving. In this way we become God's answer to how South Church can be who we are meant to be, and do what we are called to do, in 2019, 2020 and beyond!

Gratefully in service to Christ with you,  
Pastor John



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- 9:30a - Traditional Worship with Choir and Children's Story
- 9:45a - Church School for Nursery-Grade 3
- 10:45a - Sunday School for all Ages
- 11:45a - Contemporary Worship with Wildfire Worship Band

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# November 2019 Worship Themes

## Why South Church?

### November 3, 2019: "Sit, Hear and Receive the Word and more"

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 1:6-12. The Holy Spirit guided the prophets.

**Focus Verse:** "It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look!" (1 Peter 1:12)

**Theme:** We gather as a church to receive all that God has for us from his Word.

### November 10, 2019: "Go and Proclaim the Gospel"

**Scripture:** John 20:19-23. Jesus commissions the disciples

**Focus Verse:** "Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21)

**Theme:** Jesus sends us out to a broken world to be his witnesses.

### November 17, 2019: "Whatever the Cost"

**Scripture:** Luke 21:5-19. Jesus foretells difficult times for his disciples

**Focus Verse:** Jesus said, "By your standing firm, you will gain your souls." (Luke 21:19)

**Theme:** The church faithfully proclaims Jesus and does his work even when doing so is unpopular.

### November 24, 2019: "The Head of the Church"

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:13-20. The supremacy of Christ.

**Focus Verse:** "Jesus is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything." (Colossians 1:18)

**Theme:** Followers of Jesus strive to put him first in everything that they do.

## South United Methodist Church Contact Information

Church office: (860) 647-9141

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

Email address: [office@southumc.com](mailto:office@southumc.com)

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

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

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

Text Giving: 860-512-7185 (\$20 SUMC)

### South Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. John Marshall ext. 14

Director of Music - Earle Bidwell ext. 11

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)

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## ~ South Church Memorial Giving ~

The Administrative Board of South Church would like to give our congregation the opportunity to **honor or remember** loved ones by donating to the funds listed below.

Donations will be received for ANY amount.

The funds will be used to supplement special projects and ministries.

**PLEASE Print legibly**

**Make Checks payable to SUMC**

Please indicate in the memo line of your check which fund(s).

Place in offering plate or mail to:

**South UMC  
c/o: Memorial Gifts  
1226 Main Street  
Manchester, CT 06040**

The deadline to be included in the Christmas Memorial listing is **12/01/19**

Café Worship \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Education (Special Projects) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

College Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Music Ministries \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sanctuary Worship (Banners, Tableware etc.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Outreach Reserve Fund (for Special Needs) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Discretionary Fund (for Special Needs) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (if you have one)

\*Recognition of these donations (minus the \$ amount) will be included in the Christmas and/or Easter Memorial inserts as well as in the list of Memorial gifts we place in the Memorial Cabinet at the front of the Sanctuary for Memorial Day.



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

### Young Adults

The College Care Packages have been prepared and will be shipping off this month to our students across the country. If you are a parent of a student please help us spread HOPE during this big Finals push by providing the Name, School/University and Shipping Address of the student on the Sign Up sheets outside of the Youth Office or Youth Room. Thank you in advance for helping us be a blessing!



The Young Women's Bible Study will be wrapping up a Bible Study on the Attributes of God towards the middle of the Month, but newcomers are always welcome! The meetings are Monday evenings from 6:30-8 pm @ 21 Hartford Road, and at each study there will be tea, snacks, prayer and a time of reading and discussing the Bible with other young women that want to experience a welcoming community and learn more about Jesus! If you are interested in checking it out please let Catey know: 623-670-2612

### Youth Group

The Youth will be parking cars for the Manchester Road Race on Thanksgiving morning from 7:30-9:30 in order to raise funds for our upcoming mission trip in the Summer of 2020, and help is needed! Early in the month sign up sheets will be available outside of the Youth Office and the Youth Room, and if you are willing to donate your time we would really appreciate it! This will be a significant fundraiser and will be a big help to cut costs for each of the participants.



The Youth Winter Retreat dates have been set! We will be returning to Monadnock Christian Ministries' Encounter Weekend from February 27-March 1, 2020! Please mark your calendars and save the date for the special opportunity where we will grow closer to Christ and one another through intentional time in God's presence and with one another! More info will be released later this month.



- 11/2 Hi Ho Fair Parking 8:30-11:30
- 11/3 YG 5-7 pm
- 11/10 Rake and Run 1-4 pm
- 11/17 YG 5-7 pm
- 11/24 YG 5-7 pm
- 11/28 Manchester Road Race Parking 7:30-9:30 am

### Poinsettia Flower Order Form



It's time to order your Christmas Flowers!

The plants will be placed in the Sanctuary and The Café for our Christmas season services.

They may be taken after Christmas Eve, if you wish, otherwise they will be distributed to our homebound folks.

Please PRINT legibly

make checks payable to SUMC flower fund and place in the offering plate or mail to:

**South UMC**  
**c/o: Jeanne Eagleson**  
**1226 Main Street**  
**Manchester, CT 06040**

Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.50 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Will be left for shut in: \_\_\_\_\_ Will be taken: \_\_\_\_\_

The DEADLINE for ordering flowers is **December 1, 2019**

Please print the following information:

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (If you have one)



# November 2019 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 8:30am SS Teacher's mtg 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering	<b>30</b> 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Hi Ho Fair
<b>3</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Event	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	<b>5</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:00pm Committee & Commission Mtg	<b>6</b> 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30am Men's Fellowship
<b>10</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 1:00pm Youth Event Rake & Run	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	<b>12</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:30pm Ad Board	<b>13</b> 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>14</b> 9:00am Connect for Women	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30am Knitting Group
<b>17</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:00pm Staff Parish	<b>20</b> 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am Traditional Service w/Children's Story 9:45am 1- 3 Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	<b>25</b> 6:30pm NO Young Women's Bible Study	<b>26</b> 12pm Bulletin Deadline 5:30pm Prayer Gathering 7:30pm Finance Mtg.	<b>27</b> 11:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Concert Choir	<b>28</b> 7:30am Youth Parking Cars 9:00am NO Connect for Women	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## More South News



### Congregational Care At SUMC

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

*Working to care for one another better...*

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

**The Role of the C.C.C. (Congregational Care Contact):** is to engage with Congregants and act as an additional contact between the Pastor, the Staff and the congregation. C.C.C.'s are identified by wearing Name tags, and are assigned sections of the Sanctuary or Café. They have been encouraged to greet others regularly, be aware of attendance patterns, and reach out when someone has been absent outside of their regular pattern. They can 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. This group meets bi-monthly for planning, support and updates.

Our current CCC's for the 9:30 & 11:45 am worship services are:

#### **9:30am:**

Bill & Judy Hyde  
Marilyn Broneill  
Brenda Langford  
Sarah Kania  
Bill McGugan  
Susan Bidwell

#### **11:45am**

Nichole Taggart  
Amy Cooper  
Carlyn Arruda  
Dave Bidwell

If you have a need and can't get to the Pastor on Sunday morning, reach out to one of these folks. They are equipped to pray with you and are able to help you fill out a Congregational Care Card (found in your pew racks/or by the exit door in *The Café*) if you need further assistance.

We are looking for a couple more CCC's - if you think you might be interested, please let me or Pastor John know.  
Thank you all!

## Outreach News

### South Church is Reaching out Through:

Outreach is working to provide many opportunities for SUMC members to be the hands and feet of Christ. We would love for you to join us at any time to help out with our many projects through the year!

**Habitat for Humanity:** Jeff Kieft spearheaded a successful work day on September 21st. Many of you supported the work day by providing donations to enable us to have a dozen volunteers. Thank you!!

**Community Gardens:** Plans are underway to create a community garden on the church campus. A rain collection system is in place, and garden boxes are being constructed right now. Please see Jeff Kieft if you would like to assist with this ongoing program!

**Elementary School Support:** With the closure of Washington School at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, we are working on establishing a partnership with Verplanck School. We also intend to partner with Trinity Covenant Church to continue some sort of weekend backpack/food program. Our new liaison, Michele Sawyers, will be working with Donna Costello to get up to speed.

**CROP Walk:** This year, CROP Walk was held in South Windsor. The weather held out to allow approximately 100 community members, including several from South, could walk a 4-mile loop to raise money to combat hunger in the US and worldwide. Thank you to Linda Vesho for collecting the information for this program. If you missed out this year, maybe put it on your calendar next year? We would love to walk with you! At press time, the total amount raised was unavailable. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for updates on final amounts.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Shoeboxes are due back by November 17th. Please do not wrap boxes, and remember to label your shoeboxes, so the distribution center can easily see if the box is for a boy or girl, ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. You do NOT need to enclose shipping donation - UMW is providing funds to cover shipping! Please contact Jill Smith if you can help transport our shoeboxes to a local collection site the week of 11/18.

**Joy of Community Sharing:** SUMC will adopt 15 local families this year, and provide food and gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas once again. Food collection is underway, and we will soon need your help to buy gifts for our adopted families! Please also consider joining us to pack up and/or deliver the food baskets. A summary of the dates for food and gift collection/distribution is provided below.

Summary of key dates for November-December:  
November 17th - Shoeboxes are due back to the church  
November 22nd - Pack up Thanksgiving food baskets  
November 24th - Deliver Thanksgiving food baskets  
December 1st - Christmas gift idea cards will be available  
December 15th - Christmas gifts due back at the church  
December 20th - Pack up Christmas food baskets  
December 22nd - Deliver Christmas food baskets



### ~ Church Giving/Budget Update ~

As our finance chair, Jason Smith reminded us last Sunday; giving to support the mission and expense budget of the church has been significantly down this Fall. PLEASE PRAY for the Lord's help and inspiration as we at South Church, seek to faithfully minister in His name. IF you don't usually give to the church, we could really use your gifts at this time... No amount is insignificant. At a time when we feel called to do more as a church, we don't want to face cutting programs, or reducing our ministry impact in anyway. IF you are behind in your pledge to the church, we would appreciate you trying to catch up. IF you are able to help us out above and beyond your normal giving, that would be such a blessing to so many. We are currently \$17,000 under budget YTD. Your generosity in meeting these current needs will enable South Church to continue to fund our mission and ministry programs at 100%.

November 2019



Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org).



### Open Spirit Task Force's work is under way

In June, the 2019 Annual Conference approved creation of the Open Spirit Task Force (OSTF), the purpose of which is "to examine whether and how United Methodists of New England might align with, create, or form a new church body in the Methodist tradition (independently or in collaboration with others)."

The OSTF met for the first time in August. Thirty-three members were selected by the Committee on Leadership/Nominations and two were designated by Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar.

Dr. Adama Brown-Hathaway, who serves as Minister of Connection and Care at Union UMC in Boston, and the Rev. Dr. Hope Luckie, pastor at Crawford Memorial UMC in Winchester, MA, were named co-chairs of the task force.

Members also created working teams for the following areas:

- Communications
- Finance
- Legal/Ethics/Structure
- Options/Organization
- Theology/Spirituality



The OSTF has created a website to offer information on its work and membership. Visit <https://ostfne.org> to learn more.

@ Get details about the dinners on our calendar at [www.neumc.org/events](http://www.neumc.org/events)

### The Nativity Pageant

Sunday, December 8, 2019 @ one 10am Service



- Sunday, Nov 3rd Assign parts; Upper Ed Wing; 11:30-12:00 (be prompt!)
- Sunday, Nov 10th Upper Ed Wing; 11:30-12:00 (be prompt!)
- Sunday Nov 17th Upper Ed Wing; 11:30-12:00 (be prompt!)
- Sunday, Nov 24th Sanctuary; 11:30-12:00 (be prompt!)
- Sunday, Dec 1st No rehearsal; Sunday school Advent Event (Café) @10:45
- Sunday, Dec 8th Dress rehearsal in Sanctuary at 9:00 followed by a light Snack in Reception Hall.  
PERFORMANCE at the 10am service (one service only.)

### Thanks from the Hi Ho Fair committee



The 2019 Hi Ho Fair is now behind us and we would like to thank everyone involved in the fair - workers, bakers, crafters, knitters, quilters, crocheters, food preparers, shoppers and the numerous people behind the scenes making the fair a success. Thanks also to JT and the youth group who assisted again this year with parking for the fair. Special thanks to all the booth chairpersons and their committees who worked tirelessly for months: Marilyn Broneill - Trash & Treasures, Jewelry & Plants; Nancy Dawson - Country Store, Something from Nothing & Threads; Donna Forde - Antikews; Phyllis Gordon & Eileen Paulus - Baked Goods; Deb Grehn - Luncheon; Marcia Memery- Cookies in a Can; Linda Vesho - Books; Denise Roman - Candy Shoppe & Publicity; Jenn Dupont - Finances and Ginny Hartzog - Crafts.

