



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

July 20, 2026

Present: Angela Zuercher, Ken Neuenschwander, Barb Ressler, Tren Metcalf, Ed Taylor, Conrad Neuenschwander, Michael Amstutz, Jeremy Patterson, Lisa Amstutz, Mattea Nofziger, Priscilla Spiker

Opening: Trent led a devotional - Daniel 3. "The Miracle of No Smoke". The fire meant to destroy them only burned through the ropes used to bind them. Our trials free us, not destroy us. We are not alone (in the fire), there is another always with us. We do not carry the smell of smoke with us into our next chapter.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- I spend a lot of time with Ohio Mennonite Conference Leadership Council. As I chair the Gifts Discernment Committee for conference I get tasked along with my committee to fill all the vacant roles within the conference. I also get to help brainstorm how we handle various conference challenges and vision. We had a good Leadership Council retreat last month and I look forward to ACA (Annual Conference Assembly) at the end of this month. I really appreciate the broader church connections and the opportunities to interact with other church leaders and collaborate in what God is doing and how the Spirit is moving in the Church.
- One thing Ohio Mennonite Conference is planning to offer is a collaboration with something out of Malone University. It is called Malone's Missional Incubator. There will be more information being announced at ACA. I look forward to potentially hearing more about that and what it could mean for being part of God's missional movement.
- I am learning a lot about pornography, sexual abuse, and effects on people's brains and how it affects how people relate to others. The statistics are staggering on how many people are affected by sexual abuse. So many people experience abuse firsthand and then suffer in numerous ways in how it affects church participation and how they even relate to anyone else the rest of their life. One book I recently finished was Freedom Fight. It is a book that Henry gave a number of years ago as he wanted to battle what incarcerated Brad.
- I had shared last month how we talked about providing a Service of Lament for the community and realize there are a number of challenges. There are many different groups of people suffering from various different aspects of grief and lament. Many don't have much at all to do with Henry directly. This incident may be triggering for many people from other things suffered in their past. I am so grateful for our Pastoral Team and so many others in the church and community who are all helping to figure out what is needed for all us. I pray for patience and grace for everyone involved.
- There are a number of care items that have been highlighted in our extended sharing and announcement time during our services lately. I have found this meaningful and am glad that people have felt free to share heavy things and concerns that we carry together. However, I am not sure what to do with our sharing time. I don't want it to become something that ends up being a prolonged heaviness or something people dread. I would love for our worship services to include times of confession and lament. We are good at grieving death but I keep hearing that church is often a place we could do better exercising lament or grief. After confession you are able to experience forgiveness and grace. I would also like to hear more testimony of where people are seeing God move and impact their life.
- How are you encountering Jesus? This question is likely focused on the time you spend in God's word and

how you are present with people. We need to keep reading and listening to our bibles. We need to get to know God better. Jesus is the model, guide, companion, friend, counselor, and everything! We need to be willing to get out of the boat like Chris Russell preached this past Sunday. It is always best to be with Jesus, spend time with him, do things he did and be like him.

- Church is not easy to do together. But I believe we can do it. It takes surrender and humility. Pray for one another and offer lots of grace.
- I think God knew I would need most of my vacation time saved for the summer. Please forgive my times away for these weeks this summer. They have been good soul care for me. Hopefully I will better be able to serve as pastor with sufficient sabbath and rest.

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**Pastoral Team - Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary**

- Pastoral Team met July 6. Michelle led a devotional from 1 Thess. 5 and some thoughts on constructive criticism vs. shaming.
- Glenn shared about upcoming services as well as some congregational care needs.
- We are continuing to evaluate next steps for the family life pastor position and Evana Network dual affiliation conversations, but in light of summer schedules and more urgent needs, will resume those in the fall.
- We closed with prayer.

+ Fall PT retreat planning

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Adult Ministry - Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- Dave led a devotional: when the church family is needing solace and care during times of betrayal, Psalms 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 from Psalm 127, Dave reminded us that the best laid plans involve God's will to get it right.
- Old Business: The "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 21st at Metcalf's

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

- **Youth/Young Adults:** No Report
- **Children:** No Report

+ Safe church and two mentors needed beginning this school year

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Facilities Ministry - Ed Taylor and Marlin Troyer, Co-Ministry Leaders

- Met July 12 and discussed the following:
 - East Room Storage Cupboard
 - West Drive Concrete Repair
 - Where to Place a Rural Mailbox to Receive USPS Packages
 - Roof Heat Cables & Ice Shoes on the Drive Through Area



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- New Boiler & Existing Unit Repair
- Pavilion Roof Need Cleaning and maintenance
- Looked Over New Budget for Fiscal Year beginning in September

+ continuing to work on Columbarium

Gifts Discernment Ministry - Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- met June 17th and again July 8th. Opened with devotions and prayer.
- Continuing discernment about who to reach out to fill open positions. Waiting for several responses. Will have a ballot to present to CLT at the July 20th meeting.

+ presented Gifts Discernment ballot, looking for someone to complete a two year left for a member. Barb motioned, Lisa second, ballot approved.

Outreach & Service Ministry - Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Opening - Ron - Before Chris Russell's sermon on Sunday Ron had been thinking about that there is so much fear around us, in many aspects of our lives and he wanted to share these verses, Deuteronomy 31:6, Isaiah 4:10, we need not fear, God is with us! The sermon only confirmed what he wanted to share.
- **Moment for Mission:** July 5: MCC Relief Sale - Chip, Randy Yoder from the Ohio Relief committee, My Coins Count, July 12: MCC - Chris Russell, Donor Relations Associate, Aug. 2: still working on it, Aug. 30 instead of Sept. 6: MCF c/o LEK (Levi, Ethan, and Kathy)
- **The Grove at Continuous Cup:** We appreciated Nikole Bonner's input on June 21st and encourage any support people want to designate. The ministry is on our radar in future distributions.
- **MCC:** Ohio Relief Sale went well; attendance was likely down a bit but sold a lot of food and the sales seem good.
- **Lighthouse:** Open House, Sept. 12, 9am - 3pm, Watch for additional information.
- **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: The money has been sent and the project will begin. At this point it looks like another \$4k or so will be needed to complete all the projects we have been discussing. We encourage designated donations to wrap this up. See Ken if you have questions. Alfonsina and Jose are excited and occupied with their new granddaughter, also named Alfonsina, born to Emilia. Austin and Griselda Zuercher will be in the US from July through October. We are looking forward to time with them.
- **Linda Horn and Jubilee Orphanage:** Linda has been back to Thailand to assess the ministry. She is applying to Modern Day Missions for her missionary agency. She is asking SMC for reference and accountability.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** will be Sept. 26. Reviewed 2025 MCF notes. We are planning to have MCF t-shirts and to redesign the poster and flyer. We spent much time discussing various MCF issues including work shifts, fish frying consistently, additional fryer and needed accessories, and advertising. We may need a volunteer to go after the fish and fryers in Mississippi.
- **Fall Missions Weekend:** Possible dates Nov. 1st or 8th . We are in contact with Juan Pacheco Lozano, MMN Latin América Rep. about availability and itinerary.
- **2026-2027 Budget:** We review last year's budget and decided to keep it the same

- Financial O&S Fundraiser account balance 6/30/2026 – \$6,479.65: Restricted - \$4,274.12, Unrestricted Bal. - \$2,205.53: Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$98.62, My Coins Count - \$1,485.50, MCF fish fryer - \$2,690, Distributed this month \$11,875.00.
- Next meeting: Monday August 11 - opening Kathy

Worship Ministry - Angela Zuercher - Representative

- Angela opened with devotions on salt and light from Matthew 5, highlighting that all of us have the assignment to be salt and light where God has placed us. Played the song, "Salt and Light," by Lauren Daigle.
- Looked over the preaching schedule. Talked about a few options to fill the September 20 slot.
- Had some more discussion on how to incorporate contemporary music after the current worship team steps down after August. In order to have a new worship team, we need someone passionate and willing to lead it. Will communicate with our current choristers and make sure they are aware they will likely need to lead more often for now.
- Back to school Sunday is August 16. Will check with Michael about our tradition of presenting a Bible to first graders that Sunday.
- We decided to keep our Worship ministry budget the same this year.
- The suggestion was made to offer 2 additional outdoor services in August or September since we will only have one outdoor service in July. Will bring the idea to CLT for discussion. The dates WMT suggested to choose from are August 16, August 23, September 13, and September 20.
- We discussed some suggestions for who might be a good candidate to fill the open spot on Worship Ministry. Need to check in with Gifts Discernment for updates on this.
- Plans continue for our upcoming joint service with Salem. Erin will check in with Don Nussbaum about worship leading that Sunday. Also, need to check in with those in charge of the coffee bar and pastries to make sure there will be enough with more people attending. We also need to make sure everyone is aware of the times for fellowship and the service, as it is slightly different. Choir practice and fellowship begin at 9:00, with the service at 10:00, and no Sunday school.
- Glenn and Erin will be meeting with the Nafzigers (pastors at Martins Mennonite) for the planning of our joint service with Martins on August 30.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 10:00 am

✦ CLT gave the greenlight for additional outdoor services

Treasurer's Report - Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- **Budget:** We have completed the tenth month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 83.33% of the budget year. Budget giving is at 79% of budget and 82.6% including designated income. Expenses are at 81.8% of budget including designated giving. We have had fairly strong offerings the past couple of months and expenses have been in check.
 - **CCS Tuition:** Fund balance has dropped a bit to just under \$25K in the account, somewhat normal for the summer months. 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 June 30 balance in the account is \$24,598.64. The tuition amount for the 2026-2027 school year has risen a fair amount to \$57,688.14 which is an average of \$4,808 per month for 12 monthly payments. We have 23 students enrolled from kindergarten through grade 12. Three are attending via grandparents.
- ✦ recommended that we do not give above fair balance for Central given we are looking to hire a Family Life pastor. Conrad motioned, Michael second - motion passed **recommend that we revisit this at the end of the year.



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Other Items:

- Mattea Nofziger joined us and gave a report about her Summer Ministry Experience.

I have really enjoyed leading Bible quizzing for the kids in Sunday school. They seem to be having fun as well and I hope this will encourage them to participate in Quizzing in the future. I also joined Michelle in an afternoon of visitation at Orrvilla last week. I appreciated getting to hear people's stories.

I went to a worship ministry meeting a little while ago.

This last week my dad and I met with Seth Miller and his intern Bryan, and Kevin Himes and his intern Tessa for lunch to discuss how the summer is going. It was very cool to hear about all they are doing and I appreciated their insight. I also appreciated the opportunity to preach on Sunday. I think it was a great experience and I enjoyed the preparation.

Priscilla and I have met a couple times to discuss the experience as a whole and I have appreciated having her a mentor

Next Meetings: August 17
September 21

✝ Jeremy closed in prayer.