



# CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

May 20, 2024

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

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**Opening:** Trent shared with Ecclesiastes 3:1 as his starting point speaking about the abundance of Spring this year. Beauty resides and Trent doesn't feel guilty for enjoying it. He referenced Philip Yancey's book "Where the Light Fell" which asks the question - Why would anyone anticipate a better life without hints here of what is to come. Trent also spoke about pre conversion Augustin who enjoyed things as they were almost a lifetime with his back facing the sun. That is in contrast to Yancey who was raised in an evangelical church where joy was almost frowned upon. Go enjoy the beauty!

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## **Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II**

- We are wrapping up May and Year Two of the Narrative Lectionary of our journey through the gospel of Mark, Corinthians and Acts with our celebration of Pentecost with communion on the 26th. This Summer will be focusing on the Kingdom of God passages and what it means to seek first God's Kingdom.
  - I had my final premarital sessions with both couples I am working with and look forward to the weddings of Joanna and Josiah as well as Bethany and Josh!
  - The prayer times Sunday's morning are going well. I want to thank everyone who is committing to this time of prayer.
  - Grappling Groups are narrowing the books/topics and will begin soon. Anyone with interest to gather together on Wednesday evenings to study and grow please sign up at the welcome center or contact me or someone on Pastoral Team.
  - I attended the Serving Leader cohort training out in Lancaster, PA on Wednesday, May 15 and it was powerful and humbling. It was the fifth of six monthly all-day leadership trainings I am taking in. The cohort is usually in Walnut Creek.
  - I spent the day at Central Christian School on Thursday, May 16 to be on campus for grief support after the passing of Tina Burkhart, the school Finance Director. Tina worked in the offices close to Nate Holton and Priscilla Spiker and the other staff. Tina was loved by all and it was good to be present that day and witness the grief and care extended to one another. It was encouraging to see the outpouring of love and care shared between students, faculty, staff and community. Please keep Nate and the rest of the school in your prayers especially here at the end of the school year.
  - ✚ Love INC search team has found an interim so Glenn has one more thing off his plate going into Summer.
  - ✚ Gifts is discerning whether there are roles where one would need to be a member more than a regular attender. Glenn is looking forward to grappling groups, communion etc.
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## **Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary**

- Pastoral Team met Monday, May 6. Phil brought in an antique yoke as a visual. Our souls are made for the easy yoke that Jesus offers (Matt. 11). When Jesus invites us to take up his yoke, he is inviting us to learn from him. To take up the yoke of Jesus is to be united with his power. When times are hard, we sometimes either hang onto things tightly or let them go altogether. Instead, we can hold them lightly - not trying to be in control but entrusting the situation to God.
- We discussed a few pastoral care items. It was suggested that we set up prayer partners for those going on the Costa Rica trip.

(Pastoral Team Report con't...)

- PT continues to work at planning Wednesday evening grappling groups. These groups will choose a book or topic to discuss together.
  - PT also spent some time thinking about how we can be more intentional about faith formation for all ages. We would like to foster a more comprehensive vision of ministry—mission/vision, continuity of ministry, and how our space can be used most effectively.
  - ✦ Pastoral Team is pushing toward a clarifying direction, a vision statement to rally around. Is the congregation and all the ministries pushing in the same direction? Use of space, meeting agendas, fundraisers are all examples of ways to measure this. This will be looked at over the Summer and in the Fall with possible congregational meetings to speak into the process.
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#### **Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders**

- A few years ago, along with a member of the kitchen committee and O&S, we created a “wish list” for kitchen supplies. Some items on the list have been purchased, so the list was reviewed for relevance. Brainstorming continues on how to maximize the storage capacity in the hall closet used for kitchen supplies. We also spent time envisioning ways to remedy the chaos in the corner of the SE fellowship hall.
  - Carnations will be given to each female at church on Sunday, May 12 - Mother’s Day.
  - Summer breakfast carry in dates were confirmed with the church secretary: June 16 (Father’s Day), July 21 and August 18.
  - Summer biking and picnic are tentatively scheduled for July 28. Late summer/early fall activity dates are pending the scheduling of the Fish Fry. Since the fundraiser meals involve the whole congregation, Adult Ministry wants to collaborate with, not compete for, congregational energy.
  - ✦ CLT affirmed Adult ministries desire to collaborate on planning.
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#### **Children’s Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate**

- We are confirming Sunday school teachers for summer- we have purchased a curriculum to use.
  - No nursery for the summer months.
  - Plan to meet with adult ministries and possibly youth/young adult ministries this month to set a date and location for an end of summer event.
  - We have purchased new items for the creative corner that is more quiet play and we will send an email to parents that children need to be monitored in the creative corner to limit the noise.
  - ✦ Children’s Ministry is looking at Summer Sunday School planning. They have bought more things for the Creative Corner. Kelly Raines noted usage is way down since the email communications about expectations..
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#### **Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader**

- Nothing to report
  - ✦ Facilities was glad people came to clean on Saturday May 18. Not a huge turnout but felt they got enough done.
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#### **Gifts Discernment Ministry—Ora Shetler, Ministry Leader**

- Gifts is in the process of contacting people who were nominated for the various open positions. Met Monday, May 20.
  - ✦ Ora passed out names for folks who have replied with interest for ministry appointments to various leaders.
  - ✦ Gifts is waiting for replies on openings for Pastoral Team, Children’s Ministry & Outreach & Service yet.
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#### **Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader**

- **Moment for Mission** – May 12 – Pregnancy Center baby bottle fund drive c/o Bob Eshleman, June 2: Love



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

INC – c/o Laura Hofstetter, July 7: Relief Sale

- **Bangladesh Drinking Water project and Israel/Palestine relief:** these accounts remain open for those who would like to contribute to these urgent needs.
- **We reviewed events we've been promoting:** Open Arms Stand-up Comedy show, MCC-MRC building banquet and groundbreaking, Lighthouse banquet. All have been good events and well represented by SMC.
- **Hope House:** Hope House is a closet for foster families to get supplies when children are placed in their homes. Hope House is in the Bixler House at Sonnenberg Village. Julia Kerby, who lives right across the road from the village and is the director. We will set up a MFM.
- **Raw Tools Event** with Shane Claiborne, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00-7:00 at Nimisilla Park in Canton. They asked if SMC would give \$200 and later asked if instead, we would do a hotdog roast for around 200 people. We decided to do the hotdog roast and invite Sonnenbergers to help as well as attend.
- **Maple Syrup Festival April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Review – We noted several ideas and changes to consider for next year. There is still sausage to sell. Served approximately 200 in the drive-thru and 545 dine-in total 745. Revenue to date \$22,509 new record. Thank you to everyone! A VERY GOOD MORNING!
- **MCC Work Night May 1<sup>st</sup>:** Review: 26 people 1<sup>st</sup> shift, 37 people 2<sup>nd</sup> shift, checked, repacked and boxes for shipping 1342 school kits. Good work, thanks everyone!
- **People to People:** PTP spring food drive will be March 24<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>. Branden delivered a van load of food which they very much appreciated. There was also \$300 given. Thank you SMC!
- **Pregnancy Center:** PC baby bottle fundraiser Mother's Day May 12<sup>th</sup> to Father's Day June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Love INC:** Glenn stopped in and reported the Love INC board is about to approve hiring a new Connection Center Coordinator and an interim Executive Director. Some opportunities presented recently: A lady needs help to pack up to move due to an eviction. A family needs someone to mow their lawn this summer. And a couple families need twin size beds, mattress and waterproof pads.
- **Canton Abbey, JR Rozko:** Left information cards after MSF. They appreciated the opportunity to be at the MSF.
- **Ohio MCC Relief Sale July 12 & 13**
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 4/30/2024 - \$33,676.14** -- My Coins Count - \$998.50, Young Adult Mission trips - \$1,045, Haiti Special Projects - \$5,598.62, Lighthouse - \$270., Bangladesh Water project - \$250., EMM Austin & Griselda - \$500, People to People-\$300 --**Unrestricted \$24,714.02**
- **Distributions:** \$500 to CAMO, Semilla, SIM Bangladesh - \$1,000 to Bridge of Hope, Haiti Community School, Love INC, MDS, Canton Abby - \$2,000 to EMM (Austin Zuercher & Giselda Amaya), Camp Luz, Jubilee Childrens Home (Linda Horn), MCC Kits - \$3,000 to Lighthouse, MMN (Oyanguren Chaco projects), Open Arms – Total \$23,500.
- ✦ Ken highlighted that Shane Claiborne is coming to Ohio in July, the amount of sausage left over, at how well the Maple Syrup Festival went and a Love INC project Sonnenberg Mennonite Women are involved in. Outreach is pleased with how much they were able to distribute to various ministries from the Maple Syrup funds.

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

- PCR met on May 7th with Erin Nofziger to hear how things are going with the pastor's spouse and family. Erin shared openly and honestly. Good dialogue occurred.
- We discussed ongoing work on the sermon response form.
- A few details on insurance coverage are being examined.
- Additional help with the covenant of understanding is in process.
- ✦ Nothing further added

### **Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader**

- Glenn led devotions by reading the first part of the book “A Tale of Three Kings” which is a story based on Saul, David & Absalom and leads through a study of brokenness.
  - We reflected on Passion week and Easter and felt like all the different elements to commemorate the week were well received and enjoyed.
  - Reviewed our worship schedule and preaching schedule.
  - We spent time in discussion regarding the children’s creativity corner in the sanctuary. Through feedback we have received, we decided to brainstorm some ways to help the corner achieve its intended purpose.
  - We reviewed the first couple Worship Feedback forms we received. (4/22/24 meeting)
  - For devotions, we are continuing with A Tale of Three Kings - a study in brokenness.
  - We talked through some logistics of outdoor summer services. Many would like to see the coffee bar continue through the summer. We wondered if perhaps a different group would like to take charge of it for a while? Is one speaker enough for all to hear outside? Especially if we try to sit in more of a semicircle.
  - Touched back on the children’s creative corner – have mostly received positive feedback since making a few adjustments and clarifying expectations.
  - We would like to see if we get another round of t-shirts ordered in another color. Perhaps a smaller order this time. Michele will contact Shoemaker.
  - Next meeting we plan to discuss more of the worship feedback forms – we have received 6-7 so far. (5/13/24 meeting)
  - + Plans are for the coffee bar to stay open over the summer. Joyce will coordinate for the summer. Worship Ministry is looking at June and July outdoor services and how we can sit to maximize sound quality yet use canopies maybe to keep some out of the heat.
  - + There may be a new church t-shirt order with a new color but the same logo.
  - + Worship Response Forms with feedback are welcome.
  - + Phil updated Google search items for church with new pics etc.
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### **Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Priscilla Spiker, Ministry Leader**

#### **YYA**

- Combined YYA and Mentor Event - Sunday, June 23rd at the RubberDucks.

#### **MYF**

- Finished up our last fundraiser for the Vidanet Costa Rica trip. Planning final details for prep before we go including prayer partners and group bonding exercises. Continued our faith journals exploring the theme of trees in the Biblical narrative through the story of Moses this month. Plan to symbolically say goodbye to 3 seniors during our May 29th meeting.

#### **Mentors**

- see YYA note above
  - + Beuns are happy to host a fall mentor gathering again.
  - + Myf will go ahead with a challenge for El Nido as part of preparation for Costa Rica for Myf.
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### **Treasurer’s Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer**

- Budget: We are through eight months of the fiscal year, 66.67%. Budget giving is at 65.5% of budget and at 72% including school income. Expenses are at 65.6% of budget, 58.8% if other income is included. Most spending is in line with ministries total budgets.
- 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 April 30th balance is \$31,922.20. We have two more monthly payments left in this school year and will be able to start the next year’s balance off with a healthy amount even without the chicken BBQ fundraiser.
- + Ed is happy with Central fund status. Finances are straightforward and on track.



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## **Action Items:**

✚ Columbarium project - Trent shared a project quote from Onyx Landscapers. They could start in August if we were ready to commit. Onyx would prefer the committal building with a pad be installed before he started. CLT discussed a structure similar to the pavilion South of the church. CLT discussed getting the same contractor again. Before the meeting was dismissed we walked across the street to walk in the space where a shelter and columbarium walls are to be placed. CLT dreamed about how many ways the space could be used besides celebrations of life. There is a lot of excitement for that space.

## **Next Meetings:** June 17 & July 15, 2024

✚ We closed with a prayer from Glenn outside.