

## **Senior Pastor Report - June 2025**

Greetings Leadership Team! Below are some general updates on things I've been working on since our last meeting. If you have any questions prior to our meeting, do not hesitate to send them my way!

Blessings,

Kyle

### **General Updates**

**Annual Conference:** Annual Conference was held Wednesday April 28th - 31st. I attended much of the conference but did have to step away early on Thursday and Friday due to a wedding rehearsal and then celebration here at the church those evenings. You can read more about the experience in our July Connect Newsletter. Additionally, know that we have been invited to host next year's Annual Conference in May of 2026. I have discussed this opportunity with Todd and members of our staff and we are all excited for this opportunity to demonstrate the great hospitality and Kingdom work that is taking place here at Church of the Servant. There will be much more information in the year to come regarding how you as the Leadership Team and the rest of our membership can be excellent hosts, but if you have any questions ahead of time, please let me know.

**Sunday School:** In addition to leading the Young Adult Sunday School class, I have also dedicated one Sunday a month to visit and lead other Sunday School classes when invited. This is an important and convenient way for me to spend additional time with numerous members of our congregation and, I feel, is appreciated by the classes I visit.

**Care Calls/Hospital Visits:** I have continued the tradition of calling individuals on our prayer list each week, with a few exceptions, as well as calling those who are undergoing surgery and, as much as possible, visit those individuals in the hospital following their surgery. It seems that there has recently been an increase in procedures leading to more hospital visits, but I do want to say that these have been exceptionally fulfilling visits. Along with preaching, those pastoral connections at any and all times of people's lives is my favorite part of the work I do and I hope that the congregation is responding positively to my pastoral work.

**May Listening Post Feedback:** The feedback is in, combining our in-person and remote feedback we had a total of 44 individuals participate. I'll present the specific results in our meeting but wanted to give you some context before we meet. 27 individuals participated in person, an additional 17 participated in the 2-week remote window. The video of the Listening Post had 134 "views," though many clicked off within the first few seconds. Anyone who watched more than the first 3 minutes seems to have watched the whole thing. This tells me that some either accidentally clicked on the link or did so and decided quickly that they didn't want to participate. Those who truly wanted to watch did so. There were likely a handful who chose to watch the listening post but not provide feedback for one reason or another.

**Judicial Council Decision 1516:** In relation to some of the feedback we were seeking from the congregation, I have learned that in late April the Judicial Council of the UMC (essentially the church's supreme court) made a ruling in regard to the role of the Trustees in determining the use of church facilities for weddings. I have included that decision in full following this report for your benefit. I will be happy to answer any questions that you have regarding the decision and describe what it means for us practically during our Leadership Team meeting.

**Vacation Bible School:** We currently have more than 100 kids signed up for our summer Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. June 23rd-26th! I along with many of our staff will be working to support this very important event. My time will be in the story room. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

**Sermon Series:** I have received very positive feedback regarding our recent sermon series *Proverbial Wisdom* and *Heroic*. I hope it will be the same with next month's *Praise Tastic July* as our sermons will share stories that informed some of our favorite hymns and praise songs while we also sing as many favorites as we can logistically during our services. While the use of sermon series such as these that extend beyond preaching on a single scripture but instead make larger connections to life and the world around us do take additional research, preparation, and time, I believe the congregation is benefiting from that effort. I will use that insight as I begin planning for the remainder of 2025 and the beginning of 2026 over the next month, so if you have any specific feedback or have heard contrary feedback, please let me know.

**Mission and Ministry Fair:** Sunday, August 24th will be the Servant Mission and Ministry Fair. My hope is to invite every ministry and mission group that's part of the church to prepare a booth sharing more information about their great work and expressing how the Servant faith family can participate. More information will be passed out to Sunday School classes and in the Connect and E-news over the next two weeks, but I hope that you will be supportive of and encourage the various ministries you are a part of to participate.

#### April Statistics

<b>In Person:</b>	5/4: 304	5/11: 312	5/18: 303	5/25: 282	2025 Avg: 323
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<b>Online:</b>	5/4: 301	5/11: 320	5/18: 376	5/25: 291	2025 Avg: 322
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