



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

April 15, 2024

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

Opening: Trent shared from Ecclesiastes 3:20 - All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. In Matthew Jesus' genealogy lists the good and the bad, Jew and the Gentile, the illustrious and the unknown. So why is it here and written as such? Is it to teach us a valuable lesson? Are we to see him as a blending of people, some with various handicaps? A murderer, another a con man and an adulterer. And so does God's Son who had no handicap come to give help to those who do? He does this by extending to us grace and forgiveness.

Now, back to that scripture from Ecclesiastes. And back to February 14, Ash Wednesday, when we could have a cross drawn on our faces with ash or dust. Dust has been described as an imperfect building material, and in it of itself it is quite messy, just like life itself can become messy. Jesus didn't try to hide his, it was all out there for all to read. He didn't see it as a handicap. We can't choose our parents but as Bob Mortimer said at the men's breakfast, we can choose our handicaps or allow them to interfere with our relationship with God and his people. Instead of hiding our dust, we can say "Hey, I'm dusty, but I know Jesus loves me and He can make me clean again."

Trent then prayed us in.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- This last month we wrapped up Lent and finished preaching through the gospel of Mark at Easter! Lent and Passion Week focused on suffering. This Easter season is a focus on the Holy Spirit power in Jesus' name and prayer as we look forward to celebrating Pentecost!
- I invited anyone sensing called to pray and listen and wait on God's guidance for us as a church. Meeting Sunday mornings 8:15-8:30 in the library until we establish a prayer room!
- Met with the Pastor Congregation Relations (PCR) team and discussed some of my family's increased health coverage costs with our increased premiums and some extra large bills from Erin's cardiac episode and some expensive hospital bills we are needing to pay out of pocket.
Also the PCR supplied me with a Sermon Evaluation form that I have begun handing out to people to fill out for me to receive feedback on sermons.
- As pastors we are trained to articulate that we are not (Licensed Professional) Counselors. But I continue to have a deep sense of pastoral purpose as people come and ask to meet with me for various reasons. I love being available if anyone needs to talk or prayer.
- As the Chair of Gifts Discernment committee for Ohio Mennonite Conference (OMC) it puts me on the OMC Leadership Team. I am enjoying my interaction with other conference leaders. We have a retreat coming up April 24-25.
- After discerning with the Pastoral Team I agreed to serve on the search team for the new Love INC Director for Wayne County. Pray we find who God has in store for that position in good time.
- ✚ Glenn continues to brainstorm about a setting for a Prayer room.. For now a group will meet in the library. Glenn talked about the school giving us a timeline and looking at all the possibilities for using church space. Discussion included how to utilize the West room off the stage for new things and that the conference room could eventually get an updated look.
- ✚ Glenn reflected on David in scripture choosing not to use his power to hurt those who were against him. David vacated power and yielded to opponents showing a powerful reliance on God.

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

- Pastoral Team met Monday, April 1. Michelle shared some reflections from her trip to Italy and from I Am a Tree by Joy Clarkson. A commonly used metaphor today is that of humans as a computer/machine. Our language reflects this. We expect a machine to behave the same way every day, and need the same things. It is expendable when it breaks. When applied to humans, this metaphor is incomplete and unforgiving.
 - Glenn shared that he had his last Central Christian nominating committee meeting and his first Ohio Mennonite Conference Leadership Team meeting. He is joining the team as they're trying to figure out how to be vibrant and viable. It feels like a good place to be. Glenn shared a bit about his summer schedule as well.
 - We discussed which budget the faith chest expenses should come out of. Could Children's Ministry cover this? A big thank you to Mike Lehman and John Feilitz for donating their labor and workshop space.
 - We reviewed the summer Scripture schedule and banners as well as the Maundy Thursday and Easter services.
 - Reflecting on the book Practicing the Way, what could a comprehensive spiritual formation program look like for our church, from birth through adulthood?
 - Discernment re. various affiliations continue - what resources are available and what can we learn from each one?
 - ✚ Michelle talked about PT reflecting on our mission statement and revisiting that to see if it's still helpful.
 - ✚ PT has been discussing grappling groups potentially meeting on Wednesdays whether for a book study or Bible study. The desire is not to compete with another Sunday School class and would be seen as a continuation of Winter Wednesday. An announcement will be made soon in church to gauge interest.
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Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- Thank you notes were sent out for those helping with our Winter Wednesday evenings.
 - We looked ahead to summer and fall events like summer breakfasts, the bike/walk/picnic in July, fall fest in September and October small gatherings. Tentative dates were considered.
 - Ongoing conversation includes a Sunday School class for young couples (pending the departure of the school based on available classroom space) and the future of the coffee bar location. Interest in hosting meals for our single Senior Saints on a quarterly basis was discussed.
 - ✚ Adult ministry mentioned that they plan to collaborate with Children's ministry for events.
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Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- We are planning to have Sunday school for the children this summer and would like to give our regular teachers a break, so we will be looking for summer Sunday school teachers.
 - We are preparing our children's ministry pictures for the Maple Syrup festival and need to get information in the bulletin this week- will have a sign up sheet in the foyer this Sunday for the bake sale.
 - Planning to do a whole church end of summer event (rather than carnival) - want to collaborate with adult ministries and potentially have this event off campus (Kidron park possibly). Children's ministry would plan activities for the kids at the summer event
 - ✚ We discussed the use of the Sunday School space downstairs for children while Heritage is still here and for when they have left. One consideration for classes in the fall is that SS teachers have control over one wall for Sunday mornings in classrooms used by Heritage school.
 - ✚ Looking at a one day family outing in lieu of Vacation Bible School this Summer.
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Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader

- We met on April 11th to discuss the possibility of finding a better location for the coffee bar and lobby fellowship area. One option would be to share part of the library by condensing the shelving and add tables to facilitate an additional fellowship area which would spill out into the lobby with a wider opening. The



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expanded area would also make additional space for lobby breakfast times and ease congestion. We also talked about the option of expanding into the closet or audio/visual storage area and a possible outside terrace area to use during warm weather. We would like to see a small exploration committee formed to work on this.

- We discussed finding an area for a small prayer room that Glenn has had a vision for. If we would use an area that requires a stairway, would some less mobile members be limited. Can it be a room shared with a Sunday school class?
- Heritage School has asked to use our facilities this fall until December when their new building should be ready. We are willing to allow them to use it as long as it can be worked out with our needs for space. Children's ministry will need to assess their needs for the areas.
- Trent updated us on progress for the cemetery columbarium. Possible plans are in the works and should be available soon.
- Michael Amstutz is working on getting a back wall projector setup that would project an image on the back sanctuary wall. The wall will be available for people presenting on the front stage area. We will need to run wiring and move the current receptacle to accommodate this project. We may also need to add bracing for mounting.
- + Talked about how to use the entrance to the library to make it more accessible but also stay up to code on any changes that would make it more convenient.
- + Money for the projector along the South wall of the Sanctuary has been donated.

Gifts Discernment Ministry—Ora Shetler, Ministry Leader

- Gifts is in the process of contacting people who were nominated for the various open positions.
- + Ora updated CLT where Gifts Ministry is with filling roles, some have said yes, some are still considering and Others have said no so they are going back through some candidates for another round of discernment.
- + Gifts Discernment plans to provide information to each ministry about who is interested in what roles for various ministry appointments.

Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – April 14 – MCC Kit work night & MCC-MRC building – Eric Kurtz, MCC Great Lakes, PTP Food Drive -Brandon 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 April 12 (ticket required), Lighthouse banquet at Hartville Kitchen May 2nd (online reservation or see Marilyn or Ken).
- **Maple Syrup Festival April 20th:** Plans are coming together. There will be around 20 missions on display. A couple major changes this year are Kathy Troyer is in charge of volunteer assignments and Michele and Jeremy are mixing the pancake batter. We will have dine-in and drive-thru options again. Sign-up sheets are out for Thursday evening sausage patty making and set up, Saturday festival.
- **MCC Work Night May 1st:** We will assemble kits at MCC Connections. We will have two shifts, 1st shift 4:30-6:00, pizza party 6:00-6:30 and 2nd shift 6:30-8:00. We made food assignments. 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.

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

- **Love INC:** Laura Hofstetter is resigning as Executive Director. The Search for her replacement is underway.
- **Ohio MCC Relief Sale July 12 & 13:** Ken attended the Kick-off meeting.
- **Chloe Troyer Porta Rico missions trip:** Chloe will be going with her soccer team from Asbury, to date \$1,575 of the \$1,700 she needs has come in.
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 3/31/2024 - \$14,698.59** -- My Coins Count - \$905, Young Adult Mission trips - \$2,045, Haiti Special Projects - \$5,598.62, Lighthouse - \$270, Bangladesh Water project - \$250, EMM, Austin & Griselda - \$500 -- **Unrestricted \$5,129.97.**
- + Ken highlighted Lighthouse and Open Arms events upcoming and the work night on May 1 at Connections. He said there is still a lot to do to get ready for the Maple Syrup Festival this week.

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

- Nothing to report this month.
- + no rep present

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- Erin opened with reflections from her Lent devotional, highlighting how our individual salvation is not the end of God's work. Our personal salvation should lead us to desiring salvation for others - Love & Humility.
- Finished up organizing some details for Easter morning sunrise walk and breakfast.
- Glenn has the summer sermon series information all put together which outlines the scriptures to be used each Sunday as well as the schedule for the banners to be introduced.
- We are ready to make the Worship Feedback Questions available to whomever is interested in giving some time and thought towards it. Questionnaires will be available at the Welcome Center.
- + Worship ministry will make an announcement about sermon feedback and forms for that will be provided on the welcome center for those who want to respond. Worship ministry in general encourages feedback about everyone's Sunday experience.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry--Priscilla Spiker, Ministry Leader

YYA

- Working on a combined outing in June for young adults as well as mentor pairs.

MYF

- Filled over 1800 eggs for the Kidron Council sponsored Kidron Easter Egg hunt on April 13
- Hoping to have a work night at Dan Gault's on the 17th
- Will continue with our Faith Journals on the theme of trees in the Bible: April will highlight Moses

Mentors

- Nothing to report this month.
- + Priscilla mentioned potential ideas for mentor events are a baseball game in June and Beuns hosting the group in August. There was a suggestion for after summer that semi regular events be scheduled at Lincway cafe.

Treasurer's Report--Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are through the seventh month of the fiscal year, 58.33%. Budget giving is at 54.6% of budget and at 60.6% including school income. Expenses are at 58.2% of budget. Most spending is in line with budgeted amounts. Adult income for activities has come close to matching expenses for some of the events and put the budget expenses below 30%
- 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 March 31st balance is \$28,196.86. We have three more months left in this school year and with continued steady giving I'm hoping



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(Treasurer Report con't...)

we will keep the balance over \$20,000.00 to start the next school year.

✦ Ed says boring is good as the money side of church life is humming along nicely.

Action Items:

✦ **Chicken BBQ date** - With a busy May calendar Ken is checking to see if May 11 suits to have the meal.

✦ **Columbarium project** - CLT looked over a couple versions from Raber Landscaping that includes a open sided permanent structure for an outdoor service or not. Either way there is a wall for memorial plaques. Discussion continued about how nice or simple to make the pavilion if utilized. Trent will get price comparisons for next month's meeting.

✦ **Coffee bar** - CLT briefly discussed this project. It was noted that the improvement of this space during church breakfasts through the year would greatly enhance church fellowship.

Next Meetings: May 20 & June 17, 2024

✦ We closed with the praise that Gabriel Raber is officially considered in remission.