



CLT COMMUNICATOR



June 15, 2026

Present: Trent Metcalf, Michael Amstutz, Jeremy Patterson, Ken Neuenschwander, Michelle Steffen, Ed Taylor, Conrad Neuenschwander, Barb Ressler, Priscilla Spiker

Opening: Trent led a devotional - "The Secret of the Strength" by Peter Hoover. Anabaptist Stories of the Martyrs, specifically Wolfgang Brandhuber. Philippians 3:10. Dogma vs what the Bible says. Struggles, Crisis, Attacks - What will be our strength?

Pastor's Report-Glenn Nofziger II

- What a month. For the second straight month I was looking forward to our Pastoral Team proposal of becoming dually affiliated with Ohio Mennonite Conference/MCUSA and Evana. This is what I reported in April if you recall:
 - "Conversations of dual affiliation with Ohio Mennonite Conference and becoming an Affiliate Member church with Evana continue to weigh heavily on me personally. I felt God bestow a Sense of peace surrounding these conversations in November, 2025. We have been processing for months and having conversations as a Pastoral Team and Congregational Leadership Team." Conversations like this often split churches or never end and people just slowly leave after months and years of indecision. This proposal is what is fair and just for the make up of our congregation. Someone once said that peoples' minds will never change where they stand on same-sex marriage/LGBTQIA+. I don't know if that is true. This proposal to be dually affiliated would allow us to Follow Jesus Together without having to reach a decision or come to a vote as a congregation as "where we stand on sexuality." We can meet to discuss whatever anyone wants to talk about. We have been doing this for three years as a Pastoral Team. My prayer is if we attempt to process this decision to become dually affiliated as a congregation that we don't grow a greater divide of disagreement. I receive lots of counsel from many people as I try to listen to God and discern together how I am to be the pastor of our congregation. No one has to or gets to sit in my position. I am so grateful for the Pastoral Team to who helps share all the burden and load and response and process and planning and the proposal. I have been counseled not to lead the charge on this discussion. I just have a peace and am not worried about fallout or opposition or burn out or whatever. God has called me to this and I love you all. I am your shepherd and I am motivated out of love. Forgive me when I lose my patience or am too aggressive. I do my best to do neither of those things. I desire to speak the truth in love. I believe we are all called to doing that to the best of our abilities as God allows and directs us. The meaning of my name, "Glenn - A Quiet Spirit," is being put to the test! May the Holy Spirit guide our conversations! It is no coincidence that the Bible Recap has us going through Proverbs this month! Wisdom and prudence, to accept correction and rebuke are so needed. If there is any folly in my ways I want to be the first to admit it and surrender to any correction and rebuke. I am not the oldest or the wisest among us. My heart is for you. I serve the Lord and you all. I said Sunday, anticipation is on my heart for the message that will come from the book of Esther, "For such a time as this." Come Lord Jesus.

- Since Henry's arrest, God's grace has sustained me as almost twenty pastors have reached out to me in offering support and prayers. It has been next to impossible to respond in ways needed for everyone. I am so grateful for the Pastoral Team in helping to function to the best of our abilities on behalf of the congregation. Almost everyone is hurting in some way and feeling the heaviness of it all. I have been able to have video zoom calls and phone conversations as well as texts and emails with Henry. I have been in discussion with Pastor Kevin Himes of Salem and our Pastoral Team about planning a Service of Lament for our congregation and the greater Central community. Thank you all for your patience and prayers and mercy and grace as God gives to each one of us. God is near to the brokenhearted. Please slowly reread through the beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-12:

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- I was able to offer devotions and prayer for the Kidron Historical Membership Banquet, Tuesday evening June 2. And I have been asked to lead the prayer before the Kidron 5K Saturday morning, June 13th.
- I am really looking forward to practicing my new Sabbath rhythm from Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoons.
- I am also really looking forward to my much needed first week of vacation for the year! I leave Sunday right after church and head up to Little Eden Camp for two weeks. I will have one week of vacation, June 15-21. Then, I will be back "on" working while still up at camp for June 21-27 and will be home to preach on the 28th.

Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- Pastoral Team met June 3, 2026. Paula Snyder Belousek, OH Conference Minister, joined us on Zoom for the first part of the meeting to discuss the pastoral search process.



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- Glenn shared a devotional on Isaiah 43: 14-21—don't remember. Don't remember the prior things. Look - I am doing a new thing. What is God doing? What do we need to keep our eyes open to in the present and the future? Glenn led in prayer.
- Glenn updated us on his schedule and we spent significant time processing congregational care needs in the wake of recent events. We worked on some communication with the congregation and are looking at ways to help the congregation process as well as resources to help people deal with hidden struggles or addictions.
- We continue to look at the possibility of adding a Family Life pastor and what that process should look like.
- The possibility of becoming an affiliate member of Evana Network while retaining our primary membership in Ohio Conference will be processed with the congregation.
- We closed by spending time in prayer for the congregation and community.

Next meeting: July 6, 2026

Adult Ministry—Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- **Devotion:** Dave - When the church family is needing solace and care during times of betrayal, Psalm 55:22 offers comfort and reassurance. "The bible doesn't sugar coat pain, but when it happens, cast your cares upon the Lord. His faithfulness is steadfast." And Psalm 127, Dave reminded us that the best laid plans involve God's will to get it right.
 - **Old Business:**
 - "Red" carnations came as a surprise (Home spun". The following meal added an extra dimension in that some flowers were left abandoned. \$122 cost.
 - Storage area (SE corner of the annex) still on going with the Adult Ministries recommendation for Facilities to stay connected to the Zuerchers' for design/development.
 - **New Business:**
 - June 28th Senior Singles after church meal will include a few extras AND all those 90+ years young. Haystack supper provided by the Adult Ministry team Sunday morning snack seems to be working. Looking for any comments.
 - Discussed possible Sunday announcements/skits for the August Rubber Ducks outing.
 - Next meeting: July 21 at Metcalf's
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Children's & Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz Ministry Leader

- Did not meet
- ✦ VBS coming together

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Looked at plans for the cemetery columbarium and east room storage cupboard. Plans are progressing for both and we are close to having final plans. Thanks to those helping plan the columbarium for putting a lot of good work into the project.
 - We also replaced the lobby drinking fountain, with the cup filler, which had a leaking cooling system. We also hung a sign in the lobby at the top of the step directing people to the children's and young adult areas and mounted a white board in the conference room. We are trying to figure out a way to mount a white board on an existing rolling chalk board.
- ✦ Planning to get a materials sheet for the columbarium
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Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Continuing to contact persons to fill several positions.

Next meeting: June 17th

- ✦ Will begin working on replacing Henry on Worship Ministry
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Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Opening** – Ken – Matthew 28:20 The great commission is ahead of this verse which is the mandate for everyone but speaks directly to the work of O&S but the end of verse 20 is particularly precious for us as a congregation in this time “Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age.” CEB Jesus said “I myself will be with you” reassuring us that he and the spirit are one. Feels good to know Jesus is walking with us!
- **Moment for Mission** – June 21: The Grove at Continuous Cup – MFM and morning worship sermon - c/o Nikole Bonner, July 5: MCC Relief Sale – Chip, July 12: MCC – Chris Russell, Donor Relations Associate. The Grove Continuous Cup: is a new safe house in Wooster for abused women and girls in Wooster. Nikole Bonner, the director, will be here on June 21 st and will do an MFM and the sermon. She will present their ministry and invite us to support in various ways as they are renovating a house to begin receiving clients.
- **MCC:** Ken met with Eric Kurtz and their new Donor Relations Associate, Chris Russell. Chris will be here for the Relief Sale and will be at SMC for a MFM and sermon on July 12.
- **Lighthouse** – Exciting developments happen with the acquisition of land and anticipation of building a new activity/office center and a separate maintenance/storage building.
- **Open Arms:** Orrville Mennonite Church has offered to give their building to Open Arms. Open Arms has accepted the gift, and the two parties are in the process of finalizing the details.
- **MMN** - Oyanguren/Sayatan: In the near future, we will be having a video call with Alfonsina & Jose to touch base with them and to discuss and hopefully finalize the projects we will assist with in the coming months. The projects we are looking at are #1 finish fence around the new property, #2 radio station refurbishing paint, furniture and a new computer, #3 establishing a small thrift store inspired by their visit to MCC Connections, and #4 installing an additional septic tank at their house to solve the problem of flooding up through the toilets in their rainy seasons. The rough estimated total of these projects is \$9,000. With the money from the SCRIP program and the funds from the MSF we have \$5,875 to send at this time. Hopefully with a few additional donations and the upcoming MCF these projects can be completed. Talk to us if you would like to take on one of these projects or designate any gift to Oyanguren/Sayatan.



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- **Austin and Griselda Zuercher:** Will be in the US from July through October. We will have them at SMC during that time.
 - **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** We are working on trying to find the best date. Right now, it looks like it will be September 19 or 26.
 - **Fall Missions Weekend:** We are in contact with Juan Pacheco Lozano MMN Latin América Rep. about possible dates in October or early November and the format for a missions weekend.
 - Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 5/31/2026 – \$15,824.15: Restricted - \$13,869.62, Unrestricted Bal. - \$1,954.53 Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$5,098.62, My Coins Count - \$1,081, MCF fish fryer - \$2,690, MMN Oyanguren/Sayatan - \$4,000, Haiti Community School - \$1,000. Distributed this month \$20,600.
 - Next meeting: July 13
- ✦ It looks like the fish fry will be on September 26th
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Worship Ministry

- Met outside at the Pavilion at Sonnenberg. Rachael shared devotions, encouraging us to keep focusing on God and to turn to him for our security and comfort, especially when life becomes challenging and overwhelming (though we may be tempted to run the opposite direction like a scared rabbit!). He wants us to come to him. Mattea Nofziger also joined us for our meeting as part of her summer ministry internship.
- Discussed the preaching schedule. Guest preachers through the summer are: Nikole Bonner (June), Chris Russell from MCC Great Lakes (July), and Austin & Griselda Zuercher (August). On July 26, Glenn and Kevin Himes from Salem will be co-preaching during the joint service with Salem. We've also given Mattea the option of preaching a Sunday in July if she has interest. September 6 Glenn will introduce the book of Matthew, using the Narrative Lectionary.
- We spent considerable time talking and brainstorming about how to go forward with offering contemporary worship in our worship services after the current worship team steps down after the summer. Is there anyone on the current worship team that would be willing to stay on? Are there others who would be willing to step up? How do we go about seeking new participants? Mattea is willing to help lead a team, but she will be in college in the fall. Decided to give the matter lots of prayer and let the spirit lead. Will continue to re-visit this topic at future meetings.
- Services will be outside for the month of July. Still need to talk with Michael to see if a livestream in the sanctuary is feasible. If so, how many people are needed for multimedia? We need to make the congregation aware if this is an option. Erin will check in with Michael.
- Spoke about the need for a new member in our ministry to replace Henry. Glenn will connect with Conrad about this need and all of us will commit to praying about who may be called to this position.
- Plans are underway for our joint service with Salem on July 26. Tim Shue has agreed to coordinate music. Glenn needs to meet with Kevin to finalize the scripture passages.

- Looking ahead, plans are in the works for a joint worship service with Martins Mennonite on August 30. This may be a service of scripture and song. Additional details of where this will take place are still being discussed.
- Glenn and Kevin Himes have been talking about the need for a service of Lament for the community due to the situation with Henry. More information to come.

Next meeting: July 15

✦ Planning on the first Sunday in July, the 5th, will be a test for a simultaneous indoor and outdoor service

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- **Budget:** We are in the ninth month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 75% of the budget year. Budget giving is at 72.2% of budget and 75.5% including designated income. Expenses are at 71.9% of budget including designated giving. Weekly budget giving needs to average \$4,990 to meet budget. The current average is \$4,668 per week.
 - **CCS Tuition:** We continue to maintain a balance cushion in the upper \$20k in the account. Tuition for the 2025/2026 school year is \$34,806 or \$2,900 per month. We added an additional monthly gift of \$1,433.00 for a total of \$4,333. The total tuition and additional giving for the 2025-2026 school year is \$52,000. The current CCS budget year ends with the June payment. The May 31 balance in the account is \$26,611.64.
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Action Items:

- ✦ Rough draft of budget for July meeting, finalize the budget at the August meeting, vote on the budget at the September meeting.
 - ✦ Approved an updated bulletin and extended hours for Priscilla this summer to work on the directory.
 - Jeremy closed in prayer.
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Next Meetings: July 20
August 17

- Ministry Report
- ✦ Congregational Leadership Team Minutes