



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; † = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

March 16, 2026

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Michael Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander, Chip Coleman, Barb Ressler, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Lisa Amstutz, Jeremy Patterson and Conrad Neuenschwander.

Opening: Trent led a devotional about using the Psalms during Lent. Psalm 90 is a vehicle helping us in whatever we are giving up which hopefully leads to greater conviction and a greater faith; the bigger purpose of these 40 days of Lent. Trent then prayed us in.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- We have much to be thankful for: each member of our congregation, despite our differences we make up a family. ❤️
- That we all get along for the most part. We have our disagreements and preferences, but we value one another more or at least just as much as our own preferences!
- For our varied styles of worship; that we can sing both hymns and contemporary praise songs and view worship more about God and praising him than our own personal worship style preferences. That we can care just as much about the people sitting next to us in the pews in worship and value their preferred style of worship just as much as our own.
- We can be grateful for our song and worship leaders! Thank you Roy and Ruth for your years of willingness to lead singing. Please thank all our willing/capable song leaders!
- I had a great time at AMBS, in Elkhart for my first Pastors and Leaders conference. It was great connecting with old friends and sharing stories. We laughed and worshiped together. It was surprisingly more awesome than I anticipated.
- I am grateful for our conversations surrounding affiliation. It is not easy. We have some great options to connect and draw from different sources. We may share disdain for the different groups, but can we see the benefits they each have to offer and not just disqualify the other because they don't represent everything you stand for? There are a handful of things we try to say differentiate the groups but by and large the main, simple disagreement is over same-sex marriage. I believe God has given me peace in my heart to name these things and ask us to move forward together. How can we remain one congregation going forward following Jesus together? Can we do it? I don't believe this is over-simplifying the task at hand. It is the task at hand. Holy Spirit lead us.
- I am grateful for the time Chip has served as secretary, and Ellen before him! Who will serve our church in this role next? Please all interested parties humbly let your willingness be known! Pray for Chip as he brings his time of service to an end and for our next secretary.
- I am eager to see what God has in store for us as a congregation. Our MCC support has never been stronger. It is one place we come together with more churches to partner than anywhere else. Our speakers last month were amazing. The Comforter bash and kit assembly times are so fun, motivating and encouraging. We love serving together!
- Many of you know Patrick and Christine Nafziger, the pastors who moved back to the area to share a .5 role at Martins Mennonite, starting last October. A number of our people have gone and preached at Martins over the last year or so to help fill their pulpit. The Nafziger's have appreciated being welcomed back into the community. One of the first things they did was bring their family to one of our MCC kit packing nights. We would like to invite the congregants of Martins to also join us for the kit packing night.
- I have decided to push my Sabbatical back to the summer of 2028. I would like to apply for the Lilly Endowment, Clergy Renewal Grant, but I need your help in formulating a strong proposal. The grant is

technically awarded to our church, not just to me. The proposal prompt is “What makes your heart sing?” The sabbatical can have multiple parts to it that could balance rest, renewal and learning but it needs a central theme to tie everything together. Right now I am most excited about centering the theme around “Great Stories” or “Transformational Story Sharing.” So please share with me any questions or ideas you might have that could help me craft a strong proposal!

- Since September 1st I have only taken one vacation and only missed two Sundays. I am not feeling burnt out but I am looking forward to some weeks of vacation this summer!
- I also have a senior graduating and planning a grad party at the end of May!
- This present weekend is so full with the Central Joseph musical and auction, the comforter bash at the MCC material resource center and the local bible quiz tournament on Sunday.
- I am looking forward to the Winter Jam concert on March 27. Anyone else wanting to go along please let me know!
- Also continue to prepare your hearts for finishing our journey through Lent with our Maundy Thursday service of Footwashing and Communion and then Easter!
- + Glenn reflected on Trent’s Psalm verse as a discussion of how we number our days, how wisdom gives us what we need to live the lives God calls us to.
- + Also he reflected on the 6th anniversary of the first Sunday Covid shut down church services.
- + Glenn was asked about his time at AMBS. Worship times were lively and spirit led, Glenn enjoyed them.
- + Glenn shared shopping for a lawn mower as a part of a follow up to them getting a new mower after losing theirs in the fire last year and how he saw God working in the numbers and interactions with the sales person.

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

- Pastoral Team met March 2, 2026. Jeremy shared devotional thoughts from the book Gentle and Lowly and Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus calls himself gentle and lowly in heart. The depth of his grace and mercy is beyond our ability to understand. May we be a church where people know they are loved and will be pointed to Jesus.
- Glenn shared about upcoming services and reflections on the AMBS Pastors and Leaders Conference. We discussed ways to work at visitation.
- We spent time planning for the Maundy Thursday service, which will include footwashing and alternatives as well as Communion.
- We followed up on discussion from last month’s CLT meeting about affiliation and the secretary and potential family life pastor positions.
- + Matt Hamsher is coming to the next Pastoral Team meeting to answer questions about Evana.

Adult Ministry—Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- Looking to rap up the last two Winter Wednesdays this month with a continued participation of around 50 per. “The Forge” was well received as the movie choice. It created a fair response and excitement particularly with the younger crowd.
- Looking ahead, plans are underway for Mother's Day, May 10, carnation give away.
- (after conferring with youth/young adults) an evening at the Akron Rubber Ducks game in August. What is not known will be Adult Ministries responsibility for the planned Senior Saints Sunday.
- + Nothing added.

Children’s & Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz Ministry Leader

- **Youth/Young Adults:** A spring mentoring activity will be planned in April
- **Children:** VBS will be in partnership with Salem Mennonite. It'll be hosted at Sonnenberg using Group Publishing VBS materials. It'll be July 26-30.
- We need to make sure Safe Sanctuary training happens at the beginning of the 2026-27 church year.



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- + There is a possible Aug 2nd joint service with Salem as a follow up to joint VBS being discussed.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- We didn't have a formal meeting in February but continue to work on a number of projects. We had to deal with very cold weather along with a large quantity of snow. We have a very good snow removal company in Peter's Roofing that doubles as snow removal during the winter. They provide excellent snow removal and salting but are very expensive. We have spent over \$4100 this season so far.
- We spent some time removing ice from the roof and gutters in the drive through entrance. The large amount of snow along with melting and freezing lead to ice buildup in the gutters and lower two to three feet of the roof. Some of this snow also slid off the roof in this area. We determined that we need to install guards or rails to stop the sliding. We also will need to reinstall heating cables on the lower part of the roof and in the gutters and downspouts so that ice doesn't build up.
- We got a semi-final layout for a storage cabinet in the East room on the south wall and got one price from the cabinet maker that made the kitchen cabinets. That quote was over \$12,000. We decided that we will look for alternate options. We plan to get quotes from other cabinet makers and may look at building it ourselves that would be more like a closet with shelves option. We thought it should be more in the \$5,000 range.
- We also had a lot of boiler repairs done on the main and backup boilers for which we didn't get a bill yet. I also asked two companies to give quotes on a new boiler to replace the backups and perhaps make the newer one (Installed in 2009) the backup or whatever they recommend. I didn't get those quotes yet. For prospective, the Fellowship HVAC units are over 10 years old.
- We are planning to transform some flower/bush beds around the church in to stone beds. This will greatly reduce the maintenance of the beds and allow overflow roof water with a better path that has washed out mulch in places. A couple of downspout drain tiles will also be repaired.
- + Ed added that there are 3 dry erase boards that are available after having found a good deal. CLT discussed which rooms would maybe benefit most.
- + There is an ongoing discussion about mounting a projector in the fellowship hall.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Gifts met Wednesday, March 11th opening with devotions and prayer. We looked at and processed surveys discussed needs and next steps will continue processing surveys and meet again Wednesday, April 1st at 2:00 pm.
- + Gifts members are going over the surveys. 29 completed surveys were handed in.

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Moment for Mission – Mar. 1: MCC work night March 25th - c/o Levi, March 29: Maple Syrup Festival - c/o Dave Ross, May 3: Kailyn Peck, Pioneer Mission School 3-5 year commitment to Egypt – c/o Kailyn,
- Kailyn Peck: is doing 3–5-year learning faith, hope and love mission in Egypt with Pioneer Mission School and is raising prayer and financial support. Rhoda Sommers brought this to us. Kailyn & Rhoda were at our meeting. Kailyn will have the MFM on May 3rd to present the mission and invite us to support her with prayer and financially.
- Continual Feast at the Grove: a safe house in Wooster for abused women is just starting up and would like an opportunity to make a presentation at SMC. The contact person is Nikole Bonner. They have some connection

with Freedom house but are working to get their own 501c3 status. We will invite Nikole to further discussion at our next meeting. This came from Pam Taylor.

- Growing Hope Globally: Greg Steffen brought to our attention that Growing Hope Globally is becoming more active again in our area and is actively looking for farmers interested in providing land. They have a new contact person Kurtis Veiock 330-272-1696. We will invite them to the MSF again.
- Lighthouse Banquet – Thursday April 23rd at Hartville Kitchen See Marilyn or Ken for table space.
- MMN - Oyanguren/Sayatan: We're working on a date for Juan Pacheco Lozano: MCC Latin América Rep. to come to SMC.
- Austin and Griselda Zuercher, will be in the US this summer and promised to come to SMC. We are offering to channel money through the O&S account for people who would like to designate money for them in the weekly offering.
- Maple Syrup Festival: Date is April 25th planning is underway. Volunteer sign-up sheet will be in the lobby March 29th for the following and more:
 - Sausage patty making and wrapping Wednesday, April 22nd 4PM
 - Display and dining table set-up Wednesday, April 22nd 5PM
 - Sausage frying Friday, April 24th 12 noonVarious jobs and shifts Saturday, April 25th starting at 4AM
- MCC Global Voices Speaking Tour: Sunday morning with Dr. Arefur Rahaman & David Waiswa on peace and climate resiliency in Southeast Asia and the Sahel was very good and their presentations and message were powerful and fit well with our first Sunday of Lent.
- MCC: Kit Work Night date March 25th, look for sign-up sheets on March 8th, two shifts 4:30-6:00, Pizza party 6:00-6:30 and 2nd shift 6:30-8:00. We will be repacking school kit and knotting comforters
- MCC: Comforter Bash March 12, 13 & 14 at the Kidron MRC building
- MCC: Connections 25th Anniversary celebrations May 12 – 16.
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 2/28/2026 - \$10,125.00, Restricted - \$7,122.12, Unrestricted Bal. - \$3,002.88, Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$5,098.62, My Coins Count - \$833.50, MCC Ukraine Relief - \$250, MCF fish fryer - \$290, Love INC - \$50, Austin & Griselda Z - \$600: Distributed this month \$250 Love INC gift cards.
- ✦ Ken is encouraged that congregants have brought outreach ideas to the committee recently.
- ✦ Ken pushed for people to attend the annual Lighthouse Banquet.
- ✦ CLT was encouraged by the MCC speakers on Global Warming.
- ✦ 349 comforters were finished this year at the Comforter Bash in spite of electric loss. 1 generator powered 9 sewing machines. A porta potty was brought in.
- ✦ An Open Arms fundraiser will be held April 21 at Fairlawn Mennonite Church. A comedian will provide entertainment. Desserts will be offered.
- ✦ CAMO wants to come and preach. Glenn mentioned there are openings in June and July.

Worship Ministry-Henry Beun, Ministry Leader

- Angela shared devotions from Genesis 1, highlighting that God created each of us in His image and called us good, though not perfect. As God uses imperfect people throughout the Bible to carry out His plan, we should strive to be a worship ministry that encourages individuals who are willing to explore their gifts within the service.
- The preaching schedule looks to be good through May. Some suggestions given for summer slots. Glenn spoke about his plan for preaching during his sabbatical in summer of 2027. Would plan to start the revised common lectionary at the end of May and this would go through the time he is gone on sabbatical. Then will likely use The Story upon his return in Sept 2027.
- Looked over the worship and song leader rotation. Roy and Ruth will lead singing once more in March. Jess King agreed to join the rotation. Thank you Jess!
- Discussed plans for Lent services. Due to MCC representatives speaking on the first Sunday of Lent, we'll introduce the theme, but it will be more of a "soft opening" to the Lenten season. For visuals, Evan Zuercher's



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painting will be on display as well as 6 candles, one of which will be extinguished at the end of the service. Brandon and Rhoda will lead children's times. Working to have mentors and mentees participate in readers theaters.

- Had some discussion on how to involve last minute missional speakers when this occurs during special worship planning times, such as Lent, Advent, etc. The suggestion was given to possibly have them speak only during Sunday school (with an earlier, 9:00, start-time), rather than always during the service.
- We continue to have ongoing discussion on how to involve our children and youth during the worship service. Will prioritize this at our next meeting.
- + Glenn shared for Worship that the Easter week services are almost planned. Some of the alternatives to traditional foot washing will be continued. Communion will be together then after those options. Likely there will be a Sunrise walk again this year.
- + We will celebrate senior day on May 17 this year. May 24 will be Pentecost and communion with that Sunday ending the narrative lectionary. On May 31 Bob Mortimer will come and preach.

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are half way through the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 50% of the budget. Budget giving is at 45.1% of budget and 46.7% including designated income. Expenses are at 48% of budget. Weekly budget giving needs to average \$4,990.
- 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 plus an additional \$6 for the first payment. 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 February 28th balance in the account is \$29,213.96.
- + Nothing added

Action Items:

- + Looking at the job description for additional staff - Pastoral Team offered up an initial job description for a family life pastor last meeting and opened discussion asking for anyone's reflection on that. Most shared that discussions they have heard and been a part of have been in support for additional staff but mentioned one concern of how it will be funded. It is exciting to think of the possibilities. Flexibility seems to be the word driving whether a candidate would be .5 or .75 or whether one would possibly share some administration roles along with pastoral responsibilities. There is a plan to address the congregation to get a feel for how much support there would be and what opinions on roles the congregation would like to fill before any formal steps are taken.
- + Church secretary position - There have been a few inquirers made and the Executive Committee consisting of CLT Chair-Trent, Pastoral Team Chair-Jeremy, Treasurer-Ed, and Pastor-Glenn, are responsible for interviewing and hiring. Some interviews are scheduled for this week. Please be in prayer for everyone involved in this secretary change over process! That it may go smoothly and happen in a timely manner.

Next Meetings: April 20 & May 18, 2026

- + Glenn closed in prayer.