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The CHALLENGE December 2014

South United Methodist Church
with Rev. John Marshall



“Where the joy of life in Christ overflows”

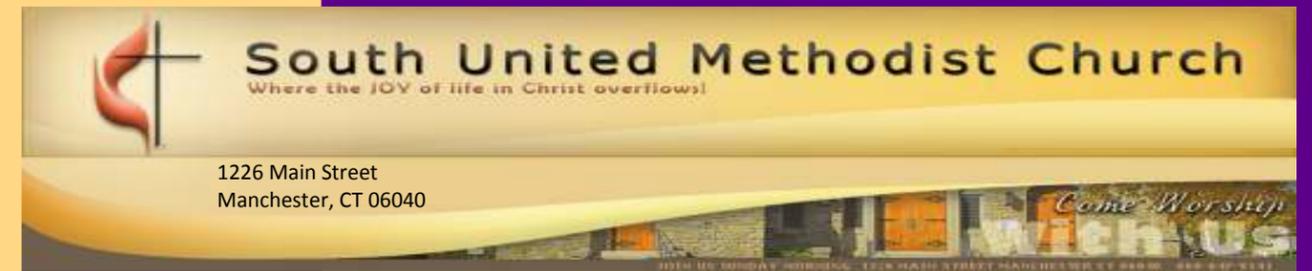
Sunday Worship Schedule

- 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

January Challenge Deadline:
Sunday, December 21, 2014



THE CHALLENGE DECEMBER 2014

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
- **December 7th
One Service 10am
- **December 24th
5:30pm Family Service
10:00pm Traditional

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A Night Like No Other!

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night...” (Luke 2:8)

Dear Friends,

There’s something unique about the night before Christmas. For many of us, what makes Christmas Eve special goes back to our childhood. For some it was and is a time of feasting with family and friends. Many people put up their Christmas trees. As a child I remember this was the night when my siblings and I, “hung our stockings by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.” It was an evening to turn in early, once we made sure that Santa’s snack of milk and cookies was set out near the fireplace. Truly, Christmas Eve was- and is, a night like no other.

That’s how it began over two millennia ago. We are so familiar with the account which we have heard and read since we were children.

This little baby, Jesus , the Lord had come to bring peace and joy to all.

Ordinary shepherds rejected and looked down upon by so many in their day, faithfully tending their flocks, especially at night when the sheep faced so many threats. And it was precisely these overlooked people to whom God sent His angel with the news of birth of the Messiah. This angel shone brightly, gloriously glowing before their very eyes. Of course, just like you and I would have been, they were awestruck and terrified. There is no question, it was a night like no other.

What did it mean then? What does it mean to people today? The coming of the Messiah meant joy and salvation for all people. This was due to the fact that God’s Son had taken on human flesh, born as a seemingly ordinary child to an overwhelmed mom and dad. This little baby, Jesus Christ, the Lord, had come to bring hope, freedom, peace and joy to every person who would call on His name. On this night for the first time ever, people could hold the Lord in their arms; Mary and Joseph comforted and cuddled Him close to their hearts. This little child was admired and worshiped by the shepherds as well as the wise men who traveled many miles to see Him. Can there be any doubt that it was a night like no other?

In a few short weeks, Christmas Eve will come once more. Families will gather. Children will barely be able to contain their excited anticipation. The carols will be sung. The candles will be lit. The story will be read! I hope you will be there. I hope you will take part in Christmas Eve Worship. At South Church, we will hold two worship experiences: one for families and children at 5:30pm and a second traditional candlelight service with the choir at 10pm. Invite someone to join you. It promises to be a night like no other!

In Service to the newborn King,
Pastor John



December Worship Theme

Description: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve, we will look to the ancient, timeless words of the prophet Isaiah. In this Old Testament book, we will discover many wonderful passages which anticipate and describe the coming Messiah. As you read this book, you will also see many examples of fallen human behavior which makes the coming of a Savior so necessary.

December 7, 2014: "The Christmas Pageant!"

One service at 10am!

Title: The Good New Flash presented by the South Church Sunday School children.

December 14, 2014: "Finding Joy in the Season"

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11. The Spirit of the Lord is upon Him!

Focus Verse: The Messiah will, "provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory." (Isaiah 61:3)

Theme: The Messiah offers healing comfort to the brokenhearted and those who grieve.

December 21, 2014: "Are We Ready?"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort for the Lord's People

Focus Verse: "A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (Isaiah 40:3)

Theme: We need to prepare our hearts and minds to the Lord to fully enter our lives.

December 24, 2014: "A Night Like No Other!"

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Focus Verse: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Theme: The birth of Jesus Christ means God's joy, peace and salvation are available to all people

December 28, 2014: "The First Sunday after Christmas Day"

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

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)

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)

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Christmas Candlelight Concert

Sunday, December 14, 2014

6:30 p.m.

South United Methodist Church
1226 Main Street
Manchester, CT

Case Memorial Chime
Chancel Concert Choir
Soloists

Wesley Ringers Handbell Choir

Director of Music, Earle Bidwell

Accompanists
Tanya Lukyanova
Jill Smith
Christopher Walton

A free will offering will be gratefully accepted



Seasonal Sharing Christmas Food

Many thanks to all of you who helped make thanksgiving a lot happier for the 25 families who received food from South Church.

At Christmas we will be providing similar foods plus a gift for each member of the family. Additionally, we are supplying gifts for residents of Green Lodge. The total number of people we are supplying gifts for is 100.

Food items needed: juice, canned sweet potato, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, chicken broth and coffee. Monetary donations will be needed to purchase pies, rolls, fresh vegetables, milk, margarine and eggs.

Christmas Gifts: there will be an index card for each person indicating age, gender, first name, code # and a specific gift request. Cards and sign-up sheets will be in Reception Hall. Please return gifts no later than December 14th. MACC has suggested that the amount that you spend on each individual's gift is about \$20- \$25. In an effort to provide comparable gifts to siblings in a family, some cards have been grouped together.

December 19 at 6 P.M. sort and pack in Cooper Hall.

December 21 delivery of food and gifts.

Please sign up in Reception Hall to deliver food and/or bring ham or turkey.

Bill McGugan, 860-649-9072



Attention Young Adults! On Monday, December 22

There will be a get together for those ages 18-30. It's a great opportunity to meet some new folks or see some old friends of youth group past. The time and place is TBD.

Announcements will be made as the date draws near!

If you have any questions,

please contact JT: nextgen@southumc.com

Upcoming Youth Events

Attention Jr/Sr High! December is going to be an awesome time to be around the youth program. The Pancake Breakfast, a tradition here at South, will be held after the one 10 AM service on December 7th. Please come enjoy the children's Christmas Pageant during the service, and then you can head down to Cooper Hall for the Pancake Breakfast afterwards. Tickets are \$3 for kids and \$5 for adults, with a family max of \$15. The proceeds from this event will help the youth serve on their mission trip this summer! The other exciting news is that the Winter Retreat has been scheduled for February 6-8, and we will be heading back to Monadnock to play in the snow and to get closer to Jesus! If you haven't attended a retreat before, that's okay. Retreats are a great time to refresh and slow down the craziness of life while being fed from God's Word.

- 12/7 Pancake Breakfast @11:00am
- 12/13 Saturday Babysitting night/BrightNights (Time TBD)
- 12/21 Christmas Youth Group (5-8pm)
- 12/28 NO Youth Group (Enjoy your loved ones!)



If you have any questions, please e-mail JT: nextgen@southumc.com

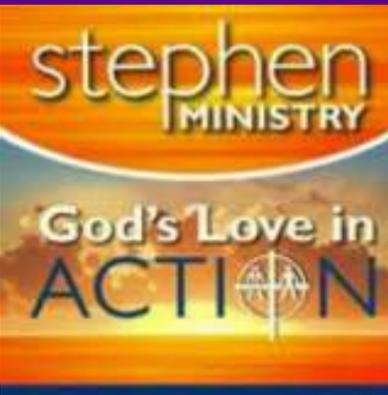
South United Methodist Church

1226 Main Street

Manchester, CT 06040 860-647-9141

Pastor: Rev. John Marshall

Stephen Leaders: Alberta Hoagland, Terry Marshall & Don Wilby



Training Updates:

Our Stephen Minister training class has begun.

We ask you to keep our new class of Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting people on behalf of our congregation. Also please pray for our Stephen Leaders and current Stephen Ministers as they continue to seek to bring one-to-one Christian caring to their carereceivers.

Here is what our Stephen Ministers Trainees have been learning so far this Fall...

Session One-

The Person of the Care giver

Our Stephen Minister Trainees have received an introduction to the 50 hours of training and have been exploring the Christ-centered foundation of Stephen Ministry.

Session Two-

Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours

Feelings are a gift from God. In this session our Stephen Minister trainees learned to help people recognize, accept, and express their feelings, and invite them to trust God to bring them healing and wholeness. They have explored the benefits of expressing feelings and the harm that can come when feelings remain unexpressed.

Session Three-

The Art of Listening

Listening is an essential part of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers use active listening skills to help people recognize and accept feelings they are experiencing. In this session, Stephen Ministers have learned and practiced the skill of reflecting as a valuable listening tool. They have explored the many facets of listening and have talked about their own experiences so as to better understand when listening is effective and when it feels fake or makes a person feel uncomfortable.

Session Four-

Distinctively Christian Caring

(Part 1)

In this session which will take place after Thanksgiving,

Our trainees will begin to explore the essentials of using their Christian faith in caring for another, drawing on the resources of prayer, witnessing, the Bible, forgiveness, blessings and more.

An important motto of Stephen Ministry is, "The Stephen Minister is the caregiver, and God is the curegiver."

This training session underscores this Christ-centered focus for Stephen Ministers.

Thank you for your continued support of our Stephen Ministry program here at SUMC

December 2014 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Committees & Commissions	3 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	4 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm SM Supervision	5	6 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group 10:00am Pageant Rehearsal
7 10:00am One Service w/Pageant 11:00am Pancake Breakfast w/Youth	8	9 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm Ad Board	10 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7:30pm Concert Choir	11 6:30pm Stephen Ministers	12	13 Youth Babysitting Event 9:00am Concert Choir Rehearsal 12:00pm Poinsettia delivery
14 9:00am UMW Mini Fair 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 6:30pm Candlelight Concert	15	16 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:00pm Lydia Circle 7:30pm Staff Parish	17 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	18 6:30pm Stephen Ministers 6:30pm SM Supervision	19 6:00pm Seasonal Sharing	20 9:30am Knitting Group 3:00pm Christmas Caroling
21 9:30am Traditional Children's Story 9:45am K- 2nd Children's Church 10:45am Seasonal Sharing delivery 10:45am Sunday School 11:45am Contemporary in Café 5:00pm Youth Group	22 Young Adults Get Together	23 12pm Bulletin Deadline 7:30pm NO Finance Mtg	24 4:15pm Wildfire 5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 6:30pm NO Stephen Ministers	26	27
28 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	29	30 12pm Bulletin Deadline	31 11:00am Staff Mtg 6:15pm Wildfire 6:30pm NO Wesley Ringers 7:30pm NO Chancel Choir	1 6:30pm NO Stephen Ministers	2	3 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:30am Knitting Group

More South News

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

DECEMBER 24

5:30PM

FAMILY SERVICE W/CHILDREN'S STORY

10:00PM

TRADITIONAL SERVICE W/ CHOIR

EVERYONE WELCOME

SOUTHUMC.COM

Outreach News

South Church is Reaching out Through:

Mitten Tree The mitten trees are up once again. You could pick up some inexpensive hats or gloves or sweat pants and put them on the tree. They will 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 By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone; now we will be focusing in on gathering up food and gifts for about twenty-five families (plus a few extra gifts for some folks in a small special care facility in town). Cards describing desired gifts are in Reception Hall at church. Bill McGugan has agreed to keep heading up this effort, and you can check with him 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, December 19th at 6:00 pm

Stop Hunger Now We have a date in April confirmed for this increasingly popular food packaging event and will be collecting money after the first of the year to underwrite it.

Souper Bowl Sunday On the Sunday that the Super Bowl is played in January, South Church will have its usual Souper Bowl offering, which will go to underwrite the work of MACC among the hungry.

Mall GivingTree The Outreach Committee has decided not to have us take responsibility for staffing the table for the GivingTree at the Mall this year. The whole thrust of this program has changed, and we aren't sure that this is where we should put our effort any longer.



Pancake Breakfast

&

Birthday Party for Jesus

Sunday, December 7th

Only one service at 10am

\$5 per person/\$15 family

Youth will be serving & will sing for tips!

Following the Service & Pageant



**SUMC Administrative Board Meeting
September 9, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Bob Thulin, Bill Hyde, Kim Grehn, Pastor John Marshall, Deb Grehn, Terry Marshall, Brian Mohr, Pastor Dick Thompson, Patti LaForest, Jake Beverage, Phil Susag, J.T. Himmelstein, Carol Goodwin

Opening Prayer/Reading of Vision and Mission Statements:

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairperson Deb Grehn. Pastor John offered an opening prayer and Bob Thulin read the Vision and Mission Statements.

Acceptance of Outstanding Minutes:

Draft minutes of the June 10, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

There was a motion (Bill Hyde, Patti LaForest) to accept the minutes as drafted; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Pastor Dick reminded the group that he will present an update on the Justice Ministry Task Force at the October Administrative Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Education: Terry Marshall reported that Vacation Bible School was very successful with 99 children and almost 60 volunteers involved. The Spirit Sunday All Church Picnic was also a success, though more help was needed for setup and other support activities. The Education Commission will be looking for help from other committees for this event next year. There was a suggestion that the Ad Board lead the event next year.

Seasonal Ministries: Brian Mohr and Patti LaForest reported on upcoming Seasonal Ministries events, as follows: November 8 - Harvest Gathering with crafts and a soup cook off; November 29 – decorating for Advent; December 13 - arranging of the poinsettias; December 20 – Christmas Caroling; February 18 – Shrove Tuesday.

Outreach: Pastor Dick shared information on upcoming Outreach events. There will be a trip to Overlook Farm, VT to experience/learn about the Heifer Project on September 27. October 19 is the town-wide Crop Walk. South Church is already over 2/3 of the way toward our 3 year, \$5,000 Imagine No Malaria goal. The Stop Hunger Now event will be scheduled for April 18 and we'll be inviting other churches to participate again.

At Large: Jake Beverage stated that he attend his first meeting of the SUMC "Running Commission" led by Boris Gerber. This group is working together to practice/prepare for the Thanksgiving Day Road Race.

Next Generation Ministries: J.T. Himmelstein reported that our youth will participate in the September 12 Back to School Bash with 1st Baptist Church. September 27 will be a flash light corn maze event. The summer mission trip went very well and our youth received high compliments from the YouthWorks staff. This summer's young adult ministry kick off events went well and we will work to keep building this ministry.

Trustees, Property Manager: Bob Thulin shared several updates. There are two important meetings coming up regarding the approval to proceed with the elevator project – the Cheney Historical Commission on September 11 and the Planning and Zoning Board on September 15. Repair/maintenance work was completed over the summer as follows: chimney work – church and parsonage; roof repairs – church; walkway and patio repairs – parsonage. Work will begin on the church front doors September 15. Our electrical service is up for a rate review and we will likely change to a new service. The Trustees are reviewing a Chamber of Commerce request to renew their lease at Susanna Wesley Hall for another 5 years. The Trustees are also considering an occupancy request from Firm Foundation, which serves the Latino community. A new heating system is needed at Susanna Wesley Hall. Bids are being entertained and options considered. Jim Kelly from the Bradley Company has been hired as broker to market the 48 Hartford Road property. One of the prior interested parties will again tour the property October 3 for possible use as a school. There is a concern about insurance coverage for 48 Hartford Road due to the building being vacant and this is being explored further with the insurer, Fred Church. Bob alerted the group that we are in need of a new electrician – preferably someone affiliated with our church, and he is looking for names.

Finance: Bill Hyde reported that income in the months of June and August was above budget, but July was slightly under budget. Year to date, revenue is more than \$7,000 above budget and expenses are about \$16,000 below budget. We are on track with our mission shares, with 68% of our annual obligation paid through August. Donations toward the elevator project have totalled \$86,032. Bill also noted two other large donation areas: Imagine No Malaria - \$3,445; Stop Hunger Now - \$3,250.

Staff Parish Relations: Deb Grehn presented a report from Linda Rood, who was unable to be in attendance. The Conference Ministerial Education Fund provided some funding for Pastor John and Terry Marshall to attend the Leadership Institute at the Church of the Resurrection, September 24-26.

Lay Leader: Deb Grehn presented a report from Don Wilby, who was unable to be in attendance. The Christian Men's Fellowship hosted a community picnic August 24 with 40-50 in attendance, including 8 residents of Bennet senior apartments. It was an enjoyable time and Dave Bidwell and Ray McKay provided excellent music. There is great outreach potential for this event, and the plan is to do it again next year.

Pastor's Report: Pastor John reported that he is trying the use of an overarching theme for education and worship: "Jesus' One of a Kind Love." The installation of our new District Superintendent, David Calhoun, will be October 19 (Alleluia Sunday) at 3:00 p.m. at Wesley U.M. Church, Hadley, MA. The next class for Stephen Minister training will begin in November.

New Business:

Phil Susag reported that there's an interest/determination in town to resurrect the Town-wide Thanksgiving Service. This year's service will be November 23 at 4:00 p.m. at the synagogue. South Church members are encouraged to attend.

Deb Grehn stated that the church is in need of an updated directory and we're looking for someone to volunteer as coordinator.

Patti LaForest informed the group of the 16th annual Breast Cancer Awareness Reception at Town Hall on October 7 at 3:00 p.m. Pastor John will be offering the invocation at this event.

Closing Prayer / Adjournment:

Pastor John said a closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol E. Goodwin, Recording Secretary

2014 Christmas Pageant The Good News Flash

December 7th

One Service
10:00 a.m.



Pancake Breakfast to follow