



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

February 19, 2024

Present: Ed Taylor, Steve Zuercher, Ken Neuenschwander, Phil Raber, Glenn Nofziger, Chip Coleman, Trent Metcalf, Noah Raines subbed for Priscilla Spiker, Jeremy Patterson, Michelle Steffen, Kelly Raines and Ora Shetler

Missing: Lisa Amstutz, Lisa Zuercher

Opening: Trent talked about Presidents Day and quoted Abraham Lincoln from the Emancipation Declaration on Jan 1, 1863 about the abolishment of slavery. Trent compared the account from Luke 4 where Jesus quoted Isaiah 61 on his return home. While making the point that Lincoln was not Jesus Trent emphasized the divisiveness of each statement rallying some and leading others to want to kill each figure. Trent emphasized that a message of restoration is still unpopular today as hate is still evident and that we need to reject the temptation to hate. We can say no and choose to follow Jesus. Trent then led us in prayer to open the meeting.

Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are through the fifth month of the fiscal year, 41.67%. Budget giving is at 40.6% of budget and at 43.8% including school income. Expenses are at 38.5% of budget. Most spending is in line with budgeted amounts. Worship Ministry's expenses are a bit high because of yearly music copyright fees that shouldn't repeat in this fiscal year. Adult ministry has been active with some events that should even out over the rest of the year.
 - CCS Tuition: Donations to the Central tuition account have been fairly steady throughout the year. Monthly payments will be \$2,177.50 plus additional giving of \$2,155.83 per month through June. The January 31 balance is \$22,186.85. We have nearly enough in the account to pay the rest of the year but would like to keep the balance to start the next year around the \$20 thousand number.
 - ✚ Ed feels many early overages will be offset over the course of the budget year.
 - ✚ We discussed an honorarium for Aaron Kaufmann as our guest during the Missions weekend of Feb 17 & 18.
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Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- I am meeting with two couples for counseling. One for pre-marital and one for pre-engagement counseling. Erin is also meeting with us.
- I have appreciated meeting with more people for various reasons. I love being available for any type of counseling or conversation. I am not a professional counselor but I am happy to listen and share whatever the Holy Spirit lays on our hearts and minds.
- I accepted the position of Chair of Gifts Discernment for Ohio Conference. My term will begin here at Ohio Conference Annual Assembly at the beginning of March.
- I registered for the Serving Leader Cohort with Dr. John Stahl-Wert. Beginning in February meeting in person in Berlin on the third Thursdays of the month for six months.
- MarriageForLife Conference was for the most part good. It was probably the least appreciated speaker I have experienced of the multiple times Erin and I have gone.
- It was a fun and meaningful experience organizing the outing to go and see the first three episodes of the Season 4 of The Chosen in the theater. There were six different churches represented including Sonnenberg, Salem, Kidron, Martins Creek, Smithville and Orrville.
- ✚ Glenn enjoys the meetings he has counseling couples.

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

- + Glenn contacted Mike Lehman to discuss a project of building faith chests for new parents to give during child dedication services. It serves as a place for keepsakes of each child's faith journey.
 - + There are plans to go see the next episodes of the Chosen in theaters. Episodes 4,5 and 6 are in the theater until Wednesday the 28th. Episodes 7 & 8 come out Thursday, February 29.
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Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- PT met February 12. Jeremy opened with some thoughts from 1 Peter 1:22 and Henri Nouwen. Words of love and affirmation are like bread...we need them every day.
 - We discussed various needs within the congregation. The mutual caring fund continues to be a blessing.
 - Glenn was absent due to illness, but shared some documents related to multi-pastor ministry. He is taking part in the Serving Leaders Cohort with John Stahl-Wert one day per month starting this Thursday.
 - We discussed feedback from the two Winter Wednesday discussion nights as well as the theme verse banners and upcoming plans for Lent/Easter.
 - About 20 people are receiving cards via our card ministry, and those are much appreciated.
 - We continue to work at discernment related to broader church issues. Phil closed in prayer.
 - + Jeremy thought the Wednesday night events went well. Pastoral team continues to reflect on that and plan to give reports from those sessions in various church settings.
 - + He added that Pastoral Team continues to discern how to interact with other groups whether they are ministries, agencies or other congregations regardless of what their affiliation is. How can we lean into cooperation when we share goals. The emphasis on cross agency cooperation from the VMM input was part of his reflection.
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Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- No report. Didn't meet in February.
 - + Steve remarked about how well Winter Wednesdays are going.
 - + Adult ministry is compiling surveys from Marriage for Life participants to review that event.
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Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Pastor Glenn joined this month's meeting. Started planning for Carnival day in the summer.
 - Planned Winter Wednesday ideas for the month of February.
 - Discussed how Children's Story will look over Lent and Easter.
 - + Kelly shared that the timing for a summer carnival will likely fall between the end of July and early August.
 - + The next Winter Wednesday event for kiddos will be a movie night.
 - + Glenn and Rhoda are working at coordinating Children's Times during Lent.
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Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader

- In our last meeting we talked about how to get some building repairs done. We talked to a drywall finisher about repairing some areas of the ceiling damaged by water leaks.
 - We are still working at trying to find someone to repair the outside kitchen steps. We are looking at the possibility of doing the demo work and finding someone to replace the concrete.
 - We are looking at getting additional information about a cemetery urn wall structure. We are also looking for a time this year to repair some cemetery stone foundations.
 - + Ed shared that Facilities Ministry may do most of the demo on the kitchen steps in house to get it going.
 - + Ed also shared that Facilities is keeping track of the Columbarium project.
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Gifts Discernment Ministry—Ora Shetler, Ministry Leader

- Gifts Discernment surveys have been prepared for 2024. Gifts will meet in February to finalize those in preparation for handing them out to the congregation.
 - + Ora shared that Gifts Discernment surveys will be finalized at the next Gifts Discernment meeting and then given out to the congregation for feedback.
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Youth/Young Adult Ministry—Priscilla Spiker, Ministry Leader

YYA

- planning college boxes/envelopes for March

MYF

- still looking for a MYF SS teacher for -mid March through end of May
- Working through the book of Luke in Sunday School.
- Potential for a couple new kids to join.
- 2 kids attended the Luz retreat.
- MYF fundraiser meals have been very well supported. Chicken BBQ is likely still a needed fundraiser for Costa Rica. Had a Costa Rica prep session with Pablo Delgado from Open Arms. Kids enjoyed that.

Mentors

- planning a mentor event for April
 - + Noah shared that college boxes/envelopes will be out the 1st or 2nd weekend of March.
 - + YYA are still looking for a Sunday School teacher for Myf during Chip's spring sabbatical.
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Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Feb. 18 – Mission Sunday, Feb. 18 – MCC comforter bash c/o Marilyn Shetler, Mar. 24 – Maple Syrup Festival c/o Dave Ross and People to People food drive c/o Brandon King, May 12 – Pregnancy Center baby bottle fund drive.
- **Bangladesh Drinking Water project and Israel/Palestine relief:** these accounts remain open for those who would like to contribute to these urgent needs.
- **Missions Sunday #1 - Jan. 21st:** With JR & Amy Rozko from Canton Abbey. Review and discussion on a proposal for support of a Network Coordinator for the Abbey. We decided to include it in the MSF distribution.
- **Missions Sunday #2 - Feb. 18th:** with Aaron Kauffman from Virginia Mennonite Missions. There will be combined Sunday school class and worship time input and a wrap-up session after the MYF fund raiser meal.
- **MCC Comforter Bash:** March 8th (9:30am-8pm) and 9th (9am-2pm) @ Fairlawn Mennonite. We will be assisting with set-up and tear-down, SMC to furnish saltine crackers, sugar & creamer and honey
- **Maple Syrup Festival April 20th:** Worked on our to-do checklist. Plans are under way.
- **MCC Work Night May 1st:** Began planning for the spring MCC kit work night.
- **People to People:** PTP spring food drive will be March 24th – April 28th.
- **Pregnancy Center:** PC baby bottle fund raiser Mother's day May 12th to Father's day June 16th.
- **Love INC:** We are will soon be meeting with the new Church Ministry Coordinator, Shannon Brown.
- **Oyanguren's letter acknowledged:**
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 1/31/2024 - \$13,156.09** -- My Coins Count - \$706., Young Adult Mission trips - \$470., Haiti Special Projects - \$7,198.62, Lighthouse - \$270., Bangladesh Water project -

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

\$250., **Unrestricted \$4,261.47.** Paid out this month: MCC Alternative Christmas-\$6,077.00

- ✦ Ken highlighted how well the VMM wknd went with Aaron Kaufmann. Felt that he challenged us well.
 - ✦ Ken encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Comforter Bash. Please participate !
 - ✦ Outreach Ministry has started to contact Maple Syrup Festival personnel.
 - ✦ Outreach hopes to have 30 per shift at the MCC work night scheduled for May 1 with a pizza supper in between.
 - ✦ P2P mentioned they could use a food drive during the Spring so Outreach is planning a drive between March 24 - Apr 28.
 - ✦ Ken highlighted the Oyanguren letter about recent projects and confirmed Outreach plans to do the baby bottle project again for the Pregnancy Care Center.
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Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Phil shared thoughts about God's timing and noted how in the gospel of Mark the word "immediately" was used 35+ times. The mystery of God's timing – always the right thing at the right time.
 - Touched base on the possible questions to include on a worship evaluation.
 - Worked through the worship leader and song leader rotation for the coming months.
 - Lent - Erin and Phil are planning to tag-team worship leading through Lent and the plan is to continue in the Narrative Lectionary for theme.
 - We plan to brainstorm a few summer preaching series at our next meeting.
 - ✦ Phil shared Worship Ministry met for Lent planning details and long term planning for a summer sermon series when we take a break from the Narrative Lectionary.
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Pastor Congregational Relations (PCR), Greg Steffen, Ministry Leader

- No meeting. January minutes included in January CLT Communicator.
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Action Items:

✦ **Columbarium update - Trent Metcalf added details about the Columbarium options the committee has looked at since the CLT presentation. A conversation about using a memorial wall instead of building an urn structure was discussed as a way to keep costs down. People would then have the option of burying an urn in a grass plot, pouring remains into that plot or spreading them elsewhere but still using the memorial wall as a marker. A possibility of a permanent simple structure for outdoor services was discussed. It was noted that any version of the project could be done in stages. Different streams for funding were discussed such as the Cemetery endowment fund, along with opening up for congregational support as well as the purchase of plots. Likely a design will be worked up with landscaping to present to the congregation at a future meeting for input.**

✦ **Upcoming ACA meetings - Pastoral Team encouraged folks to go and participate in ACA not just delegates.**

✦ **Chicken BBQ fundraiser for MYF - Chip discussed the financial needs for the remainder of the bill for the MYF trip to Costa Rica. Since the EdChoice program has cut our costs towards Central we made a motion to use Chicken BBQ funds for the trip instead of the CCS fund as a one year exception. Ken made the motion and everyone seconded. The church secretary / myf sponsor FEELS VERY BLESSED !!!!**

Next Meetings: March 18 & April 21, 2024

- ✦ Glenn closed in prayer