Old South Church is a loving, welcoming and inclusive Christian community, which gathers for worship where we are challenged spiritually and socially. This results in awareness and a call to action. As Christian stewards we provide diverse educational programs and engage in meaningful outreach. We are a recognizable Christian force within our community.
The Darkness of the Womb

Christmas comes in the winter because we are experiencing darkness and longing for light. Around us nature is moving into a time of death, hibernating, waiting for the rebirth of spring. But we are not in the darkness of the tomb, we are in the darkness of the womb. Advent is a time of pregnant waiting in the dark. There is an Italian expression for birth that translates as “give to the light.” We may not know what awaits beyond the womb, but the light will reveal it. Christ is the light of the world, revealed in the nativity, seen by the shepherds as glory surrounding them, and by the Magi as the star that led them.

Tragically, we are experiencing a great planetary crisis. Not only is the world filled with violence and unrest, the very creation itself is being threatened by humanity’s continued willful ignorance of the scientific warnings about climate change. These days it is difficult to find light in the world for our hopes to be born into. Indeed, we await the birth of the light of the world at Christmas. The Apostle Paul spoke of creation itself longing for salvation as if experiencing pregnancy:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. - Romans 8:18-25

Birth pangs are filled with anxiety, uncertainty, physical pain, cries for it to end, but creation is wise enough to hope for birth, to put faith in new life. Every child is hope personified, precious and loved. Every birth reveals salvation. And so as we experience the waiting of Advent, may we feel the complete, intimate connection with God the Creator the way an unborn child does with their mother. And let us commit ourselves to the celebration of the birth of salvation understanding that Christ has no body in the world today but us, the Body of Christ. - Pastor Ian
Many thanks to all who helped out at Bazaar! We had a good turnout and did quite well. It doesn’t matter whether you baked, helped set up or take down, worked on items to sell, worked down in the kitchen, looked after a booth, or performed any of many other tasks associated with this big project: your time and efforts are very much appreciated. Of course, all you shoppers are much appreciated as well. If, for some reason, you had to miss the event, Mini Bazaar will be set up after church on December 8th in the Anchor Lamp Room. You can shop and enjoy coffee and fellowship at the same time.

To give you an update on how the money made from Bazaar is used:
Over $7000 has been spent at the church this year. We pledged money to the general fund, paid for the repairs in the steeple, had the big refrigerator downstairs repaired, gave $1000 in camperships, and donated $3000 to UCC National Disaster Relief. There were also donations to local charities, such as Project Hope, Forbes House (a Lake county battered women’s shelter), Lake County Salvation Army, The Green House (a Geauga county women’s shelter) and others. See how many folks your hard work helped? Thanks!

~Russian Tea Cakes~Sugar Cookies~Hungarian Nut Horns~Raspberry Dreams~Date Pinwheels~

????What are your family favorites????

Sunday, December 15th will be the all church cookie exchange. This event will be held at coffee hour after church. Make some of your favorite Christmas cookies; you know, the old family ones, and bring them to share with all of us. Bring 4 dozen cookies. We will put out one dozen for munching at coffee hour. Then you pick out three dozen of other people’s cookies to take home with you. You get a nice variety of cookies and we get to enjoy all those lovely favorites with our coffee. We would recommend that you bring an extra container to take your selections home in.

It might be nice to bring a copy of the recipe as well. We will copy them and make them available to those who want them.

A Blessed and Happy Holiday Season to you all.
~Nancy Romelfanger
While cleaning the 2 church kitchens it was brought to my attention that we are over-stocked in several items.
Plastic Tableware—an abundance which we do not use so much any more
Paper Coffee Filters—There are over 800 paper coffee filters for the 12 cup coffee pot
Foil Oven Pans (located in the downstairs kitchen)
One and 1/2 jars of animal cookies
2 Large boxes of crackers
Cookies, bags of snacks and candies (in the island cupboard)
PLEASE use those for coffee hours, otherwise they are going to be thrown away as some are getting close to a year old. Thank you for your co-operation in helping to keep the kitchen tidy. ~Jean Haverstraw

God is still speaking,
But are you listening?
Join us as we listen to the voice of God in the stillness and peace of Advent through a candlelit meditation
Every Friday Night in December
From 7-8pm.
Each week we will discuss an element of the Advent season, learn about mindfulness and finish in the silence of meditation.
Take some time off from wrapping presents to BE fully present with God and find peace this holiday season.
Please Contact Lindsay Fiore if interested: 440-954-0474
Celebrate * Give Thanks* Celebrate * Give Thanks

Taken from the records of the Old South Men’s Club
(probably in the 1950’s)

NOTICE OF AN IMPENDING SOCIAL EVENT!
From the Social Committee Chairman Rees Davis:
Ladies—how long has it been since the hubby has taken you out for the evening?
What? Why, that stingy piker!!!
...Annual Ladies Night Out is on tap for December 6th

Place: Mentor Lounge
Program: Prime Beef Dinner
Dancing (orchestra)
Skits—Conversation
Price: $3.75 per person

...You girls wash, cook, keep house...surely the best he can do is show his appreciation! So when our callers contact your husband...
have him primed to say...YES!!!
~Margaret Hommel
And a Merry Christmas to you! And You! And you too!!!

Christmas Eve at Old South Church

5:00 PM Youth Led Service
8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship

Pocket Presents
The Missions Ministry is going to create “goodie” bags for the men, women and
children at Project Hope containing Chap Stick, Kleenex Pocket Packs, 2oz hand
creams, gum, Life Savers, cough drops, hand warmers and stretch gloves.
If you would like to contribute one of these items or pocket change to help purchase
them, bring them to church by Sunday, December 8th. Call Judy Schmidt with any
questions: (440) 477-9022.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Adult Bible Study at 9:00 am</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Worship in Sanctuary at 10:30 am</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Congregational Meeting at 9:00 am, Advent Workshop at 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Crafters at 10:30 am, Boy Scouts at 7:00 pm, CE at 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>New Years Eve at 9:00 pm, Advent Study at 7:00 pm, Project Hope at 7:00 pm</td>
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**December 2019**
Cabinet Update

I thought I would use this month’s SteepleViews to try and clear up some of the confusion about the recent amendments to the Constitution. First, Active Members (old definition) are now called Voting Members. No change in authority or qualification for Voting Members is intended. Voting members are still the main governing body of the congregation. Only Voting Members can vote at congregational meetings, serve as Moderator or Assistant Moderator, or chair a Ministry committee. We created a new category called “Member” to allow those people who are participating in a ministry or want to participate to be able to serve on a ministry committee. This is intended to open the door to greater participation from our congregation. We also eliminated the fixed number of members for each ministry. Going forward, each ministry will determine the appropriate number of members necessary for its objectives, and also to recruit future members. Both Members and Voting Members can serve on Ministry committees. Lastly, we deleted the requirement for an annual audit of our financial statements. No audit has been conducted in recent years because it is prohibitively expensive. Going forward, the Trustees will conduct a periodic review of our financial records. I hope this provides some clarity, and I apologize for any confusion. ~submitted by Bud Stanley

NEXT SCRIP ORDER DATE:
Sunday, December 1st

Great Lakes Scrip (our source for cards) has a HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
It highlights many of the 750+ merchants Who offer bonuses to Old South Church.
To see the guide, click on this link:
Holiday Gift Guide 2019

The holidays are coming. Getting a bonus for the church as you shop is extra free money for Old South Church!

Additional Upcoming Order Dates:
December 15th

Heinen’s and Giant Eagle Gift Cards are available For IMMEDIATE PURCHASE
Every Sunday!
Old South United Church of Christ
9802 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094

An Open and Affirming Congregation
Serving you at Old South Church:

Ministers:

Pastor: Rev. Ian Lynch

Secretary: Velta Winkler

Treasurer: Wayne Danko

Music Director: Judith Higbee

Financial Secretary: Darlene Williams

Minister for Families and Youth: Lindsey Robison

Office: 440-256-3329
Fax: 440-256-3328
Monday—Friday
9 a.m.—Noon

Servings at Old South Church:

Old South United Church of Christ
9802 Chillicothe Rd., Kirtland, OH 44094

Steeple Views is published monthly for the members and friends of Old South UCC.

Everyone is welcome to contribute! Email your news to office@oldsouthchurch.org.