



CLT COMMUNICATOR



● = Ministry Report; ✚ = Congregational Leadership Team Minutes

October 21, 2024

Present: Glenn Nofziger, Ed Taylor, Trent Metcalf, Ken Neuenschwander, Jeremy Patterson, Michelle Steffen, Phil Raber, Conrad Neuenschwander, Michael Amstutz and Chip Coleman

Opening: Trent shared about trees showing their true colors. Leaves are of no use this time of the year, thus they have to go. They are now a liability. Proverbs 6:12 - 14 describes a worthless person as a wicked person. Beauty can be distracting. Trent reminded us to not be misled by beauty but to remember to keep our hope in Jesus.

Pastor's Report—Glenn Nofziger II

- Attended “Refresh Your Preaching Workshop” with Dr. Calvin Pearson from Dallas Theological Seminary at Fairlawn Mennonite Church. It was refreshing.
 - Attended the Pregnancy Care banquet in Wooster. It was very elegant and inspiring.
 - Started this past month going to Wild Fox Cafe on Friday mornings to be available for conversations with anyone available and interested to come and chat. It's been good.
 - Visited: Don and Mable, Palmer at Hospice Lifecare before he moved to Danbury, Carolyn and Arlin following her foot surgery, and Corrine, who moves to PA October 28.
 - Met and talked with new members candidates: Marv and Rhoda Sommers, Patrick Sommers, Linda Speer, and Pam Coleman. They will become church members on October 20.
 - Met with Adult Ministry and discussed providing donuts or cookies Sunday mornings along with coffee to help promote fellowship time and SS attendance.
 - As a Worship Ministry we met with the Worship and Song leaders to communicate, collaborate and discuss feedback from all the worship evaluations we collected.
 - We celebrated World Communion together the first Sunday in October.
 - The Fall Fest got rained out for outdoor hosting at Lloyd and Jane's but it was still fun indoors at the church even though all the guessing jars were won by the Zuerchers!
 - Met with Pastoral Team at Camp Buckeye for our annual Retreat. It was a very rich time of tending to and discerning for the spiritual health and well-being of the congregation.
 - I also attended the Mentor Event at Beun's, as well as the Venture Club outdoor movie night at Kings and the trip to Ramseyers.
 - I continue to meet with Randy Murray for Spiritual direction monthly. I have found this very meaningful and helpful to nurture my soul care. Also, this is encouraged by Ohio Conference Leadership as we are doing away with the Regional Pastor position.
 - And Erin and I along with Ken N and Joanna S. plan to head to Argentina for ten days, Oct 22-31 to visit the Oyangurens!
 - ✚ Glenn shared that his sermon workshop went well, good enough to have gone for a second year.
 - ✚ Glenn is excited for the trip tomorrow to Argentina.
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Pastoral Team—Jeremy Patterson, Leader; Lisa Amstutz, Secretary

- PT met October 11-12 for a retreat at the Serenity Cabin at Camp Buckeye. It was a good time of fellowship and reflection. Glenn shared a devotional from Isaiah 40:31.
- We spent time in prayer and discussion of things that we can celebrate as a church and potential challenges to come.

(Pastoral Team Report con't...)

- We continued discussion on the vision and mission of SMC and how to work at discerning that as a congregation and also spent time considering a theme for the coming year.
 - We plan to continue those discussions in upcoming meetings.
 - + Jeremy shared that the PT retreat was a good time to focus on the big picture and language to help the congregation process that.
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Adult Ministry—Steve & Lisa Zuercher, Co-Ministry Leaders

- Steve & Lisa lead devotions from Colossians 3:23-24 highlighting that it is for the Lord we do everything with excellence and not for man's approval.
 - With the Fall Fest coming up at Lloyd & Jane Miller's backyard on Sept 29, menu and plans were Finalized. In the case of rain, the picnic will move to the church.
 - Barring any unforeseen scheduling conflicts, we're proposing a carry in for Nov 10
 - The Coffee and Breakfast bar coordination now falls under Adult Ministry. Joyce Taylor will coordinate the schedule and purchasing supplies. Adult Ministry will coordinate the food along with Glenn, combining both purchasing food items and offering a sign up sheet for those who want to donate food items.
 - Tentative dates for Winter Wednesdays are Jan 22, Feb 5, 19, March 5, 19 and perhaps April 2. Brainstorming began for next year's activities.
 - + Not present
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Children's Ministry – Ministry Representatives rotate

- We started planning for a Christmas party and gifts for the kids.
 - We do not need to order Sunday school material at this time, but may need to order a curriculum for the older kids for the winter/spring months.
 - Still need to connect with Chip about Safe Sanctuary Training.
 - + Not present
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Facilities Ministry—Ed Taylor, Ministry Leader

- The outside kitchen steps are in the process of being replaced. This project is expected to cost around \$7,000. We are hoping for more donations to projects.
 - We modified the conference room and lobby classroom lighting to work without ballasts and new LED bulbs. We also replaced the lobby restroom bulbs with LED bulbs.
 - + Ed shared that temporary railing is up, maybe a couple more weeks till getting the final decision on aluminum railing. Likely this will be maintenance free.
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Gifts Discernment Ministry—Conrad Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Haven't met
 - + Conrad mentioned Gifts is working on Greta's replacement for Children's ministry.
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Outreach & Service Ministry—Ken Neuenschwander, Ministry Leader

- Oct. 13: MMN are having their meeting in this area that week. They will provide a person for a MFM c/o Eric Frey, Oct. 27: People to People food drive c/o Vince, Dec. 1: Alternative Christmas
- **Fall Missions Sunday** – MCC Great Lakes “virtual visit” from an overseas staff person. DTBD
- **Lighthouse** – Had a successful Open house on Sept. 14th and surpassed their \$50k goal to over \$55k
- **Camp Luz** – Saturday Oct. 19 - Fall Festival with food auction, silent auction and Hometown concert.
- **Open Arms** – Sept. 28, Latino Food Fest @ Orr Park was a great success and a lot of fun.



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

- **Mississippi Catfish Fry:** The MCF went very well. We served approximately 825 meals and a total revenue of \$17,186 plus a large amount of gift-in-kind food and supplies with the net of \$12,955.75. We reviewed the notes from MCF and discussed many suggestions and options for next year. We are so thankful for everyone's hard work all evening especially through the very busy times when we could have used a few more people. Thank you everyone! And a special THANK YOU to those who stuck with us all the way through clean-up!
- **Fall work night:** MCC kit work night is not available this fall so we discussed some options for other projects we might do this fall. We are making some contacts in the next week.
- **Oyanguren/Argentina trip:** Glenn, Erin and Ken will be visiting the Oyangurens along with Linda Shelly and Joanna (Spiker) Sidle from MMN October 22-31. Joanna's role at MMN is as International Administration Support somewhat still in orientation. They are hoping this is a very long term thing for her and at least two people have told me she is doing a very good job. We can be proud of her! MMN was excited for the possibility to have her join us for this trip but it wasn't in the budget so they asked if SMC would maybe split the cost for Joanna's ticket since we are her home congregation. We decided to use the designated funds for Young Adult Mission Trip which is \$1045.
We also discussed funding for the trip and decided to designate a minimum of \$3000 from the O&S fund and continue to encourage SMC to give for the trip and a love offering to the Oyangurens and their ministry. The estimated cost of the trip for SMC is \$4683.
- Fund distribution: We reviewed past distributions and discussed several scenarios and decided to designate \$3000 toward the Argentina trip and distribute the balance after the trip and more discernment in November.
- **Financial O&S Fundraiser account: Bal 9/30/2024 - \$25,443.39 --** Young Adult Mission trips - \$1,045, Haiti Special Projects - \$5,598.62, Hope's House - \$600, Haiti Community School - \$1,000, Jubilee Orphanage - \$300, Lighthouse-\$500, My Coins Count - \$251.50. Total Restricted- \$9,295.12-- **Unrestricted \$16,148.27**
- ✦ Ken thought we had a good fish fry. It was a good time and brought in good revenue. We were a little short on help, might be that another fryer is bought for next year.
- ✦ Ken is leaving for Argentina Tuesday. The Oyangurens are excited to have the group come. Outreach plans make fish fry distributions after returning from the Chaco.

Worship Ministry, Phil Raber, Ministry Leader

- We spent most of the meeting reviewing common themes from the surveys and preparing discussion points for the upcoming meeting with worship leaders and song leaders.
- We also discussed meeting with the youth separately to explore how to involve them more in the worship service.
- We talked some more about initiating weekly meetings between worship leaders and song leaders to prepare for the worship service.
- ✦ Phil highlighted the meeting with worship and song leaders this past month went well sharing ideas and resources to use. The ministry will work on a shared resource in the coming months.

Youth/Young Adult Ministry--Michael Amstutz, Ministry Leader

- YYA met on October 1. We reviewed the mentoring event for October 5.
- Since YYA is in charge of mentoring, we want to collaborate with Venture Clubs and youth group on how faith development looks at Sonnenberg for the youth. We will meet with Venture Club and Youth Group

(Y & YA Report con't...)

Sponsors on November 7 to discuss and share how we can partner in this. We also want to know how we can support them as sponsors.

- Noah met with Don and Ellen earlier to talk about Young Adult needs and how to support the young adults.
 - ✚ Nothing added
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Treasurer's Report—Ed Taylor, Treasurer

- Budget: We are at the beginning of the new 2024/2025 fiscal year, 8.33% of budget. Budget giving is at 5.8% of budget and at 6.2% including school rental income. Expenses are at 10.6% of budget, 10.5% with other income is included. A few one-time expenses have put the expense numbers high. Office A/C was replaced at a cost of \$9,500. The over \$1,900 office expenses were for yearly accounting audit, Quickbooks yearly payroll software fee and copier contract.
 - CCS Tuition: The CCS Tuition balance has remained strong throughout the past year and we started off the new school year with over \$30,000 in the fund. Our obligation for the 2024/2025 school year is \$26,271. This will be \$2,189.25 per month. We will also be contributing an additional monthly gift of \$2,190 for a total of \$ 4,379.25. The total for the 2024-2025 school year is \$52,551. The September 30 balance in the account is \$33,195.49.
 - ✚ Ed shared that the first month of a new year always has fees and expenses that get caught up later so things look worse than they are as far as a budget track. Office supplies, ac repair, quarterly retirement payment etc all contributed to this start.
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Action Items:

- ✚ DG-KN church directory involvement - Chip will look into this to see what it would take to include Sonnenberg.
- ✚ Kitchen use protocols; use by outside groups - Chip will make sure this gets communicated to CCS as well as the mini term leader.
- ✚ Glenn mentioned an idea to go to Behalt as a group in place of a Thanksgiving service, maybe we could have some singing and a time of worship. We'll look into the 20th of November.

Next Meetings: Nov 18 & Dec 16, 2024

- ✚ Glenn closed in prayer.