



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; † = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes May 18, 2026

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Ed Taylor, Ken Neuenschwander, Conrad Neuenschwander, Trent Metcalf, Lisa Amstutz, Michael Amstutz, Michelle Steffen, Jeremy Patterson, Priscilla Spiker

Opening: Devotion - Trent Metcalf - "A Heart Like His" from "Just Like Jesus" by Max Lucado. Philippians 2:5 "think and act like Christ Jesus." - What if, for one day, Jesus were to become you? Would others notice a change? He wants us to have a heart like His. "God loves you just the way you are, but he refuses to leave you that way."

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- April 23rd I attended the Credentialed Lead Bible Study. We met in Bellville, Ohio all morning and afternoon and our scripture study was on 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Communion, a place of healing, community and renewal. It was a fantastic, rich time gathered as a bunch of pastors reflecting deeply on the significance of communion experience. Looking forward to our time of Communion at our Pentecost service, May 24th, commemorating the birth of Chirst's church!
- Had some great conversations with people around the displays during the Maple Syrup/Missions Festival. It is so inspiring to share in conversations with workers experiencing the work of God's kingdom locally and abroad
- I conducted Fred Smith's private, family graveside service on Friday, May 1 at the Pleasant View Cemetery. Vi is moving back home to her condo in Heritage Green with her son Terry around June 1. Vi still struggles with memory but seems to be better with grieving Fred's passing.
- May 8th I attended an all day retreat for Ohio Mennonite Conference Leadership Council at Inspiration Hills Camp north of Wooster. I have found this group meaningful to be a part of. I serve on the Council because of my role as the Chair of the Gifts Discernment Ministry Team for Ohio Conference. Ken N. also serves on the OH Conf. Gifts team.
- I praise God and pray for everyone doing the Bible Recap or another bible reading plan. May the Holy Spirit guide and encourage everyone into greater knowledge and depth of insight as we seek to know God and his heart and character better and better!
- I wish I had more time for visitation. If you are sensing a need for care, prayer or some one on one attention please request a visit from me! I too often use up my church time with so many other details that take my attention. But I am never too busy to visit! And I never want to forget about anyone. And feel free to pass on a request for a visit on behalf of someone too!
- Personally, these weeks are full of wonderful things like attending softball, baseball and soccer games. As well as getting ready for Mattea's graduation and party at the end of this month!
- Continue to pray for the secretaries' transition as we all get used to new office hours and schedules.
- And I am discerning changing to a new Sabbath day of rest for me! Noon on Sunday to noon on Monday. I plan to put it into effect starting in June.

- † it was suggested that Glenn take 2 pm Sunday to 2 pm Monday instead of noon Sunday to noon Monday
- † proposed a new chair for the secretaries office.



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

- Pastoral Team met May 4, 2026. Lisa led a meditation on Psalm 46:10: Be still and know that I am God.
- Glenn updated on the preaching schedule and reflected on use of the Narrative Lectionary. Several congregational concerns were discussed.
- Spent time working on a proposal for CLT regarding joining Evana Network as an affiliate member while retaining our membership in Ohio Mennonite Conference.
- PT continues to work at the Family Life Pastor search process. We have invited our Conference Minister Paula Snyder Belousek to review the forms with us at our next meeting.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 3

✦ Mattea Nofziger has requested to have a Summer Ministry Experience at Sonnenberg. It was approved and proposed that Priscilla Spiker mentor her as Priscilla has just completed a ministry internship.

Adult Ministry—Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- Devotion: Isaiah 64:4 Patience!
- Akron Rubber Ducks August outing - Ron has secured 60 seats for August 22 (no scheduled conflicts). Priscilla has agreed to be the point person assisting those in need with the Akron RubberDucks group ticketing platform. Ticket prices, including fees, are under \$19 per. ticket.
- Senior Saints Carry-In: June 28th? Breakfast? No Sunday School?
- Mother's Day May 10 - carnations ordered.
- Discussed treats on Sunday Mornings.
- Next meeting, June 9th

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

- **Youth/Young Adults:** Mentoring activity will be canoeing in June. Possibly June 14th.
- **Children:** Children's summer SS will be combined. We're working on teachers and content.

Facilities Ministry—Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- have not had a formal meeting since the last CLT meeting but continue to work on maintenance around the facilities. We continue to look at East room storage options, heating system upgrades, hanging interior signs, and a few other agenda items.

Gifts Discernment Ministry—Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No report this month

✦ shared names with each ministry of those that have expressed interest in helping with their ministry
 ✦ waiting on answers from a couple people they have contacted about filling ministry roles



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Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Opening** – Vince - Galatians 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law. Romans 12:5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Vince expressed appreciation of being a part of a community, here at SMC and Central, that tries to live these verses.
- **Moment for Mission** – June 21: The Grove at Continuous Cup – MFM and morning worship sermon - c/o Nikole Bonner 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 a 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.
- **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. The banquet was a great evening. There were just under 400 people, the LH kids' strings performed, the LH kids' dance troop performed, the Business Builders sold out of their products and all the fund-raising goals were more than met. Lots of energy in the room, a wonderful evening.
- **Open Arms:** Fund raiser April 21, at Fairlawn – Brett Hollis and Bob Mortimer - doors open at 6:00 for desserts and the show starts at 7:00. Disappointed with the low turnout but it was a good evening of fun, laughter, good food and support for the ministry.
- **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: Alfonsina Jose report things are drying out from the flood, but humidity is high and problems with mold persist. The inflation in Argentina is stubbornly high at 31% making life difficult and MMN cannot make an adjustment to their stipend at this time. We are discussing several projects at Sayatan and at their house. We continue working on a date for Juan Pacheco Lozano: MCC Latin América Rep. to come to SMC, for a 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 and Griselda.
- **Maple Syrup Festival Review:** A great morning of the congregation working together. We served 681 meals, to date raised \$24,412 and there was a lot of activity around the 23 mission displays in the lobby. The 8 door prizes went to: 2 pt of maple syrup (Ed Troyer; Kay Shue), 2 packages of sausage (Cheryl Michael; Avery Weaver), 2 \$10 Dairy Queen cards (Tom Hodge; Dean Burkhart, Tom asked me to give it to a young family), 2 \$10 MCC Connections gift card (Vernon Hochstetler; Rose Weaver). Please help us amend our note and make it an even better event. Thank you, everyone, for making it all work!
- **MCC:** Connections 25th Anniversary celebrations May 12-16.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** Looking at possible dates – 8/29, 9/5 Labor Day weekend, 9/26, 10/3, or 10/10.
- **Distributions:** \$500 each to Bridge of Hope, CAMO, MDS, Kailyn Peck; Hope's House - \$1,000 each to Haiti School, Love INC, Semilla; Bangladesh Water - \$1,500 to MCC Kits - \$2,200 to EMM Austin and Geiselda - \$3,200 each to Camp Luz, Lighthouse and Open Arms - \$4,000 to Sayatan/Oyangurens. Total \$23,800 – 15 recipients
- Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 4/30/2026 – \$31,422.15: Restricted - \$8,019.62, Unrestricted Bal. - \$23,402.53 Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$5,098.62, My Coins Count - \$1,081, MCC Ukraine Relief - \$250, MCF fish fryer - \$290, EMM Austin & Griselda Z - \$800, SIM Bangladesh Water - \$500: Distributed this month \$3,736.05



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- **MSF expenses.** As of 5/4/2026 we have \$24,844.53 unrestricted
 - Next meeting: Monday June 1
- ✦ Ken shared that since September 23 O&S has distributed \$66,606 and since 2013 they have distributed \$858,048

Worship Ministry-Henry Beun, Ministry Leader

- Henry opened with devotions, sharing some thoughts on prayer with a challenge to move beyond our selfishness and pray in love for others: that they would love Jesus, love his word, love his people, and love a lost world.
- Reviewed preaching schedule which looks good for the next few months. Still waiting to hear from Ken whether the representative from CAMO will come in July. Discussed some possible backup plans. Mattea has interest in doing a ministry internship this summer which could involve some preaching.
- Glenn talked about his plans for the summer sermon series. He would like to move forward with using the Narrative Lectionary, focusing on the books of Ruth and 1 & 2 Timothy or possibly Esther. Presented a plan for the texts he would use. WMT affirmed this plan. Services will be held outside during the month of July.
- Plans are underway for a joint service with Salem on July 26. This service will be held indoors at Sonnenberg to allow for better opportunities for music. Kevin, Salem's Pastor, will be asking Tim Shue if he would be willing to coordinate music. Perhaps a backup could be our worship team? The plan is to have a joint fellowship meal in Salem's fellowship hall following the service. This will also be a good intro into VBS, which will start this same Sunday in the evening at Sonnenberg along with Salem.
- Nofzigers have also communicated with the pastors at Martin's Mennonite and they are also interested in doing a joint service. Plans for that service are looking at August 30. More information to come.
- Spoke briefly about the need to check in with our current worship team about whether they will be able to continue leading music in the fall. We have since heard from them that due to schedules and life changes for several participants, they will need to step back from leading worship after August. Will continue to discuss at our next meeting how to continue incorporating contemporary music in our worship services.
- Next meeting: Wednesday June 10

Treasurer's Report-Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- **Budget:** We are in the eighth month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 66.67% of the budget year. Budget giving is at 61.2% of budget and 62.9% including designated income. Expenses are at 62.8% of budget including designated giving. We have spent \$4,091 more that we have received this fiscal year to date. 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 April 30 balance in the account is \$26,881.30.



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Discussion/Other Items:

- ✦ Discussion took place regarding Sonnenberg pursuing dual affiliation with EVANA while maintaining primary affiliation with the Ohio Conference. PT has been exploring this option for some time. The next step will be to begin a conversation with the congregation.

Glenn closed in prayer with all praying the Lord's Prayer

Next Meetings: June 15 and July 20, 2026