



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

August 19, 2024

Present: Steve Zuercher, Ken Neuenschwander, Phil Raber, Glenn Nofziger, Chip Coleman, Trent Metcalf, Michelle Steffen, Ora Shetler, Lisa Zuercher, Rhoda Holton

Not Present - Ed Taylor, Jeremy Patterson, Lisa Amstutz, Priscilla Spiker

Opening: Trent shared from 2 Corinthians 13:5 about Paul's frustrations with that community and his request that they test themselves. Trent used the reference of Atul Gawande's book "Checklist" to make the point that we need checklists and tests to help keep preventable accidents from happening or happening again. One reference involved the flight of the Flying Fortress plane that crashed soon after liftoff at the Wright Patterson Air Force base in 1935. Up till then there was no universal pre-flight checklist. Atul was a surgeon and sent by WHO to observe surgery wards at hospitals. The simple implementation of checklists as a result of his survey's findings have resulted in massive improvement of death and injury rates. Trent summed this up by asking what a Christian checklist would look like? Would it be the 10 commandments, the Sermon on the Mount? What can help us to prevent unnecessary crashes and injury?

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- I really appreciated being able to go to Costa Rica and help the MYF experience Vida Missions. It meant so much to take part in all the different aspects of such a life changing and formative time for everyone who went. Thank you thank you to everyone who helped support, encourage and especially pray for the group and our time down there. The prayer partners were such a significant part of how each day went. And it could be nothing shy of answered prayer that our flights allowed us to return home on the day when 20,000 flights were canceled due to that glitch!
 - I have also really appreciated my weeks of vacation, specifically a week at the beach in North Carolina with Erin's family. And a week up at Little Eden Camp in Michigan with my Nofziger family. Wonderful time away with family. It feels refreshing and gives me renewed vigor to continue the work God is calling me to for the church!
 - Grappling groups are going well. We will finish the book discussion on Practicing the Way here in August.
 - Keep praying for anyone the Holy Spirit prompts you to pray for. And act as the Spirit nudges and directs! Prayer is powerful and we sometimes take it for granted. There are many needs all around us. Be mindful, watch and pray!
 - Pray for two weddings coming up: Bethany and Josh August 31 and Joanna and Josiah Sept 7!
 - Looking forward to the new church year starting in September and can't wait to see what all God will bring our way.
 - It's the last year for the school to use our basement and I am looking forward to our children's Sunday school classes to be able to use that space again.
 - It's amazing that this month will conclude my second year at Sonnenberg. God is good. I have much to learn and I am humbled and grateful. There is so much to be thankful for. May we keep growing together. September will mark the beginning of my tenth year of ministry.
 - ✚ Glenn mentioned Bob Mortimer coming in September and Andrew Michaels in October as visiting speakers in the coming months.
 - ✚ The Nofzigers are discussing the possibility of going on the trip to Argentina to visit the Oyangurens in the Chaco. Ideally Erin would go as well.
 - ✚ We chatted about the possibility of a combination lock on the kitchen door for after hours.
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Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- Michelle led devotions from Mathew 7:7 and the concept of seeking and then read an article that reflected on good questions to ask including 5 whys, what ifs, and how. As we think about our mission, these may be good questions to help us dig deeper.
 - Upcoming new members, community and pastoral needs were discussed.
 - We discussed the location of Pastoral Team retreat for October 11-12, 2024.
 - We reflected on Michelle's experience with the ReGenal event and looked at other up-coming events for Ohio Conference and Evana. Ohio Conference ACA will be March 7-8 at Berlin, Mennonite and will be a celebration of the 500 year Anabaptist history. MennoCon and ReGen will also take place this next summer.
 - PCR also had a few items for us to review regarding contract wording.
 - ✦ Pastoral Team are looking at annual events from various ministry resource groups as well as resources for VBS or Sunday School.
 - ✦ Mennocon will be in Greensboro, NC summer of 2025 and Regen at Malone University.
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Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- Time was spent talking about the history, role and responsibilities of Adult Ministry with our new ministry member, Rhoda Sommer, who joined us a month early.
 - We finalized plans and responsibilities for the last summer breakfast carry in.
 - The date for the Fall Fest was confirmed with Lloyd and Jane for Sunday, Sept 29, time tbd. Adult Ministry will provide drinks and hot dogs; finger foods to share will be provided by those attending.
 - Sunday School classes are making study decisions for the fall quarter.
 - The budget for Adult Ministry will remain at \$4500.
 - A carry in is likely for October, pending decisions regarding the business meeting.
 - ✦ Adults Ministry are looking at Fall dates for a carry in. MYF will provide Sunday lunch on Sunday Oct 20 before the annual business meeting.
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Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- Discussed how we will split up Sunday School classes and determined which classrooms we would like to use this coming year. Need to ask several more people to finalize Sunday School teachers.
 - Started to look at the Budget and Annual Report, but will need to finalize at a later date.
 - The Back to School Party date had to be moved because Venture Club had an event planned on the same day. We will now have the party during the Sunday school hour on September 1st with games, craft and light breakfast.
 - ✦ Children's Ministry is looking for one more Sunday School teacher and Rhoda Holton will teach the other class. The two groups are 1-3 grade and 4-7 grade.
 - ✦ September 1 we will present new Bibles to first graders.
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Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader

- We recently mounted a video projector on the back sanctuary wall to allow people on the stage to see what is projected behind them. The electric receptacle was moved and network cables were run from the sound booth and office.
- The two classrooms north of the offices and conference room have been painted. The conference room walls and many nail holes and was original to the building. The other classrooms had nail holes and multi-colored paint on the walls.
- Most of the fellowship hall carpet was cleaned. Some of the basement room carpets are worn and stained and will need to be replaced after Heritage school moves out. The fellowship hall carpets are in fairly good condition but have some mild stains that don't come completely out.
- Heritage school is in the process of building their own building and is still planning to move into it over Christmas



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(Facilities Ministry Report con't...)

break. We are anticipating that it may not be completed at that time and they may need to use our facilities longer.

Children's ministry is planning to share two of the basement rooms with the school.

+ Nothing added

Gifts Discernment Ministry—Ora Shetler, Ministry Leader

- Gifts ballots were passed out at the Aug 11 Worship service. Additional ballots for those absent are available on the Welcome Center. All ballots are due August 25. So far they are unanimous in their approval of candidates.
 - + Ora gave sending words to CLT members thanking them for being willing to serve as he finishes his term as Gifts Ministry chair.
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Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- **Moment for Mission** – Aug. 4: Hope's House c/o Julia Kerby, Aug. 18: VIDANET 220, Aug. 25: MCF c/o Brandon
- **Hope's House:** Hope's 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. Julia will do the MFM on Aug. 4th. We will put additional information in the Sojourn for anyone who would like to help this ministry.
- **Raw Tools Event** with Shane Claiborne, July 21st from 3:00-7:00 at Nimisilla Park in Canton review. Great event brought many different groups of people with a very wide range of social agendas together with a common interest and goal, drawing attention to and reducing gun violence. Between two and three hundred people attended and we served over 200 hotdogs.
- **Ohio MCC Relief Sale July 12 & 13:** Review: Good sale. Good Sonnenberg participation. Sale totals should be available after August 19th.
- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** Date is Sept. 21st. Planning is under way and some assignments have been made. Advertising is under way and sign-up sheets will be out September 1st. We will not have mission displays in the lobby, but we will have information flyers to give to every vehicle as they arrive. Please get the word out and be ready to help make this a community missions event.
- **Oyanguren's:**
 - A. Projects: They have been driving their car since it was repaired, and they think it is OK and will likely keep it. So, they would like our feedback on two projects:
 - i. Building a roof over the courtyard at Sayaten
 - ii. The kitchen in their house is in need of repairs and upgrade including the burners not work right and counter tops need replaced . We don't have costs on either project.
 - B. Argentina Trip: Linda Shelly is planning a trip to visit the Oyanguren's at the end of October – early November. Linda and the Oyanguren's would really love to have some SMCers go along. I made an announcement Sunday July 28th, anyone interested should see me. Several individuals have expressed interest in going. Since Pike Mennonite Church is no longer supporting the Oyanguren's, Souderton Mennonite Church has decided to support them and are also interested in sending some people for this visit. I will be on a Zoom meeting with them and Linda on September 13 to discuss the objectives and benefits. Hopefully we are beginning to lay out some plans.

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

- **2024-2025 Budget:** Basically, our budget has not changed for many years. Costs of operating have increased for the organizations we support as they have for everyone. So, we feel a modest increase in our support is warranted. We confirmed our budget request.
 - **O&S Assignments:** We have three positions to fill for the next term. We assigned contacts.
 - **Fall Mission weekend:** Discussed some possibilities. We will work on it this month.
 - **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 7/31/2024 - \$12,721.14** -- Young Adult Mission trips - \$1,045, Haiti Special Projects - \$5,598.62, Lighthouse - \$575, MMN Oyanguren projects - \$3,000, Haiti Community School - \$1,000, Jubilee Orphanage - \$100 -- **Unrestricted \$1,402.52 Moment for Mission** – Mar. 17 – Chloe Troyer Costa Rica mission trip with Asbury, Mar. 24 – Maple Syrup 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.
 - + Ken mentioned Fish fry plans are coming together.
 - + After a Zoom call from Linda Shelley, Ken suggested as many as 5 or so from Sonnenberg could join 3 from Souderton Mennonite Church to visit the Oyangurens towards the end of October. Plans will be finalized in the next few weeks.
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Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- The majority of the meeting focused on discussing the worship feedback forms. We received a lot of great feedback to chew on for a while.
 - New shirts are in and it's neat to see our happy yellow shirts interspersed throughout the church's activities!
 - Overall we have had great feedback for the outdoor services this summer. Many were sad to go back indoors.
 - And a big thank you to all of those for whom this brings more responsibility and work! It is appreciated and very much enjoyed by many.
 - + Phil mentioned that they look forward to welcoming Angela Zuercher and that they will sorely miss Michele Patterson.
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Youth/Young Adult Ministry–Priscilla Spiker, Ministry Leader

YYA

- 36 attended the RubberDucks game
- Working on mentor pairs for 24/25
- Finalizing a mentor event for August/September

MYF

- We went to Costa Rica.
 - We welcomed 2 new members, rising 8th graders Luke Nofziger and Cora Patterson and said a soft goodbye to Caitlyn Yoder, Brayden Neuenschwander and Greta Patterson at Camp Luz pool.
 - We have picked back up on a regular Sunday School schedule using Leslie Leyland Fields' book Nearing a Far God to help us study the Psalms. I will do this as long as they can stand it. For faith nights we continue to look at passages where people and trees are compared throughout the scripture as an example of tracing Biblical themes.
 - + Nothing to add
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Treasurer's Report–Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- **Budget:** We have completed the 11th month of the fiscal year, 91.67%. Budget giving is at 90.1% of budget and at 97% including school rental income. Expenses are at 90.1% of budget, 81.4% with other income is included. We are anticipating 4-months of school income for the coming year as we look at a new budget for the upcoming fiscal year. \$4,800.
- **CCS Tuition:** July was the first month of the new school year. Our updated total due for the year is \$26,270.24



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which is only about \$141 more than the last school year. This will be \$2,189.19 per month. We will be also be contributing an additional monthly gift of \$2,190 for a total of \$ 4,379.19. The total for the 2024-2025 school year is \$52,550. The July 31st balance in the account is \$32,923.32.

+ Nothing to add

Action Items:

+ **Proposed Budget '24 - '25 - Trent Metcalf will connect with Ed Taylor about a couple questions the group had with the proposed budget changes. CLT will vote on the proposed budget during the September meeting.**

+ **Pastor Salary & Benefits - CLT will vote on whether to approve Pastor Glenn's Covenant of Understanding which includes approval of the benefits package as stated in the budget proposal over email before the September CLT meeting.**

+ **Ohio Conference and CCS Corporation delegates - CLT will work with Conrad Neuenschwander as he comes on board Gifts Discernment to tap someone for an Ohio Conference delegate as Ken Neuenschwander's term is up. The church secretary will email current Central families to see if anyone would like to fill a vacant spot as delegate to the CCS Corporation meeting. Martha Coleman's term is up this year.**

Next Meetings: Sept 16 & Oct 21, 2024

+ Pastor Glenn closed the meeting in prayer.