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.
Undoing Racism

My grandfather regularly used the “N-word.” It was the only word I ever recall him using to refer to African Americans. He also used whatever derogatory term was in use for every ethnic group he had reason to talk about. In the days before political correctness, it was exceedingly easy to know what people like my grandfather thought because they were quick to betray their feelings about others by the words they chose. He wore his prejudice on his sleeve, he was a textbook racist. No one is born a bigot; we must be taught. Thankfully, my parents provided a buffer and taught me to accept everyone. But that doesn’t mean that I am free from racism.

As European immigrants came to America, they were encouraged to “become American” and did so by learning English and adopting the prevailing cultural norms. Within a couple of generations, regardless of where your family originated, you could be a “White American.” This was never a possibility for people of color. Latinx immigrants have not found the same welcome as Europeans, the only difference being skin pigmentation. So, it should come as no surprise that they have seen tribalism as the means of survival in a hostile culture. Obviously, the same is true of those Americans descended from slaves. The tragic truth is that racism is pervasive in our society. In fact, it is built in. Our nation’s founding principles included the racist idea that people from Africa could be kept as slaves. Hard as it may be to accept, the truth is that racism is a construct that was created to prevent access to power for people of color.

Perhaps it is out of a fear of being accused of returning hate for hate that we are so hesitant to use the term racist. But if you are not a victim of racism, you benefit from it. As a person born with privilege granted solely because of race, I have an obligation to undo racism and when I don’t, I am being racist by default. We have placed the burden on victims instead of those of us who have received unearned access to power. When you have the key to a door arbitrarily keeping others out, justice demands that you unlock it and let them in.

Even without accepting this broader definition of racism, and even ignoring the long history of horrific insults to minorities and foreigners, President Trump’s recent tirade against the four congresswomen of color was clearly racist. His inaction when virulent “send her back” chants erupted at a rally was both inexcusable and dangerous. This is the path to much worse division and violence. It is sinful and must be named and opposed. This in not partisan. One Republican’s reprehensible behavior does not indict the entire party. But for any group, when one of your own acts out and you don’t call them out on the behavior, your silence provides implicit consent and encouragement. As President, there is a way that he represents all of America, so it is incumbent on all of us to respond. We should expect our leaders, at minimum, to see a good example. This one is embarrassing and immoral.

If we remain silent while our neighbors are attacked, we are complicit. Part of the reason Jesus drew so much negative attention from the powerful of his day is the way he challenged the status quo. He spent so much time with the disenfranchised that he began to be viewed as being as unacceptable as they were. It would be nice to believe that following Jesus brings the blessings of comfort and privilege. But that is not the way the story unfolded. Sometimes being a good citizen of heaven requires being a poor citizen of the world.
Isn’t summer wonderful! I forgot how much I love the outdoors. We have many blessings, and our beautiful Dell is one of them. It is so nice to see everyone on Sunday enjoying the sermon, fellowship, and Mother Nature. Our 200th year anniversary will soon be here. Look for more information in this edition of SteepleViews. Also, stay tuned for some proposed changes to the Church’s Constitution. Cabinet has been working diligently to try and address committee terms, number of members on committees, membership generally, etc., Most of these changes are just to tidy up the Constitution to reflect what we are already doing. A draft of proposed changes will be distributed in August with the hope of having a Congregational Meeting in late September to vote on the proposal. See you in the Dell!

~submitted by Bud Stanley, Moderator

Our review of income and expenditures of OSC during the Trustees Ministry meeting in July showed that the month of June was another positive month – an unusual thing for a month in summer. Donations exceeded church expenditures by about $900 in June. We remain somewhat short of our year-to-date 2019 budget income goal but our year-to-date expenses were also less than budgeted and, over all, Old South Church is approximately $9,000 better off than we were at the end of June 2018.

We are grateful for all who have been able to donate and also for those who have contributed in other ways. That includes Bud Stanley and Chuck Haas, who have been mowing grass for the church; Tom Ristau, who diagnosed a pesky problem with the big riding lawn mower and then replaced the defective part despite its nearly inaccessible location; and the long-time exterminator for Old South, who took care of a yellow jacket/bee problem without charge. We are happy to report that the gaping holes in the ramp up to the south entrance of the sanctuary have now been repaired and the base repaired and bricks tuck-pointed. Still to be repaired is the internal roof in the steeple over the bell but we are just waiting for an opening in the roofer’s schedule to get that taken care of.

Submitted by Ellen Keller
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**August 2019**
**Celebrate * Give Thanks* Celebrate * Give Thanks**

**Another Chapter in Old South Church’s Story:**

Two hundred years ago ten intrepid souls (guided by two ministers) took a giant step into history to form what would become Old South Church. Saturday, September 7th at 3:00pm our current intrepid souls will give insight into their lives in a playlet entitled "The Gatherers"

Rich and Wanda Steudel - Levi and Rebecca Hotchkiss Smith
Tom and Shirley Johnson - Thomas and Editha Morley
Steven and Velta Winkler - Russell and Sara Tomlinson Hawkins
Greg and Barbara Super - David and Mary Howe Holbrook
Elaine Courtney - Elizabeth Conant Russell
Celia Kepic - Mary Witter Crary
Bud Stanley - The Rev. Joseph (Josiah) Treat
Michael Gressley - The Rev. Luther Humphrey

P.S. With costumes too!

MORE TO COME! ~Margaret Hommel

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**200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DETAILS**

When four men and six women gathered to confess their faith at then South Kirtland Congregational Church on September 5, 1819, the village of Kirtland was 8 years old. All ten had been members of Congregational churches in Connecticut or Massachusetts and were descendants of the first Congregationalists - the Pilgrims and the Puritans. Two hundred years later, that church, now known as Old South United Church of Christ, will celebrate the anniversary on the weekend of September 7th and 8th.

With the theme “Gathered and Gathering,” activities begin with a program at 3:00 PM on Saturday which will include members presenting a short historical play, remarks by dignitaries, presentation of a plaque marking the building’s listing on the national historic registry, and tours of the historic building. A catered chicken dinner follows at 5:00. The celebration will culminate with a special worship service Sunday at 10:30 AM.

The weekend provides an opportunity for reunions and reminiscing. If you know of someone who might not be receiving the SteepleViews but who would be interested in attending, please forward this. To get more information about the anniversary celebration, or to make a reservation for the dinner ($15 per person), contact the office at (440)256-3329 or office@oldsouthchurch.org. Pat Eckert, (440) 339-6824 pateck40@gmail.com will also be taking reservations for the dinner.
Garden Dedication

Hi to all friends of Old South Church...
The lawn and flower beds around the church are in need of some loving care. You can help! I have adopted the beds around the Dell. I have dedicated the time spent in memory of Jan Marsey. She loved to make the grounds beautiful to honor God’s home. Who could you remember as you give an hour of care? Contact Deb Schirm at 440/256-3327 or schdeb92@aol.com if you can help
~submitted by Joyce Raymond

Help Needed—Cooking/Serving

Every year, Old South Church helps prepare and serve over 100 people at the St. Paul Community Meal. This year, the meal is scheduled for Sunday, August 25th. We need cooks on Saturday the 24th—we’ll be meeting here at church at 9am. Servers are needed for the 25th. Also we are looking for people to help provide desserts and/or side dishes. Drop off for these items is Saturday the 24th before noon. (Please note: If providing a dessert, please don’t frost cookies or brownies). Sign up sheets are available at the church or call the office at 440-256-3329. Please call Dianne Pennington if you have any questions. 440-477-0817. Thank you!

Project Hope Meal

Looking ahead—On months that have 5 Sundays, Old South Church prepares and delivers a hot meal for the residents at Project Hope. Our next date is September 29th, but it’s never too early to start signing up to help provide meal items! The sign up sheet is in the Anchor Lamp Room or contact: Carla Wilson (440) 256-3379, Judy Schmidt (440) 256-3583 or Elaine Courtney (440) 350-1626.
HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
September 15th at 2:00pm
1 Mile Walk

Did you know that 821 million people worldwide are hungry? Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn’t have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

Reach out to your fellow family members and friends to build a walking team. Once teams/individuals have chosen to walk you can click on the Kirtland CROP Hunger Walk page and register.

Reach $100 in donations online by August 15th and receive a beautiful woven scarf. 25% of all donations will go directly to the Kirtland Food Pantry housed at Old South Church. 75% help end hunger worldwide.

Please consider joining us to fight hunger here in our community and around the world. As recruitment leader I am here to help with any questions you may have.

Sincerely, Lisa Yelenosky 440-796-7044 Lpyelenosky@sbcglobal.net

Unable to make it to the Walk? You can still raise funds online!!!
Kirtland CROP Hunger Walk Page registration www.crophungerwalk.org/kirtlandoh

Our webpage will continue to be updated as the walk gets closer.

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Project Hope Wish List...

| AA, AAA, D size batteries | Paper cups |
| Home Depot gift cards     | Plastic forks, spoons, knives |
| Decaf coffee             | Aluminum foil |
| Sugar                    | Saran wrap |
| Ketchup                  | Foot powder |
| Cereal (no Cheerios)     | Men's deodorant |
| Cough drops              | Women's deodorant |
| Paper towels             | Toothpaste |
| Napkins                  | Chap stick |
| Paper plates             | Travel size shampoo and conditioner |

Project Hope for the Homeless provides individuals and families a place to sleep along with a hot meal for dinner, breakfast, and a sack lunch. They do this every night of the year with 50 beds and a new wing for families. You can help Project Hope during their Christmas in July campaign with your donations of goods or money from the above list now until August 25th.
Celebrate Fairport Harbor Congregational Church’s 150 Years of Ministry with a
Old Fashioned Community Potluck
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th from 5-7pm
At
Fairport Memorial Park
(across from the church at 308 Third St.)
Hotdogs and beverages provided,
Bring a dish to share!
FEATURING THE BIG BAND SOUND OF MADISON JAZZ PROJECT

August Book Club
Monday, August 19th at 7pm
This month’s selection:

_The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks_

By Rebecca Skloot
Meet Our New Accompanist!

The Music Committee is pleased to welcome Sara Smith to our staff as Accompanist. You may have already seen Sara in action since she has played a number of summer services in the Dell last year and this. Sara brings a wealth of experience including accompanying the “contemporary” service at Church of the Saviour (UM) for over 17 years. Many of you have already made Sara and her husband Jeff feel at home here. I know the rest of you will enjoy getting to know them both. ~Judith Higbee

More about Sara:
With Bachelor and Masters degrees from The Eastman School of Music, Sara works as an educator, arranger, coach and accompanist in the Cleveland area. She is a proud member of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 4.

Regional performance venues have included Great Lakes Theatre, Cleveland PlayHouse, PlayHouse Square Foundation, Cain Park Theatre, Calliope Theatre, Mercury Theatre Company, Opera Per Tutti, Cleveland Opera on Tour, Blossom Festival Opera, Access to the Arts, and assorted other theatre, dance and choral organizations.

She is currently a staff accompanist at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory, working primarily with Musical Theatre majors, and previously was on the collaborative staff for 10 years at The Cleveland Institute of Music. She also served as Head of the Accompanying Dept at the Cleveland Music School Settlement, where she was a member of the piano and accompanying faculty for 18 years.

Sara teaches piano/theory in her home studio and has been on the music staff at Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights for over 20 years.
Back to School Time!

The end of summer is a great time to stock up on scrip gift cards. School supplies are needed by students and teachers. Supplies are needed by those heading to colleges. Those may include supplies for an apartment or dorm room, gasoline, fast food, or entertainment. Scrip cards are great for school supplies purchases. They are very helpful for providing easily accessible funds for college students. So help Old South Church earn “free money” by using gift cards for college related expenses or from the over 750 merchants that participate in the program. In 2019, Old South has received $1902.58 from all Scrip sales. August Order dates: 8/4 and 8/18. Giant Eagle and Heinen’s gift cards are available every

Captains Outing

About 40 people attended our Captain’s baseball outing this year. It was great to see some of the newer families, new people, and the usual suspects! The rain held off and it was pretty warm, but shade came about the 3rd or 4th inning. Cindy Gressley was one of the drawing winners this year. Also, we were on the big screen—thank you to Emily Kalina for this picture!

~Nick Dybo

PRAYER SHAWLS

The Old South Church Prayer Shawl Ministry has a need for more knitted & crocheted shawls. Please contact Wanda Steudel at 440-256-2400 for more information.
Campfire Vespers were a lot of fun. We feasted on some delicious foods, bounced in a bounce house, played catch, frisbee and basketball, blew bubbles, and just enjoyed each other’s company. We ended up around the campfire where glow sticks were handed out to remind us to use our talents to be a light in other people’s lives. Vespers ended with some campfire songs and making s’mores. Thank you to all who came!!

Coming Soon: Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, August 18th
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
Pastor email:
pastor@oldsouthchurch.org

Secretary:
Velta Winkler
Secretary email:
office@oldsouthchurch.org

Treasurer:
Wayne Danko
Treasurer email:
office@oldsouthchurch.org

Ministries:
All of us

Music Director:
Judith Higbee
Music Director email:
lrobison@oldsouthchurch.org

Minister for Families and Youth:
Lindsey Robison
Minister for Families and Youth email:
lrobison@oldsouthchurch.org

Financial Secretary:
Darlene Williams
Financial Secretary email:
office@oldsouthchurch.org

Accompanists:
Sara Smith
Accompanists email:
office@oldsouthchurch.org

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

Web site:
www.oldsouthchurch.org

Office email:
office@oldsouthchurch.org

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