



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

January 15, 2024

Present: Ed Taylor, Steve Zuercher, Ken Neuenschwander, Phil Raber, Glenn Nofziger, Chip Coleman, Trent Metcalf, Priscilla Spiker, Michelle Steffen, Connie Neuenschwander, Lisa Amstutz

Missing: Jeremy Patterson, Ora Shetler, Lisa Zuercher

Opening: Trent's devotional started with name that tune: Trent played a song by the band U2 called Pride. This song is a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr and tells the story of events from the time of Christ, the work and killing of Martin Luther King Jr. to the many unnamed people killed in the then ongoing sectarian violence of Northern Ireland. It is a tribute to those people who lived their lives with PRIDE. What it isn't, says Bono, "is pride in a boastful way, but the pride a person has when their thoughts and actions are motivated by their understanding and full awareness of the dignity and sanctity of all human life."

In Leviticus 19 God gives a long laundry list of decrees to Moses, who once fully memorized will then share them with the now expelled, exiled, stateless, and for some a grumpy and ungrateful huddled mass of Israelites making a break for safety and security in a distant land they have yet to see. Among those many stipulations given that day just 1,600 years ago were these two:

"do not do anything that endangers your neighbors life" v16 and "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born, love them as yourself" : v34. Trent then led us in prayer.

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are through the fourth month of the fiscal year, 33.33%. Budget giving is at 33.6% of budget and at 36.1% including school income. Expenses are at 30.4% of budget. Most spending is in line with budgeted amounts. Maintenance/repairs have been a bit high with a \$1,300.00 automatic door repair bill from a previous year that hadn't been received on time.
 - CCS Tuition: Now that the final tuition numbers have been given and additional giving settled for the year, we can continue normally for the rest of the year. Our total for the 2023/2024 school year is \$26,130.00. Monthly payments will be \$2,177.50 per month through June. CLT has determined to increase our total payments and giving to \$52,000 for the year. Our additional giving will be \$2,155.83 per month for a total of \$28,570. The December 31 balance after the first 6-months of tuition payments and additional giving of \$26,000 is \$21,258.21.
 - ✚ Nothing added
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Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- It's amazing how time just keeps moving on. 2023 in the books. 2024 Let's go!
- CLT did not meet in December. These past two months saw a lot!
- I was spent after the week of my bday November 5th. The Ohio Conference Pastor Spouse retreat, the weekend of Erin's bday, over November 12 at Deer Creek State Park was amazing and refreshing. I also took a much needed week of vacation leading into Advent.
- Also in November I completed Healthy Boundaries 101 Training for Pastors. It was a requirement for Ohio Conference and was excellent.
- We bought a house and moved around Thanksgiving! It Feels so good to be in our own home and getting more settled!

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

- Really appreciated everyone who participated in all the different worship elements for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany this year.
 - My first in person Christmas Eve service was Sunday morning! Not everyone appreciated that.
 - I will be offering a Baptism class again this spring. Anyone interested should let me know by January 21.
 - It is time to discuss the need for a Pastor to give focused attention to our Youth program.
 - ✚ Glenn shared a bag of candy in memory of the one year anniversary of his father's Cloyce's passing while updating CLT on the number of folks who are committed to an annual Bible reading plan.
 - ✚ Glenn talked about the books he is working through for various areas of ministry like quizzing, marriage counseling, fun reading etc.
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Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- (*Dec minutes*) Michelle Steffen opened with devotions from Ann Voskamp. To know God is to thank God. If you count 3 gifts a day, by the end of the year you'll have 1000 gifts.
 - Glenn shared about some connections made with new attendees and congregational needs.
 - Michelle shared about a ministry fair that another church did; this could be something to consider for Sonnenberg.
 - PT is planning two evenings of discussion and discernment during Winter Wednesdays. We look forward to a time of visioning for the coming year.
 - Phil is still working on the website; the next step will be seeking approval from the congregation for their photos to be used.
 - (*Jan minutes*) The mutual caring fund continues to provide financial assistance within the congregation. Other congregational needs were discussed.
 - The card ministry got lots of affirmation and additional people were added to the list.
 - The 2024 theme verse is Matthew 6:33: But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (ESV). We will be working with Worship Ministry to create some visuals.
 - PT will lead two Kingdom-Seeking sessions during Winter Wednesdays and is preparing for discussion.
 - Phil noted that the new website is completed and is now live.
 - ✚ Pastoral Team are leaning into the theme verse and trying to form and pass vision of that to the congregation.
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Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- The Marriage for Life Conference is coming up quickly on February 2 & 3. Twenty two couples signed up with one cancellation. We will offer the open spot to the congregation and hope to fill it. MFL has sent out email updates to those registered. We hope to reserve the conference center at the Comfort Suites for gathering together as a group after the Friday evening session, but as of our ministry meeting, we did not have confirmation.
 - Winter Wednesdays have taken shape although the names of each evening activity have not. Once we have names selected, we will put up signs and mailbox inserts. Three nights will be held as a large group; two evenings will have a choice of activities. Jan 24 & Feb 7 - under the leadership of Pastoral Team; Feb 21 - Discipleship class with Glenn or Winter Art with Michelle; March 6 Pinewood Derby; March 20 - Discipleship class with Glenn or game night.
 - A main dish will be provided each evening; a sign up sheet will be placed at the Welcome Center for help with sides, desserts and clean up. Carry out meals will be available again.
 - A new Sunday School class is in the works for those in the 40's range (+/- a few years). More information on that as plans transpire.
 - ✚ 2 couples now cannot make it now to Marriage for Life and Adult Ministry will try to fill those slots. The Conference room is expensive for what Sonnenberg may need so Adult Ministry is looking into other possibilities of where to gather at the retreat hotel.
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Children's Ministry—Ministry Representatives rotate

- Discussed doing a 1 day carnival this summer for the church and friends/family in the community rather than VBS. May need to order Sunday School materials for Lisa's class, but has not been confirmed at this time.
 - Looking into getting volunteers for Children's story if people are interested and then will plan which Sunday that will be based on their availability.
 - We will take a short break for Children's Church since we have events planned for Winter Wednesdays and will revisit Children's Church in the spring.
 - Planned 4 Winter Wednesday activities for the kids including game nights, art/craft and movie nights.
 - ✦ Children's Ministry are seeking Children's story volunteers.
 - ✦ They discussed the rationale of not having a VBS this coming Summer. Scheduling is an issue to not conflict with Rock of Ages competing for the same Amish crowd.
 - ✦ Children's corner came up for discussion. Do we need to revisit age limits or have a monitor to keep the kids more quiet? Children's Ministry will consider options. Worship Ministry will advise the ushers to steer people away from that corner of the sanctuary.
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Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader

- The roof on the main building is complete and we should not have any more leaks for the next 50 years. The total cost was \$93,710 which included the original estimate of \$92,500 to remove the old shingles and install the new steel, plus \$1,210 to replace damaged plywood.
 - We discussed a few topics in our monthly meeting. We are looking to find someone that may want to do a number of repairs on the drywalled ceiling that have been damaged by water leaks. We are still trying to get estimates to replace the kitchen outside steps. We are also looking at the possibility of doing the demo work and have someone do only the concrete steps. We also discussed a cemetery urn wall and other options for urn burial.
 - We have most of the lobby recessed lights replaced with updated fixtures. We will plan to finish the remainder of the units in our February meeting unless we get to them sooner.
 - ✦ Facilities Ministry has changed a number of lights and plan to keep going switching to LED
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Gifts Discernment Ministry—Ora Shetler, Ministry Leader

- Haven't met. No report.
 - ✦ Glenn mentioned he connected with Ora about youth sponsors while they were searching.
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Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Priscilla Spiker, Ministry Leader

- YYA - 12 gathered for dinner and games in December.
 - MYF - We caroled, had a Christmas party and took some time off over the holidays. Planning for Costa Rica is ongoing with 2 fundraiser lunches planned, one in January and February. Ron and Laura Petite have agreed to come on as youth sponsors.
 - Mentors - 17 attended the Mentor event this month. Pizza and a movie, God's Not Dead, at the church.
 - ✦ Priscilla mentioned there have been lots of good events lately. We will likely only have 2 kids that can attend the Camp Luz winter retreat. They will be with the group from Kidron Mennonite.
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Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Jan. 7th Open Arms with Pablo Delgado. Discussion - We should find and share more people-stories connecting us to our projects and services we do.
 - **Bangladesh Drinking Water project and Israel/Palestine relief**: these accounts remain open for those who would like to contribute to these urgent needs.
 - **MCC Alternative Christmas** – The four Advent Sunday MCC alternative Christmas breakfast were well attended and went very well. Thanks to everyone that brought food and a special thanks to the people who provided live music. The “Gifts of Comfort and Joy” were very close to what we been doing the last few years at \$6,077. Thank You for your generosity!
 - **Missions Sunday #1** - Jan. 21st : With JR & Amy Rozko from the Canton Abbey. There will be combined Sunday school class and worship time input. There will be a MYF fundraiser meal following the worship service.
 - **Missions Sunday #2** - Feb. 18th : with Aaron Kauffman from Virginia Mennonite Missions. Again, there will be combined Sunday school class and worship time input. There will be a MYF fundraiser meal.
 - **Haiti Community School**: We were able to send the \$2,000 to the Haiti community school and \$10,000 from the special Haiti fund to the dental clinic via Myriam’s cousin.
 - **Maple Syrup Festival**: Tentative MSF date is April 20th
 - **MCC Work Night**: Working on plans for a spring MCC kit work night.
 - **People to People**: Working on possible PTP spring food drive
 - **Financial O & S Fundraiser account**: Bal 12/31/2023 - \$18,918.09 -- My Coins Count - \$607, Young Adult Mission trips - \$470, Haiti Special Projects - \$7,198.62, Lighthouse - \$200, Bangladesh Water project - \$250, Alt. Christmas - \$6,077, Unrestricted \$4,115.47. Paid out this month – Open Arms - \$3,670, MCC Kits - \$2,740, Lighthouse - \$1,700, Semilla - \$500, Haiti Schools – \$2,000, Haiti Clinic - \$10,000.
 - ✦ Ken highlighted upcoming missions centered events in January and February. He is looking forward to a new take on missions from the Rozkos. Aaron Kaufmann will focus on developing VMM ties to this area.
 - ✦ April 20 has been set as the date for the Maple Syrup Festival this year.
 - ✦ Ken mentioned how well Alternative Christmas went and what a blessing it is. He also remembered that it was started long ago by Lisa Amstutz.
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Worship Ministry-Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Michele shared some devotional thoughts in relation to Advent and how Jesus coming to earth was nothing as the world expected from a king. His example of living in humility, generosity and forgiveness teaches us as believers how our actions each day can help build the kingdom.
 - Short reflections on the Thanksgiving service. Those in attendance seemed to enjoy the added singing.
 - We spent considerable time working with the song leader and worship leader rotations. We are praying for God to nudge some folks into offering their gifts in these ways. Michele will contact those already in the rotations to see if they would like to continue in 2024.
 - There are a number of items we as WMT would like feedback on from the congregation. Glenn is working on a short survey that will be distributed in the next several weeks.
 - ✦ Worship Ministry is looking ahead at worship planning for the whole year. The pool is a little thin but a good group is lined up. They will continue to use narrative lectionary as framework
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Pastor Congregational Relations-Greg Steffen, Leader

- Set to meet Monday January 15. Report will be included in the Communicator.
- Glenn shared his goals for 2025:
 - The document included five broader areas of goals, some very specific and others more general in structure. Additionally the goals may be amended or fleshed out in more detail.



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(PCR Report con't...)

–Most of the goals are measurable and the June PCR meeting will be a time to examine success, or the need for additional growth.

- Discussed the need for possible additional staff for the youth programming at Sonnenberg. Presently some “holes” exist that could use attention. Glenn will continue to think about solutions and possibilities and share with the Pastoral Team and the Congregational Leadership Team.
- As health insurance needs have fluctuated for the Nofziger family it is apparent more funds are needed to cover their costs. The Nofziger Meta-Share insurance plan is costing less than the “Corinthian plan” but the children are no longer covered by Medicaid and this creates a monetary gap. PRC will support and propose that these monies be included in the Pastoral salary package.
- Discussed how PCR can let the congregation know we are available to their concerns.
- The present PCR roles will carry over for the next year, Greg-leader, Joyce-reporter, Don-secretary

Action Items:

✦ **Central kitchen usage** - Central has asked to have access to the kitchen as a possible food prep area once they break group on the new cafeteria this Spring before the school year is over. Priscilla also took Central feedback on how the mini term usage went and expectations for the future.

✦ **Columbarium options** - Ron Taylor shared a presentation that included pictures of various options, some of the costs as well as pro and cons of each idea. An ad hoc committee will be gathered and start work this year on a presentation to the congregation.

✦ **Chicken BBQ fundraiser** - MYF asked about the possibility of using Chicken BBQ fundraiser money for their trip to Costa Rica this Summer as opposed to having it go to the tuition fund. It would be a one time scenario and only being considered because Ed Choice has cut the total amount of money needed to pay for our students as well as help others.

Next Meetings: February 19 & March 18, 2024

✦ Glenn closed in prayer