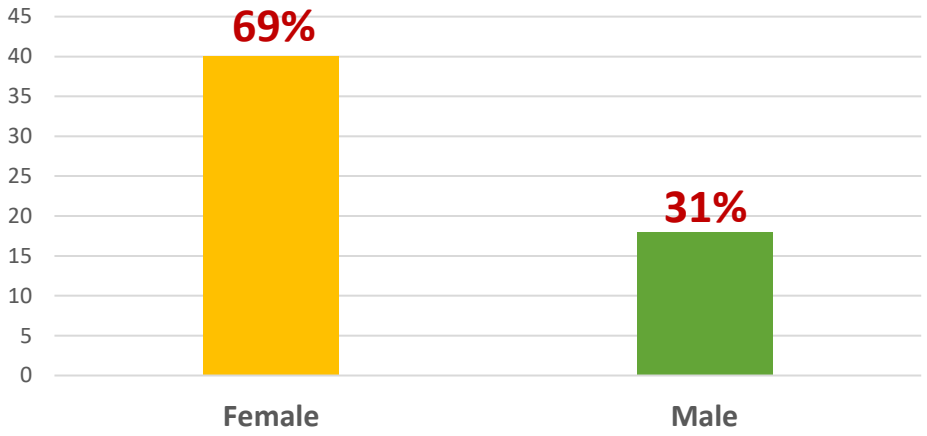
Mission Study 2026

RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL SURVEYS AND FOCUS GROUPS

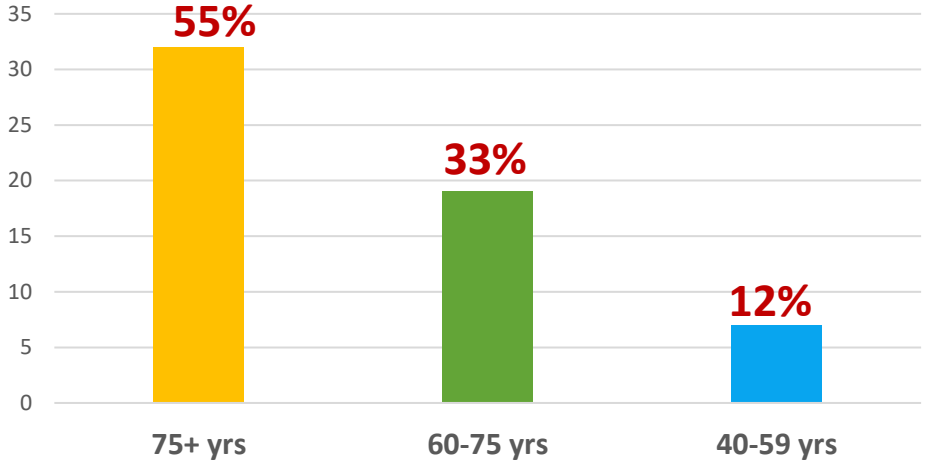
CONDUCTED MARCH/APRIL 2026

Individual Survey Results

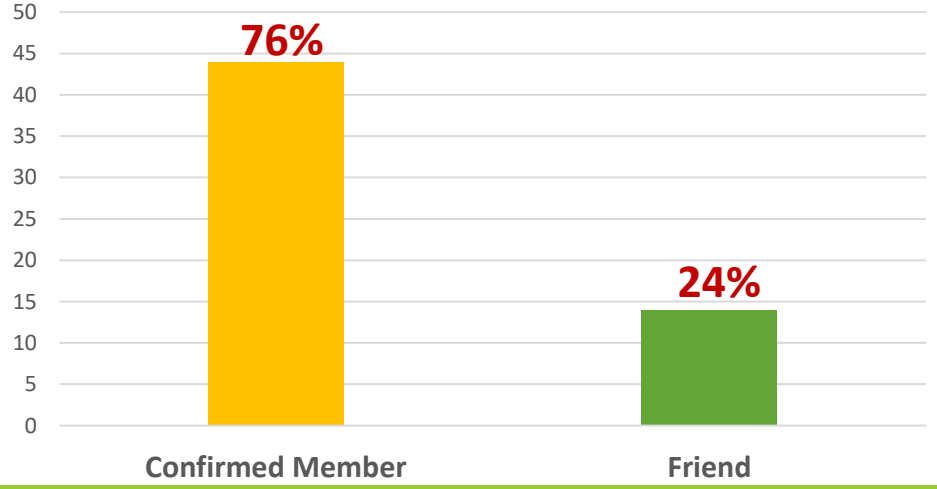
Gender Type



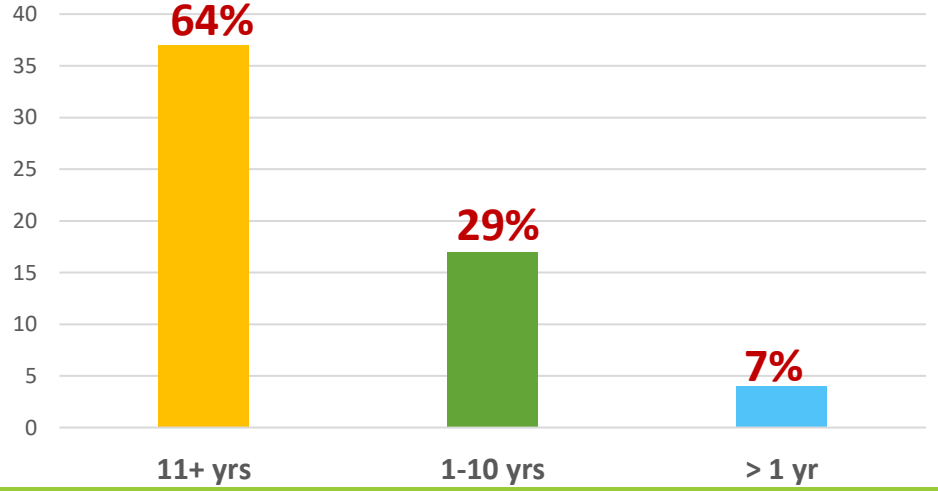
Age Range



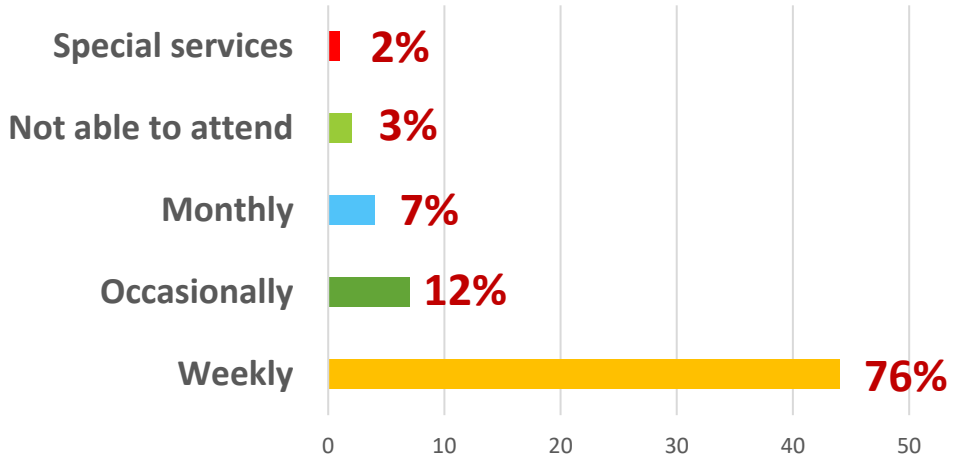
Membership



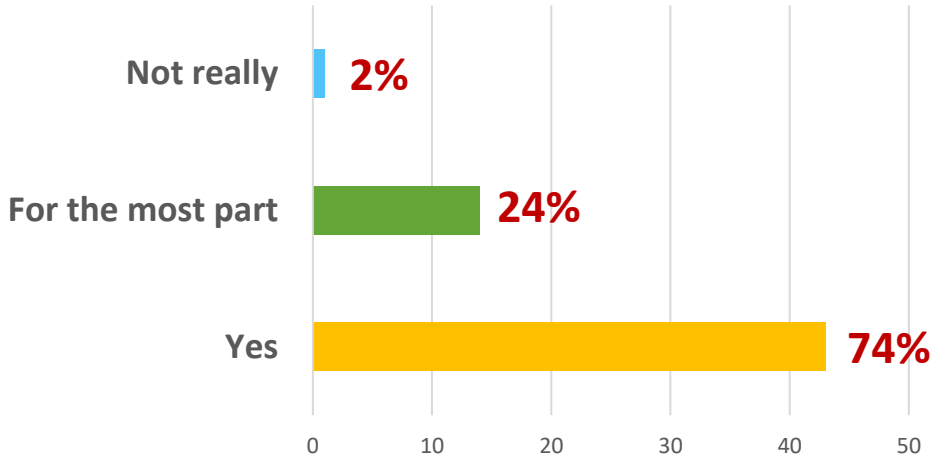
Years involved with church



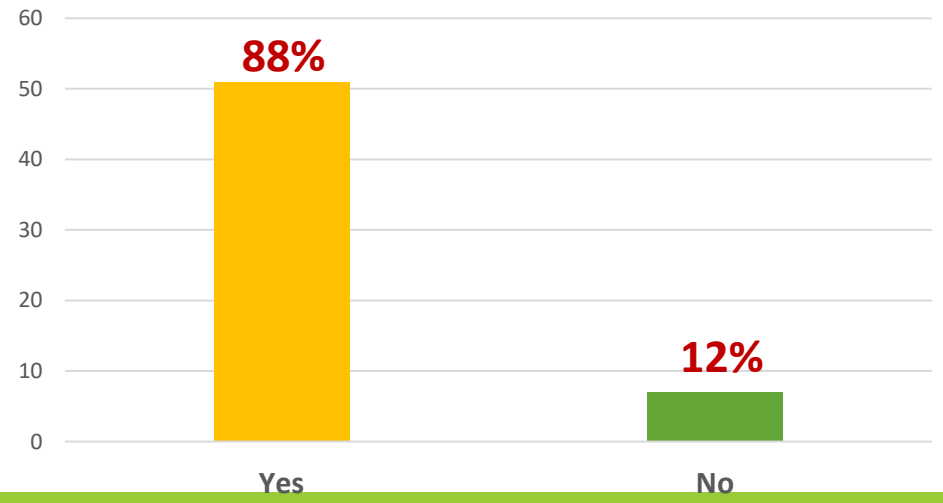
Attendance



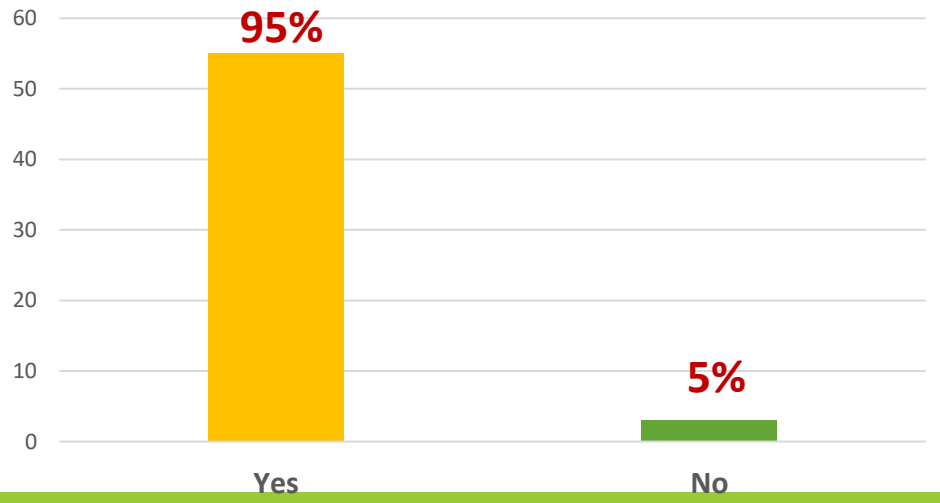
Belonging and Purpose



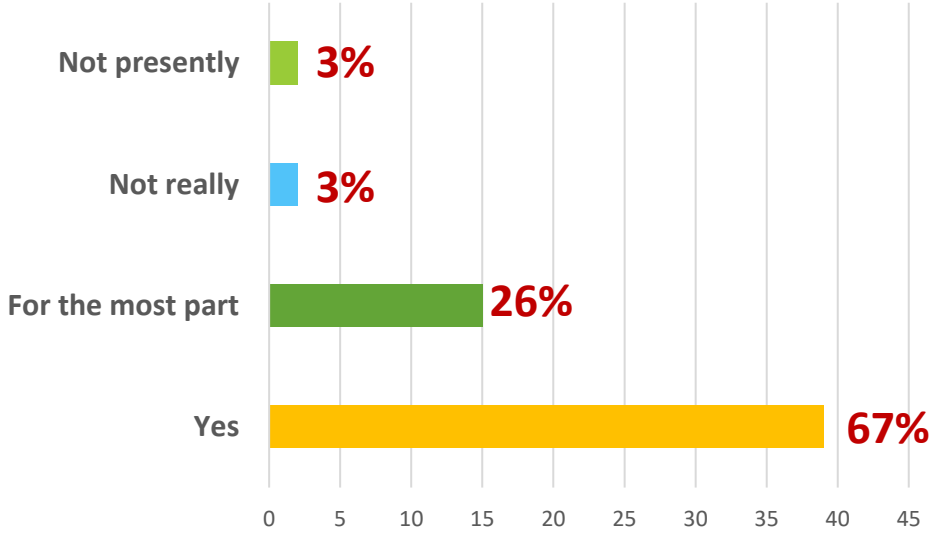
Close Friends



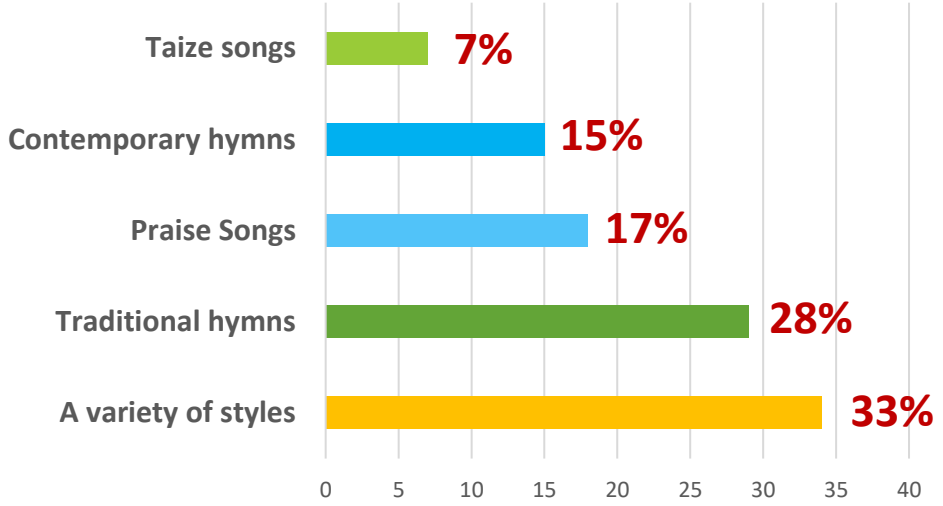
Invite Friends



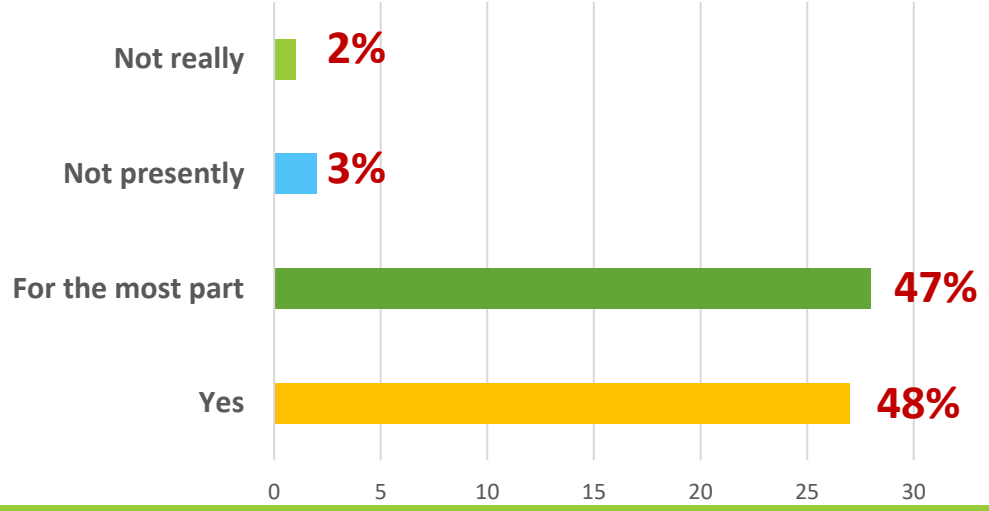
Grown as a Christian



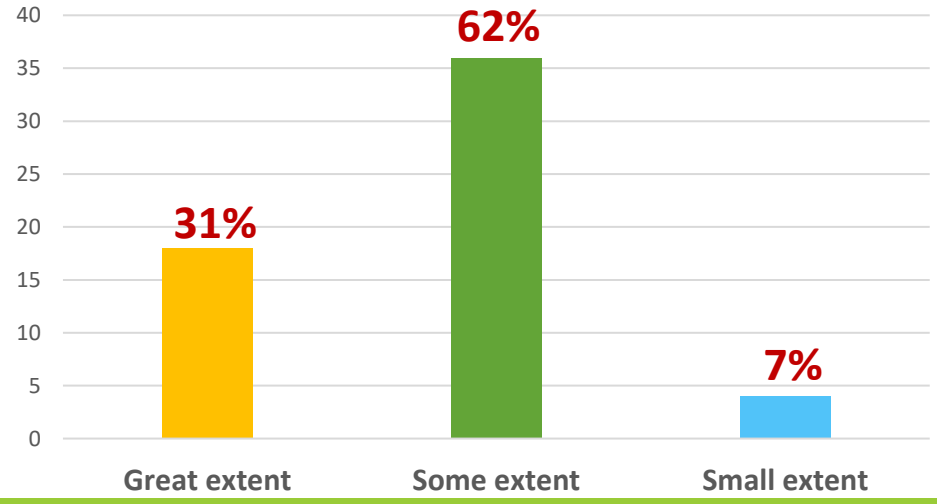
Musical Styles Preferred (multiple responses)



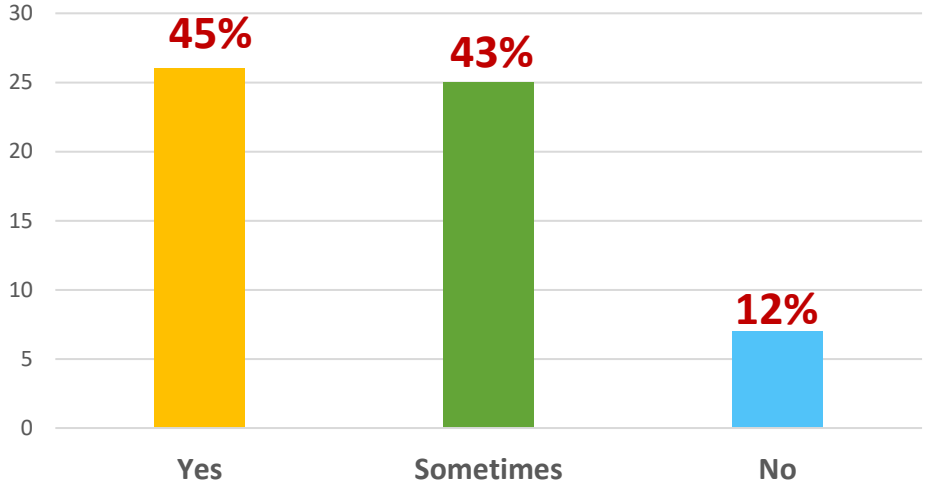
Spiritual Needs Being Met



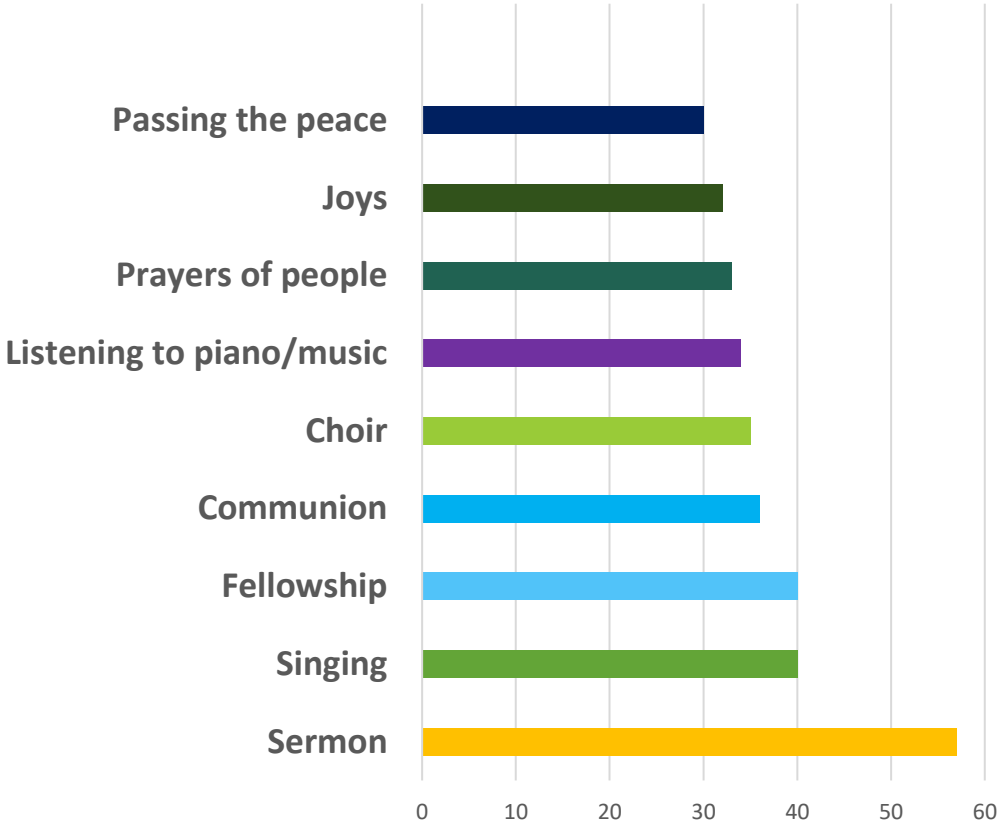
Sermon Help with Everyday Living



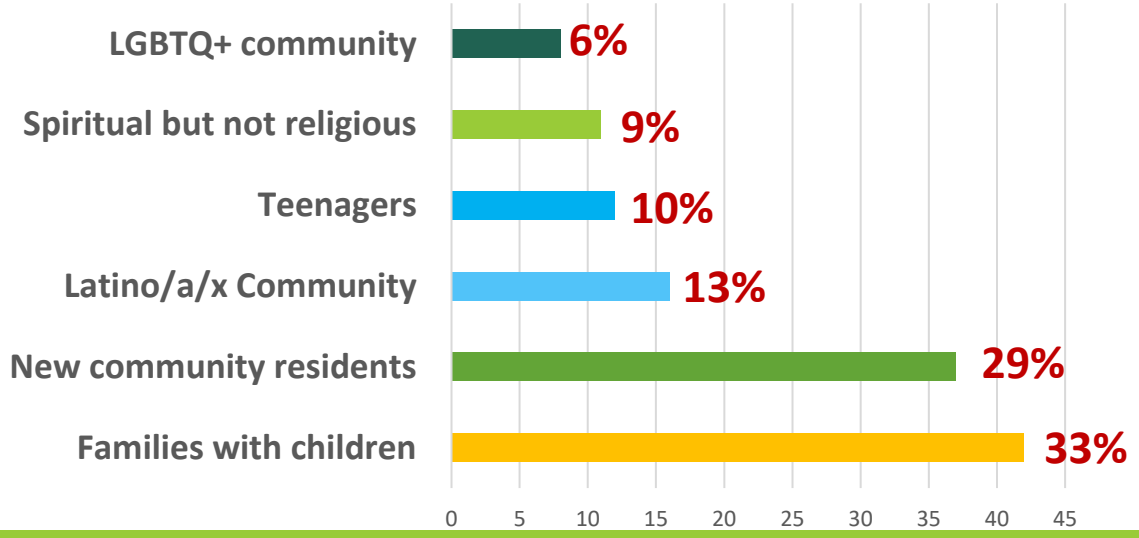
Do You Participate in Church Community Activities



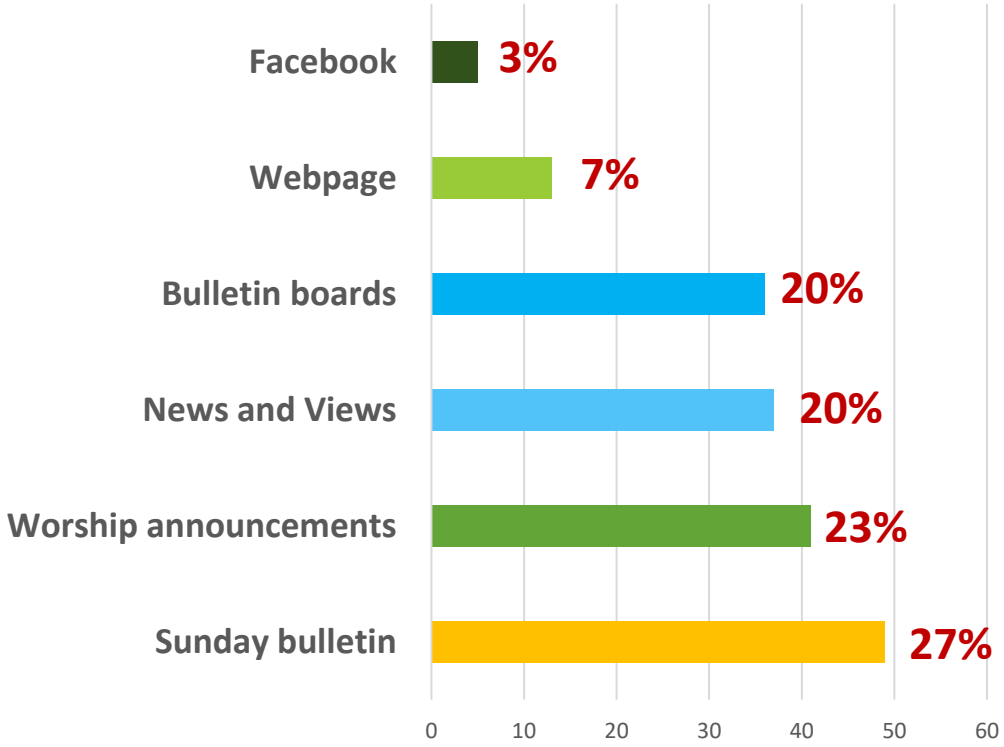
What Aspects of Worship Are Valued Most (multiple responses)



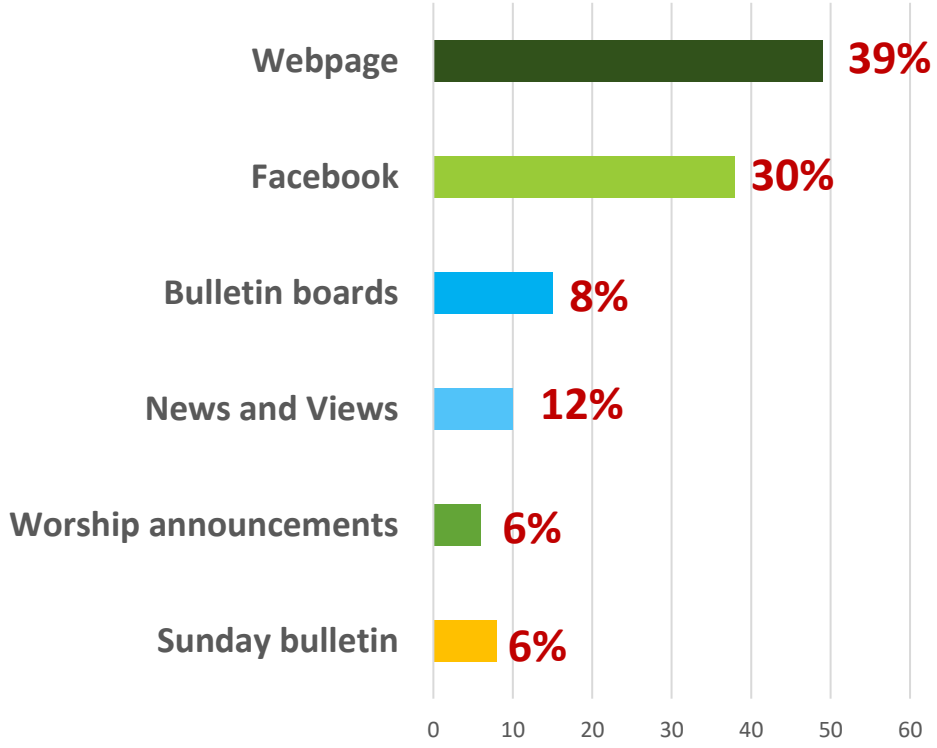
Groups to Focus on to Attract/Grow Church

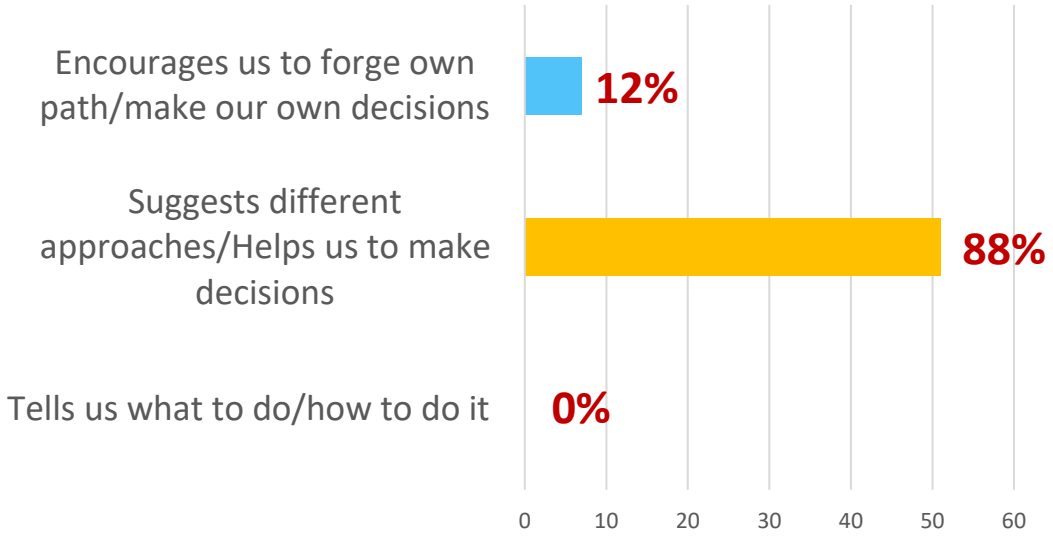


How Do Member/Friends Access Information

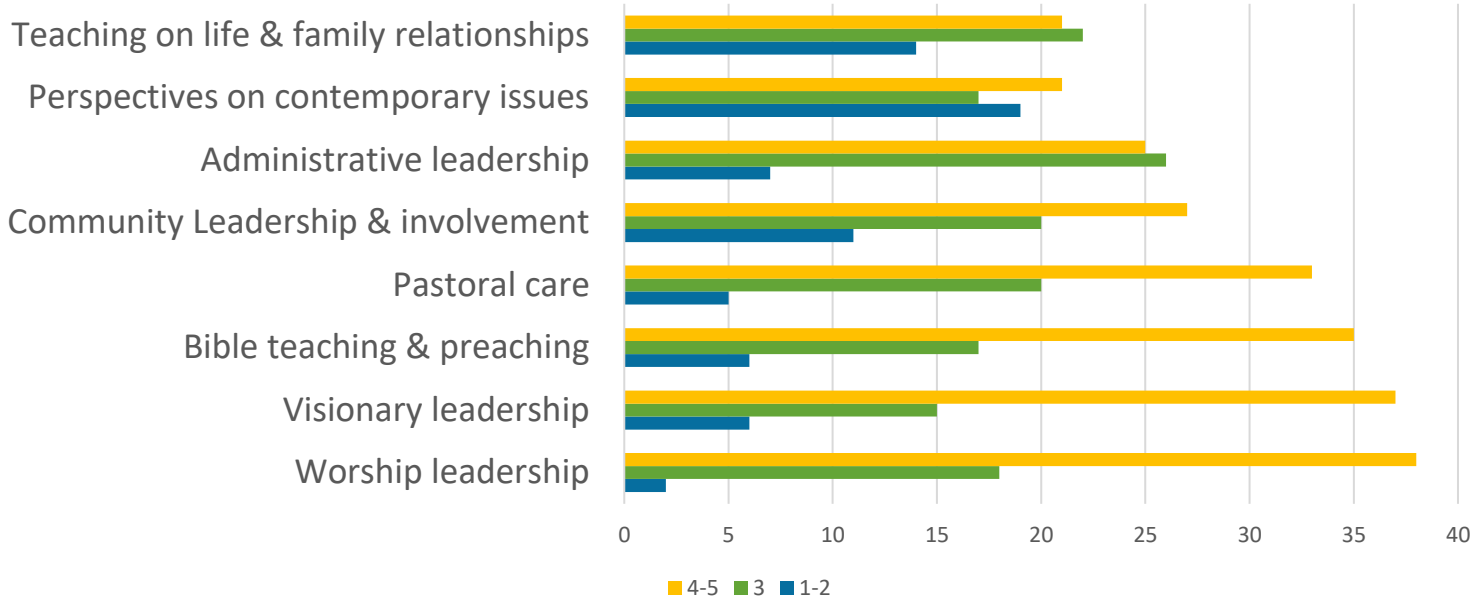


How Do People Looking for a Church Access Information





Types of Pastoral Leadership



Focus Group Results

(Categories shown are in order of the # of comments received)

Why is being part of our church family important to you?

- This church is my spiritual home!
- Spiritual growth/Relationship with God/Living a Christian life
- Close Relationships
- Welcoming to all
- Community involvement
- Singing, Like minded, Support in times of need, Personal involvement

What did you most appreciate about Pastor John Carrick?

- Encouraged reading/Learning the bible with an open mind
- Sermon style and delivery
- Quiet/Calm, Kind, Caring and compassionate leadership
- World Events
- Community involvement, Welcoming to all, Family
- Listen Openly and without judgement, Humanness-acknowledged his faults, Learning from books, Scholar

From your perspective, how did COVID affect our family?

- Use of technology/Online presence
- Decreased church attendance
- Strengthened our church community
- Fear and isolation
- Masking/decreased physical interaction, Community Thanksgiving Dinner (CTD) changes

What expectations do you have from our next pastor?

- Community oriented
- Sermons
- Biblical interpretation
- Leadership qualities
- World view, Welcoming to all, Family person
- Visionary (growing our church), Involves congregation, Technology, Pastoral care, Appreciates music in worship

What do you recommend we should do to attract and grow our congregation?

- Focus on families, children and young people
- Community engagement/involvement
- Realize the church/society/community/life styles have changed
- Online presence
- Facility use
- Food/church activities, Outreach, Permanent pastor, Focus on LGBTQ+, Focus on Hispanics

Question: Beyond worship, what three improvement areas should our church focus on?

Improvement Comments

CHILDREN

	Young people (2)	Youth Pastor (2)
Encourage families to join (4)	Invite younger members	Summer events for children (VBS)
Sunday school (3)	Activities for children/youth (9)	Family programs
Youth programs	Join with other churches to provide a community/social event/s..especially for children	Serving Youth
Engaging younger community members	Children: A Wed after school “church school”	Young people/children (5)
Children: Family ministry outreach (2)	Address the lack of young people attending our church	Summer activity for kids

MUSIC

Getting music program restarted	Grow the choir (7)	Live band (2)
Jazz up some of the music Include more modern music (3)	Find a full time/permanent music director (very difficult I know) (5)	Music (3)
Bring a choir member or something that fits their needs	Permanent organist	

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Partnership with other faith communities	More community involvement	More community outreach (10)
Community Engagement	Social engagement	Community service (2)
Reaching out to poor (2)	Seeking outside help for our big events	Serving the underserved
Reaching out to homeless (2)		

GROW CONGREGATION

Welcoming New Folks (3)	Advertising church activities	Committee to welcome new members
Attendance (3)	Grow/retain our congregation (3)	Bring a friend to church
Growth of congregation	More interactive web presence	More visible social media presence
Group trips	Group meals	Be open minded to ways of doing things
Let the community know that we unapologetically support Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (a banner on the front lawn? A banner in Sat Indivisible Rally?	Events or programs that attract the Spiritual but not Religious folks: interesting author talks? Host good speakers to address interesting issues…	Membership
Getting Young couples back	Grow membership (2)	Marketing to wider audiences
Attracting people to join our church	Publicity services on YouTube	Offer activities that bring people to our church
Better contact with first time church attendees	Videotaping worship services	Encouraging young families to get involved

INTERNAL CONGREGATION

Small group gatherings (3)	Events later in the day for those not retired	Friendship/Fellowship (3)
More church events for members to participate in (2)	Bible studies (3)	Open Minded
Strong leadership (?)	Activities	Internal Communication (5)
Counseling	Group doing fun things like cooking or a craft	Contacting and visiting shut ins
Don’t pressure the congregation members to take on more than they offer to do	Provide food bank with money/donations	Think about a longer term vision
Leadership development	New ideas	Getting all church members involved in church activities
Listening to others	Family time	Compassion

PASTOR

Pastor who is people person (2)	Getting a new pastor (2)	A pastor who can live here
Have pastor join a club..ie rotary, lions, etc.. good way to do outreach.	Find a minister that would enjoy and become a part of the community	Obtaining a traditional, theologically grounded pastor

WORSHIP

Encouraging participation in parts of worship service (as demonstrated during this interim period)	Maintaining focus on core beliefs rather than centering on contemporary social issues	No politics (3)
Peace (4)		

CHURCH FACILITY

Figuring out how to utilize the church property in a way that supports the mission/values of the church.	Make our facility more available to others	Be open during the week
Work days to take care of our church		

Positive Comments

- Best church
- No improvements necessary: Our church is impressively community focused
- The congregation is beautifully tight-knit and supportive
- We're inclusive of the community in all its endeavors
- Everything is great!!
- We love the church!
- We do outreach and have CED, CTD, and Community Holiday Bazaar
- Everything is going great right now!

Last Question – What information surfaced for you while completing this survey that you would like to share with the Mission Study Team?

- Update our church flyer/brochure and find a way to distribute to new residents, church neighbors, etc.
- Friendship, compassion and an open mind.
- Welcoming people of all color and language
- I realize how many areas there are in the life of a church. I had not thought of it really before. I just came and felt better after being here, was involved in some aspects, but did not necessarily see them as part of a whole experience.
- Actions speak louder that words. I feel like this church community is really engaged in the wider community. I see that as a major strength, build upon that. Find others in the community to help build up that endeavor. Networking and building coalitions is a way to share resources and reach more people. Thank you all for what this faith community brings to this town!
- Some churches have a bookstore with spiritual and religious books
- I very much appreciate the church building and facilities and the friendliness of the current members and staff.
- The burden of leadership and responsibilities within this church, with limited participation in these areas, can feel overwhelming.
- While filling out this survey, it became clear that our church is trying to do more than our current number of active members can reasonably support. A small group of people is serving on many committees, often out of a sense of obligation, which leads to fatigue and burnout. It also highlighted how important it is for the church to be clear about its mission and priorities, especially as the congregation grows older and resources become more limited. Simplifying how we operate and staying focused on what matters most will be important for the church's long-term health.
- A lot of thought was put into making this survey! Thank you to the people who worked on this.

- Looking at the whole church, not just the part you play such as one committee.
- How lucky we are having quality people in leadership positions.
- I appreciate the Mission Team doing this study, and their time and commitment.
- I appreciate the time and effort the Mission Study Team has put into coming up with this survey and Focus Group Questions. Would love to see our church grow with new members and nourish their Christian faith. Often wonder, in our local community, if all the Christian Churches will down the road will become one.
- A realization of my own faith journey. I would hope that I can help bring others to be part of something bigger than their current lives.

Pastor

- This is a good survey for our congregation and I feel it will be helpful to us, as well as a prospective Pastor
- What do we want in a pastor? We have had a long-time pastor with Dan Fowler, and interm pastor with Cheryl Finch, and then John Carrick. Each offered something different but good. I would like to see a pastor with great compassion, understanding, and wisdom. People need that. Also, Cheryl mixed up the services with more props and made it interesting. John Carrick also changed things around, so it never gets boring, and it keeps people's attention. We have so many events throughout the year that we can make even better and possibly attract more people to our church.
- I think it very important that the new pastor be someone who wants to belong to the community and sees himself or herself doing so for years to come.
- I didn't realize how much work had to go into selecting a new pastor.
- We need a pastor who can help us grow our membership as well as lead our current members in spiritual growth and development.
- Find a pastor who “fits” with our fellowship and shares similar goals and ideals with the congregation.
- I wish we could hire a local pastor like Martha Lopez who has experience ministering in our church and working with the multicultural families of our communities. We could really reach out to others in that way.
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Families

- More activities for families
- I personally have not attended other churches. However, my daughter has and she always shared that we should focus on the needs of younger people and have a balance of music that included contemporary music.
- That it would be so nice to be able to get some younger families with children to join us. So many of us are elderly people (and you are really wonderful!) but having recently come back to CA from Tennessee, the church there had a lot of young families that added a dose of vigor, new ideas and energy to the whole congregation.

Survey Improvement

- The question regarding Aspects of worship most valued seems to be asking for "most" but allowing "all". The choices in the last survey question seem a bit redundant; Bible Teaching and Preaching seems the same as Worship Leadership

to me. Additionally, I am not sure what is meant by the term Visionary Leadership.

- Some questions needed a line for “other” with opportunity for a write-in answer.
- I'm not sure what "visionary leadership" means... but I think it is important if it means to lead in ways to connect with people and act in Faith.
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