



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

July 21, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Trent Metcalf, Michael Amstutz, Phil Raber, Jeremy Patterson, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Lisa Zuercher, Lisa Amstutz, Marlin Troyer, Conrad Neuenschwander, Steve Zuercher, Ed Taylor and Hannah Amstutz

Opening: Trent Metcalf led a devotional about blinders that as with horses and sometimes people we need outside help to keep us focused on moving forward and not getting stuck in the past or distracted by what is passing by. This was part 1 of a 2 part devotional to be finished in August.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Thank you to everyone who helped make VBS 2025 happen this year! I led the Wild Bible Adventure station for VBS. It was great to see all the volunteers work together and so many community kids attend. It's a lot of work but means so much for our Children's Ministry.
- Erin and I attended ReGen July 3-7. We went along as MYF sponsor with Ron and Laura Petite. Our group ended up being twenty plus a couple others who joined us during the weekend. It had a great spirit of worship and camaraderie with meaningful worship times allowing the Holy Spirit to minister through prayer for one another.
- I also offered to go to MennCon if anyone else from leadership was interested and able to go. No one was this year.
- I continue to serve as Chair of the Gifts Committee for Ohio Conference. Our new Conference Minister is Paula Snyder Balousek. She began in her new role June 16th. Previously she had served as Conference Moderator for a number of years.
- Eldon King came and shared a message Sunday morning July 13. Thank you to Brandon who helped facilitate that special time with his 99 year old grandpa! It was also great to have two of Eldon's children in attendance, Judy and Dr. David King. I wished I would have honored all of them more with better recognition. Eldon's story is graced with humility inspiring all of us to spend time listening to God's call on each of our lives.
- We are about halfway through our Summer Sermon Series on the book *The Good and Beautiful You* by James Bryan Smith. I pray everyone gleans a greater sense of becoming the person Jesus is calling them to be. Soul Training exercises and discussion weekly encourage application and participation to go deeper as everyone is able and willing.
- On a more personal note, we are still recovering from our fire that took place at our home on June 25. Our dog kennel and storage shed burnt. We lost a one year pup along with our lawn mowers and various tools and dog supplies. Hope to rebuild but still waiting on insurance. Thanks to everyone who has been praying for us, offering help and encouragement.
- For the third year I am offering to take a group to The Fest 2025. It's a free outdoor music festival put on by the Catholic diocese of Cleveland. Sunday afternoon, Aug 3. Sign up at the welcome center or contact me. We travel up by bus organized by a couple from Martins Creek. A few different Christian music groups and lots of great family activities. Food available for purchase there by Marc's. We leave right after church and return home around 10 pm. <https://thefest.us/>
- Attending the Global Leadership Summit August 7-8.
- Taking my fourth week of vacation for our Family Camp week at Little Eden August 9-16.
- ✚ Randy Murray contacted Glenn wondering if Sonnenberg would want to provide singing for Orrvilla on Sunday

(Pastor's Report con't...)

evenings ? This is something that was done before Covid and slowly tapered off. Glenn will check with Outreach and if there is enough interest submit a bulletin blurb to share with the congregation

+ So far 10 people have signed up for the Fest.

+ We'll worship outdoors until the sanctuary is done into August. We may need to have indoor church in the fellowship hall if weather is an issue. Coffee location is an issue too, it'll be in the NE corner of the foyer for the foreseeable unless pews cause issues.

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

- Pastoral Team met July 17, 2025 in the pavilion. Michelle shared some thoughts from a podcast with Beth Moore on how we look for solutions to get out of painful situations. There is no quick fix. The solution is to walk with Christ in long obedience.
- Since Glenn was not present, we did not address most of our usual agenda items but instead discussed ways we can support Glenn and other congregational concerns.
- Phil is working with an ad hoc committee to look at ways we can make our church and facility feel more welcoming.
- The Mutual Caring Fund continues to assist with financial needs within the congregation. We want to be sure that everyone is aware of this resource.
- Next month will be Phil's last meeting, and we are planning a meal together with spouses in addition to our regular meeting.
- + Pastoral Team met without Glenn, a once a year occurrence.
- + Pastoral Team discussed how to honor Phil Raber's 5 years on the ministry. August is his last month.
- + They are looking at retreat ideas. Donna Johnston and Rhoda Sommers and Phil Raber are trying out new ideas about ways to incorporate new members and make visitors feel welcome as an ad hoc hospitality committee.

Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- Adult Ministry is planning a carry in for August in honor of our Senior Singles- the date is tbd.
- Sunday July 27 is an all church invitation to the Heritage Center in downtown Kidron from 4 - 5:30. This is a chance for everyone to tour the museum, which has very limited open hours. While the tour is self guided, a staff member will be available to answer questions. Anyone interested in a genealogy search will have to return during their regular hours. A picnic is planned at the church at 5:45. This event replaces our typical bike/walk on the Sippo Trail.
- Planning for two additional events include attending an Akron Rubber Ducks game in late August or early September and the Fall Fest at Lloyd & Jane's in late September.
- + Adult Ministry is looking at Aug 10 as a potential carry in date.
- + An Akron Rubber Ducks outing for the whole church is being planned. Mentors will be a part of that event.
- + Food committee was discussed to determine whether changes in how it is organized would be helpful.

Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- VBS went great! 32 kids came and ~\$600 was raised for CAMO.
- We have a couple Sundays in the summer that need Sunday school teachers. Additionally, we will need to find new Sunday school teacher for the fall
- We plan to have 3 classes again this year.
- + \$ 600.00 was raised for CAMO during VBS. Children's Ministry is looking into whether they should donate that directly or shop for needed items to donate.
- + CLT was strongly supportive that VBS went well.



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Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Roy gave us an update on stone being used instead of mulch around the church building in key areas and its success.
- There was much discussion about the existing spouting, downspouts and of high collection areas. Marlin had a price to update the carport with 6 inch gutters and new collection basins.
- There was discussion about getting a better idea of the tile depth and quality leading away from the downspouts.
- There is more discussion on the possible columbarium project.
- We then removed the old countertop in the sound booth.
- + Facilities reviewed why stone was needed for mulching, partly for runoff and partly for less up keep as it makes maintaining flower beds more manageable.
- + Facilities continue to work on remodeling the sound booth.
- + The Columbarium group has met once and will meet again by the end of July.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Met July 9th and again July 14th opened with devotions and Prayer.
- Working on Affirmation Ballot to present to CLT.
- Still Prayerfully looking to fill a couple of positions
- + CLT looked at the '25-'26 ballot as it stands. Conrad Neuenschwander went over nominations and it was approved as is to present to the congregation. Gifts is waiting on one Children's Ministry nomination.

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** –July 6: Relief Sale MCC Bike Ride & MCC School Kit – c/o Jess and Brandon, Aug.3: Sammy Squad renaming contest – c/o Kathy T.
- **Sammy Squad**: At Gordon A. suggestion we are discussing ways it might be reinvigorated. It was also suggested that it might be renamed. We decided to have a congregational renaming contest with an MFM Aug. 3rd which will give the congregation an opportunity to learn what the Sammy Squad is and does, plus have a little fun.
- **Pregnancy Center** – Concluding baby supplies drive on Father's Day, June 15th. Completed, the bassinet was pretty full, good response plus \$500 was given the PC.
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan**: The land purchase was completed. The roof project is in process of negotiation with the contractor. The MSF money is being used for Juan's education, room & board.
- **Freedom House**: We are still looking having Lukas Gaffey ED and/or Travis Tester and others come for a Sunday morning and/or the men's breakfast.
- **Special Camp Luz Event for Latino Families**: Funding for two special retreat days at Camp Luz for Latino will flow through the O&S account. Next event is scheduled in August
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry**: Will be September 13th. Our planning and preliminary work is under way. Look for information and ways to help as we get closer to the MCF.
- **Vidanet Honduras Building repair fund drive**: A tree fell on the roof of their new discipleship center and did considerable damage. O&S decided, via text, that we would put \$1,000 toward the project as seed money and invite the congregation to contribute. To date we have \$600.
- **MCC Ohio Relief Sale**: July 11 & 12 – They need volunteers for a number of things and particularly for parking. My Coins Count is \$1,213 to date. Last year the total was \$2,855.

(Outreach & Service con't...)

- **MCC Fall Kit Work Night:** Working with Sarah for a date.
- **Fall Missions Weekend:** Looking forward to a Fall Missions weekend. Our preferred dates are Oct. 11-12 or 24-25
- **O&S 2025-2026 Appointments:** We worked on our list of appointments for next year.
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 6/30/2025 - \$12,227.49, Restricted - \$9,812.32: Unrestricted Bal. - \$2,415.17.** Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, Camp Luz special event - \$1,100.70, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100, My Coins Count - \$1,213, Pregnancy Center - \$500, MDS - \$1,000, EMM Vidanet Building - \$1,300. Distributed this month \$1,399.30.
- ✚ Ken texted into the meeting as he was unable to attend. We settled on having the Missions weekend over Oct 11 & 12 leaving October 26 as a possible date for the annual church business meeting.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Brainstormed some ideas for guest preachers for the coming months
- Discussed outdoor services. Speakers and sound systems seem to be working well. Noted that it does help to sing familiar songs when worshipping outside. Looked at options for setting up for church in the foyer if it rains while the sanctuary is under construction. Discussed where to hold services the first few weeks of August until the sanctuary is available. Should we think about continuing to have services outside a few weeks longer, especially since we were inside 3 Sundays in June? Will Consult CLT for a decision on this.
- Discussed the summer sermon series and how it is going. Not a huge attendance at the Wednesday meetings, but from what we've heard, people seem to be enjoying the topic. Glenn gave encouragement to read the book, engage in the soul training exercises, and discuss the book with others, noting You get as much out of it as you put into it.
- Glenn plans to preach on the gospel of John this fall. Would also like to promote Apprenticeship groups, focusing on the book, "The Good and Beautiful God."
- ✚ Phil talked about fall options for discipleship groups. There was discussion about whether small groups should be restarted or reorganized. The book, Good and Beautiful God, would provide the format.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- No Report
- ✚ Michael Amstutz shared they are still looking for sponsors to join for MYF.

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We have finished the tenth month of the current fiscal year, 83.33% of budget. Budget giving is at 72.3% of budget and at 82.1% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 83.9% of budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$4,324.08.
- CCS Tuition: The CCS Tuition balance continues to remain fairly consistent. Our obligation for the 2024/2025 school year was \$26,271 which is \$2,189.25 per month. We added an additional monthly gift of \$2,190 for a total of \$ 4,379.25. The total tuition and additional giving for the 2024-2025 school year was \$52,551. The June balance in the account is \$27,446.60. Tuition for the 2025/2026 school year is \$34,806 or \$2,900 per month plus an additional \$6 for the first payment, starting in July.
- ✚ Ministries need to start working on budgets for the next fiscal year - Ed reminded ministry leaders to submit budgets before next month's meeting.



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Action Items:

- ✦ Discussion will continue next month about pastor Glenn's salary and benefits for the new fiscal year that begins in September. That needs to be confirmed by CLT in August.
- ✦ 2025-2026 CCS Tuition plan - Discussed a commitment of \$ 52,000 for the coming school year down \$ 551.00 from '24-'25 making a round number of giving \$1,000.00 a week for the coming year.

Next Meetings: August 17 and September 21, 2025

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer