



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

March 18, 2024

Present: Glenn Nofziger, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Ora Shetler, Lisa Amstutz, Lisa Zuercher, Ken Neuenschwander, Jeremy Patterson, Rhoda Holton, Phil Raber

Opening: Ken shared some reflections on Jesus' prayer for his disciples and for the church at the Last Supper. His prayer was to God, but it was important that this one was public. It was a prayer that they would become one, which sounds like a stretch in our culture today. What are the things that are dividing us? Ken led in prayer.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- This past month came and went and was about a blur. Preaching six out of seven weeks in a row takes up a lot of my weekly time and energy! This Lenten season has been especially meaningful preaching through Mark. I will be focusing more on Jesus' anointing than the triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and using the title Passion Sunday rather than Palm Sunday for the 24th, the Sunday before Easter. Everything is heading toward the cross and the resurrection!
 - Something I cherish and feel like I have done little this past month is visitation. There have been a few more hospital visits: illness and procedures as well as the birth of baby Kenna Raines!
 - Counseling sessions with two weddings being planned for this fall; Joanna Spiker to Josiah Sidle and Bethany Masters to Josh Landis!
 - My Serving Leader Cohort has been really good. Meets the third Thursday of each month.
 - Planning the summer sermon series on the Kingdom of God passages from our Kingdom Seeking sessions. Also planning a week of vacation for each of June, July and August.
 - ✚ Really appreciated Dan's sermon Sunday. He had a lot on his heart, and it felt prophetic and profound. The baby dedication felt really meaningful as well.
 - ✚ Had a conversation with Andrew Michaels about different stages of boards. Meetings often focus on reporting, but it was suggested that 75% of work should be looking forward, planning, dreaming. How could this look for CLT?
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Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- Pastoral Team met March 4, 2024. Lisa shared some thoughts from the book *Not Quite Fine*, which a group is studying together. Churches can provide care for those in pain, help people find meaning and purpose, help people recognize the value God finds in them, help people experience belonging, and help people find hope.
- We continued conversation about the potential for a second pastor and what that might look like.
- Glenn is taking part in the Serving Leaders Cohort with John Stahl-Wert one day per month, which has been beneficial so far.
- We discussed current needs in the congregation.
- Glenn shared about ACA. It was a sacred time, with a Jesus-centered focus. Many changes are happening, including a name change to Ohio Mennonite Conference.
- The banners related to the 2024 theme look great. Thank you to all those who have helped with that project.
- PCR shared a survey form with Glenn that he can use for sermon feedback.
- While our first priority is the ministry we share at Sonnenberg, PT continues to engage and discern the question of conference affiliation. We feel positive about the energy of ACA as well as the new name and Christ-centered focus of Ohio Mennonite Conference. Glenn is excited to step into a role on their

(Pastoral Team Report con't...)

Discernment Committee. We are also evaluating other Anabaptist groups, including Evana and LMC, and the opportunities and resources they offer. Each has its own set of strengths. We hope some from our congregation can experience Evana's ReGenal event this summer. We trust God's faithful guidance of Sonnenberg.

- + We continue to keep the issue of mental health in front of us as a group.
 - + We also continue to look at ways to resource and support leaders in the congregation.
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Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- Adult Ministry spent time reviewing and discussing the returned Marriage for Life surveys and future retreats.
 - We reviewed Winter Wednesdays and finalized plans for the last Winter Wednesday. Participation has been excellent and we've served supper to roughly 65-70 people each evening. The PineWood Derby is a huge draw; it was exciting for Salem Kidron to join Venture Clubs. We served 107 guests for supper. Many people contribute and help out in so many ways for the WW evenings - it's encouraging to be part of that kind of congregation.
 - We spent time looking ahead on the calendar to upcoming church-wide events and how AM can accompany what is already happening. A few standard AM events that will continue are the Mother's Day carnations and the summer carry-in breakfasts (June 16, July 21 & Aug 18). Late summer and fall events will be addressed at the next meeting.
 - Ongoing discussion includes finding a small group coordinator & support for the kitchen committee.
 - + Nothing added
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Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Discussed summer plans. What will summer Sunday school look like? We need confirmation from CLT when there will be summer Sunday school. We want to give our Sunday school teachers a break and will find 1 or 2 people to do an activity with the kids as 1 group for Sunday school.
 - Will confirm summer plans (carnival vs activity for our own kids) at the next meeting.
 - + Nothing added
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Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader

- We met for a work night to install a lobby recessed light. We were able to get the last of the new fixtures installed. We hope this provides good low-cost lighting for the lobby for many years.
 - We have made contact with a drywall finisher that will plan to do some ceiling repairs that have been water damaged over the past years.
 - + Carpet in the main part of the building will need to be replaced soon, so we should consider if any changes to the facility are coming down the pike.
 - + Will form an ad hoc committee to look at this; several names were suggested.
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Gifts Discernment Ministry—Ora Shetler, Ministry Leader

- Gathering the last few Gifts Discernment surveys and starting to work through those in the coming weeks.
 - + Nothing added
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Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Mar. 17 – Chloe Troyer Costa Rica mission trip with Asbury, Mar. 24 – Maple Syrup



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

Festival c/o Dave Ross and People to People food drive c/o Brandon King, April 14 – MCC Kit work night, May 12 – Pregnancy Center baby bottle fund drive c/o Bob Eshleman.

- **Bangladesh Drinking Water project and Israel/Palestine relief:** these accounts remain open for those who would like to contribute to these urgent needs.
 - **We are helping to promote several fundraisers and banquets:** Open Arms Stand-up Comedy show at Grace Church in Berlin April 26, MCC-MRC building banquet coming soon, Lighthouse banquet at Hartville Kitchen May 2nd. Watch for more information.
 - **Missions Sunday #2 - Feb.18th:** Review with Aaron Kauffman from Virginia Mennonite Missions. All three events had good participation and were well received. Great input from Aaron. Paid \$500 from O&S misc. expense budget line for travel expenses.
 - **MCC Comforter Bash:** March 8th & 9th @ Fairlawn Mennonite. Thanks to everyone that provided food and went and knotted. Thanks to Trent, Bob and Ken helping to transport materials and equipment on Thursday and Saturday. 311 comforters knotted, 291 completed, a new record.
 - **Maple Syrup Festival April 20th:** Continue to work on our to-do checklist. Plans are underway.
 - **MCC Work Night May 1st:** Began planning for the spring MCC kit work night. Making food assignments next month. Sign-up sheet on April 14th.
 - **People to People:** PTP spring food drive will be March 24th – April 28th.
 - **Pregnancy Center:** PC baby bottle fundraiser Mother's Day May 12th to Father's Day June 16th.
 - **Love INC:** Still trying to have a meeting with the new Church Ministry Coordinator, Shannon Brown.
 - **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 2/29/2024 - \$12,230.09 --** My Coins Count - \$799., Young Adult Mission trips - \$470., Haiti Special Projects - \$5,598.62, Lighthouse - \$270., Bangladesh Water project - \$250., VMM - \$500 --**Unrestricted \$4,342.47.** Paid out this month: Special Haiti Projects-\$2,400
- + Nothing added

Pastor Congregational Relations (PCR), Greg Steffen, Ministry Leader

- + Going forward PCR will submit a condensed version of their minutes for the CLT reports and Communicator
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Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Rachael opened our devotional time by playing the song Fishes & Loaves by Josiah Queen which reflected on the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5000 from the perspective of the boy who gave his lunch. We talked about how even when we feel like what we offer isn't much, in the hands of Jesus it can produce a miracle.
 - Through continued conversation about ways to gain worship feedback, we landed on the idea of creating some open-ended questions and offering to whomever feels led to offer their thoughts.
 - We spent considerable time talking through some plans for Maundy Thursday and Easter morning. We are planning to offer an Easter Sunrise Walk at 7am followed by a carry-in breakfast at 8am. Multiple walking distances will be led – ½ mile, 1.5 mile, and 4 miles.
 - Talked about summer preaching series and are leaning towards preaching through the "The Kingdom of God is like..." passages.
 - Went over terms for WMT. We added a 4th member this year, and adjusted the terms to 2 years instead of 3.
- + The pros and cons of outdoor summer services were discussed, along with ways to improve the singing and tech end of these services.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Priscilla Spiker, Ministry Leader

YYA

- nothing to report

MYF

- Jeremy will cover MYF SS on 3/17 and 3/25. Michelle Steffen will cover 3/31 during the first part of Chip's Spring Sabbatical.
- Have been brainstorming potential Myf events/activities. We are trying to try new approaches to group planning.
- Had a good night of worship Wednesday March 13. Planning Faith journals, egg filling and a work night at Dan Gault's for upcoming MYF nights.
- Plan is to finalize members for Costa Rica by the end of March and purchase plane tickets.

Mentors

- Planning a mentor event for April
 - ✚ Chip has been working on numbers for the Costa Rica trip. Feeling good about the trip and fundraising so far.
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Treasurer's Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are through the sixth month of the fiscal year, 50%. Budget giving is at 47.2% of budget and at 52.7% including school income. Expenses are at 51.2% of budget. Most spending is in line with budgeted amounts. Bank fees have increased this year because of the higher fees we pay for donors using their credit cards with Easy Tithe. Advertising and web expenses are higher after paying for finishing the revised website.
 - 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 February 29th balance is \$28,480.52. We have four more months left in this school year and with continued steady giving we should have a substantial balance to start the next year.
 - ✚ Everything is in good shape right now.
 - ✚ Reviewed endowment funds and other available funds.
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Action Items:

- ✚ Chicken BBQ date - Sat May 11 may be a possibility.
- ✚ Church cards preview - Discussion will continue on the design.
- ✚ Columbarium project - A meeting with a landscaper was held but nothing to report yet

Next Meetings: April 15 & May 20, 2024

- ✚ We closed in prayer