



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

November 17, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger II, Michael Amstutz, Michelle Steffen, Chip Coleman, Barb Ressler, Ed Taylor, Marlin Troyer, Lisa Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander and Conrad Neuenschwander.

Opening: Trent led a devotional by Rob Toornstra from Lev 23:1-3 about the Sabbath and fighting busyness. What are the real reasons we stay busy? Are we staying true to God's structures for us for work and for worship? Our souls long for rest. We no longer have to earn our rest because God has granted us rest in His mercy. The universe does not rely on our shoulders, God sustains the world. Trent then prayed us in.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Things are going better. This past month was fairly stressful. Retreat definitely helped. I am continually being reminded to relax. As Phil Raber shared with us one Sunday at the beginning of the year in a Call to Worship, Dallas Willard described Jesus in one word as relaxed. When I get too excited about things to the point of being stressed or worked up or anxious it's good to remember to be more like Jesus. Word of the year: Relax. 😊
- We can't seem to figure out worship with song leaders and praise team leader(s). We are so grateful for those willing to lead songs! Thank you choristers! However, our church provided feedback in our worship evaluations a year or so ago with the desire for more contemporary worship. The Worship Team once per month is great. And people still appreciate hymns too. But there is just a desire for a little more offering of contemporary music too. But it's been challenging to figure out how to provide any more contemporary music where it's not just me trying to lead it along with the responsibility to preach. I am trying not to be too worried or stressed about it. We just can't seem to come up with a solution. Please join me in prayer for God to provide what we need as a congregation as it pertains to worship. Or are we doing okay? Maybe I just need to relax!
- November is the month of Thanksgiving. October is full of pastor appreciation gifts and cards and then in November we celebrate Erin and I's birthdays. We have much to be thankful for. I want to encourage everyone to take time and reflect on what all you have to be thankful for. You should list at least three things each night before you go to sleep!
- Worship Ministry is looking forward to the Wednesday evening Thanksgiving service being planned and led by Anna Ressler and song leading by the Resslers.
- I am excited with where things are at in the planning for the columbarium, a place to put cremated ashes. Good groundwork is being done. Thanks to Roy we have a great replica model of our entire cemetery grounds. Stop in and check it out in the office.
- I am working with the PCR (Pastor Congregation Relations) team, made up of Greg Steffen, Don Nussbaum and Alice Metcalf. We are planning a more extensive pastor and congregational review for next summer. I had a one-year review in September of 2023. We planned another three-year review at the completion of my fourth year, August 31, 2026. This is an opportunity to communicate in healthy ways how we are all doing together. How can we improve and grow? I am hoping to have a sabbatical in the summer of 2027.
- I am feeling a real call to encourage everyone to a deeper commitment to spending time with Jesus and God's Word on a daily basis. Many people are feeling a sense of things getting out of control or just overwhelmed or overburdened. Quiet time with the Lord is one remedy we all need however that looks for each one of us. Walking, exercising, getting outside, listening to music and many other things are all good

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

for us but there is no substituting spending time with Jesus and reading your Bible. The Light of the world is beaoning each one of us to come away with him. Spend time in prayer, listening to the author and creator of life. He has what you need even if it is only his peace. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

- ✦ Glenn commented on Trent's devotional and has changed his office hours in the bulletin to just Tuesday's off.
- ✦ He mentioned that Prsicilla is finishing up the CALL program through Hesston and will provide services at Danbury retirement home in Wooster on Sunday mornings. She will likely seek a commissioning for a license as a pastor for special ministry. Glenn and Pastoral Team are working with her on this through Ohio Conference.
- ✦ Glenn also shared about the hospitality committee finishing up their work. They had interest from a dozen or so and have items to share with new visitors and returning visitors who may be looking for a church home.

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

- Pastoral Team met Monday, November 10 at Barb's house. Lisa shared a devotional on God's presence. Just as we know the moon is round even when we cannot see it, we can know that God is present even when that is hard for us to see.
- Glenn shared about upcoming services. We discussed some pastoral care needs. We would like to encourage the congregation to take advantage of our partnership plan with Springhaven that lowers the cost of counseling services to \$42.50 per session, half of the normal cost
- Children's ministry staffing continues to be a deep need at the moment. We spent time discussing the ministry and brainstorming ways we might be able to meet this need, possibly through additional staffing. We would ask the congregation to be in prayer and discernment about this issue as we seek to balance Glenn's load as well.
- ✦ Pastoral Team highlighted the Springhaven plan and avenues were discussed on how to best spread the word about their services.

Adult Ministry—Alice & Trent Metcalf Co-Ministry Leaders

- We talked about details pertaining to Winter Wednesdays. Dates this year will be every other Wednesday, January 21 through March 18, 2026. There will be 5 sessions with 2 being led by Pastoral Team, 2 being movie nights and the Pinewood Derby.
- Retreat plans are being worked on for January 16-18, 2026. All Adult Enrichment Weekend with Dr John Byron will consist of three sessions 1-2 hours each. Sunday school time will be combined followed by Sunday worship input. The theme will be, "Being the Church in the 21st Century."
- ✦ Nothing added

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

- **Youth:** We discussed how to assist with the chicken bbq. Sponsors and families have wondered about a different time of year due busy end of May school schedules. Planning a winter mentoring activity for January.
- **Children:** We discussed Sunday school teaching needs. We'll begin VBS work in January. Considering a SS Christmas Party - Dec 21. After some reflection and working on time management, Hannah Amstutz has decided she needs to step away from Children's ministry. With this in mind, more conversation will need to be had with regards to Children's ministry.
- ✦ Michael mentioned dates for the bbq next Spring maybe moving to June to stay away from a busy May for school families.

Facilities Ministry—Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- The facilities committee did not meet this month but assigned tasks of cleaning out gutters, switching leach



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(Facilities Report con't...)

lines, and leaf removal. We thank Roy Steiner especially for the work of overseeing the cutting down of dead trees and ongoing fall leaf maintenance.

- + Marlin mentioned Roy has been extra busy with outdoor projects.

Gifts Discernment Ministry—Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Gifts
- + Conrad mentioned Gifts has been discussing the future of Children's ministry to determine how to fill needs there.

Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Present** – Kathy, Ron, Levi, Vince and Ken
- **Opening** – Levi - Impressed with people who forgive i.e. Erika Kirk. Read the Lord's prayer.
- **Moment for Mission** – Nov. 2: People to People food drive – c/o Vince, Nov. 23: Alternative Christmas – c/o Levi and Kathy
- **Love INC:** Glenn and Ken had a very informative meeting with Janet and Rhoda at Love INC and we decided they need to come to SMC to do a Combined SS class and Glenn needed someone to preach on Nov. 9th. So, they will be here this Sunday for another Missions Sunday. To expedite getting MCC Connection gift cards and gas cards to Love INC clients O&S will maintain an inventory in the church office. Love INC vets clients and then recommends we issue cards when the client contacts SMC.
- **Bolivia projector:** Angela Z. has stayed in contact with several people they met in Bolivia. One small church called Vida Nueva is mostly children, about 40 children. Their very old project that was given to them 10 years ago, quit working and was not worth fixing. They ask Ang if she knew of any church that might give them one. Ang checked with Michael, SMC's old one is too old and suggested a new one would be \$500-\$600, not worth taking a chance on a used one. Ang contacted O&S about taking it on. We did and Michael purchased a projector and spare parts and Ang found a way to send it with a Bolivian guy who was in Indiana and was traveling to Akron, so Ang and Todd met him there. We appreciate any help with this project.
- **Oyanguren/Savatan:** Jose, Alfonsina, Juan and Tomas got their 10 yr US visas. Thinking about dates for the Oyangurens visit to SMC and SMC and Jaun Pacheco Lozano visit to Argentina
- **Austin and Griselda Zuercher:** Have committed to another 2 years with VidaNet in Honduras and are needing to raise their own support again. O&S is committed to continuing support through our fund raiser events and encouraging SMC members to also support them which can be channeled through the O&S accounts. We watched their video and will present it to the congregation soon.
- **MCC Meat Canning:** Trent reported the canning went very well. They canned 20,000 cans totaling 30,480 lbs. of meat. SMC raised \$3,800 plus \$2,500 from the O&S Fund Raiser Account
- **Fall Missions Sunday Oct. 12:** Freedom House was here Sunday morning and had combined SS hour and the sermon in worship. Travis Tester, Lukas Gaffey and Stevo were the speakers. O&S furnished lunch for approximately 16 Freedom House people plus several people from SMC. Lots of positive comments.
- **Alternative Christmas:** will be Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, & 21. We will have carry-in breakfast like we've had in the past. We made assignments for lobby set-up, weekly beverage, set-up and clean-up and to line up live music. Kathy and Levi will do an MFM on Nov. 23.
- **Distributions:** We made distributions as follows: \$500 to Bridge of Hope, CAMO, and MDS, \$1,000 to Haiti

(Outreach & Service Report con't...)

Community School, Love INC, and Semilla, \$1,500 to MCC Kits, \$2,000 to EMM Austin & Giselda, and Oyanguren projects, \$2,500 to Camp Luz, Lighthouse, MCC Canning, and Open Arms. We also set aside \$1,000 for Jubilee Orphanage

- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account Bal 10/31/2025 - \$33,536.83, Restricted - \$10,241.12 Unrestricted Bal. - \$22,295.71**, Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$4,598.62, My Coins Count - \$342.50, Freedom House - \$1,400, MCC Meat Canning - \$3,800 , Love INC - \$100, Distributed this month **\$500 Gift cards Love INC**
- **Next meeting Monday:** Dec.1, Monday – Opening Vince
- ✚ Ken mentioned a Bolivia project where a small church needed a projector and that was sent down. \$ 600.00 plus is needed to cover that project if anyone wants to give towards that in the offering.
- ✚ Ken shared a video from Austin and Griselda about supporting them for another 2.5 year term. Their support is entirely above budget.

Worship Ministry-Henry Beun, Ministry Leader

- Erin led in devotions with a devotional from the Dwell App, titled the Pace of the Gaze.
- Looked over the preaching schedule, particularly paying attention to upcoming dates during Advent. Glenn will make a few contacts to make sure all dates are covered.
- We spent considerable time discussing upcoming holiday services (Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas). The Thanksgiving service will be held Wed eve before Thanksgiving (11/26). We'd like to have a time of music as well as expressing thankfulness. Anna Ressler has agreed to help plan and facilitate this service. Thank you Anna!
Glenn is working on scheduling a planning meeting with all those involved in various aspects of the services during Advent. Henry is working on making contacts for children's time. **Finding available song leaders for the holidays is a significant challenge this year. Still looking for people to lead music on Christmas Eve and Christmas Sunday. How would the congregation feel about having more contemporary worship for either of these services?
- Discussed the topic of communion in our services. Should we incorporate this into our service more often throughout the year? What does "open communion" mean and how should we be involving our children and youth that have not been baptized? More discussion with PT needed here to avoid awkwardness and confusion.
- We are thankful for those who have been willing to serve as worship and song leaders and continue to look for additional people who would be willing to serve in these ways. Working on the rotation for 2026. We have a huge need for more song leaders and continue to seek input on how to train and motivate new people to explore this role.
- Will have ongoing discussion on the Creative Corner and will explore ideas on how to involve and incorporate our children in our worship services.
- ✚ Nothing added

Treasurer's Report-Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the second month of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, 16.67% of the budget. Budget giving is at 13.7% of budget and 13.9% including designated income. Expenses are at 13.8% 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 September balance in the account is \$29,653.95
- ✚ Ed mentioned a correction for the endowment numbers from last month. This month's numbers are up to date.



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Action Items:

- ✚ **Columbarium Update** - Michele Steffen shared an update on the project working with the objectives of: God honoring, simple, set apart, long term, affordable and flexible for the future. They have arrived at a place where they would like some input about a final spot that would affect the next steps of planning. There are four spots under consideration with each having benefits and concerns. CLT motioned to go ahead on the placement of a first structure on the old resting ground of the second Sonnenberg church house. The next step will be a recommendation to CLT for specifics on the type of structure.

Next Meetings: January 19 & February 16, 2026

- ✚ Glenn closed in prayer.