



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

March 17, 2025

Present: Glenn Nofziger, Trent Metcalf, Marlin Troyer, Michael Amstutz, Ken Neuenschwander, Hannah Amstutz, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Lisa Amstutz, Chip Coleman, Lisa Zuercher and Steve Zuercher

Opening: As it was St. Patrick's Day Trent shared about the context and background of Patrick. Citing proverbs 3:5-6 Trent included Patrick's shaky faith development and uncertain background that were then used to plant the church in Ireland as well as maintaining manuscripts that were indispensable to the development of the church. Thomas Cahill's book *How the Irish Saved Civilization* was the main source of the history. Trent then prayed the meeting in.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Lent has begun, two people asked for ashes. 😊
- Our Bible Quiz team finished the regular season in second place with Mattea being the top quizzier in the area. Sorry proud dad brag. All of our quizzers did well and enjoyed participating. We have lots of fun and have great sportsmanship amongst all the local teams, quizzers, coaches and staff. Really looking forward to the fun of Tournament.
- Chosen tickets sold out for Part 1. Saturday, March 29 at 1pm at Regal Massillon. I invited seven other churches. Six are sending people. I love collaborating with other pastors and churches and doing stuff together. Those tickets were just for Part 1 (episodes 1 and 2). I look forward to going with others to see Parts 2 and 3 (episodes 3-5 and 6-8) the next two weekends
- Elvis the IVEPer is preaching March 30 when I will be on vacation traveling Route 66 out west with my Father and brother-in-laws.
- We have a new table and a box for the Offering in the sanctuary. Dan Gault had a friend make the table and Jon Felitz made the box. Worship Ministry had discussed this at length.
- I am still busy working on Gifts Discernment work for Ohio Mennonite Conference. Ken N. also serves on that committee with me. I also meet monthly with the OMC Leadership Council.
- Tuesday is my day of Sabbath rest. In order for me to truly rest from church work I would appreciate it if everyone would reserve any correspondence with me on Tuesday's to emergencies only, like if someone is going to the hospital or crisis counseling. Any other day I am probably the most available pastor I know. If I am not in a meeting where I put my phone on "Do not disturb" I see most notifications and respond in as timely a fashion as possible. I love being available to my flock/church family. On Tuesdays, it will be as though I get up early in the morning and go out on the mountainside to escape the masses.
- ✚ Glenn prayed for movement with Marilyn today while he visited her on Monday
- ✚ Updated that the quiz team won the local tourney albeit without the 1st place team present. Still a great day!
- ✚ We discussed MCUSA delegates. Ken, Noah and Priscilla are considering going. The church secretary will double check whether we get 2 or 3 reps.

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

- PT met Monday, March 3. Glenn opened with some thoughts from his readings in Proverbs (Wisdom literature). One thing that stood out was times when we receive correction/instruction/rebuke/advice—these are hard to accept, but so valuable. Pr. 2:3-5 tells us to seek wisdom like hidden treasure. The Lord's reproof is a sign of His love. How do you seek wisdom? What are ways that are meaningful for you?

(Pastoral Team con't...)

- Glenn shared about upcoming services and Stations of the Cross as well as ideas for the summer sermon series.
- Several pastoral care needs were discussed.
- We continued to process the responses from Winter Wednesday discussions and our vision and mission statement, which is beginning to take shape.
- ✚ Michelle Steffen shared that Pastoral Team chewed over Winter Wednesday discussions and feel God is leading us in the visioning

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

- Talent Night is approaching as our final Winter Wednesday so we worked through plans for the evening.
- Two crystal clear Tupperware serving bowls were purchased for the kitchen. This provides four nice serving bowls for kitchen use, (not counting glass bowls) freeing up the large pink Tupperware bowls to be used as mixing, not serving, bowls.
- To ease the flow of carry-in meals, black trays were purchased designed to hold a plate, bowl, silverware and drinking glass. Hopefully they will arrive before the last Winter Wednesday meal.
- Storage cupboards for the south wall of the east fellowship room are still in the planning phase.
- To continue in remembering Anabaptism at 500, Adult Ministry would like to show the film “Luther”, the story of Martin Luther. Chronologically, this story is a precursor to the film “The Radicals” which was shown at the first Winter Wednesday. We envision this 2 ½ hour film to be divided up into two sessions; dates and times tbd.
- A carry in meal honoring single Senior Saints is tentatively scheduled for April 6.
- ✚ Lisa Zuercher shared the new black trays have arrived and will be used this week.
- ✚ Adult Ministries may move the Luther movie back a little from Winter Wednesday evenings with the Chosen events lined up.

Children’s Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Discussed that we need to paint the walls downstairs a neutral color as the paint is chipped and there are marks on the walls. We are asking MYF kids to help paint as a service night.
- Additionally, we have a VBS committee and they will meet in the next month to make more details.
- Rhoda is doing a children story every Sunday during Lent.
- ✚ The VBS committee is meeting Thursday, March 20 to look at dates for the summer. Barb Ressler, Lisa Zuercher, Laura Petite and Hannah Amstutz comprise the VBS committee.

Facilities Ministry–Marlin Troyer Ministry Leader

- Facilities met with Ron Taylor and Brandon King March 11 for a briefing on sound booth expansion. They submitted a drawing to us and a list of new sound equipment they would like. Meeting was attended by Ed Taylor, Roy Steiner, Todd Zeurcher and Marlin Troyer. We hope to share plan and list of sound equipment with the cost of sound equipment.
- ✚ Marlin brought schematics of a couple options for sound booth expansion. There is a wish list sound guys have compiled. The project proceeds there will be a shuffle of some pews to make new traffic aisles.

Gifts Discernment Ministry–Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- No Report; meeting planned for Wednesday the 19th.
 - ✚ Nothing added
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Outreach & Service Ministry–Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- March 2: Sayatan roof and land project – c/o Ken, April 6: MSF – c/o Dave Ross, May 4: MCC kit work night on May 14 - c/o?
- **Winter Warm-up/Comforter Bash:** SMC assisted in hauling supplies and equipment to Fairlawn, furnished 15 boxes of crackers. Approximately 15 Sonnenbergers helped with the bash. **341 comforters completed.**
- **Zuercher/Bolivia Trip:** Todd and Angela family reported their Bolivia trip went very well. Congregation support was wonderful at \$5,895 and the balance, \$904.56 from O&S Fund.
- **MCC Kit Work Night:** Will be on May 14. There will be two shifts, 4:30-6:00 and 6:30-8:00 with pizza between. Look for a sign-up sheet at the welcome center on April 27.
- **Oyanguren/Sayatan:** The courtyard roof and land purchase projects were presented on March 2nd. After the presentation we received a match challenge of \$6,000. We have received pledges and offerings of \$1,500. We are well on our way to raising approximately \$13,000 needed for the two projects.
- **Maple Syrup Missions Festival:** Will be April 26th. Plans are well underway. Sausage making and some work schedules at the festival will be changed this year so be looking for further announcements and sign-up sheets.
- **Really Recovered:** has changed its name to Freedom House Alliance. Their fundraiser banquet is March 14 at the Kidron Community Building and there will be testimonials from a number of the people who have found a new life through the program. Ron Geiser is working on some spring work projects SMC might do.
- **Open Arms Banquet:** March 27 at Kidron Community Building. We encourage everyone to support this ministry in these very troubling and scary times for our immigrant brothers and sisters. Rollin from Akron is coming
- **Lighthouse Banquet:** Thursday April 24th at Hartville Kitchen. This is a very good evening for information and inspiration as you learn about the Lighthouse's ministries. See Marilyn or Ken or go online to register.
- **Approved a special Camp Luz fund:** Funding for two special retreat days at Camp Luz for Latinos will flow through O&S account.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** Will be September 13th
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 2/28/2025 - \$13,667.33: Restricted - \$12,140.62: Unrestricted Bal. - \$1,526.71** Restrictions: Haiti special fund - \$10,598.62, Lighthouse - \$175, My Coins Count - \$767, MCC Ukraine - \$600, Distributions: \$6,799.56
- + Ken hopes for a good Sonnenberg showing at the Open Arms banquet, the Sayatan fundraising is off to a good start and the Lighthouse banquet needs folks to fill up tables.
- + In anticipation of the Maple Syrup for Missions Festival the plan is to use plates. Another issue is trying to bring more drive thru folks inside. Can we do that with door prizes or a raffle ? Traffic flow for 2nds and carry out are another wrinkle to decipher.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Glenn opened with devotions on Isaiah 40:31. How much do we wait upon the Lord and trust that he will provide when we're stretched thin?
- The new offering table is done and is in the sanctuary, as well as a wooden donation box, ready for use!
- Salem's choir, along with Erik, will be presenting music at Sonnenberg during the worship service on April 27. Rollin Mukanza from Akron Open Arms will also be preaching on this date.
- We spent considerable time looking over and updating worship resource documents that will be distributed to anyone involved in leading worship.
- We were given the task of deciding which pews should be shortened for wheelchair access. Decided to shorten both ends of the seventh pew of the west middle section so that there would be wheelchair access on

(Worship Ministry con't...)

either side of that pew.

- ✚ Phil shared that the new table and box for offering are now in use.
- ✚ Some worship resources will be shared with worship leaders this week.
- ✚ Phil also provided a link for anyone from Sonnenberg to compete in a NCAA bracket madness pool.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- YYA began talking about youth sponsors for 2025-26 and plans for an April mentoring event.
- YYA also discussed programming and events for young adults this spring and summer.
- ✚ Nothing added

Treasurer's Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are in the sixth month of the current fiscal year, 50% of budget. Budget giving is at 40.8% of budget and at 50.1% including budget reimbursement and school rental income. Expenses are at 54.4% of budget which leaves a current shortfall of \$10,666.09.
- CCS Tuition: The CCS Tuition balance continues to remain consistent. Our obligation for the 2024/2025 school 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 February 28 balance in the account is \$30,840.59.
- ✚ Nothing added

Action Items:

- ✚ Ellen and Scrip: She shared about wanting to hear from CLT about whether we should consider continuing the program even though Central dropped it. Ellen can continue as coordinator. There are a few families that enjoy that we continue doing it so they can participate. She purchases once a month. There are good reasons to continue but some obstacles to maintaining including extra work for the treasurer and manager of the account. There was discussion as to where we could use the earnings if we did not send it to Central each year.
- ✚ Roy Steiner came to share ideas for a memorial wall/columbarium option to hang plaques. He looked into using stainless steel for the material. There would be 1' x 1' plots coming out from the wall for spaces to bury or scatter ashes. This idea could be pretty flexible in terms of size. Roy's examples included room for 20 plaques per side. Trent also mentioned polished concrete 3x5x8" thick. You would fasten plaques on there and it wouldn't be too heavy to erect ourselves.
- ✚ Chip Coleman shared about MYF fundraising and the two trip options MYF is offering our youth this Summer. We tentatively set a date for Saturday, May 10th for the Chicken BBQ and plan to use it as a MYF fundraiser. The two trip options are a MDS site in Perry, FL from June 15 - 21 and ReGen, the convention of the Evana network which will take place on the campus of Malone University July 3 - 7.

Next Meetings: April 21 and May 19, 2025

- ✚ Glenn closed in prayer