

## Senior Pastor Report - April 2026

Greetings Leadership Team,

Below are a few updates and information on how what has been taking place over the past month. If you have any questions about these items or other questions you would like for me to address during our monthly meeting, please let me know ahead of time and I'll be happy to do so!

Blessings, Kyle

### **General Updates:**

**Disciple I and Bible Studies at Church of the Servant:** In April we completed the New Testament section of our Disciple I Bible Study. From the Old Testament in the Fall through the New Testament in the Spring, participation and attendance grew which has not been my typical experience in Bible Studies. By the end of Disciple I we had 36 individual participants with about 30 present each Wednesday. There was a quality mixture of long-time COS members and those who have joined in the past two years, creating a great opportunity for congregants to better get to know one another.

Because of the participation and enthusiasm around not only my study but others offered throughout the year, I will be offering a short study on Prayer in June on Wednesdays during the 6:30 p.m. time slot and (as a test of interest) an earlier 4:00 p.m. time slot for choir members, those who prefer not to drive in the evening, or otherwise prefer an earlier time. Additionally, after the summer break starting late May, we will be relaunching Wednesday night Bible Study and regular Wednesday evening children and youth activities in mid August instead of waiting until after Labor Day as has been the custom in recent years. There is a growing interest in these outside of Sunday morning ministries here at Church of the Servant and we know being consistent and limiting "off periods" increases and helps maintain participation.

**Lent and Easter Highlights:** I hope you feel it was a joyous Lenten Season and Easter Sunday here at Church of the Servant. For our Sunday services we focused upon Holy Week, diving more deeply into the events of that week one day at a time. While I was worried that this focus might be perceived as too dry and overly intellectual, I have received a fair amount of positive feedback.

Our special services and events were successful. While it's impossible to know for sure how many attended the Eggstraveganza, there was an opportunity to enter a drawing for a prize. 106 families representing 230 individuals entered to win the prize and a number of them provided contact information and selected being open receiving more information about the church. Director of Family Ministries Chris Ward has and will continue to do so.

Our Holy Week services were a blessing to many. Attendance was considerably up for Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise, and Easter Sunday. The only exception was Good Friday, but this was likely due to the threat of severe storms arriving at the time of the service. A special highlight for many was the Maundy Thursday service which involved 14 volunteers serving as disciples, Jesus, and a narrator to help the congregation consider the ways we all betray Jesus. A big thank

you goes out to those volunteers and to everyone who helped make the Lenten Season and Easter Sunday so meaningful.

I have requested a spot on the Agenda for you to provide me with any thoughts you have about the past couple months: celebrations, suggestions for next year, etc. I find it helpful to have those conversations now instead of waiting until next year and trying to remember what we did previously and wanted to do differently. So if you have any feedback please come ready to share!

**Rise Against Hunger:** Rise Against Hunger was a resounding success. Financially, over \$31,000 was contributed (up from just over \$20,000 in 2025 which included a generous matching gift of \$10,000 from a single donor), and over 200 volunteers came together to package more than 50,000 meals.

For transparency, last year's donations were placed in a restricted fund and used to cover the cost of this year's packaging, this year's funds will be used to cover next year's, and so on. Operating in this way allows us to schedule the packaging and cover the cost of the materials before the current year's funds come in. It also frees us from ever having to borrow funds from elsewhere should a situation occur that we don't meet our goal and yet have already signed a contract to fund the event. With this in mind, anticipate the Missions Team planning a sizable increase in the meals we'll plan to package next year.

**Leadership in Christian Education Presentation:** I was invited to speak this month at the Leadership in Christian Education class at Oklahoma City University. It was a joy to connect with young adults on the path to ministry and some who are already serving part time in local churches. Hopefully this will lead to future opportunities and greater connections.

**Circle of Care Banquet:** As part of living out our goal of offering support and building community connections, Servant will host the annual Circle of Care banquet Friday, April 24th. I've been invited to attend as a representative of Church of the Servant and to offer a welcome and opening prayer.

**Staff Meeting With Rev. Nathan Oney in May:** We have scheduled a day for Pastor Nathan to come and spend here at Church of the Servant in May. Nathan and I selected a Tuesday which will give him the chance to sit in on and observe a worship planning meeting and a staff meeting. Then the staff will have lunch with Nathan that day so they have the chance to get to know him before he arrives in July. The rest of the time that day will be used for paperwork, setting up email and other office needs, and for Nathan and I to spend time developing expectations and responsibilities for when he arrives in July. If there is anything that would be helpful to you as a Leadership Team to know prior to Nathan's arrival in July, please let me know and I'll be happy to get that information for you when we meet that day.

**Attendance**

<b>In Person:</b>	3/1: 341	3/8: 302	3/15: 324	3/22: 343	3/29: 362
				2026 Avg: 333	
<b>On-Line:</b>	3/1: 302	3/8: 293	3/15: 370	3/22: 309	3/29: 338
				2026 Avg: 362	