

EDITION 25.08 | AUGUST 2025



CONNECT

CHURCH OF THE SERVANT'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Pastor's PERSPECTIVE

EMBRACING FAITH & COMMUNITY



 **Rev. Kyle Anderson**
Senior Pastor

Greetings Servant Faith Family!

Each month in the Connect, through the articles and the photos, you get a snapshot of what is taking place and what is to come here at your church. Yet, I know there are those in our family of faith who appreciate the photos and stories but are also “numbers people” and would like to hear some statistics on how their church is doing from time to time. With the numbers in for the first half of 2025, this seemed like as good a time as any!

In the first half of 2024 the average in-person attendance was 263. Through the end of June of 2025, the average in-person attendance sits at 317. This represents a 24% increase in attendance! Online, the average attendance for the first half of 2024 was 325. For 2025 the average attendance sits at 322. Know that we have made some adjustments to how we calculate online attendance so it's difficult to accurately compare those online numbers, but I would not be surprised if attendance has seen a slight decrease year over year. This would likely be in large part due to a number of individuals returning to in-person attendance since this time last year.

What about finances? In 2024, the first six months of general contributions, contributions given to support the general budget of Church of the Servant and not for a designated purpose, totaled \$616,083. For 2025 during the same period, those contributions totaled \$731,922. This represents a 19% increase in giving!



Easter 2025 © Carl Shortt

Both of these statistics, 19% increase in giving and 24% increase in attendance are amazing and represent your commitment to Church of the Servant. So Thank You! At the same time, we also know we have a long way to go to be who God has called Church of the Servant to be. Know that financially, even with the increase in giving, we are still operating at a deficit. Year to date our expenses have exceeded our income by \$134,181. Following a tumultuous number of years that led to a steep decline in participation at Church of the Servant, in 2024 your newly selected Leadership Team had a choice to make even prior to my appointment. They could dramatically slash the ministries, mission, and programming of Church of the Servant to meet the reduced resources or lean upon the Servant Foundation and the financial generosity of those who have come before to aid Church of the Servant through a difficult



Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

Join us for worship this Sunday. We will be gathering together to celebrate and give thanks, to connect with one another, and to seek guidance and inspiration for the week ahead.

Sunday service time is 10:00 AM and includes uplifting music, prayer, and a message that will speak to your heart. Whether you are a long-time member of our community or are joining us for the first time, we welcome you and look forward to seeing you there!

time. They chose the latter which allowed the appointment of Pastor Sheri and myself, for staff to be maintained, and for God's Kingdom work at Church of the Servant to not only continue at its current level but increase as you've witnessed over the past year. But the Servant Foundation's resources are finite and Servant leadership, myself, and all of you know this is not a permanent solution and one that can likely continue for only an additional 2-3 years.

Now, if the growth we've experienced in the past year continues at a similar pace, then Church of the Servant is well positioned to be a beacon for God's Kingdom for years to come. But if that is to happen, it's going to take all of us. So what can you do? First, if you're in town and healthy, I'd love for you to join us physically in service. Each week we have new guests or returning Servant family members coming to see if the rumors of what God is doing in this place are true. It is difficult for you to welcome and show these individuals the hospitality and friendliness Servant is known for when you are not physically here.

For those of you who are unable to make it physically or live outside of Oklahoma City (or even the state!) please continue to join with us remotely on Facebook, YouTube, the Servantokc.org website, or Church of the Servant app. And feel free to interact with one another online while doing so. As you've likely noticed in recent months, Pastor Sheri has intentionally been in the online chat during the service. Feel free to tell her hello, leave a prayer request, or share how the service has touched your heart. We want to build a community online that mirrors the in-person community for those who are unable to physically be here on Sunday mornings.

Next, I do ask that you continue to support your church financially or prayerfully consider beginning to do so if you are not already. I know that there are many who have

taken a wait-and-see approach, limiting their contributions or holding back entirely until they can see the direction Church of the Servant is headed. I hope these past six months you've witnessed the same fruit I have. Beyond encouraging numbers, I hope you've seen the fruit in the smiling children, in the comfort that has been offered as we celebrate the lives of loved ones, in the meaningful worship that has been experienced in person and remotely, in the lives that are being transformed through our participation in missions such as Meals on Wheels, Whiz Kids, Project Transformation, support of the Regional Food Bank and Skyline Urban Ministry, Deer Creek Comfort Closet, Rise Against Hunger, and so much more. If you've experienced the fruit of God's grace and love in this place, I humbly ask that you would support its continuation through your presence and your financial gifts.

Most importantly, I ask you to think about the people beyond the walls of our church. Those out there who long to experience the living Christ, who would benefit from Servant's unique brand of faithfulness. We provide an opportunity week in and week out for a diverse collection of God's children to gather around a very large table, see each other's faces, celebrate the Lord and offer God our praise. I am confident there are friends, family, neighbors, and people we have yet to meet who would be blessed by joining us at the table this and every Sunday. But this can only happen, will only continue, will only grow with your help. I look forward to coming alongside you and continuing to partner with the Lord in growing God's Kingdom this Sunday.

Blessings,

Pastor Kyle

Here's What's Upcoming on Sunday Mornings!

We hope you have been blessed by our two summer series **Heroic** and **Praise-Tastic July**. As we move into the coming months, here is what you can expect during our Sunday morning Celebration Services for the remainder of the year:

Childlike Faith (August): As we return from summer vacations and children, youth, and young adults head back to school, we will be examining how we all might adopt the mindset of a child and discover opportunities for new learning and growth in our faith. This series will incorporate a number of stories and practices that, while seen by some as childish, may actually be instructive for all God's children.

Questions God Asks (September): We probably all have questions for God but how often do we stop and consider the questions God has of us? In fact Jesus, God in the flesh, often responded to questions from his disciples and others not with direct answers but with more questions for his listeners to consider. In this sermon series we'll examine stories where God asks the questions and consider just what a faithful response might be.

Naaman: In Search for God (October): In the Book of 2 Kings we read the story of Naaman, a commander in the Aramean army. He goes in search of healing for himself but finds much more. In this sermon series, we will learn alongside Naaman important lessons on how Faith may be simple in concept, but difficult in practice; anywhere can be Holy ground; and as servants of the Lord, we prioritize faithfulness, not prosperity.

Table Manners (November): Many of us can remember being taught table manners as children and hearing family members tell us repeatedly: elbows off the table, chew with your mouth closed, all four legs of the chair on the ground! In the Gospels, not only does Jesus often share meals with others, he also uses them as teaching moments. Join us during the month of November as we learn that how we behave around the table can also be an expression of faith.

Christmas Preparations (Advent): It's that time of the year when we all begin to prepare for the upcoming Christmas holiday as we put up the lights, bake special treats, tell our favorite Christmas stories, and turn on the 24-hour Christmas music stations. As we do, we not only prepare ourselves for the holiday, but to tell of and experience the birth of Christ once more this year. Join in during the season of Advent as we consider how our Christmas Preparations truly help us to celebrate, and share with others, the good news of Christ's birth.



CHURCH OF THE SERVANT MISSION & MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, August 24th, 11 :00 AM

Join us for the Church of the Servant Mission and Ministry Fair following service on Sunday, August 24th! On this day, our concourse will be lined with booths representing the many Mission and Ministries carried out by your church. As you visit each booth, you will have the opportunity to learn about what that mission or ministry does, receive information, and find out about how you can become more involved. Whether you are new to our family of faith or have been part of Church of the Servant for decades, this will be a Sunday you will not want to miss!

To any leaders of our various Mission and Ministries who have yet to sign up to participate, do so now! Please reach out to Pastor Kyle at kanderson@churchoftheservant.com to reserve your space for this important event today!



MORE THAN SUNDAY MORNING

*An evening of music, stories,
and connection with your Praise Team*

**Sunday, October 5th, 6:30 PM
In the Centrum**

Join us for a special night where your Praise Team steps out of the Sunday morning spotlight to share more about who they are. **More Than Sunday Morning** is a time to connect on a deeper level—through music, personal stories, and the songs that have shaped us beyond worship. You'll hear the Praise Team perform music they love, including some secular selections from their professional or collegiate backgrounds, and maybe even see them play different instruments or roles than you're used to. Come get to know the hearts, talents, and journeys behind the voices and instruments that lead you in worship each week. The performance is free. An offering will be taken to support the upgrade of equipment in the Celebration Center. Mark your calendar today and plan to join us!

Pastor Sheri's Notes



Rev. Sheri Lashley
Associate Pastor

When I was a child growing up in Elk City, Oklahoma, I had 3 siblings. When we were younger, my mother stayed at home with us, and at the point my older brother could drive and he could take us places, my mom went back to work. Four kids in school made it possible for my mom to return to work. She worked at the hospital as a Registered Nurse until she was 80 years old! While she worked during the summer, she needed to keep us busy. We went to fine arts day camp, and Scout day camp. She entered us into different week-long sleepover camps, as well.

I LOVED camp – church camp, band camp, twirling camp, scout camp, choir camp – I loved camp. When I was 16 to 17 years old, I was a scout camp counselor. I would get home from camp and start getting ready for the next school year. One could say that I had no “summer” because I had no “do nothing” time in the summer. I think my parents did all that on purpose. We learned a lot at camp, made wonderful memories, and made lifelong friends. I am grateful to my parents for making summers happen.

We were also a family that was involved heavily on Community Theatre. We were in plays, I accompanied for musicals, we helped build sets, we helped making our costumes, and sought out props. Even my parents were in the shows. We were a family that attended all the summer activities at the church – VBS (as attendee and then later as volunteer) and church programming for summer.

How in the world did we get all of that done in the 10 weeks of summer? My family didn’t take vacations so that gave us a bit more time, but wow! And then, all of a sudden, it was time to prepare for school, for fall church programming, and getting ready to start a lot of things anew. We would have a big ice cream social to kick off the Fall. We would sign up for Bible study, Children’s choir, Youth group mission opportunities, Wednesday night dinners, and other activities. And then, we began the year again.

That is where we are at Church of the Servant. Summer activities are finishing up and winding down, and new mission and ministries are being planned. How exciting is it to look forward to new things – Bible studies, mission opportunities, fellowship fun, youth group returning... so many things. As you will be hearing from Pastor Kyle, we will be having a Mission & Ministry Fair, where you can receive information on all the missions, ministries, Sunday school classes, fellowship opportunities... ways that you and your family can get involved at your church, and opportunities for you to invite friends and neighbors to be a part of your church! How fun is all of this! I hope that you will take advantage of the Mission & Ministry Fair!

Summer is almost over! Fall is just around the corner. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for Servant!

In God’s grip,

Pastor Sheri

BIBLE STUDIES

PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY CLASS | For Men & Women A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

SEPTEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 3 (IN-PERSON Classroom 12)
or SEPTEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 4 (VIA ZOOM CLASS)
Both classes meet 9:30-11:30 AM | Led by Nancy Harris

Practical truth with divine authority. In this journey through Proverbs, you will discover for yourself what God thinks about issues you often face—the way you spend your time and your money, the way you treat your family and your friends, your ability to distinguish between truth and error. Day by day, as you watch the main themes in Proverbs emerge, you'll find out . . .

- what pleases God and what doesn't
- when to speak and when to remain silent
- how to distinguish between eternal wisdom from God and temporal, worldly wisdom.

Your everyday decisions matter to God. This study will help you align them with His best for our life!

PRECEPT USES THE INDUCTIVE METHOD OF STUDY:

- Observation – What it says
- Interpretation – What it means
- Application – How to apply truth to your daily walk with God.
- Color coding key words and phrases
- Making lists of what you learn from color coding key words
- Discussion time with tablemates
- Watching a DVD each week

Upon registering for one of these classes, you will be given a link to order your book.
Each student must have their own book.



REGISTER ONLINE by clicking on the QR code
or fill out the information below and drop off at the church office.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS AUGUST 25, 2025.

CHOOSE ONE: [] Wednesday In-Person Class [] Thursday Zoom Class

NAME: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

**EVERYTHING
WE DO IN LIFE
SHOULD BE
LINED UP WITH
THE WORD OF
GOD. IT IS OUR
PLUMB LINE!**

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Nancy Harris at nancyprecept67@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDIES

FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

THE STRONGHOLD OF THE CHOSEN

Begins September 3

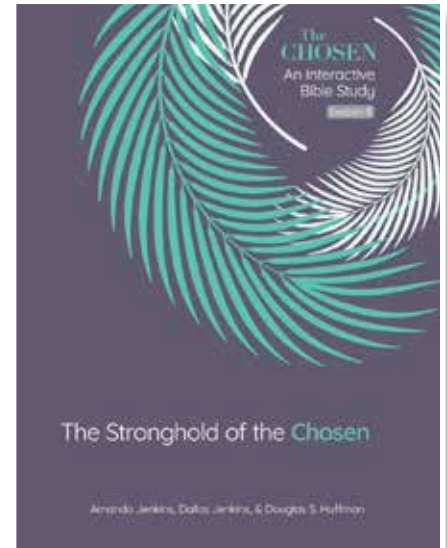
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 PM | Classroom 4

Led by Cathy Maxwell, Miki Farris, Darla Bierig

The Stronghold of the Chosen helps readers see Jesus as the refuge we desperately need. It is a Bible study for those who need a safe place in Jesus.

Throughout the Bible, we're told that God is the Stronghold for those who follow Jesus, that He's our refuge in hard times and that in His presence our resources can be renewed. But sometimes we resist running to Jesus. Like the crowds on that first Palm Sunday, we vacillate between declaring Him Hosanna ("the One who saves") and forfeiting the very safety and security He graciously provides. In *The Stronghold of the Chosen*, the Season 5 Bible study, we'll learn that Jesus is our safe place, along with all the reasons we should run to and remain in Him when hard times come.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Cathy Maxwell at cmaxwell20012001@yahoo.com or Darla Bierig at dbierig@churchoftheservant.com



THE GOD WHO SEES

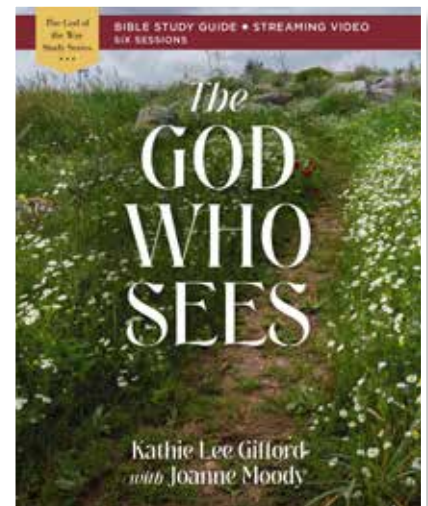
Begins September 3

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 AM | Classroom 4

Led by Patricia Hocker

In this six-week Bible study, Kathie Lee Gifford and Joanne Moody delve into the lives of five people in the Bible who, like us, wondered if God saw them in their distress. Through the stories of Hagar, Ruth, Boaz, David, and Mary of Magdala, you will discover that even in the darkest times, God constantly watches over you. He has promised to never abandon you and empowers you to fulfill the purpose he has for your life.

For more information, contact Patricia Hocker at 405-535-9121.



PRIME TIME

SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER

PRIME TIME LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 11, 10:30 AM

Community Hall

Special Guest: Rev. Kyle Anderson

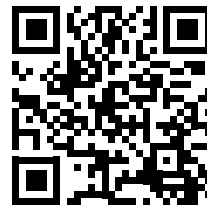
"Lost in Translation"

Join Pastor Kyle for September's Prime Time as he examines both the comical and serious ways we often misunderstand one another. From funny short stories, to misheard hymn lyrics and more, we'll acknowledge there's plenty of times we've all had to say, "did I hear that correctly?"

Michele Snow will provide us with a yummy meal that includes an entrée, vegetable, salad, bread, beverage, and dessert. The cost for the program and meal is \$15 (\$5 for program only).

ServantOKC.org/prime-time

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th!



Rev. Kyle Anderson

BIBLE STUDIES

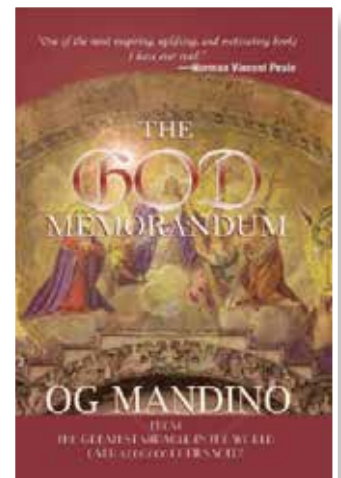
GOD MEMORANDUM

September 9 - October 7, 2025 (5 weeks)

Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 PM | Classroom 12

Led by Harli Reeves and Rev. Sheri Lashley

Who doesn't like a good story? A story full of mystery and surprises, one that is inspirational and uplifting? Come and meet Simon Potter and his old hound Lazarus. Who is he? What's in the yellow envelope? It changed Og Mandino and thousands of other lives. Listen to the story of The Greatest Miracle in the World and hear the impactful message of the God Memorandum. Be careful, it just might change your life! This study is for men and women. Register in the Concourse or call the church office at 405-721-4141.









FAMILY MINISTRIES



SERVANT KIDS

What a summer it's been! This past month, four of our servant elementary campers went to Camp Canyon with Ms. Chris and Pastor Kyle. We learned about creation! We fished, took a hike, learned about archery, made some crafts, and best of all, spent time together in God's beautiful world!

Christmas in July Bible study is happening with the children! Join us on Wednesday nights from 6-8pm downstairs in the children's area to watch a movie and then talk about how we can apply the principles of the movie to our lives! Contact Chris Ward for more information!

- July 30– Rudolph and the Island of Misfit Toys'
- August 6 – Miracle on 34th Street
- August 13 – Christmas Party!

SERVANT YOUTH

Happy summer from our Servant youth! Although the youth have been quiet this summer, four of them went to Camp Canyon for a week! Oh what fun they had! They had great discussions about creation and Jesus being the light of the world! They made friends from area churches, swam, worshipped, and enjoyed the warm Oklahoma weather!

For more information about Servant Kids or Youth, contact Chris Ward at cward@churchoftheservant.com







Whiz Kids Empowering Potential

Our 2025-26 Whiz Kids program will begin with a gathering of all the priceless volunteers that make our Whiz Kids site possible on Thursday, August 28, at 2:00 PM at New Hope UMC, 11600 N Council Road! Whiz Kids Oklahoma is a nonprofit organization working to close the opportunity gap faced by elementary students through one-on-one literacy tutoring and faith-based mentoring at 27 different sites throughout the metro.

Whiz Kids embraces students identified by their teacher as having challenges learning to read. Our volunteers have the gift of coming alongside these kiddos, helping them with their reading skills so they can read to learn.

The program focuses on serving the whole child—academically, emotionally, spiritually, and physically—by creating a space where each child is known, loved, and nurtured, just as they are. Each of our students are reading below grade level, navigating inequitable systems and circumstances, and benefit immeasurably from a consistent, caring relationship with a compassionate adult mentor.

Of the 27 Whiz Kids sites in Oklahoma, ours is the largest. During the 2024–2025 school year, 94 % of our Whiz Kids improved their reading scores! Our site meets on Mondays after school. Our first *wonderFULL* day with our beloved Whiz Kids from Ralph Downs Elementary is Monday, September 8, 2025. We warmly and enthusiastically invite you to be part of our 28 life-transforming Mondays. That's right - just 28 Monday afternoons is the amount of time our volunteer tutors/mentors give to truly impact the life of a child that just needs a little boost to help them succeed.

And if 28 days sounds like too much, we have other opportunities that allow you to be part of our Whiz Kids! We really are in need of Substitutes that are able to step in and fill the gap when one of the tutors is unable to be there. As a substitute, you will receive tutor training and then be placed on our sub list. Tutors reach out to subs as the need arises. Serving as a sub is a great way to dip your toe into Whiz Kids. We really need to bump up our sub list this year, so thank you for considering helping in this way!



We also have three other teams that are integral in helping our kids learn to soar! The Transportation team either drives or rides in vans that go from New Hope to Ralph Downs Elementary to pick up our kiddos and bring them back to New Hope. The Set-Up team arrives before the students, and prepares our space for fun and learning, while our Cookie Team brings homemade cookies to New Hope that are passed out to the kids before they leave to go home - ending our time together on a sweet note!

If you choose to be part of one of these three teams, you will not serve every Monday. While serving on one of these teams may not be a huge time commitment, Whiz Kids couldn't happen without them.

"I cannot do all the good the world needs. But the world needs all the good that I can do." Please pray about becoming part of Whiz Kids. The investment of your time and compassion will forever impact the life of a child and our community! Come on! Let's see together what God will do!!!



WHIZ KIDS RECRUITMENT DAY
Sunday, August 3, 2025

Be sure to stop by the table in the Concourse!



LADIES' MISSION DAY!

3,600 LBS OF FOOD | 3,000 MEALS | 200 BLESSING BAGS

We had a wonderful time giving back to our community on Saturday, July 12th! We started our day at the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank. We weighed and packed 3,600 pounds of frozen peas, which will go on to provide 3,000 meals to families in need.

We returned to the church at Noon where Pastor Kyle greeted us with a delicious lunch from McAllister's, and Pastor Sheri shared a short devotion. We then assembled 200 Blessing Bags. What a great day! Thank you to all who participated in our annual Ladies' Mission Day!



EXODUS HOUSE

We are gearing up for our fundraiser and in need of bowls for the soup. We love to gather unique looking bowls because all those we serve are unique, colorful, interesting and bring their own special gifts and talents. They come empty and leave full. We believe our Ministry touches all our Sponsors, donors and community the same way.

Random Bowls Wanted!

We're collecting 250 bowls for our *Empty Bowls, Filled Souls 2025* event, and we need your help!

- **Deadline:** October 1, 2025
- **Drop-Off Location:** Exodus House OKC
(433 NW 25th St #4, Oklahoma City, OK 73103)
- **Drop-Off Times:** Monday-Thursday | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

All sizes, shapes, and styles welcome - new or gently used bowls only, please! Your donation helps feed souls and fill hearts.
Questions? Call 405-525-3522



SAVE A LIFE



GIVE BLOOD

OBI.org



Church of the Servant Blood Drive

Sunday, August 10
9 a.m. - Noon
Join us in the Courtyard!



To make an appointment,
visit obi.org or call 877-340-8777.

GET THIS
*Retro Summer
Camp T-shirt*
& SAVE S'MORE
LIVES WITH US!



 877-340-8777 • obi.org
Photo ID required. *While supplies last.

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION

Project Transformation at Chapel Hill UMC was busy last week with Church of the Servant providing 20 excellent listeners for 35 children. Seven volunteers also provided and shared dinner with the young adults who run the camp experience Monday through Thursday. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in any way. Volunteers who come and show God's love to the children and young adults who participate in the eight-week camp are the heart of the program. Since we participated in the seventh week of camp, the reading assessments for the end of the program began on Thursday. Cadence, the reading coordinator, was excited to see how much progress the children had made over the summer. Those of you who volunteered contributed to a lifelong academic benefit for the children and a life-changing experience for the young adults as they serve through Project Transformation and seek God's desire for their lives. Again, thank you!

Patricia McGarrity



CHURCH OF THE SERVANT **LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE**

“Unless you know to which port you are sailing, no winds are favorable.”

I first heard this quote in 1975 from my Management professor at OCU and it has remained with me ever since as a powerful truth—one that applies to any meaningful effort where progress is the goal.

In that spirit, your Leadership Team spent this past Saturday in prayerful discussion, seeking clarity not only about to which port we are called to sail as a growing faith community, but how we will chart our course to get there. The session was led by Dr. Bob Spinks from OCU, who has done significant work of this type with other organizations including churches. With his guidance, we made encouraging progress in identifying strategic directions that will support our mission in the years to come.

We'll share more about this journey at our next **Listening Post on Thursday, August 21**. I encourage you to attend and actively participate as we continue building and growing together. Additional details on timing and discussion topics will be shared as the date approaches.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

Facilities Team

The team is currently addressing several important matters, with a key focus on developing a **Physical Security Policy**. While the plan is still in progress and will be presented to the Leadership Team once completed, please know that this is a high-priority initiative receiving careful and active attention.

Finance Team

The team has presented and received approval for **updated Internal Accounting Policies**, primarily aimed at modernizing older guidelines to better reflect today's standards and practices.

Attendance

We're excited to report continued growth, with an average attendance of **640** throughout the month of June—both in person and online. Our worship services remain uplifting and inspirational, and we warmly invite those who are able to join us in the **Celebration Center**.

Please take time to prayerfully consider how you might serve within our church community. Opportunities for service come in many forms—not all of them physically active—and every contribution makes a difference. If you feel led to serve, we encourage you to contact the church office and let us know how you'd like to be involved.

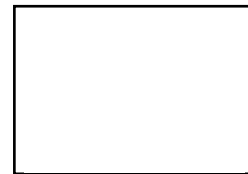
Brian Dickerson

Leadership Team Member

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Church of the Servant's Leadership Team governs the congregation's work and ministry. The Leadership Team has scheduled monthly meetings. All Leadership Team meetings are open to the public. For more information about the Leadership Team, go to ServantOKC.org/leadership-team.

Church of the Servant
14343 North MacArthur Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142-9725



AUGUST 24th

JOIN OUR TEAM



**MISSION &
MINISTRY
FAIR**



CHURCH OF THE
SERVANT
A United Methodist Congregation

WORSHIP TIME
SUNDAYS at 10:00 AM

CONTACT US
14343 N MacArthur Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73142
ServantOKC.org
(405) 721-4141

FOLLOW US!



@ServantOKC

LIVESTREAM
Sundays at 10:00 AM
servantokc.online.church
Facebook.com/ServantOKC
YouTube.com/@ServantOKC