



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

January 27, 2024

Present: Glenn Nofziger, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Marlin Troyer, Ken Neuenschwander, Kelly Raines, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Conrad Neuenschwander, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Jeremy Patterson and Steve Zuercher.

Opening: Trent shared from Matthew 5:43 - 44 about loving one's enemies. Trent referenced the book "The Sort" talking about American trends to gather in cliques based on cultural, political or economic demographics. Then looking at Jesus we see a big "unsort" where previous foes become disciples of Jesus and a totally different way of relating to each other comes to the forefront. Nancy French asked in her book "The After Party," how can you forgive your enemy unless you are engaged enough to feel their pain? Trent then led in prayer to open CLT business.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Thank you to Noah Raines for preaching in November.
- I planned our Thanksgiving service and tour at Behalt to kickoff our celebration of Anabaptism at 500. It was a wonderfully meaningful turnout and evening.
- Erin and I are so thankful for an amazing weekend away in Nashville to celebrate twenty years of marriage. We were faith inspired and encouraged in so many ways.
- Advent/December was quite full and good. Thankful for everyone who helped lead worship and music. And thanks to Priscilla for preaching the 2nd Sunday of Advent.
- Officiated Palmer's funeral. God orchestrated timely meaningful family gatherings.
- Preached: Dec 15 on Luke 4 about Jesus fulfilling the scripture living and working through us today! Dec 22, 4th Sunday of Advent we celebrated-Magnificat.
- Planned and led my first normal evening Christmas Eve service at Sonnenberg. 2022 was cold-blast canceled and 2023 Christmas Eve was on Sunday A.M. during SS hour!
- Dec 29 Celebrated Christmas Sunday - What is your plan for reading the Bible in 2025?
- Jan 4 Celebrated Epiphany, Announced our annual Scripture theme of Colossians 2:6-7.
- I keep preaching through the gospel of Luke and commemorate Anabaptism at 500.
- I missed our Missions Sunday on Jan 19th but experienced a much needed week of vacation traveling to Harrisonburg and NW Ohio for Nofziger family Christmas gathering.
- January also has been filled with significant meetings with:
PCR sharing my Pastoral Goals for the year (which I am happy to share with anyone who is interested in seeing!) and PT working at visioning and helping to prioritize discerned projects for the church over this next year. Childrens as well as Youth and Young Adult Ministries sharing kind of big picture ministry structure, program and hopes and vision moving forward.
- It is exciting for our expanding groups of children and youth to re-envision utilizing the reclaimed rooms of the basement since the school moved out.
- I am also busy helping Erin with Venture Club activities and Bible Quizzing!
- I am also busy with Ohio Conference Gift Discernment work as I meet with the Leadership Council and look forward to ACA(Annual Conference Assembly) the first weekend in March. Which is actually the same weekend as Central's Auction and Spring Musical and the Local Quiz Tournament!

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

- Sunday, Jan 26 we celebrate Anabaptist Worship Fellowship Sunday and Communion!
- A few things I am really looking forward to:
 - Our Winter Wednesdays: PT visioning sessions, Pinewood Derby and Talent Show (Thank you Adult Ministry for helping with these plans and schedule!)
 - The Chosen, Season 5 coming out in a couple months!
 - A trip along Route 66 with my Father and brother-in-laws Mar 26-April 1
 - An 8 week Spring Baptism cohort and baptisms early June
 - Summer change of pace and a couple weeks planned at Little Eden Camp
 - Starting year 4 in September and preaching through the Gospel of John
 - And hopefully a Sabbatical in another year or two! :)
- ✚ Glenn is excited about the Baptism intro meeting this coming Sunday. So far a couple are planning on attending. Linda Horn shared a word with Glenn for the baptism class.
- ✚ There will be a Zoom session in February before ACA hearing about proposed budget giving from each congregation towards Ohio Conference budget. Regional and associate conference pastor positions will both likely be cut. ACA will hold a vote on the budget at ACA. Glenn will get info to Ken Neuenschwander who plans to attend the Zoom meeting.

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

- Jeremy led a devotional on hope. Hope is different from just optimism. Biblical hope is based on a person. It's God's past faithfulness that motivates hope for the future. Christian hope is bold—it looks back to the risen Christ to look forward to the future.
- Glenn shared about upcoming services and preaching schedule. Advent is well underway as well as planning for the Christmas Eve service. Glenn and Erin are planning an anniversary trip to Nashville this weekend.
- We spent some time discussing our theme verse for 2025, which will be Colossians 2:6-7. This ties in well with the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism coming up.
- We also discussed key ideas for our mission and vision statement, which we will process together with the congregation during two Winter Wednesday evenings.
- Suggestions were made for someone to join PCR for 2025. We also discussed the upcoming facilities projects and priorities.
- Pastoral Team met Monday, January 13. Michelle shared a devotional based on our theme verse, Colossians 2:6-7. What is your faith story? What are you doing in the coming year to stay strengthened/rooted/built up? What are you thankful for?
- Glenn shared about his upcoming schedule and pastoral care items. January 21 will be a day of prayer and fasting to mark the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. We will take communion on January 26, which is Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday.
- We spent some time planning for the two Winter Wednesdays that PT will lead. These will focus on the mission, vision, and identity of SMC.
- Alice Metcalf will join PCR to replace Joyce Taylor this year.
- We spent additional time discussing vision for several potential changes to our facilities.
- ✚ Jeremy shared stories of hope throughout the Bible as well as our own history. Pastoral Team is a hopeful group.

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

- Adult Ministry met to finalize plans for Winter Wednesdays. The first Wednesday (Jan 22) will begin with the movie "The Radicals" as a way of honoring our anabaptist heritage and celebration of 500 years. Pastoral Team will head up the meetings on Feb 5 & 19. Pinewood derby is scheduled for Mar 5 and talent night is scheduled for Mar 19.
- Commitments for the main dishes for each evening have been arranged. The salad & dessert sign up sheet



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has been at the Welcome Center for a week. This year we will also ask for cleanup help.

- Nothing has been decided in regards to organizing pastries for coffee time.
- + Winter Wednesdays are off to a good start. February 5th and 19th will be in the foyer. March 5 is the Pinewood Derby.

Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Glenn came to the meeting in addition to Rhoda, Hannah and Kelly. Discussed we will have VBS this summer- Hannah will start looking at curriculum and will be the main planner.
- Planned out ideas for the first 2 Winter Wednesdays (movie night and game night) but will talk to Venture Club if they are doing their own events or one larger group.
- Discussed many different options for the space downstairs now that the school is out of the church. Need to paint walls, get decorations and may come up with a theme for children's ministry downstairs. Additionally, we will talk to Venture Club about making a Venture Club space in the same Sunday school room that they meet in on Sunday mornings like the MYF does.
- + Working on space usage downstairs in classrooms, perhaps a theme. Myf would like to add a little space. Venture Club would like to redo their space similar to MYF space. CLT blessed Children's Ministry to fill the rooms in the way they are comfortable. Children's may communicate needs to the church for support.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Plans were made to attach a video camera on the east sanctuary wall. We plan to use our next meeting to do this project ourselves
- We are monitoring the ladies bathroom stall doors. We tentatively came up with solutions to anchor panels and doors better and add pull handles. Probably this will be done instead of having a meeting as the members are predisposed to working.
- Pest control came up for discussion and a general assessment was that more research needs to be done on our part.
- Audio / Visual Booth expansion is tentatively planned for this summer. We took some measurements and started thinking how this would be done. It is probable that there will be some pews removed.
- Pew removal planning had us considering how we might add spaces for wheelchairs by using the two shorter benches in the back that might be removed for the audio/ visual sound booth expansion.
- Carpet replacement. A committee is forming.
- Spouting was cleaned out just in time before winter set in.
- Heritage school- moved out Dec.27th
- The water damage in the foyer ceiling has been repaired.
- + Facilities plans to adjust women's lobby restroom stall door latches.
- + Facilities will eventually seek input about where to put half pews when the sound booth expansion happens. CLT wants handicap accessible pews incorporated further up the sanctuary.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No Report

Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Dec. 1: Alternative Christmas c/o Levi, Jan 5: Angela & Todd Zuercher family's Bolivia trip, Jan. 19: MCC live stream with David and Liz Driver from Poland on Ukraine for a mission Sunday, Feb. 2: Sayatan roof and land project
- **Alternative Christmas Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22 - 8:50-9:30:** We will use the MCC 2024 Christmas Giving Guide with posters and displays. We are inviting individuals or groups to do live music. We are asking families with last names beginning with A-N to bring breakfast food Dec. 1st & 15th and families with last names beginning with O-Z to bring breakfast food Dec. 8th & 22nd. First Sunday went well. 1/6 Review, MCC projects contributions \$6,640, food contributions \$225.
- **Haiti:** Myriam is not able to go to Haiti in December as she had planned because the airport has been shut down due to a commercial plane being shot at. Myriam and Johnny Amazon decided they would add \$4000 from the special Haiti fund to the \$1000 we designated after the MCF and send \$5000 to the community school via. Myriam's niece Monica Rivere who has a business in Haiti as an American bank account with connections to her Haitian bank to transfer money at little or no cost. We did this before and it worked well.
- **MCC Work Night:** We will plan a work night after the new building is in operation, early next year.
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan:** Finance report on the Argentina trip – total expenses were \$7,001.98 which included all costs for the three from Sonnenberg plus we picked-up most of the in-country land travel and food expenses for all five of us. We were also able to give \$3,000 for some personal and Sayatan projects. We had also assisted MMN to purchase the ticket for Joanna.
Plans are underway to raise funds for two projects at Sayatan, a roof over the courtyard and a land purchase, estimated at \$8,500 and \$4,000 respectively. The roof is the priority. We are in the process of trying to partner with Souderton Mennonite Church to make both projects happen.
- **Maple Syrup Festival:** Possible dates – March 29, April 5 or 26 and May 3. **April 26 is our first choice.**
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** First choice date September 13th
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 11/30/2024 - \$20,149.89** -- Haiti Special Projects - \$15,598.62, Haiti Community School - \$1,000, Lighthouse-\$500, People to People - \$600, Argentina trip expenses - \$100, My Coins Count - \$346, Total restricted- \$18,144.62-- **Unrestricted \$2,005.27**
Bal 12/31/2024 - \$20,929.89: Restricted \$18,834.62: Unrestricted Bal. \$2,095.27 Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$10,598.62, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100, Lighthouse - \$175, My Coins Count - \$496, People to People - \$600, MCC Alternative Christmas - \$6,865. Distributions this month: Argentina trip expense - \$100, Haiti schools \$6,500, Lighthouse - \$500.
- ✚ Ken noted that we need to keep the Zuercher family's trip to Bolivia in front of the congregation.
- ✚ The date for the 2025 Maple Syrup for Missions Festival will be April 26
- ✚ The date for the 2025 Catfish Fry will be Sept 13.
- ✚ Ken shared the Drivers were happy to share on Sunday, January 19. O & S thought the input was very informative and helpful.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- We spent some time looking over the worship leader rotation and also discussing how we can be intentional about planning themes for worship leading, specifically during Advent and Lent. Should worship ministry take leadership in this?
- Spent some time giving feedback regarding different aspects of recent worship services. People seem to be enjoying singing more Christmas songs during Advent. Alternative Christmas seems to be going well and people are enjoying the fellowship. Positive affirmation given for the visuals up front and the children's stories.
- Discussed having cookies and hot drinks after the Christmas Eve service to foster a time of fellowship for those who would like to participate. Will have hot water for tea and hot chocolate and ask those who are able and willing to bring a small plate of cookies.
- Glenn and Erin shared about their experience at a mega church in Nashville and highlighted the fact that the



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- service was well organized, without wasted downtime, making the most of the time given to the service.
- Spent time giving feedback on the Christmas Eve service. We thought it went well and people enjoyed all the singing and candle-lighting as well as the fellowship time with refreshments afterwards. We just need to make sure we don't rush the candle-lighting. Discussed ideas for future Christmas eve services and getting kids more involved. Maybe serve milk/chocolate milk with cookies to simplify it.
- Spent time talking about plans for putting an offering table inside the sanctuary for collecting the offering. Glenn presented pictures and Dan Gault has an Amish connection who could make it for us. Emphasized the importance of making sure offering remains a part of the service and the need to acknowledge it in the prayer.
- Talked about having Salem's choir come to sing at Sonnenberg, since our current IVEPer, Erik Warkentin, is involved in this. Erik and Tim Shue both like the idea. We just need to get it scheduled! Glenn will follow up with Tim and suggest some dates. Maybe at the beginning of Lent?
- Looked over the upcoming preaching schedule. Still have a few slots to fill in March and April.
- Talked about ideas of how to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism. 1/21 is not a good date due to the Ohio Conference cluster meeting happening that same night. Maybe we can do something during Winter Wednesday that week?
- Talked briefly about Lent and that the Leader coordinates well with the Narrative Lectionary.
- Discussed possible issues with the software used to project hymns. Are we projecting songs from the Blue Hymnal or Voices Together? Phil will follow up with Michael. We also need to do some follow up work on the idea of updating the worship reference manual as discussed at our meeting with worship and song leaders.
- + A new offering table will be placed in the Sanctuary between the doors in the back specific for offering. A table will remain in the foyer for bulletins etc. A container will likely be placed on the table to collect offerings.
- + It was noted that the Drivers' presentation went well and note was made also how tech updates have made such crisp video recordings for Youtube. Michael Amstutz was praised for his work.
- + Summer plans for outdoor worship will include the months of June and July again for 2025. Many on CLT remarked that improved speaker and electrical capacity enhanced the outdoor worship experience. An emphasis on outdoor friendly music was one suggestion for worship planning for the future.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- No Report

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the fourth month of the current fiscal year, 33.33% of budget. Budget giving is at 26.9% of budget and at 35.5% including school rental income. This was the last month for school rental income. Expenses are at 35.4% of budget. Our yearly budget of \$243,868 is an average of \$4,690 per week. The current average through 18 weeks is \$3,644. For the rest of the year our weekly budget giving needs to be at \$5,102 per week to make the budget goal. On a positive note, we have received generous donations of \$14,075 for Facilities A/C and kitchen steps repair projects. This brings the Maintenance and Repair expense line much closer to the budget amount and Facilities total expenses under budget as of the date of this report.
- CCS Tuition: The CCS Tuition balance continues to remain consistent. Our obligation for the 2024/2025 school

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year is \$26,271. This will be \$2,189.25 per month. We will be also be contributing an additional monthly gift \$2,190 for a total of \$ 4,379.25. The total for the 2024-2025 school year is \$52,551. The December 31 balance in the account is \$32,716.34.

- + Giving is falling behind budget but special gifts have helped keep us even keel for now; We need to average \$5,100/week to meet budget this fiscal year
- + A memorial gift was made to the church from the family of Lillie Steffen. We plan to keep in touch with the family as to how the church will use the funds. We will share a thank you note to surviving family members.

Action Items:

- + Alice Metcalf plans to come aboard PCR in substitution for Joyce Taylor. Alice was confirmed unanimously.
- + Project Prioritization - Pastoral Team shared a framework on current church projects based on the most logical order of operations. Pastoral Team will continue to work with Facilities Ministry organizing point people and goals. The vision they want to keep clear is how best to utilize space.
- + Ohio Conference office space - Dan Miller, interim OH Conf minister, came to tour the church and is looking for room to house files. He looked at the old youth pastor office. CLT felt like we needed our own storage space too much to offer any room.
- + 3rd or 4th Monday for CLT ? - For now CLT will likely stick with the 3rd Monday so info isn't old before the next CLT meeting.

Next Meetings: Feb 17 and March 17, 2025

- + Glenn closed in prayer