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.
Gathered and Gathering

As we celebrate 200 years of gathering here at Old South, part of our personal reflection should be on both being gathered and the act of gathering. We exist as a congregation because a group chose to be gathered as a congregation in September 1819. As we approach September 2019, we remain an active congregation because we have chosen to be gathered still. As members of the congregation, we have identity based on our belong to the gathered group. Yet is also vital to remember that the gathered congregation has always had a commitment to gathering others. The act of gathering is the lifeblood of the congregation. None of us would be here, feeling the gift of belonging, if those who were gathered before us did not also commit to gathering.

Gathering is an act of covenant commitment. Membership in the congregation brings the benefit of belonging and that can be sufficient, but some members must move from just being recipients to taking responsibility for the life of the congregation or there will be no more congregation. Some members must take ownership of the mission of the church, making a commitment to be bound with others in making that happen. Regardless of how mission is defined (and it may change over time), at minimum it is an act of gathering. We must move beyond our doors into the “neighborhood” where we can gather the resources there. Obviously, we will want to invite our neighbors to join us on the journey.

This “Neighborhood Gathering” will be the focus of our worship this summer. We are called to show our love of God by loving our neighbor as ourselves. So, we will explore who are neighbors are and what challenges we have to truly loving them. Some of our neighbors practice other religions, some practice no religion. Some of our neighbors practice our religion, sometimes in ways that don’t look like our ways. All of our neighbors have gifts that we can join with ours to serve the mission of our on-going gathering. Two centuries of being gathered has shown us that who gathers, where they gather, why they gather, how they gather, and what they gather changes with the times. Let us commit ourselves as we look back with pride and gratitude, to also look forward with commitment to continue gathering with all the neighbors we encounter on our journey.
Women’s Fellowship held a meeting on 5/28. We discussed the upcoming rummage sale. It will be held on Saturday, June 8th from 9-4. A bake sale and plant sale are included. Please have items to be donated at the church by Thursday 5/6. Baked goods on Friday by noon. Old South is having a float in the Kiwanis Strawberry Festival parade. If you would like to participate in this (it’s a lot of fun for the kids), come to the church on Friday June 14th at 2pm to help decorate the float. Call Jean Haverstraw at 440-279-4501 for more information. Women’s Fellowship is going to assist with some of the projects around the church. We have voted to pay for the repairs necessary to stop the leak in the bell tower. Other projects will be taken under consideration after we acquire additional information regarding size, cost, etc. I would be extremely remiss if I did not remind you that there are only 162 days until Bazaar!! This is where the money comes from for us to help our church and support various charities (mostly Lake county ones). Can you do a project? Volunteer some time? Have some ideas? Women’s Fellowship will help with supplies if needed. If you have never participated before, come on—we have a great time and it’s a great way to get to know other members of the church. ~submitted by Nancy Romelfanger

Strawberry Parade

Everybody loves a parade! As part of our Bicentennial celebration, OSC is planning to have a float in the Kirtland Kiwanis Strawberry Festival Parade on June 14th. The theme of the float will highlight the ways our church serves the communities around us. Don Jones has graciously offered his trailer and a vehicle to pull it and Bill Knox will be contributing signs. We will have places for a few riders (sitting, for safety), and hope that many of you will join us to walk the parade route with our float. We’ll meet at the church at 2pm on Friday the 14th to decorate the float. Many hands (and maybe a few staple guns) will make light work. The parade will line up at on Joseph Street, north of the school between the Sunoco station and the Mormon Visitors Center. Parade time is 6pm. Contact Jean Haverstraw (jeanhaverstraw@yahoo.com/440-279-4501) or Deb Schirm (schdeb92@aol.com/440-256-3327) with questions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blessing of the Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Worship w/ Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Project Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Rummage/Plant &amp; Bake Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Crafters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Rummage/Plant &amp; Bake Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Crafters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Quilts of Valor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Communion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Crafters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Food Pantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Blessing of the Animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**June 2019**
Did you know our Old South original “gatherers” arrived in Kirtland from Connecticut and Massachusetts between the years 1811 and 1818? Ohio had become a state only a few years back (1803). It was young and untamed but ready for these pioneers—these Puritans and Pilgrims eager to worship God in their own way. Kirtland was still a wilderness compared to the settled towns they had left behind. No nice secure homes awaited them here. No matter. They would build them. Chances were these “homes” were primitive log cabins, put together something like this: Using hand tools, cabins were made from raw logs, untouched by the axe except where the wood fitted together. Chimneys were built from sticks stuck together with mud. All chinks were packed with moss or grass, then plastered with clay. The floor was of rough boards called puncheons, riven from a log with a heavy knife. Roofs were of clapboard laid on rafters and held down by logs fastened the length of the cabin. Windows? Newspapers, glazed by soaking in hog lard! The light came in through doors, cracks, and chimneys!

Old South’s first “church” (a log cabin built in 1822) was undoubtedly an improvement...but still... Have we come a long way? You betcha!!!!

MORE TO COME! ~Margaret Hommel
Prayer Chain

The Old South Church Prayer Chain is a group of people who pray over the weekly list of Sunday prayer requests. If an emergency arises, the group receives notices to add someone to their prayers. If you are currently not receiving the prayer list via email and would like to, please call the office at (440) 256-3329 or email office@oldsouthchurch.org.

Garden Tour!

It’s a can’t miss event! Plan to grab an extra cup of coffee or juice after worship on June 16th and let’s take a stroll around the church grounds. We’ll snap some pictures and make a list of areas needing attention. It’s true...weeding, like preaching is an “in season and out of season” thing (with apologies to Paul in his 2nd letter to Timothy). We can’t hope to do it all in two morning work parties a year, and too often schedules just don’t allow many of us to participate.

The plan is to publish the list of tasks and invite families, small groups or individuals to sign up to weed or prune or whatever on their own schedule. You may dedicate your work to the memory of a loved one, or to honor and thank someone who has done a good deed for you. We will acknowledge the dedications weekly in the Heavenly Herald and monthly in the SteepleViews.

If you are thinking “I’m not sure which are weeds and which are flowers”, don’t worry, you can buddy with a more experienced gardener. If you are thinking “but I don’t have much time”, be assured every little bit helps and we’ll break big jobs into manageable bits.

Email Deb Schirm at schdeb92@aol.com or call 440-256-3327 with questions or suggestions, or just to be included in the information loop.
Missions Ministry sponsored a fun night out with Hudson Family Signs in May. They came out and helped us create some great DIY decorative pieces. Here are some pictures from the event, including some of our masterpieces!
Steeple Views is published monthly for the members and friends of Old South Church. The purpose is to inform readers of church meetings and happenings. Everyone is welcome to contribute! Email your news to office@oldsouthchurch.org.

Web site: www.oldsouthchurch.org
Lindsey Robison
Pastor email: pastor@oldsouthchurch.org
Vela Williams
Office email: office@oldsouthchurch.org
Fax: 440-256-3328
Phone: 440-256-3329

Monday—Friday
9 a.m.—Noon
Open

Music Director: Judith Higbee
Finance Secretary: Darlene Williams
Treasurer: Wayne Danko
Minister for Families and Youth: Lindsey Robison
Secretary: Vela Williams
Pastor: Rev. Ian Lynch
Ministers: All of us

Serving you at Old South Church:

An Open and Affirming Congregation
9802 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094
Old South United Church of Christ