



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; † = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

April 20, 2026

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Michelle Steffen, Chip Coleman, Barb Ressler, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Priscilla Spiker, Jeremy Patterson and Ken Neuenschwander

Opening: Trent led a devotional from Psalm 104:24, highlighting the natural world and its role in pointing to the Creator specifically in helping calm our fears. Trent then shared a story about a pair of nesting Mallards at their pond whose behavior Trent thought exhibited the wisdom of Psalm 124.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Lent was grueling as we dwelt in dissonance and I hope and pray it was meaningful for everyone. We finally made it to this side of Easter!
- Grateful for new secretaries! Please welcome and pray for Erin and Priscilla. And let's all thank Chip and pray for him too as they make this transition.
- We had a special time together for Maundy Thursday, footwashing and communion. Let us all continue to commit to serving one another.
- I can't tell you how much it means in the life of our congregation for everyone who is experiencing the Bible Recap and learning more about the character of God as he related to his people throughout his story. When have you read through the bible taking in the entire story with all its fallen, broken parts while asking the question who God is? We learn the stories of the high points of the Old Testament like Samson and Gideon but we too often leave out their fallen sinful tendencies. And then when we read the whole story it can leave us feeling upset and disillusioned. This has been quite the discipline to traverse together learning to ask continually, "Who is God?" I can't wait for the end! This is perhaps the best way we can pursue Following Jesus Together! It guides us in how we respond to every issue, problem, need and injustice. The insights people are sharing online, in person, in group settings and during Sunday School are just fantastic and inspiring.
- I am still plugging away at Gifts Discernment work for Ohio Conference. We need to find someone for Program Committee, one person to serve on Credentialing, and a Chair for Stewardship. Work that is supposed to be seasonal is ongoing! I just began my second two-year term. Ken also serves on the committee along with me and two others. We need one more to serve on our Gifts Committee as well.
- 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.
- I was invited to lead devotions at prayer at the Kidron Historical Membership Banquet early June.
- June 14-27. I will preach June 14th and then head up to Little Eden Camp to be on vacation for one week and then lead worship the second week during youth camps.
- † Glenn reflected on his Sunday Sabbath where he attended Martins Mennonite. He appreciated their Sunday School and morning message. It tied into a song about Saul that the CCS Concert Choir sang later that night.

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

- Pastoral Team met April 6, 2026. Matt Hamsher from Evana joined us for the first part of the meeting. He shared about the history of Evana and what dual affiliation would entail, and then answered questions from

PT. We spent some time processing afterward. We will also seek information from Ohio Conference about dual affiliation. We recognize that our congregation has a wide range of viewpoints, and while there is no perfect solution, we want everyone to feel welcome and valued as we continue to follow Jesus together.

- We discussed congregational needs and upcoming agenda. Next month we plan to revisit the family life pastor search process.
- ✦ Jeremy fielded questions about their experience meeting with Matt Hamsher from Evana. There will likely be a proposal to move forward with dual affiliation at the next CLT meeting.

Adult Ministry–Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- No report. Agenda will include Akron Rubber Ducks August outing.
- ✦ Adult Ministry hasn't met yet this month. No report.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- 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 now are looking at plans that would make the storage area out of plywood, or some type of wood material that would use 2 large sliding doors and 1 hinged door that would look more like closet storage than cabinet. We are working on a material list and costs.
- It appears no one is very hungry as we haven't received any estimates on providing and installing a new boiler to replace the ancient backup units that are working on borrowed time.
- Roy spent lots of time repairing and upgrading the downspout drain tile on the east side of the main entrance. He also repaired the catch basin in the ditch just west of the church driveway that drains a large part of the parking lot and downspouts. He engineered a pipe solution that should last longer and hopefully not require repairing for many years.
- ✦ Nothing added

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Opened with devotions and prayer. We continued to evaluate surveys and reported on contacts made. Continue to look at openings needed to fill and prayerfully evaluate people for positions available.
- ✦ Nothing added

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Opening – Levi: Through his Bible Recap reading he been moved by the words grace and mercy and Easter Sunday reminds us of the ultimate acts of grace and mercy. He read Romans 5:6-8 and led in prayer.
- Moment for Mission – April 26: Special thank you for MSF – c/o Levi and Kathy, May 3: We may not have MFM since we had one on 4/26, June 21: Continual Feast at the Grove – MFM and morning worship sermon - c/o Nikole Bonner
- Kailyn Peck: Mission assignment to Egypt with Pioneer Mission School. Kailyn could not do the MFM as we had planned, too close to her departure time.
- The Grove: Nikole Bonner and Pam Taylor join us to share the ministry of The Grove, a new safe house for women and girls. The Grove operates under the opuses of Continuous Cup, a 501c3 organization. The Grove is a home-centered ministry where brokenness is met with truth, fear is replaced with safety, and dormant gifts are awakened. Nikole would like to present this ministry to the congregation. With Glenn's suggestion we set up June 21st for an MFM and worship service sermon.
- Growing Hope Globally: Been in contact with Curtis Veiock for a time to come and share in a MFM. He will be at the MSF with a display.
- Lighthouse Banquet – Thursday April 23 rd at Hartville Kitchen See Marilyn or Ken for table space.
- Open Arms: Fund raiser April 21, at Fairlawn – Brett Hollis and Bob Mortimer - doors open at 6:00 for



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desserts show starts at 7:00

- CAMO: Rachel Foltz CAMO's new Community Relations & Engagement Coordinator offered to come to Sonnenberg to do an MFM or preach. Glenn gave us dates to work with.
- MMN - Oyanguren/Sayatan: We're working on a date for Juan Pacheco Lozano: MCC Latin América Rep. to come to SMC, possibly for missions Sunday this fall.
- Austin and Griselda Zuercher: We're looking forward to having them here at SMC this summer. Please support them in prayer and if you would like to support them financially you can do in the offering box earmarked Austin & Griselda.
- Maple Syrup Festival April 25th: A lot of time was spent working out many details. Plans are coming together and we are looking forward to a great festival. The lobby will be full; 22 individuals and organizations have requested display space. We will have 8 door prizes – 2 pt of maple syrup, 2 packages of sausage, 2 \$10 gas cards, & 2 \$10 MCC Connections gift cards. Many volunteers are still needed in various spots throughout the week and day of. See or call Kathy Troyer
- MCC Kit Work Night March 25 th : Thanks to everyone, the evening was very productive and fun. It was great to have Martins Mennonite join us with 18 people! There were a total of 74 people in two shifts. It's really nice to work in the new space at the MRC. We repacked 1,155 school kits and knotted 12 comforters
- MCC: Comforter Bash March 12, 13 & 14 at the Kidron MRC building went very well, even with the power outage. 348 Comforters were completed.
- MCC: Connections 25th Anniversary celebrations May 12 – 16.
- Love INC: We continue to supply MCC Connections and gas cards.
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 3/31/2026 – \$11,749.00: Restricted - \$7,473.62, Unrestricted Bal. - \$4,275.38 Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$5,098.62, My Coins Count - \$925.50, MCC Ukraine Relief - \$250, MCF fish fryer - \$290, EMM Austin & Griselda Z - \$700, SIM Bangladesh Water - \$500: Distributed this month \$250 Love INC gift cards, \$75 MSF expenses.
- + Ken mentioned the Open Arms and Lighthouse events this week along with all the preparations for the breakfast this weekend. More funds for expenses would be helpful.
- + Ken also talked about possible speakers for the summer from various ministries like CAMO, Growing Hope Globally and the Zuerchers serving with Vidanet.

Worship Ministry-Henry Beun, Ministry Leader

- We looked over the preaching schedule, which looks good through June. Waiting to hear about a representative from CAMO possibly coming in July.
- Reviewed the Easter service. A small group gathered for the (cold) "sunrise" walk. People seemed to enjoy the breakfast as well as the extra singing before the service. The transition between the breakfast and the music went well. Thank you to Winfred for leading us in this meaningful time of Easter singing!
- Brainstormed some ideas for how we can give tangible thank you's to people who volunteer their time to participate in our worship service. Suggestions that were mentioned are: sending thank you notes several times per year, adding a thank you in the bulletin periodically, and mentioning a list of participants in the annual report.
- Discussed HS Graduation Sunday (May 17). Will ask the seniors if they would like to be involved in the service that day as well as helping to choose a favorite song. Glenn will contact Jeremy to ask if he would like to do the senior interviews again. Also discussed Pentecost Sunday (May 24)and having Communion.

- Spoke about the summer sermon series. Glenn will likely be using the Revised Common Lectionary. Still waiting on the CLT decision regarding outdoor services.
- Discussed the possibility of a joint service with Salem. Erin will contact Salem's secretary and pastor to talk about dates for this. The suggestion was given to do this on July 26, as a good intro to VBS which will also involve Salem.
We've also been discussing having a joint service with Martin's Mennonite in August. Erin has reached out to Christine Nafziger about this and will continue to communicate with her and Patrick about this possibility.
- A suggestion was given regarding making the Leader magazine more accessible as a resource for those leading worship, either online or as a hard copy. Henry is checking into this.
- + Glenn shared about Summer worship with CLT agreeing to plans for meeting outside for one month this Summer. Discussion leaned toward July and trying to provide indoor viewing options for those whom outside worship is challenging.

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the seventh month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 58.33% of the budget year. Budget giving is at 52.6% of budget and 54.1% including designated income. Expenses are at 56.4% of budget plus designated giving. We have spent \$10,018.88 more than we have received this fiscal year to date. Weekly budget giving needs to average \$4,990 to meet budget. The current average is \$4,546 per week. Facilities has spent about \$1,500 more on maintenance and repairs for the year than budgeted with five months remaining in the budget year. Some larger expenses were \$3,600 on boiler repairs, \$4,100 on snow removal and \$1,300 on gutters and drain repairs.
- 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 March 31 st balance in the account is \$28,844.30.
- + Ed pointed out some increases in maintenance costs that have contributed to being over budget. CLT suggested Ed continue to plug extra budget numbers in the budget offering section of the bulletin as a reminder of whether giving and budget totals are on track.

Action Items:

- + Front door signage - We plan to put out physical mailbox in the case mail is delivered without our PO Box address.
- + Secretary election - CLT discussed the process of how to hire church staff that report to CLT. A suggestion was made about meeting and communicating in person rather than email or text when affirming people for roles.
- + Laptops - CLT discussed getting new laptops for greater flexibility with having 2 secretaries coming on together. Discussion was very supportive and Ed will research options.
- + Building security review - CLT discussed options for having the church secretaries to be able to lock church doors when they are here alone. Options include keypad entry or a buzzer in the office to allow visitors inside. Ken Neuenschwander has volunteered to help install a system.
- + Columbarium update - Michelle Steffen presented an update on the the structure with it looking similar to other signage on the church property. Michelle feels the project could cost around \$25,000.00 and there is currently over \$27,000.00 in the fund. CLT approved for the committee to go ahead with the initial construction and a report will be shared during worship Sunday, April 26, 2026.

Next Meetings: May 18 and June 15, 2026

- + Glenn closed in prayer.