



Return Service Requested



The CHALLENGE October 2016

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

November Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, October 23, 2016



THE CHALLENGE OCTOBER 2016

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

Christian Citizenship

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

Dear Friends,

The 2016 presidential campaign has been a rough ride in many ways. In a matter of weeks, it will all be over. What advice and instruction can we find in the Scriptures about how we should approach this, or any election, as faithful followers of Jesus? To be sure, we will not all come to the same conclusion as to the best candidates. Yet, regardless of our political philosophy, we can benefit greatly from heeding the words of the Bible as they relate to interacting with the government and elected officials.

The basis for being good citizens as followers of Christ is the conviction that all authority is derived from God. I don’t often seriously reflect on the idea that the, “authorities that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1b) Indeed, when we submit to and show respect for our government officials, elected and appointed, we are honoring God who allows them to serve. In anticipation of the next election, whatever our political affiliation or philosophy, diverse as we are, we can all agree on the importance of praying for the process and for all those taking part in it.

When we submit to government authorities, we honor God.

A Guided Tour Through The New Testament.

Have you read systematically through the New Testament recently? If not, I would like you to join me in reading through the 27 books of the New Testament between October 20, 2016 and April 20, 2017. I plan to help all of us stay on, “the same page” by providing a daily reading plan which will be available in the weekly bulletin, newsletter and online at southumc.com. There will also be twice a month sessions in which I will provide an introduction to what we will be reading for the following weeks. At these gatherings, we will have the opportunity to discuss what we are reading together and raise questions. These sessions will be held beginning on **October 20, on the first and third Thursday of the month from 6:30-7:30pm in The Cafe**. It is not necessary to make every session, come when you can. Each session will be a stand-alone unit. Nothing can help us grow and deepen our walk with Christ more than prayerfully reading His Word. So I am hoping, and praying, you will take part in this, “Guided tour through the New Testament!”

As you can see, October promises to be a very active month at South Church. I am committed to helping all of us grow as devoted followers of Jesus Christ, ones who are active in our families, our church, our community, our nation and our world. I hope you will take part whenever you can!

In Service to Christ,
John



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October 2016 Worship Themes

October 2, 2016: "Peace-producing Thoughts"

Text: Philippians 4:4-9

Scripture Verse: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

Theme: Giving our thoughts to the Lord is an essential step to finding inner peace.

October 9, 2016: "Respecting Our Leaders..."

Text: Romans 13:1-7

Scripture Verse: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God." (Romans 13:1)

Theme: As followers of Christ, we are called to respect our God-given leaders.

October 16, 2016:

Pastor Dick Thompson will share the message in the Sanctuary at 9:30am.
Lin Daniels will share the message in the Cafe at 11:45am.

October 23, 2016: "Praying For Our leaders"

Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

Scripture Verse: "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Theme: Respecting our leaders begins with praying for them.

October 30, 2016: "All Saints Sunday"

Text: Philippians 3:17-21.

Scripture Verse: "But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)

Theme: Our common identity in Christ transcends any human divisions or parties.

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

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)



S

There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties...

U

- *Loss of a loved one
- *Spiritual Crisis
- *Cancer/illness
- *Hospitalization
- *Imprisonment
- *Disability

- *Discouragement
- *Divorce
- *Rehabilitation
- *Job loss
- *Loneliness
- *Many other challenges

M

God never intended for us to go through these experiences alone. That's why God has brought us together as a congregation-AND why we have Stephen Ministry.

C

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of caregiving training to minister to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge, or simply going through a tough time.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you-privately and confidentially-on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, support, and remind you of Christ's presence in your life.

If you'd like to learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself, a family member, or a friend, neighbor, coworker or someone else you know...call 860-647-9141 and talk with Pastor John (ext.14) or Terry (ext. 15).

N

Congregational Care Update

Congregational care is a way that we are more intentionally reaching out to people in order to fulfill our responsibility to love one another more deeply. This does not take the place of the many individuals that reach out to people on a weekly basis by sending cards, expressing concern by a phone call, praying, etc., but adds to it.

E

For the past year members of our congregation have been consistently visiting members of our congregation who have difficulty getting to church. Visits include listening to the joys and concerns of the person and sharing the bulletin and news of the church. Devotional materials such as the Upper Room and a CD of the weekly worship service are offered. A brief communion service has also been offered to anyone who has wanted to participate in this extension of the communion service at our regular worship service. The altar flowers are also delivered. Some hymns from a CD that the choir made have been shared at some visits. At this point, we have a list of about 20 people and we have shared communion with 18 people. Visits may be a few times a month or less frequently based on what each individual has requested and how often volunteers can visit.

W

Beginning in September, as part of our desire to love one another, there is a group of about ten people who have volunteered to try to keep in touch with members and friends of South Church who have not been attending church in their usual pattern. Too many times, we have found that people stop attending church and no one calls to express concern or encourage them in attending worship service. When we become members of South United Methodist Church, part of what we promise to do is to faithfully participate in its ministries by our presence. We believe that being in fellowship with one another by attending church on Sundays is very important. So if you happen to be contacted by one of your fellow members, please know that we value your presence at worship and want you to know that God loves you and we love you.

S

Please contact Bill McGugan with any comments, suggestions or questions at runbillrun01@gmail.com or 860-380-0070.

THANK
YOU!



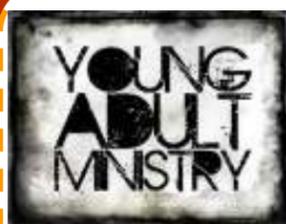
Sarah has a van!

Our wishes came true, thanks to some very special people. She loves to go for a ride now that she can see where she is going. Thanks again.

God bless you all,
Sarah, Jen, Lori Robert

Now you can give using a text message!

If you don't have cash or a checkbook and would like to give, now there is a way! Using your cell phone, send a text message to 860-512-7185. Then Type in the text message with the amount of your gift followed by the keyword, SUMC. (For example: \$20 SUMC) You will receive a simple one time form in reply that requires your name, email, zip code and the information for the card to be charged for your gift.



College Care Packages will be going out in late November and December, and we need your help filling and sending them! Be on the lookout for signs and instructions for doing so, which will be found in

both Reception Hall and the Café come mid-October.

Also if you're a parent of a college student please send JT an updated address! Our Young Men's and Women's Bible Studies are continuing throughout the Fall. If you are interested in joining please contact JT or Catey by email (nextgen@southumc.com).



Upcoming Youth Events

The big event for this month is the Bottle Sorting Bonanza for Youth, Youth families and any other willing congregation members that want to help sort bottles from the Youth Bottle Drive. It will be after the Café service on October 30th, and pizza and drinks will be provided! This may not be an event for your Sunday best, so please bring a change of clothes and a pair of gloves. All proceeds go directly to the Youth Mission Fund!

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10/9 | NO Youth Group |
| 10/16 | Youth Group at 5pm at South |
| 10/23 | Youth Group at 5pm at South |
| 10/30 | Youth Group at 1pm Bottle Drive Bonanza at South |



Hi Ho Fair, Saturday, November 5th

HALLOWEEN MINI-FAIR
Sunday October 16th Reception Hall between services



One more month to fair time, here's how you can help!

COOKIES IN A CAN - contact Marcia Memery at 860 646-4513 or memjam@cox.net
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 sign-up sheet for donations of homemade cookies in the reception hall. 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 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 the Youth room (lower level) on Friday, 11/4, the day before the fair.

TAG SALE & BOOKS - contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843
"Trash & Treasures", "Antikews" and "Book Sale" booths are very popular places at the fair. We are looking for household & decorative items as well as books. Small electrical appliances are ok, but please no TVs, computers, stereo systems, records, clothing or large exercise equipment. Donations can be left on the stage in Cooper Hall, whenever the church is open.

COUNTRY STORE - contact Nancy Dawson at 860 978-5480 or dawsonaff@gmail.com
This booth is all about wonderful canned goods and other delicious prepared foods from the kitchen. It is hard to believe that, for the most part, our gardens are finishing up for this year. Ideas of foods that we would love to have are jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, condiments, vinegars, dried herbs / spices, pesto, salsa, etc. If you are planning on contributing items to this booth, please let Nancy Dawson know as soon as possible as she will be providing labels for each contribution. Please leave your donations in the basket marked "Country Store" in Reception Hall, with your name and phone number, so we can call you with any questions on ingredients. We would like all donations in by Monday, October 31st if possible.

CRAFT BOOTH - contact Ginny Hartzog 860 646-3962 or ginhartz@gmail.com
The crafters have been meeting during the summer on Saturday mornings in Bolton. We have a lot done already, but will be meeting at least one more time in the fall. If you are interested in helping, contact Ginny. If you have a craft that you would like to make and donate to our booth at the fair, we would welcome any contributions. To help with our planning, please contact Ginny to let us know what you will be donating.

USED JEWELRY - contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843
Last year we resurrected the **Used Jewelry** booth and it was very successful. So successful in fact, our jewelry supply is almost wiped out! Donations of used jewelry, scarves and jewelry gift boxes would be very much appreciated. These can be brought to church now and left in the "Used Jewelry" box on the table in Reception Hall.

NEEDLECRAFTS - contact Jane Zadnik at 860-647-9925 or jane.zadnik@sbcglobal.net
Scarves, hats, mittens, sweaters, baby clothes (please mark the size), quilted and sewn goods are all needed. Please bring your donations to the church during the week of the fair.

PLANTS - contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843
If your houseplants need splitting, please consider potting them and donating them for the renewed plant table at the fair. Please bring to the church & leave in the reception hall, by October 23rd & put a sign on the plant that it is for the fair.

LUNCHEON - contact Deb Grehn at 860 233-8054 or dgrehn@sbcglobal.net
The luncheon this year will be open from 11 to 1 and feature "comfort foods" - chicken pot pie, Shepard's pie etc. In addition, Deb plans to offer coffee and pastries the morning of the fair. We will be looking for donations of "fall" desserts and pies such as gingerbread, apple & pumpkin pies and rice pudding. If you helped in the kitchen in prior years or would like to do it this year, please contact Deb.

PUBLICITY - contact Ginny Hartzog 860 646-3962 or ginhartz@gmail.com
If you are available to help get the word out to newspapers etc, please contact Ginny.

BAKED GOODS & CANDY
These booths will be looking for your homemade baked goods, candies and fudge. They can be dropped at church the week of the fair.

FAIR WORKERS - contact Marilyn Broneill at 860 649-9843 or Linda Vesho at 860 646-4823
Many volunteers are needed to help at the booths on 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 or Linda (see above).

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

October 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	3 6:30pm Young Women Bible 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	4 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committee Mtgs	5 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	6 6:30pm SM Supervision	7	8
9 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm NO Youth Group	10 6:30pm NO Young Women or Men Bible Study	11 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	12 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	13	14	15 9:30am Knitting Group
16 8:45am Prayer Event 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:30am UMW Mini Fair 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	17 6:30pm Young Women Bible 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	18 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle	19 11:00am Staff Mtg 5:00pm SPRC @ North UMC 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Chancel Choir	20 6:30pm SM Supervision 6:30pm New Testament Class	21	22
23 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Fair Chairperson Mtg. 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group **Challenge deadline	24 6:30pm Young Women Bible 6:30pm Young Men Bible Study	25 12pm Bulletin Deadline	26 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	27	28	29
30 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 1:00pm Youth Group Bottle Drive	31 6:30pm NO Young Women or Men Bible Study	1 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committee Mtgs	2 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	3 6:30pm SM Supervision 6:30pm New Testament Class	4	5 7:30am NO Men's Fellowship (this week) 9:00am Hi Ho Fair

More South News

New Testament Study Preview

Description: Reading the Bible is something most of us know we should do yet, for a variety of reasons, we don't get around to doing it. The New Testament provides all the foundational information and inspiration needed to follow Jesus. This year we will have the opportunity to read and study the New Testament together. Pastor John will provide a 26 week reading plan that starts on October 20 and ends on April 20. He will also lead sessions designed to provide handles for how to read the Scriptures more successfully and fruitfully. The emphasis for the study will be on relating the message of the New Testament to the times we live in today with the ultimate goal of applying what we learn to our lives. We will meet twice a month on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm in the Cafe beginning on October 20.



**The Church is not a building...
The Church is not a steeple...
The Church is not a resting place...
The Church is the people!**

In a continued effort to get to know one another even better, we would like to collect 2 copies of a "4 x 6 inch" picture which includes all the members of each household who call SUMC their Church home.

As we begin to receive a number of these, we will place them in two designated areas outside the Sanctuary and *The Cafe* for display with people's names, so that we can do a better job connecting names to faces. You may give me pictures in person or send them via email. If you need assistance in getting a picture, please let me know and I will set up a time to get your picture taken here at church. If you have any questions please call or email Terry at 860-647-9141 ext. 15 or terry@southumc.com. Looking forward to seeing how our SUMC picture family tree grows!



Operation Christmas Child is a program that is operated by the organization Samaritan's Purse; and it has returned here once again! The shoeboxes are out and ready to be filled up with good things. You'll find them in the reception hall

and in the café. Please also take an info packet and an OCC brochure as well. The brochure contains labels for your box as well as an envelope for you to include your \$7 shipping donation.

How does it work? It's pretty simple:

1 - You'll need to decide if you want your box to be for a boy or a girl. Then, they like you to focus on an age group: 2-4 years old; 5-9 years old; and 10-14 years old.

2 - Now, fill your box. The info packet contains lists of ideas for gifts with which you can fill your shoebox, along with items that are prohibited. In general, you can include some small toys, some school supplies, personal care items, household items, and top it off with a "wow" item that will knock their socks off as soon as they open up their box!

In addition, you may enclose a letter that tells a little about you and your family, along with a picture and address. There are many stories of children writing back and becoming pen pals! For the younger ones, there is a coloring page that helps tell a little about themselves. Great for your kids, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, or even neighbor kids who might want to get involved!

3 - After you fill your box, please do NOT wrap it: all shoeboxes are inspected at distribution centers before being sent around the world, and then secured with special "Samaritan's Purse" tape. Instead, you can use a sturdy rubber band (provided here when you drop your box off).

4 - Tape either a "boy" or "girl" label to your box. Labels can be found inside the pamphlet, and there will be extra labels available when you pick up or drop off your box. Check off the appropriate age range for your shoe box.

5 - Then, pray! Pray for the child who will be receiving the shoebox. For some of them, this will be their first gift ever. And for many, it will be their first opportunity to learn about the gospel of Jesus - the greatest gift they'll ever receive!

Last year we filled 136 boxes. This year, I have 300 empty boxes ready to be filled. Let's get to work!

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

A CARE PACKAGE was sent by our Church to Joey Gyokeri who is serving in our military in Iraq. Bill McGugan, Linda Vesho, and Joey's family rounded up the items, and Frank Forest helped with the details of shipping. The box turned out to be big enough that home-made cookies from a high school class and some boxes of Girl Scout cookies could be included. See Bill if you'd like to help with future boxes.

THE COMMUNITY CROP WALK appears to be taking shape after all. At first, it seemed that the leadership had moved away, but then the pastor of Center Church (UCC) in Manchester stepped in, and Linda Vesho has agreed to step in and point folks from our congregation in the right direction to be a part of this walk for Church World Service and for MACC. (If you have not yet sponsored someone, see Linda or Dick Thompson and they will see that your money gets to a walker.)

READING WITH KIDS is taking on new energy in Manchester Schools, and Margaret Callaway and Deb Grehn have already taken the training course which will put them in a position to spend an hour in one of our local elementary schools reading with the children. We think they will enjoy it, as well as be an outreach of our caring.



Come and check out an Adult Sunday School Class ~ 10:45am

Cup of Joy - Women meet in Cooper Hall

Cup of Joe - Men meet in 3rd floor classroom

Social Justice Class - meets in 3rd flr classroom



CROP WALK TAKING SHAPE



Walkers and sponsors are needed for this fall's Crop Walk here in Manchester on Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 pm. As in previous years, 25% of the money raised stays locally so that our immediate neighbors can be fed (through MACC) and 75% goes to fight hunger and poverty around the world through Church World Service.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE



There will be an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held at Community Baptist Church, 585 East Center Street at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 20. Mark it on your calendar. We'll have more details soon.



My mother gave me your email address, and I wanted to write to you to let you know that I received the care packages that you and the Glastonbury VFW sent to me here in Iraq. I cannot express how grateful I and my fellow soldiers here with me are to you and all the volunteers that helped put these packages together. Thank you so much for thinking of us and for sending all those wonderful comforts of home. My unit is split up between 3 different sites in Kuwait and Iraq, and there are about 30 of us together here at Camp Taji on the outskirts of Baghdad. Everyone enjoyed the treats and the notes from home. My unit at Westfield, MA was activated this past June, and we were rolled up under an aviation unit out of Florida (C Company, 1st Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment). My unit here at Camp Taji is an Aero-Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) platoon that flies Sikorsky HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to support our mission of transporting wounded, injured, and sick coalition troops and civilians from friendly bases or from the battlefield to the nearest combat support hospitals. Our platoon consists of pilots, crew chiefs, flight medics, and flight operations specialists (dispatchers and radio operators). Attached are a few recent photographs of my platoon here at Camp Taji.

Again, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Please pass my gratitude along to everyone at Church that donated or volunteered their time to put these packages together. God Bless you!
Regards, Joe Gyokeri

**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
May 10, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Margaret Callaway, Bill Hyde, Patti LaForest, Phil Susag, Don Wilby, J.T. Himmelstein, Pastor Dick Thompson, Jane Zadnik, Terry Marshall, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, Bob Thulin, Carol Goodwin

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and Bob Thulin read the Mission and Vision statements. J.T. Himmelstein read a passage entitled, "My Church."

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes from the March 8, 2016 Administrative Board Meeting were reviewed. *There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Phil Susag) to accept the March 8, 2016 Administrative Board minutes inclusive of minor edits. All were in favor and the motion carried.*

Unfinished Business:

Deb Grehn asked about the archivist project. Pastor John stated that the Trustees are continuing to study this topic.

Margaret Callaway asked about the church directory project. Deb Grehn responded that there is no progress to report and we might think toward a fall launch of the directory project.

Committee Reports:

Property Committee: Bob Thulin reported that there are currently three active items with the Property Committee: (1) a bid has been accepted for tree trimming on the church property, including removal of 1 or 2 dead trees; (2) we are seeking estimates for sidewalk replacement in the front of the church; and (3) we received a request from Manchester Early Learning Center to park a school bus in our parking lot, but ultimately rejected the request for several reasons including our need for the parking lot on weekends when the bus would be parked there, snow removal issues, etc.

Social Concerns Group: Margaret Callaway reported that the Social Concerns Group will discontinue meeting for the summer months. They will be attending a Friday Night Supper event at Grace Lutheran Church on May 27. There is a sign-up sheet in the reception hall and carpooling will be available.

Finance: Bill Hyde, Treasurer, reported that income for the month of April was \$1,635 below budget, but our year-to-date income is still above budget by \$2,544. Expenses for April, and year-to-date, are below budget. The largest savings is nearly \$7,000 in the year-to-date natural gas budget. We have paid 33.5% of our 2016 mission shares.

Lay Leader's Report: Don Wilby stated that he is still involved with Stephen Ministry activities and serving communion. He hopes to get involved in the Congregational Care initiative once it kicks off. He will be attending Annual Conference in June.

Next Generation and Young Adult Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that the young women's bible study will pause for the summer months. Youth group is going well and there are a couple of slots still available for the July 24-29 mission trip to Niagara Falls. The can/bottle drive will run until May 22. Youth Sunday will be June 12 (one 10:00 a.m. service and a picnic). J.T. requested names of college or high school graduates, so they can be included in recognition.

Outreach: Pastor Dick reported that the Stop Hunger Now event went well and Blankets for Mothers Day is exceeding expectations with a record number of blankets (466!) purchased so far. Jill Smith is working on a children's Heifer International project, "Fill the Ark". Bill McGugan is looking for folks to help with Math Night at Washington School on May 19.

Memorials: Jane Zadnik reported that \$1,565 in memorial funds have been received year-to-date, through May 6.

Education: Terry Marshall reported on Education Commission activities including moving the children's library to a small room off the nursery and organizing/updating the children's book collection, and upgrading the cribs and bedding in the crib nursery. The Easter education event went very well.

Director of Ministries Report: Terry Marshall advised the group that responsibility for the International Gift Shop will be transitioning from Edith Gerber to new parties. Three people have expressed interest in picking up this area, and they will work as a subcommittee reporting to Outreach. Congregational Care initiatives are launching, with the objective of caring for our congregation more intentionally. One initiative involves segmenting our sanctuary into sections, with the intention of getting to know the people in each section, including Sunday worship attendance habits, and reaching out when an expected person is missing for a period of time. Monthly communion is being served to shut-ins who wish to receive it, by a group of Stephen Ministers led by Bill McGugan.

Trustees: Pastor John reported for the Trustees. The Trustees approved a retractable awning for the parsonage. A United Methodist Foundation representative recently visited with the Trustees. Walden Behavioral is continuing to move forward toward purchase of 48 Hartford Road. Plans are underway for refurbishing of the 21 Hartford Road property. Jim Hoagland is working on preliminary planning, including abatement work. If people have ideas for this project, they should feel free to share them with Pastor John or Robin Meggers.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that Boris Gerber is stepping down as our representative to the Manchester Interfaith Social Action Committee (MISAC) and Pam Carpenter is interested to step into the role.

There was a motion (Lay Leadership Committee, Bill Hyde) to elect Pam Carpenter as one of South United Methodist Church's representatives to the Manchester Interfaith Social Action Committee. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Pastor John shared a monthly newsletter, "Connected", about happenings at General Conference. General Conference will be held May 10 – 20. Annual Conference will be held June 16 – 18.

New Business:

There was no new business to report.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John offered a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 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 18th. 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, 2016

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) _____