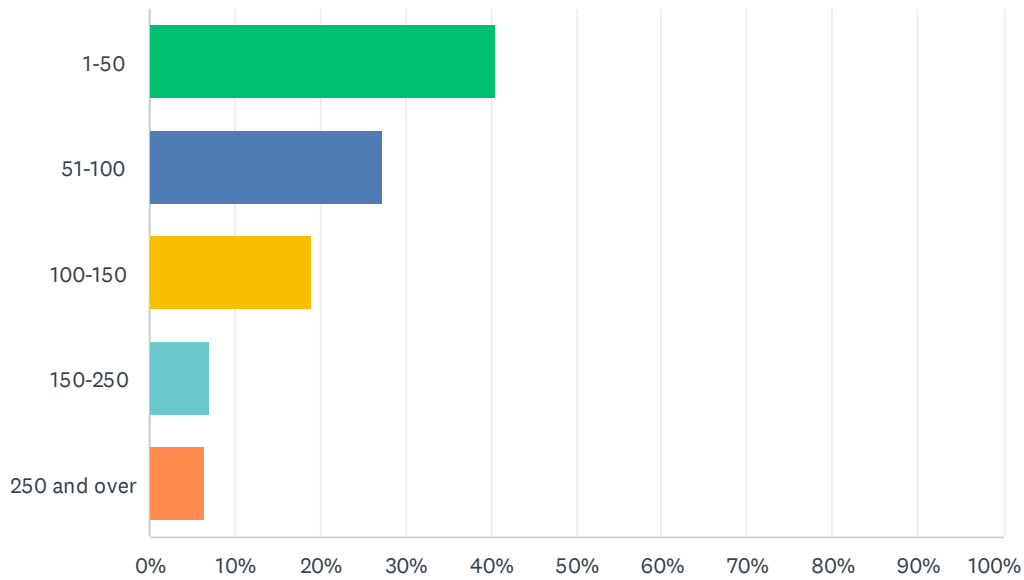


Q1 What is the size of the congregation where you worship?

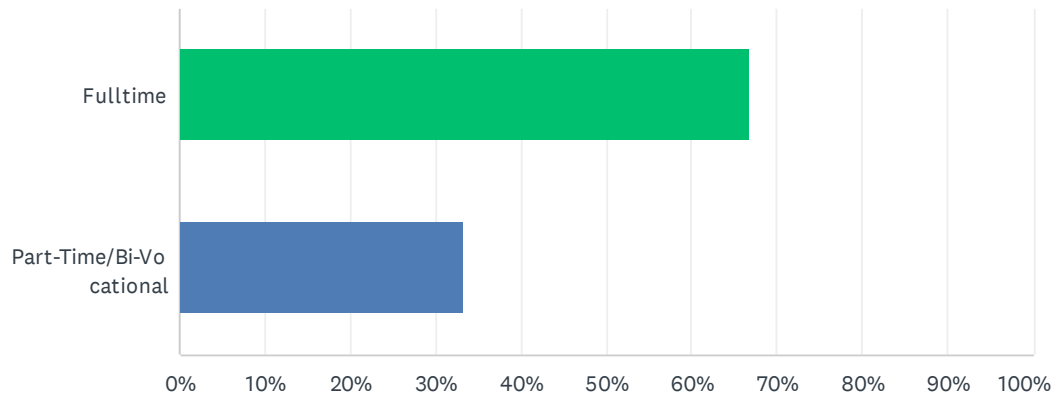
Answered: 143 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-50	40.56%	58
51-100	27.27%	39
100-150	18.88%	27
150-250	6.99%	10
250 and over	6.29%	9
TOTAL		143

Q2 Is your pastor full-time or part-time/bi-vocational?

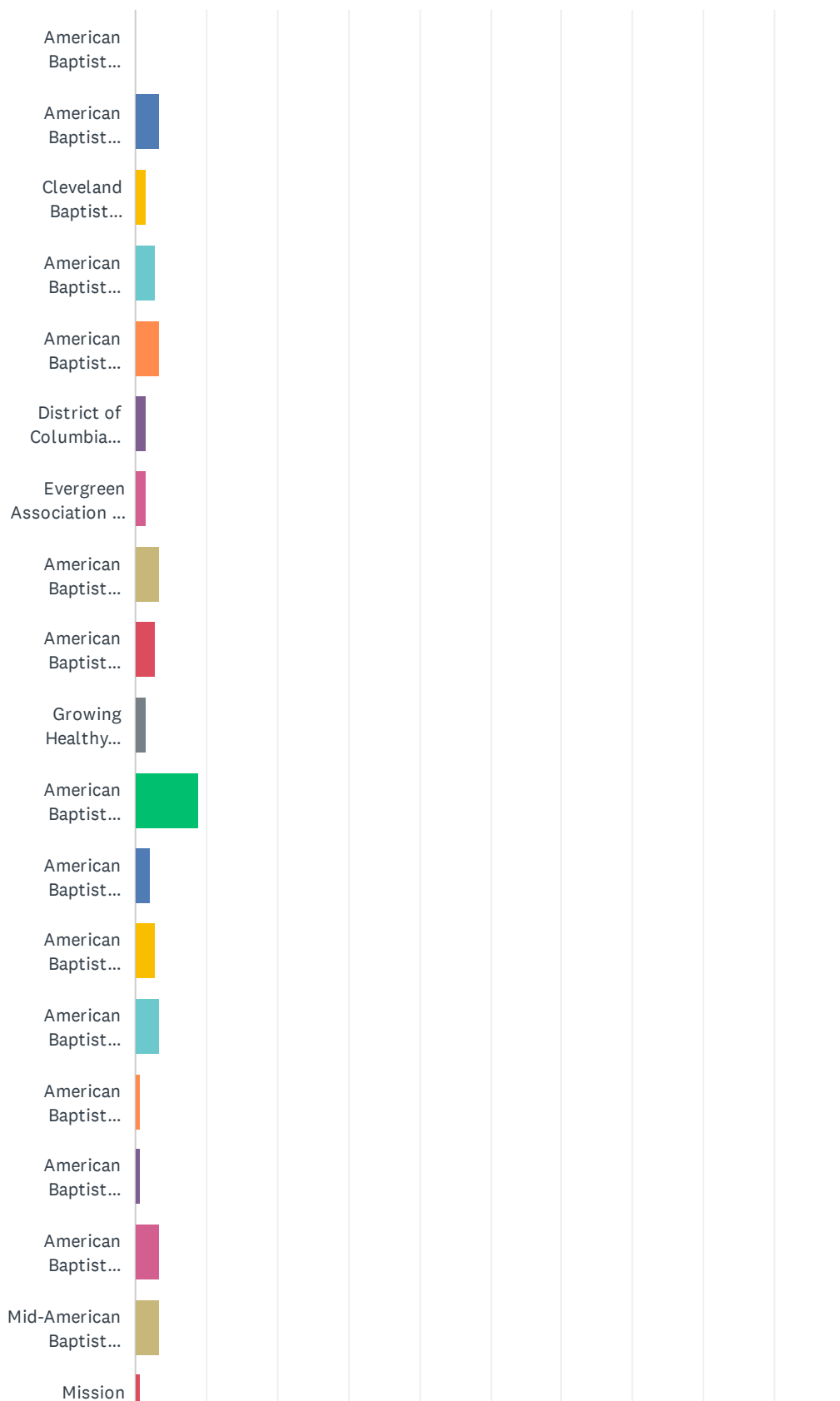
Answered: 144 Skipped: 0



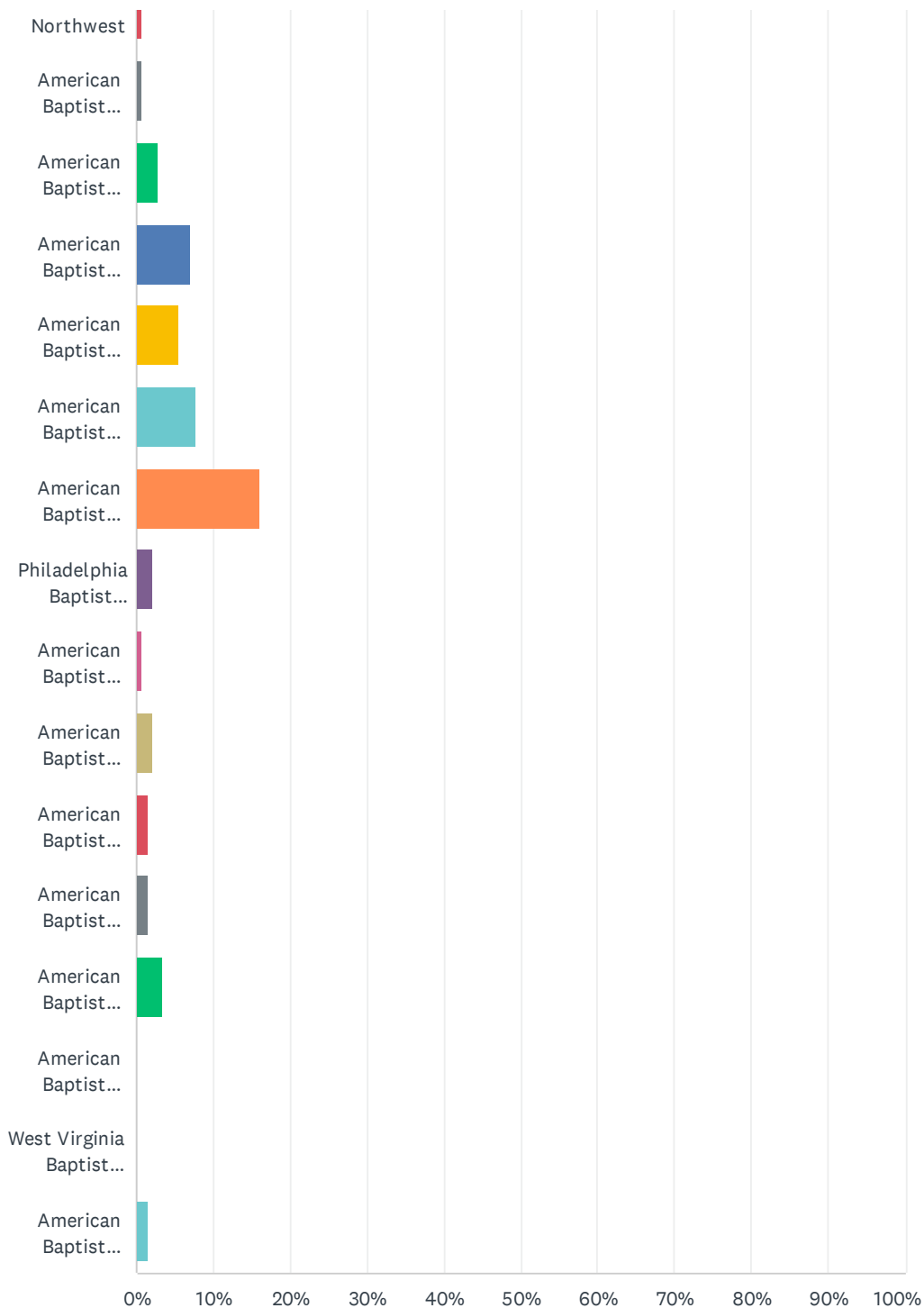
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fulltime	66.67%	96
Part-Time/Bi-Vocational	33.33%	48
TOTAL		144

Q3 What is the home region where your congregation is located?

Answered: 144 Skipped: 0



Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations



Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

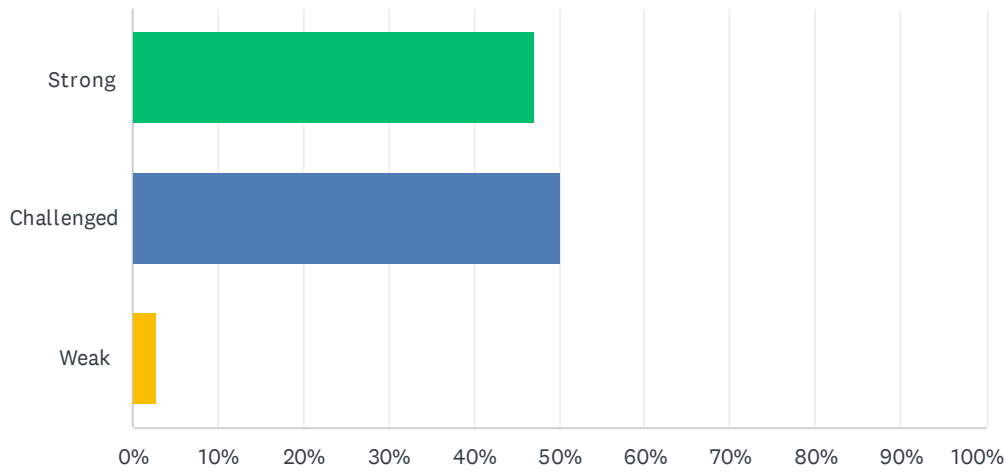
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Baptist Churches of Alaska	0.00%	0
American Baptist Churches of the Central Region	3.47%	5
Cleveland Baptist Association	1.39%	2
American Baptist Churches of Connecticut	2.78%	4
American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas	3.47%	5
District of Columbia Baptist Convention	1.39%	2
Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches	1.39%	2
American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region	3.47%	5
American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis	2.78%	4
Growing Healthy Churches	1.39%	2
American Baptist Churches of Indiana & Kentucky	9.03%	13
American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, Southwest and Hawaii	2.08%	3
American Baptist Churches of Maine	2.78%	4
American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts	3.47%	5
American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago	0.69%	1
American Baptist Churches of Metro New York	0.69%	1
American Baptist Churches of Michigan	3.47%	5
Mid-American Baptist Churches	3.47%	5
Mission Northwest	0.69%	1
American Baptist Churches of Nebraska	0.69%	1
American Baptist Churches of New Jersey	2.78%	4
American Baptist Churches of New York State	6.94%	10
American Baptist Churches of Ohio	5.56%	8
American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast	7.64%	11
American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware	15.97%	23
Philadelphia Baptist Association	2.08%	3
American Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico	0.69%	1
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island	2.08%	3
American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region	1.39%	2
American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains	1.39%	2
American Baptist Churches of the South	3.47%	5
American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire	0.00%	0

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

West Virginia Baptist Convention	0.00%	0
American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin	1.39%	2
TOTAL		144

Q4 Our church health PRIOR to the pandemic was:

Answered: 144 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strong	47.22%	68
Challenged	50.00%	72
Weak	2.78%	4
TOTAL		144

Q5 Explain your selection in a few sentences or phrases below:

Answered: 136 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We had an active youth and children's ministries and community outreaches	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	Our congregation is older with health conditions prior to Covid.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	An older church	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Going through motions of maintenance with token outreach	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	We were seeing families on a weekly basis and connection as well as growth was strong.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	loosing members due to aging out, Congressional/Exec branch politics, pastor retired	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	We were coming off a challenging time and were finally positioned to "take off."	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	We struggled to work together for the benefit of the ministry. Some members let their politics guide their work within the church. We were unable to bring in new families, keep younger families, and have enough volunteers for all of our leadership positions.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Declining but holding steady	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Had good assistance and new visitors	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	Even though the majority are elderly - they stayed in good health	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	Only about half of our congregation has returned. Our leadership has had to take on more responsibility and that has led to frustration and concern.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	Loss of membership during and following a difficult pastoral call. More loss of membership due to aging.	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	our population is getting older. We need to grow with youth/young families	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
15	Many are not consistent in corporate worship	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
16	We are struggling to attract young families, so our children's population is declining as our senior population is passing. Our finances and buildings are still sound, but we are struggling in outreach.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
17	Strong Pastor supported by the congregation serving in several ministries and giving locally and internationally.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
18	Regular services, Bible study, regular growth, good administrative structure, etc.	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
19	We experienced the second wave with illness.	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
20	We were running at full strength with our programs and extra curricular activities.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
21	Majority of congregation was older but in general was in good health with some exceptions.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
22	We had strong ministries to children, youth and adults of all ages.	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
23	Small congregation - challenge to grow because mostly older and unable to go out into the community. The pastor was our main outreach person.	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
24	Congregation getting old, no new leaders	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
25	Leaders focused, outreach active, consistent discipleship training	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
26	Despite some staffing challenges we were stable financially, seeing new faces, and trying new things	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
27	We were without a permanent physical location	10/5/2022 12:51 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

28	We were building momentum in involvement for ministry both within and outside our physical church building.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
29	The pandemic really didn't hurt our congregation that much. We are stronger now than we were before the pandemic. Many members that were not coming to Church before the pandemic are now coming to Church.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
30	Getting members to return to Sunday morning worship	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
31	Decline in membership. Pastor retired. Interim pastor served for 14 months during the Covid crisis.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
32	Good pastoral staff, congregation able to communicate well with one another	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
33	A majority of our people were not hampered by health issues.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
34	Very kind, caring and generous people.	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
35	Many ministries growing. New pastor getting comfortable with the church and operations	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
36	already seeing a decline in membership.	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
37	We didn't appreciate what we had and were distracted by some programs.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
38	Aging congregation, dedicated few have been serving in multiple positions for long time, scant pool of potential replacements	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
39	I'm not surw if yyou are asking about Conregational Health or Member's health? I'm answering as if it's congregational health.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
40	My people have great practices and a lot of faith	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
41	We weren't particularly weak but strong in the sense that our worship was stable and alive. Our boards were active and productive. Our fellowship times were warm and encouraging.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
42	Our attendance had declined after 5 years with no permanent pastor and three transitional ministers in that time.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
43	Seniors over 60 with failing health	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
44	We were growing, especially with children and young families	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
45	Well attended, active, financially strong	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
46	Older Congregation and we had lost a lot of member through death.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
47	no fellowship opportunities, no outreach, no invitating	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
48	Small and. Old	10/1/2022 9:06 AM
49	We are a very small congregation hanging on by a thread but with very faithful members who have been meeting only once a month for years.	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
50	Consistent attendance, growing numbers in Sunday Morning Bible Fellowship Group (aka Sunday school), devoted to Christ and one another	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
51	We were functioning well but over spending our income	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
52	Dwindling attendance with corresponding financial deficit. Few young people, teens, children.	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
53	An intergenerational congregation with vital, engaged, active involvement in congregational life and ministry	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
54	We are a very small congregation with mostly older members.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
55	All the churches I work for in my region were impacted by the pandemic and were not prepare, economically, spiritually and phically.	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
56	We have a largely older congregation but it is diverse culturally.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
57	New Pastor and a new outlook a year before Covid	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
58	Pastor left after 18 months in conflict; church split	9/29/2022 7:36 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

59	Declining numbers	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
60	String attendance and regular engagement.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
61	Everyone was healthy and able to work when needed	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
62	We are a small rural aging congregation which is challenged to reach new and younger people within our community. We often struggle with youth and children's ministries. Attendance is in decline.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
63	We were getting about 38-45 members per week.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
64	We were going strong and then hit the wall.	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
65	We shut the door, and wore masks when we went back	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
66	There were many that were willing to do but some who would rather sit around and complain about what everyone else was doing and not doing. It tended to bring people down some..	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
67	We stopp	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
68	Our long term pastor was retiring. Our church had many sessions assessing where we wanted to go in the future. Then we had an interim and began covid. We found a pastor we like, but it has been harder to get to become acquainted in the middle of the pandemic	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
69	Fairly stable population, fairly good participation in activities beyond worship.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
70	Our congregation has a gracious and loving depth, as well as to create intergenerational transformation.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
71	Average age of attendees was well over 60. Many key positions particularly old	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
72	Many attendees that were regularly involved together	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
73	Not growing, older congregation, youth were seeing growth	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
74	we were growing in spiritual and numerical strength	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
75	Our active involvement in the needs of the surrounding community required operational changes in our outreach programs. The changes included those required to protect our physical health. Changes in worship and meetings were made possible through implementation of technical tools.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
76	Small congregation	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
77	We are a small rural church and being few in number, many in our congregation are doing the same jobs year after year.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
78	Elderly congregation with small numbers	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
79	Our congregation had a decline in worship attendance. Also we had provided a joint ministry with a Karen congregation that moved to their own building causing a major decline.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
80	Attendance steady, lay leadership and participation strong	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
81	Older aged congregation, limited resources, older building, to name a few.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
82	Regular attendance by all	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
83	financially sound, lots of involvement and outreach with multigenerations involved	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
84	It is a group of loving, able and energetic believers	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
85	There was some conflict surrounding pastoral leadership and some people had left the church	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
86	Senior citizens with underlining conditions	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
87	Good attendance and participation prior	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
88	We stopped meeting for only a few weeks. During that time, we invested in improvement in our on-line presence. then we began meeting live quickly also. we continued our building process. when everyone else was slowing down, we hit the gas	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
89	Growing in spirit and in numbers	9/29/2022 12:14 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

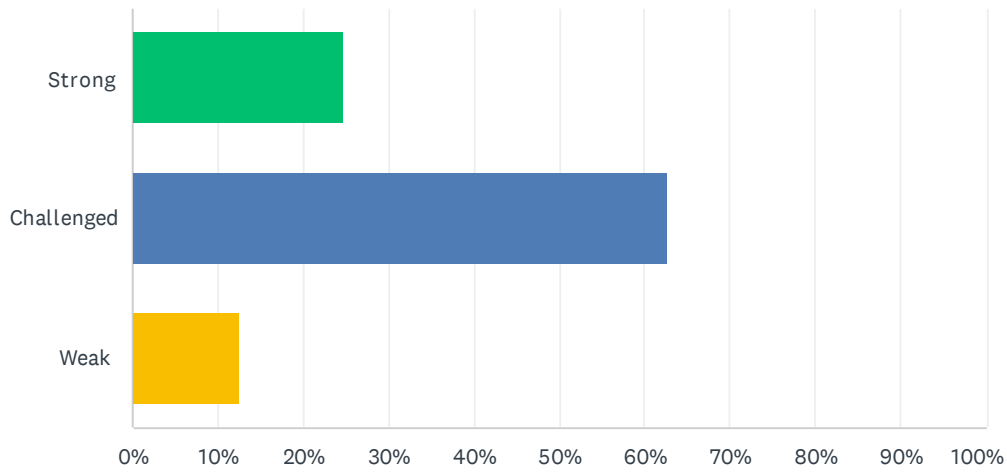
90	It is an older congregation and several folks have died.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
91	Stable and growing	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
92	I left the American bad ass because they are going nowhere and do not have the wisdom to know where to go. I am now Roman Catholic. The challenges that those who are on the right wing have for things that they talk about, four sins, And they are running off the intelligent people.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
93	Good weekly attendance. Significant monetary support. Involvement with the wider community.	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
94	Our numbers are few but a strong sense of community. A desire by many to reach out but those same people are doing all of the other work too.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
95	Attendance down. People slow to return.	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
96	Attendance was declining	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
97	Some long-time members left the church leaving a leadership gap.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
98	We were growing. Our average worship attendance had increased to 41. We were on an upward swing, but not where we wanted to be.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
99	Interim pastorate and a small church trying to find a new vision	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
100	Regular participation and commitment to serving has been a challenge that pre-dates Covid. We have less than ten people who are actively engaged in the ministries of the church.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
101	Attendance in general was good and the participation to all activities.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
102	Our numbers are shrinking, but our mission work is increasing. We have a healthy children's program and a small youth group. We are open to trying new ways of doing things, and celebrate our diversity.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
103	Poor leadership	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
104	Pre-pandemic we were meeting budget, seeing baptisms, and beginning to grow in more intentional evangelistic outreach. We were also seeing internal divisions begin to subside.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
105	Lack of emerging leaders	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
106	Small congratulations	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
107	We are an older congregation with the issues of an older congregation.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
108	Cliques, factions, struggles over worship style	9/24/2022 1:46 PM
109	We had vibrant and active congregation	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
110	Faithful attendees	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
111	My home church is small but there are other churches in my region that are larger; we have COVID protocol such as signing in w/contact info in case someone tests positive,	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
112	Retirement for pastor and interim pastor and search	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
113	We were not growing	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
114	No issues	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
115	ABC USA and many affiliated Baptist churches have been slowly turning away from strong biblical teachings and instead embracing sinful ways of this world.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
116	overall attendance and participation was above normal.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
117	The church is small with a large percentage of the congregation having multiple needs.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
118	Aging and losses due to moves and deaths	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
119	Caught in the problem how to attract younger families	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
120	Our congregation was healthy, having just completed a large building project and working on expanding our ministry	9/22/2022 8:10 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

121	Vibrant and a lot of in-person interactions	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
122	Going through pastor retirement, aging congregation, lacking clear vision and mission for future in terms of understanding and practical application	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
123	Our church attendance was hanging around 50 with no numerical growth for a few decades	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
124	Very low membership due to ineffective leadership and preaching in past.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
125	We are mostly an elderly congregation with very few active members--before Covid. More so now.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
126	We were going through a phase of uncertainty with bringing on a second FT pastor. Lots of unknown as to the role and responsibilities of the Connections Pastor.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
127	Lower contributions/fewer attendees on Sunday	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
128	Older congregation, but overall healthy	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
129	Older congregation with typical health challenges as would be expected.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
130	Prior to the pandemic, we had followed a revitalization plan to increase engagement and connection within the church and community. Those conversations were productive but still developing results at the beginning of the pandemic.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
131	We had great attendance and strong fellowship	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
132	Stable participation, strong record of giving & mission	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
133	Healthy, focused, engaged in mission	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
134	Our programs and participation were 80-100%.	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
135	Declining Membership and Disconnect from Mission	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
136	The attendance was strong and everyone sat together.	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q6 Our church health AT THE HEIGHT of the pandemic was:

Answered: 142 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strong	24.65%	35
Challenged	62.68%	89
Weak	12.68%	18
TOTAL		142

Q7 Explain your selection in a few sentences or phrases below:

Answered: 138 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	With not being able to meet in person (not only for worship) but for fellowships and community initiatives, our church health was strained	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	Even younger, healthy congregants became very ill. Some elderly members died. Attendance has declined.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	Their age suggested that they stay indoors.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Masking and distancing were partially observed	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	We were spread out, but we were able to pivot to online services quickly and we were creative in maintaining connections with one another.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	social media frustrations	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Covid-19 abruptly stopped the momentum we had going.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	The issues that plagued us prior to the pandemic were exacerbated by the pandemic and the decision of the leadership to go to worshipping online. Some church members didn't believe it was necessary and thought it showed a lack of faith.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Worship by zoom. More new people "coming for worship" on line	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Moved to outdoor services	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	We went on line, but not everyone is able to join us this way	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	We saw an end to the pandemic which helped to keep us moving forward in ministry.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	We, the few and faithful, rallied under current pastoral leadership to have a "Long-Distance Worship Service". It was wonderful, despite missing being in community for the service.	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	Pastor died and several members were adversely affected in their health, including death	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	We were resourceful and figured out ways to deliver services to congregation	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	Being unable to gather in person challenged many relationships.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Since we offered digital alternatives, our in-person attendance declined; communion, offerings, and welcomings were modified for physical attendees; singing through masks became very awkward; and home visitations were restricted.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	Not meeting in person. Had to adapt, creating online options for worship service. Maintaining contact and connection with the congregation was challenging, but happened.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	If we are talking spiritual health we were ok. Could always be stronger	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
20	We were closed down, so nothing other than online worship was going on. Also at the height of the pandemic, several of the members of the congregation got covid, so there was a challenge of continually checking on them to make sure they were doing okay. Thankfully our church didn't experience any deaths from Covid. And then we had a pastoral change during the pandemic.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
21	We were remote, probably 50% were diagnosed at one point of another, but no major consequences were had in terms of long term health condition.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
22	There were disagreements on our approach to navigating through the pandemic with in person meetings, masking, social distancing, limiting attendance in the building due to space concerns and social distancing	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
23	When we could no longer meet in the Sanctuary, we had to hold our service in parking lots with	10/5/2022 4:42 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

	congregation remaining in their cars.	
24	The church closed at the begining of the quaranteen and has never reopened	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
25	Difficult with so many differing views and fear leading people.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
26	We stayed stable financially but we struggled to stay connected and participation was low	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
27	Virtual services eliminated the need for a physical location	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
28	Being connected and sustaining ministry require a shift in thinking, technology advances, live stream, etc.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
29	The health of my congregation at the height of the pandemic was challenged because many were more cautious than before. We set up the safety measures for all of our members.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
30	Navigating worship service	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
31	Attendance was down to between 12 and 20. Not everyone was vaccinated, and interim pastor was encouraged not to encourage members to get vaccinated. 6-10 members caught covid. A few would not wear masks, and a number chose not to attend because of the mask mandate.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
32	We had good consensus and faithful, if not unanimous, buy-in by the congregation on our strategies to meet the challenge	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
33	Though few of our people had Covid-19, all were very concerned and following protocol.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
34	We didn't have in person worship (just remote) for 7 months.	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
35	We did monthly "drive by and say hi" events in the parking lot. Pastor communicated weekly and we offered an online service only that was well received. Ministry leaders continued to communicate with their teams. Some Bible studies met in parks.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
36	many of our older members did not participate. There was no plan for online services so member were forced to worship online with other churches	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
37	We figured out what was important.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
38	Meeting via zoom was a challenge that we met, but still lacked many parishoners who could not or did not wish to worship that way.	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
39	There were fewer opportunities to interact.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
40	We were closed my it	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
41	We found new methods of gathering. Our financial giving was strong and sometimes higher than prepandemic. Everyone missed personal connections but made phone calls to keep in touch. We reached Indians families beyond our local communities.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
42	We did not have live streaming in place so that took some time and when we did come back together, it was outside with only video recording and posting later. Technology was not in place.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
43	Worried about leaving their homes.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
44	We stayed closed for two months (online services), but were very connected.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
45	Drop in attendance, especially among elderly	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
46	To come up with new ways of reaching and feeding people	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
47	no worship, no communication, no pastoral care	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
48	Many watched service via internet	10/1/2022 9:06 AM
49	Attendance was more sporadic during the pandemic when we used zoom. It was better when we met outside.	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
50	Consistent attendance and faithful in gathering	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
51	We adapted quickly to challenges	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
52	Difficulty managing technology for live stream / remote worship services	9/30/2022 9:27 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

53	Still engaged and active, but struggling with isolation from each other as well as dealing with some deaths & moves within the membership	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
54	There was no change in our membership status. Our small congregation remained committed.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
55	Most all the Latino churches in my region were hit seriously by the pandemic	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
56	We followed the state guide lines. Only one Sunday service was missed. Starting the second week of the pandemic, we recorded our service on Saturday and put it on our church website and uTube. By the middle of July, we started in-person services while continuing to also tape the services and broadcast them over the two sites. on Christmas eve 2020, we started live streaming our services as well as in-person. We check temperatures, asked questions, etc. while following state guidelines. In the past few months, we have had a number of people join our church. We average around 80 per Sunday and offer an adult SS class prior to church. We are planning on starting Children's SS classes soon. We already have a Children's Church during the worship service. We have continued to meet and Boards and Committees are active. We have been more than able to meet our financial needs.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
57	We went virtual and maintained a connection through the difficult season.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
58	People jumped on Zoom and connected intentionally and regularly	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
59	People staying home. But still meeting in person.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
60	We had fewer people in person with regularly changing guidelines.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
61	Some had gotten sick and moved to nursing home	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
62	We were challenged to reach our congregation without the tools for online ministries. Our people felt scattered and alone during this time.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
63	Some folks were coming wearing mask; some were turning in to facebook live.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
64	Giving remained strong throughout.	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
65	We had divisions, conservative and liberal	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
66	People felt lost, unsure what to do. With all of the conflicting information, most were unsure who to trust in this world.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
67	We stop worshiping for some months but we started sanctuary worship after 3 months with no decrease in attendance or giving.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
68	Members joined zoom services and had chat group afterward.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
69	I feel like we handled the whole thing fairly well. There was of course some controversy about what parameters to implement, but for the most part, everyone stuck with us or has returned since the pandemic subsided.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
70	Moving to online services and communication.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
71	Same as above	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
72	Struggling to navigate how to be connected	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
73	Regulars attended throughout-seniors did not attend	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
74	Some wouldn't get their covid shots or wear a mask.	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
75	lack of community connections even though we met on zoom for small groups.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
76	We adapted well to the technological needs employed to keep us going.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
77	We connected on zoom and it allowed people from across the country to join us, so our numbers increased	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
78	We didn't meet in person and a lot of our elderly don't have access to internet to watch through the internet.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
79	Went from 35 on a Sunday morning to about 15	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
80	We had electronic worship during the pandemic and opened later for in person worship with masks. The physical size of average in person worship is 35-50.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

81	Many members stopped participating even in online worship	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
82	Same as above. We have been on Zoom throughout	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
83	The wanting to get back into the building	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
84	Smaller congregation, far fewer young families, less community involvement, less fellowship events	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
85	We were allowed to have public worship as long as everyone wore a mask.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
86	Same as above	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
87	Senior citizens with underlining conditions	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
88	No in person worship	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
89	see explanation above	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
90	Many new comers were here	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
91	Some folks had COVID and could not be with us but we persevered.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
92	Went online quickly. And pledging increased.	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
93	I consider my church unhealthy but it is much more healthy than any American Baptist church that I have attended or pastored. During the pandemic they were able to gather in creative ways and keep people safe.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
94	moved from in sanctuary to zoom worship. learning curve of technology was engaged and met.	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
95	Everyone rallied. We kept in contact with every member and set up a calling system. We started livestreaming the first Sunday apart and it helped people to feel they weren't alone. Especially those that lived alone.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
96	Took time to equip technology for streaming	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
97	We recorded worship and able to watch at home. We had several Zoom gatherings to check in and we had a calling tree to check in on each member monthly.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
98	Lack of connections, older adults not used to online services, some members did not agree with mask mandates and/or not having in-person worship	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
99	People adapted well. We only missed one Sunday when the pandemic caused shut downs. We started putting our services on the radio in our parking lot and then streaming them on Youtube and Facebook.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
100	In many ways we rose to the occasion. But the "new vision" part didn't move forward	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
101	Added to our pre-Covid challenges was the fear people had of getting sick. There was also new conflict among people as to how to address the public health guidelines for our church members and visitors. We have several people who still have not returned to in-person worship and choose to participate online only.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
102	Several adults with some medical pre-existing conditions	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
103	It was hard not able to gather in person. We handled the challenge by creating a strong on-line worship experience. We were concerned with protecting the health of our elderly members, so we were extra careful about social distancing and wearing masks. It was difficult to grow or maintain relationships with newer folks.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
104	Poor leadership	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
105	We've actually never seen such giving as we did during the pandemic. We were reduced to pre-recorded sermons, then zoom for 3 months, so when we could finally come back (distanced, masks, etc), people WANTED to gather. We faced all the normal challenges, but saw lots of good relational work come out of it.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
106	Not enough people to face the pandemic challenges	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
107	Slightly smaller some unable to join on line	9/25/2022 10:39 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

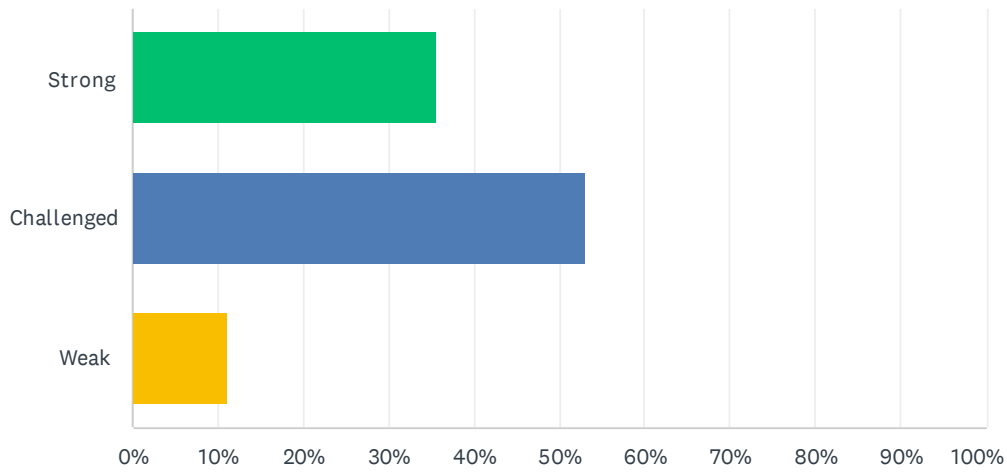
108	Safety measures taken made sure our collective health didn't get much worse.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
109	Membership changed, some left, more came	9/24/2022 1:46 PM
110	We had a pastoral change in the midst of the pandemic.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
111	Several older members little to no access for online services	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
112	In some of the larger churches we did have some folks who tested positive.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
113	See above	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
114	We had consistent regular attenders	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
115	We adapted quickly	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
116	Covid fear and misinformation from government bureaucrats also affected our local church, but not as much as others.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
117	it was challenging but extra effort was accompanied by the use of Zoom and telephone services.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
118	During the pandemic, there was a wide range of worry from none to panic. This made it difficult to meet the needs of the whole congregation.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
119	Same	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
120	Very old congregation- not attractive to young families	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
121	Options varied on how to handle the pandemic. Some strongly opposed ANY masking or precautions, others opposed those who who against precautions. We settled somewhere in the middle. Masks were encouraged, hand sanitizer was made available, and folks were asked to stay home with any cold symptoms.	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
122	Smaller attendance in-person	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
123	Loss of membership, low membership involvement, significant deaths within congregation, more people leaving church or content to permanently watch church virtually	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
124	Less people to help with aspects of the worship service	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
125	When pandemic hit, new staff team and leaders immediately transitioned very traditional church to use of adequate technology to survive.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
126	We no longer met in person which left us with ZOOM for worship, and some members were left out.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
127	We lacked knowledge of how to move ministry to an online format but managed to get meassages and some services for the ministry.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
128	We have many members 80+. Several were sick and also afraid to come back to in person worship.	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
129	Many fewer attendees/offerings were down	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
130	Few cases of Covid, but overall healthy.	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
131	Several cases of covid, a few were severe.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
132	Our physical presence was severely limited, but our generosity increased. We fought to maintain community and connection online and through alternative in-person means. Inevitably there were people with whom we lost contact and allowed the pandemic to be an excuse to lose connection.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
133	The money remain the same but attendance remain weak	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
134	Withdrawal, isolation of persons on the fringe, especially noted were the very elderly and very young.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
135	Our pastors and leaders worked extremely hard to keep us focused.	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
136	We had to be creative to develop on-line and messenger ways to stay connected.	9/22/2022 12:26 AM

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137	64 Weeks of Closure/Accelerated Decline via Zoom/Loss of Waining Ministries	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
138	People had started not attending as they done before	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q8 Our church health CURRENTLY is:

Answered: 143 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strong	35.66%	51
Challenged	53.15%	76
Weak	11.19%	16
TOTAL		143

Q9 Explain your selection in a few sentences or phrases below:

Answered: 136 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	We are starting to get back. We are starting to reconnect in person through family activities and service opportunities; but due to the 2 years of community life being on pause, our recovery is slowly taking place	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	We still have several members with illnesses and health conditions. Attendance has declined.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	We have just the older ones who were brought up in that church.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Attendance recovering. Interestingly serious illness of pastor has drawn church together in care for him	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	Most of our older population returned, but we are only now starting to see families come back to the church.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	new pastor, trying to get folks to return to church building	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	We're back to addressing some of the challenges we had prior to Covid-19.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	Years of challenges continue to plague us and we may actually be becoming a weak congregation.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Some are unsure about being in groups. Primarily older congregation	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Members have stopped coming and not to many new visitors come anymore.	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	We're back to full attendance - we are a small church	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	We have new families starting to come who are strong in Christ.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	Still small enough to be a "house church" with a sanctuary built for 200 seating. But, we worship right there and right now knowing God's promises hold true even in these times.	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	COVID fatigue, aging with multiple health issues	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	searching for pastor & youth director	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	It's still a struggle and takes time to get the majority on one accord.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Interim pastor...that along with coming out of covid.	10/10/2022 2:41 PM
18	We have maintained the restrictions on passing the offering plate and the communion plates. The masks and handshaking are optional. Singing is back to normal. Physical attendance has improved almost to pre-covid status. Giving continues to be sound. We are trying new strategies for welcoming and outreach.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
19	Attendance up, new attendees (from another local church not meeting their needs), giving is up, allowing for increased missions, local and church giving.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
20	We developed online services, online Bible study/Sunday School, developed a Sunday evening prayer service, etc.,	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
21	We had our pastor leave. And our youth pastor stepped into the role. We still have many who don't come to church but watch online	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
22	Because of the shut down, people didn't come to church. The challenge is getting people to return to church. They got out of the habit of not doing anything on Sunday mornings, and it continues that way currently.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
23	We've returned to in person (THANKFULLY), Covid cases still persist but those who are positive stay home until we'll again. No major negative consequences from covid linger.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
24	Because of our balanced approach of giving people options to attend in person or watch via	10/5/2022 8:08 PM

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livestreaming online, people appreciated the options. Most have returned and we gained many new people who left churches who did not take a balanced approach, but either stopped in person meetings all together and went with all online; or churches that required people to wear masks while attending; or churches who took no precautions at all

25	Haven't regained our loss. Think people just kind of got out of the habit of attending in person. I don't like to use the word "habit", but can't think of any other way to explain.	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
26	The closing is perminant	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
27	we still expirence the challenge of the social scene that has forever changed.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
28	We are running a financial surplus, have had a net membership increase, are more diverse, and the average age of attendees is lower	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
29	We are growing to be disciples and not just church members. We spend more time in prayer and study of theBible	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
30	Less people both due to deaths from covid and people leaving and not returning. We also have diminished offerings	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
31	The health is strong, because many that were not careful before are very careful now.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
32	Navigation of church ministries	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
33	New pastor (started April 1, 2022) has stabilized the church but challenges remain.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
34	We were pleased we could respond to the challenge and to our transition to what's next, and we learned that we can adopt new means of outreach (technology, etc) and implement change quickly when needed	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
35	Among those who have returned health is good. Many have not returned out of loss of practice of worship or continuing fear.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
36	Although we have returned to in-person worship, many people, mostly young families, have not returned.	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
37	We are growing more and more. Prior to the pandemic we were running around 100. Now over 150.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
38	still have older members who have not returned. still working on providing an online presence. But are getting back to some degree of normalcy	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
39	We are lean, mean, and love each other. We are firmly rooted on the Word of God with historic understanding of orthodoxy. We are not liberal and God is blessing us for that.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
40	Although we are again meeting in person (and also zoom), our numbers have not returned to pre-Covid amount, financial constraints are greater with fewer giving participants	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
41	We are meeting regularly again in worship & Boards.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
42	Back to normal	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
43	I selected challenged simply because our pastor retired and we face new challenges. However, prior to his retirement, new people were attending and several have been baptized and have joined the church family.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
44	We are stronger but not yet "strong" even after 2 years with an excellent, permanent pastor in place following 5 years with 3 different transitional ministers. Despite all that, we are a small but healthy church with little conflict or disfunction.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
45	Better emotionally, but physically struggling with age related illnesses	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
46	We were back to in-person by early summer 2020 and removed all requirements (masks, etc.) by early 2021. I rarely even think about Covid-19 anymore.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
47	Missing people. Financially good	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
48	Trying to rebuild our music ministry. We loss our Minister of Music who had been at the church for almost 60 years.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
49	no change, application of Gospel to life today	10/1/2022 10:26 AM

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50	We are not growing but remain stable	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
51	Growing in number with all the other responses above remaining steady.	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
52	Finances have become more stable and there is more congregational energy.	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
53	Strain of continuing financial stress and low attendance	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
54	We are both strong and challenged. There is excitement and momentum in the church and we've been receiving large numbers of new people into membership, but we have a lot of work to do on financial commitment and leadership among new members and others, esp. w/ the death/moving losses we've had	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
55	Our status was not affected by the pandemic.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
56	Many churches in the Latino context in our region have not overcome the impact of the pandemic, because most all of them lost about 30% of their membership	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
57	We are growing and thriving financially at this time.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
58	98% recovered from pre covid. Celebrated postponed baptism of five.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
59	We remains on line because that's what some want; others want to "go back". We are also selling our building and looking for new space. Some very good things are happening but it's "challenging!"	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
60	Average age is past 65 years. Currently looking for a pastor.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
61	We are returning to pre-pandemic involvement and engagement.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
62	We are down about 30 percent from before covid. We have some of our foundation pass away and some who have been moved to nursing home and some afraid to be in with the general population	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
63	We face the same challenges as before Covid, however, there does seem to be a sense of gratitude for what we do have rather than regret for what we don't have.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
64	The most we have had since covid left is 34 people recently.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
65	Several key leaders dropped out.	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
66	Division is better, just takes time	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
67	Some of our folks disappeared. The confidence in our government and society has been eroded. There is even a loss of confidence in the pastor. Plus of the ones left in church there are more complainers than doers.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
68	We are struggling about how to have Christian education, choir and other groups that lost out during the pandemic	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
69	Our population is fairly stable, a few newcomers have arrived; participation in activities beyond worship is fairly strong.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
70	There arnew people online as well as attending both services.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
71	Older members are becoming less able, but some of the younger ones are stepping up. Still too few.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
72	the lack of support for some members and church goers has left poor feeling and many people leaving or dissatisfied.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
73	We didn't get our seniors back from COVID	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
74	Many members still not attending services due to Covid.	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
75	Stronger: Coming out of the pandemic, we are discovering that people are even more thirsty and hungry for God and community.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
76	We are discovering that some of the technological modes required by the pandemic are actually more efficient and engaging ways of doing business.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
77	We now do a hybrid service live in person and on zoom, all those across the country are still with us	9/29/2022 1:20 PM

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78	We have a young pastor now that is striving to get the members to step out of their comfort zone and try new things.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
79	Down to about a dozen people with very few financial resources	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
80	Due to the circumstances mentioned earlier and the returning congregation is small. I have not attended the congregation appears to be on a downhill slope.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
81	Many have not returned and we lost staff as well which we are struggling to replace	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
82	Same as above.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
83	Working to be a lighthouse for Christ	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
84	Small congregation, fewer fellowship events and outreach, far fewer young families	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
85	The church continues to grow in numbers and endeavors.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
86	New pastoral leadership, new directions beginning to form.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
87	Senior citizens with underlining conditions	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
88	Still adding back programs and getting critical mass back	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
89	coming out of the pandemic, as other churches have closed, many have come to seek a new church and find we are active and moving.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
90	People left and fear to come back	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
91	We are basically an older congregation but it hasn't stopped us yet.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
92	Fiscally sound and growing	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
93	I am saying that the church is strong in comparison to anything I have seen in the American Baptist Churches USA. I think there is a lot of confusion in the American Baptist churches. As a strong liberal, they tend to do some of the silly liberal things and then the conservative churches, who are worse off, become confused.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
94	Utilizes hybrid, live worship. Has recorded worship on YouTube. Includes participants from up to 10 states on Sunday. Deepened financial support.	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
95	While many good thing happened during the height of the pandemic, we lost some members that will not come back to church. We also gained some transfer growth from churches that stay closed up and people who wanted to return to in person. But, outside of that, no growth of new seekers or believers.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
96	Not yet returned to pre pandemic strength	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
97	Some chose not to return. Attendance is very sporadic and was very low this summer.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
98	Some members moved, some left the church during the pandemic. Some seemed to get out of the "habit" of in-person worship. It was very difficult for our bi-vocational pastor who had to learn a lot about tech.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
99	We are back in worship. We still have 2 or 3 folks each week who choose to do radio church. We still stream. In person worship is in the mid thirties. Still getting our footing. No children have come back.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
100	Same - a small church needing vision. BUT we are clearer about why we want to be tighter	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
101	The issues listed above remain true today.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
102	They are returning to normal live activities	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
103	We are still cautious health-wise, but have a greater appreciation of our ability to be together. Our openness and acceptance of all people is energizing, because of the new folks that are joining in.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
104	Poor leadership, less people, low morale	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
105	We've essentially resumed all of our pre-pandemic ministries (and successfully let a few die that didn't need to be resurrected) and begun new initiatives. Leadership has grown	9/26/2022 10:25 AM

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tremendously, as they learned how to navigate conflict over COVID response and do so winsomely and well.

106	Leadership has dwindled even more	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
107	Still small	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
108	See above.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
109	We are still trying to draw back some who left due to Covid.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
110	Faithful attendees	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
111	In this region, we continue to wear masks in public.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
112	See above	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
113	We are growing, but not consistently.	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
114	Continual adaptability	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
115	Leftist social-political movements have led many ABC USA churches away from biblical truth.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
116	attendance is down somewhat, I would guess that are attendance per week now is at 75% and some we know of will probably not be returning.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
117	The church has grown stronger facing the challenges. Calling a new full-time pastor to help guide the board in making decisions.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
118	We are working on a new church plant alongside our congregation	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
119	Too old and too set in their ways to accept any change	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
120	Surprisingly, we have had approximately 20 new people start attending since February, 2021. Two became members in 2021 and eight more will become members next month (October 2022)	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
121	trying to meet financial goals & pastoral transition	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
122	Need for stability and clear pastoral leadership beyond interim period. Loss of church income with declining membership and giving	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
123	We have less people in attendance but new people coming	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
124	Giving is up, membership is growing, members and attendees getting more and more involved.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
125	Some hard decisions are ahead as our building is in deep need of repair and our congregation is dwindling.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
126	We are in the 7th year with our pastor, our worship time is inviting and meaningful, a consistent 70 people worship each week, we are debt free but our gifts and tithes are not keeping up with expenses.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
127	Pledging way down/aging congregation	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
128	Very few cases of Covid. Those with the virus observed appropriate precautions.	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
129	Older members make up large percentage.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
130	We are going through pastoral transition now, for good reasons, but that forces us to reconsider how our systems operate and how we maintain community. Our service in the community at-large has remained stable, but at the risk of burning out the regular leading laymembers of the congregation. We seem to be falling back into the normalcy of a pre-pandemic mindset wherein the pastoral leadership is tasked with innovation and forward momentum.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
131	Finance is high. Fellowship is low	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
132	We've bounced back to about 75% worship attendance/participation, however we have also seen some attrition & disinterest. It's a new normal.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
133	Even with our pastor's resignation for a new ministry setting, our leaders are energized and taking strong steps to move ahead (calling an interim, forming a search committee). Their leadership is purposeful and helps to keeps our church from drifting towards panic mode.	9/22/2022 9:51 AM

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134	We are having more visitors and most programs are restored at 80-100%	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
135	Little Rebound of In-Person Attendance/Fewer Lay Leaders to Draw From/Further Disconnect from Mission	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
136	People are still afraid to attend and be close to others	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q10 What was the most challenging concern your congregation faced PRIOR to the pandemic?

Answered: 142 Skipped: 2

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Prior to the pandemic, we were working on leadership development	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	Attendance and participation.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	Getting young people to come to church and sunday school.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Atrophy	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	Unity among the body	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	blending music & blending old guard with neighborhoods diverse changes	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Effectively connecting with younger families.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	The ability to address conflict within the congregation and to have real, honest conversations in which everyone felt heard.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Finances	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Lack of leadership	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	Bringing new people in	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	keeping people motivated in discipleship.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	The maintenance of the building takes so many resources. The congregation is decreasing in size and abilities.	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	Growth	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	Bringing in new people	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	Personal and ministry attacks from several members.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Attracting and evangelizing young families with children.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	Aging congregation, few young families, limiting our ability to meet our volunteer needs.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	Young people/young couples participation.	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
20	Getting more people involved. Reaching out to community to encourage others to cone	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
21	Keeping the services and activities fresh. Not falling into a routine.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
22	Building accessibility for elderly/walking challenges, security status, and parking.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
23	Needing additional education space due to growing number of families attending	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
24	Church growth	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
25	Congregation getting older and not attracting new young people	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
26	Differing views within church leadership as to the task of continuing ministry.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
27	Healing from an unhealthy staff departure and finding the right staff/volunteer model	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
28	A permanent physical location	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
29	Developing leaders to facilitate small groups, programming, etc	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
30	Believing	10/4/2022 6:48 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

31	N/a	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
32	Decline in attendance. Many long-time members left during a time of controversy with the pastor.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
33	Growth in discipleship and leadership internally, connection with the community externally	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
34	The retirement of our long time pastor was announced Feb 1 that year.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
35	Can't think of one	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
36	Lack of young families.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
37	mostly older congregation. sold old church building and acquired a new one. pastor was getting ready to retire	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
38	Small attendance.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
39	attracting new parishoners	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
40	Maintaining / increasing membership.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
41	Number of people	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
42	Growing the church.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
43	No permanent pastor for 4 years and declining membership before that and during.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
44	A lack of younger membership	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
45	Rise of the nones, aging facility, secularism and religious pluralism on the rise	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
46	Bringing people back	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
47	Decline because of health reason and wanting to stick to old traditions.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
48	congregants didn't really know or care about one another	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
49	Aging congregation	10/1/2022 9:06 AM
50	keeping the church alive	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
51	Building remodel	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
52	Having adequate resources, human and financial	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
53	Dwindling attendance / finances. Lack of young people.	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
54	long-term leadership development, especially among younger generations	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
55	Small older membership	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
56	The churches in Latino context were not preapre for the impact cause by the pandemic	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
57	Dwindling numbers due to age and health of members and not getting younger adults in the church.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
58	Ministering to our seniors.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
59	Declining membership and general apathy	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
60	Growth and attraction of younger generations and families	9/29/2022 5:22 PM
61	Wanting families/children and not having many.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
62	Spiritual maturity was the greatest challenging pre-pandemic.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
63	Being able to have enough ministries to keep everyone busy.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
64	Reaching younger families and generations in our community.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
65	fewer children and youth, a few college students, no teens.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
66	Aging leadership	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
67	Division	9/29/2022 3:45 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

68	Outreach to young families.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
69	Our church weathered the storm of covid 19 without much negative affects.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
70	Who to call as our new pastor and what new paths we would follow.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
71	Gradual decline; difficulty connecting with the unchurched.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
72	Between pastors.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
73	Age of congregation.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
74	Adequate Sunday School education	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
75	Finding ways to attract young families and getting seniors to accept needed changes	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
76	Not sure	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
77	Temporary location, met in school, so we were stealth or unseen.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
78	An aging congregation with financial stresses.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
79	Growing older	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
80	Small membership, not many youth.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
81	Aging, limited financial resources	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
82	The loss of most of our refugee ministry that not only provided a surge in worship attendance, but involvement in the whole life of ministry.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
83	Community activity and mission	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
84	We have an order aged congregation.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
85	Reaching out to the community	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
86	attracting more young families	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
87	The fear of getting and/or spreading Covid.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
88	Leadership and pastor not agreeing on how to lead the church.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
89	aging congregation	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
90	Youth	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
91	How to do more outreach, building project	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
92	Absenteeism	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
93	Finances and keeping people healthy and witnessing.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
94	Discipling members	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
95	Our biggest Challenge is the large amount of polarization.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
96	What was/is growth? Faith, service, mission, or?	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
97	Same as many, no knowing how to reach those outside of the congregation in the best way. Getting folks on board to think outside of the box and have the desire to do the work to reach those in our community.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
98	Growth	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
99	Weak pastor	9/29/2022 11:44 AM
100	Getting new members	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
101	Adequate trained leaders for church needs.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
102	We were an aging congretation trying to be relevant in an urban setting.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
103	small size	9/27/2022 4:02 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

104	Lack of financial resources to address issues with our aging building as well as fully engaging with our neighbors.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
105	The attraction of new participants	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
106	A reluctance, even skepticism to trying new ways of doing things.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
107	LGBTQ+ questions with youth group	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
108	Internal debates ('old guard' vs. literally anything new).	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
109	Dwindling membership. Lack of families. Lack of emerging leaders.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
110	Small.	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
111	Decline in attendance.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
112	Worship style	9/24/2022 1:46 PM
113	An aging congregation	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
114	Membership growth	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
115	Wednesday night bible study, because people didn't like driving in the dark. We'd begun doing bible study on zoom.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
116	Small size	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
117	youth program	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
118	Pastor moved to another church right as pandemic started	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
119	Reaching out to unbelievers.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
120	an aging population in the church.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
121	Lack of leadership to guide in making decisions.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
122	Loss of a pastor with decades long service	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
123	How to attract younger families	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
124	Reaching new folks	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
125	Focusing on ministering to multi ethnic congregants	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
126	Church growth	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
127	Church growth	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
128	Dying congregation	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
129	Loss of membership with a huge, older building	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
130	Lack of a willingness to change to meet the needs of young families.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
131	Loosing members due to age.	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
132	Less money/aging congregation	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
133	Aging population	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
134	Attracting young families.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
135	I cannot answer this as I was not on staff prior to the pandemic.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
136	The deaths	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
137	Aging congregation striving to remain relevant to and with young population.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
138	growing the next generation of leaders	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
139	participation of all church family	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
140	Finding a new pastor	9/21/2022 8:27 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

141	Historic Membership Decline/Lack of Leaders/Disconnect from Mission/Layers of Conflict	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
142	People getting sick and dying	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q11 What was the most challenging concern your congregation faced DURING the pandemic?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It was knowing how to connect as a body when we were not meeting and doing work together	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	Keeping people connected	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	Maintaining our programs other than church.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Apathy	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	How to use and connect in a digital format.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	being engaged with at home members with no settled pastor	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Countering fear in our membership as a result of unnecessary government mandates.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	Not everyone took the pandemic seriously and some felt that worshipping online was a sign of weak faith. Our minister also retired near the end of the 2020 summer. While our council was still meeting online, there was little communication coming from them. This lack of communication and the fact that some on the council did not agree with some decisions created a divided front of leadership adding to the already polarized feeling within the congregation.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Finances and illness	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Fear of the unknown is had or got Covid-19 at church	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	Keeping in touch	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	Fear of catching Covid	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	same as above	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	Not being able to meet for worship	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	reaching out and supporting current members	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	Spiritual and financial drought.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Reducing physical and breathing risks for those courageous enough to continue to attend. This was complicated by a governor who locked the churches down and then severely restricted them even once they were allowed to meet as a body again.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	Already addressed this above.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	Development of a church attendance plan, i.e. online vs. in-person, developing online ministries, etc.	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
20	Lack of fellowship	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
21	Besides the change in Pastors, it was a challenge to keep in contact with everyone, checking on them on a daily/weekly routine. Navigating the technical issues as we broadcast over the internet.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
22	Technology. We were already using a computer for on screen references (Proclaim software) but improving our gear for live-streaming and uploading videos was a task. We're blessed to have had a A/V person in our network who greatly helped that process.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
23	Respecting peoples concern for physical health and protection, while continuing ministry to people who were suffering from physical, emotional and spiritual needs that were magnified during the pandemic	10/5/2022 8:08 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

24	Maintaining our services while still following Covid rules	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
25	Lack of communication among members	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
26	Watching as long term friends left the church.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
27	Staying connected and keeping participation levels up	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
28	Perfecting the use of technology	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
29	Technology shifts	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
30	Safety and health	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
31	Consistent virtual meetings	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
32	Meeting minimum financial requirements.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
33	Adapting to continuity of ministry during a period of no contact and (transitionally) minimal contact, also assuring all that they had a voice and that it was being heard as we worked our way through successive strategies	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
34	Health of members and selecting a new pastor. We are still without making it tough to maintain a hopeful attitude. Good interim, but nearing 3 years without knowing who the pastor will be.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
35	Not being together	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
36	Staying connected. We did our best to help with this one.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
37	developing a sense of community amid the shut down and then opening with covid precautions	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
38	keeping the ones we have!	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
39	Staying in touch with eaach other.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
40	Death	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
41	Finding ways to gather.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
42	Technology not in place when it first hit.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
43	Weather there would be enough healthy members to keep the church going.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
44	Over-reaching public servants trying to limit ministry and worship. Thankfully, they learned this wouldn't fly and backed off fairly early.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
45	Reaching and communicating with congregation	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
46	Building and Finances	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
47	lack of communication/togetherness	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
48	Same	10/1/2022 9:06 AM
49	keeping the church alive	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
50	Being conscientious about caring for the health of others	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
51	Finding ways to stay connected and safe	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
52	See above	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
53	pastor & staff overwork/burnout - for our pastors and half our staff, workload essentially doubled overnight yet it was a struggle to address the needs of the congregation, despite high levels of creativity	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
54	Maintaining contact was much easier than for many. Most members had access to Zoom and were faithful in participation.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
55	The lack of the members to connect to the alternative option to received the messages, and the financial impact	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
56	Attracting new members and being able to meet in person.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
57	Keeping our seniors connected.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

58	staying connected	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
59	We remained fully virtual for over a year during the pandemic - most concerning was the ability to reach people	9/29/2022 5:22 PM
60	Most ministry shut down except for Sunday worship.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
61	We struggled with guidelines that often caused divided opinions.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
62	Keeping everyone healthy.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
63	Connecting with people and finding opportunities for fellowship.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
64	We needed to keep the giving up for the budget.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
65	Congregational communication	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
66	Division	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
67	Maintaining contact with each other. Attendance	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
68	Stopping church worship for 3 months.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
69	Lost our church school for kids. Couldn't do the hoped for baptisms.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
70	Communicating what we were doing and why; adapting to new and temporary changes.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
71	Our pastor started April 1, 2020.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
72	Same	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
73	Figuring out how to keep people included	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
74	When to close completely and when to safely open. Also, the wearing of mask	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
75	Lack of attendance	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
76	We became even more unseen. But we focused on strengthening the congregation.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
77	Person to person fellowship.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
78	Not being able to have our seniors in a care facility be with us	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
79	The pastor not reaching out to anyone.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
80	Lack of community. Isolation	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
81	Electronic Zoom meetings and worship. Staying connected to the fellowship.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
82	Participation by members, reaching out to new people	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
83	Same, and now- fear of Covid	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
84	Keeping everyone healthy	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
85	isolation of individuals	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
86	The inability to visit rest homes, hospitals, etc.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
87	Still the conflict issue but also how to keep people safe as we can back to in person meetings.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
88	aging congregation	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
89	Meeting the needs of the church family. Inperson services were not aloud	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
90	how to do more outreach, building project.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
91	Renting money for the hall	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
92	Finances and keeping everyone healthy and being an example.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
93	Pastor's health	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
94	Getting people to the Lords table and to be together as a community.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

95	continuing to form community; learning technology	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
96	Keeping connected through zoom and phone calls. Taking care of those who were alone.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
97	Holding on to relationships	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
98	Weak pastor	9/29/2022 11:44 AM
99	Keeping people engaged	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
100	Staying connected.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
101	We lost our moderator to covid and several others came close to dying. So just staying alive was our greatest concern.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
102	remaining connected	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
103	People living in fear and not being willing to take reasonable risks of being together in-person.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
104	How to provide support to elders members without physical contact.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
105	Caring for each other. Not being able to be together when someone was hurting. Also, ministering to children over Zoom wore thin after a few months.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
106	Surviving through the pandemic	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
107	Trying to figure out how to keep people connected to one another and growing in their faith, while being forced to stay at a distance.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
108	Moving to a technology driven format.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
109	Staying in contact. Making worship feel like worship	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
110	Keeping the connection necessary to worship.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
111	Separation from each other	9/24/2022 1:46 PM
112	Financial due to lack of attendees and financial support from those who left due to the pandemic.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
113	Online access	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
114	deciding not to worship in person. Everybody doesn't have a computer.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
115	Meeting outside	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
116	all programs	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
117	Pastoral transition & search for new pastor	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
118	Sorting through all the misinformation that was being pushed on the people by the mainstream media and government bureaucrats.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
119	no one on one meetings and fear of pandemic.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
120	Searching for a pastor who could guide us in ministry opportunities.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
121	Technology...getting Zoom and Facebook working	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
122	How to attract younger families	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
123	Difference of opinions	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
124	Health of elderly congregants	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
125	Different way of doing church that was radically different than traditional way	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
126	Health of older members	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
127	Being forced to transition from a traditional model in order to survive	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
128	Keeping the sense of "community" while on Zoom	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
129	Keeping people engaged with each other and ministry programs.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

130	Trying to reach everyone.	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
131	Same	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
132	Maintaining fellowship without in-person assembly.	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
133	Decreased attendance. Streaming just not enough.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
134	Due to the general age of our congregation, health was of major concern. However, the most challenging concern from a pastoral perspective was how to stay connected to worshippers through an online format in a way that was spiritually and socially edifying.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
135	The sickness	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
136	Same concern, though perhaps amplified. Also concern for those who remain isolated or vacant.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
137	behaving in a Christ-like manner - too many found it too easy to quarrel and pick at others, including our pastors	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
138	staying connected	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
139	Staying healthy	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
140	Creating Online Church/Navigating Church Finances/In-Person Disconnect	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
141	DEATH	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q12 What is the most challenging concern that your congregation is facing CURRENTLY?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	youth and college- we are looking for ways to build trust and deeper relationship with them	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	Maintaining /increasing attendance and giving.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	Getting those that did come to come back to church.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Pastor's illness; church is united in prayer and concern	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	Willingness to step out of the church building and reach people where they are.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	welcoming new and old members, finances, how to emerge from covid	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	We're back to focusing on how to best connect with younger families.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	We are continuing to dwindle in numbers. Most suggestions/ideas offered to make some changes that could help us be more welcoming and relevant in our community are seen as dangerous and as a way of pushing our older members out. We currently have very few under the age of 45 and there is little we offer for those members and their families.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Finances and outreach	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Decline in pastor health	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	Again, bringing new people in	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	Too much to do and not enough people who will step up to take on responsibility.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	and again...	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	Declining membership, people have not returned to church. Older congregation	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	see 9&10	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	Getting boards to resume meeting and a lack of attendance for worship.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Outreach to young, digitally-oriented families.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	Where to go from here, as we look to God for guidance in where he wants us to serve, lead, and minister.,	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	Ongoing COVID-19 Concerns	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
20	Finding a pastor. Getting members to step up to various tasks	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
21	The most challenging is getting people to return.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
22	Everything we faced before covid. Nothing directly related to covid or health concerns.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
23	we need more volunteers and more building space due to growing attendance numbers	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
24	Getting people back into the church services. (Note: our pastor has moved out of state, so that is also an issue.)	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
25	Rebuilding leadership core to carry ministry in each demographic we have.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
26	Still struggling with staffing and also staying on top of many new opportunities and influx of new visitors	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
27	Returning to face to face worship and finding a safe physical location while maintaining our virtual presents for those who live outside of our state	10/5/2022 12:51 PM

Interpreting the Impact of Covid-19 on Congregations

28	Attendance and staffing	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
29	We are not really facing any major challenge other than working to get our children back in full force.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
30	Getting full membership out on Sunday morning	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
31	Financial and membership issues.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
32	Continuing to grow leadership and discipleship, while learning new ways to do so as a result of Covid's changes in social interaction	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
33	We are still without a pastor and the selection com. tells us they have no good prospects.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
34	Several people have not returned to church	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
35	Still lack of young families, although we have more now than pre-Covid. Some of our key leadership is involved in many areas.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
36	getting an online presence, calling a new pastor, and reaching our community	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
37	Glorifying God more and more.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
38	difficult choices need to be made re: future directions, which programs stay/go, how do we maintain an ancient building with limited resources	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
39	Maintaining / increasing membership.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
40	None	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
41	Finding the individual(s) God has already ordained to be our next pastoral leader(s).	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
42	Although our attendance, baptism and membership has increased, we currently have no babies or little kids	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
43	Reaching younger congregants.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
44	Rise of the nones, aging facility, secularism and religious pluralism on the rise	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
45	Convincing some to return for worship and fellowship	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
46	Repairing the church and initiating new ministries.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
47	no togetherness	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
48	Same	10/1/2022 9:06 AM
49	keeping the church alive	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
50	Planning on future growth	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
51	Keeping up with a heightened activity level.	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
52	See above	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
53	leadership development, esp. for key roles like stewardship and budget at a time when those areas must grow	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
54	Growing our church.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
55	Wining new believers because they lost over 30% of the membership	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
56	Trying to get SS classes going again.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
57	Maintenance issues with our historic building.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
58	Envisioning an entirely new future.	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
59	Low attendance and aging congregation	9/29/2022 5:22 PM
60	Starting back up - finally doing more than meeting for worship.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
61	Church attendance and growth is the greatest current challenge.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
62	Keeping membership numbers up enough to pay the bills.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM

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63	Discovering a vision for ministry in a post-covid world.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
64	We need to get the college students back and some of the membership.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
65	Finding capable leaders	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
66	Lack of participation	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
67	staying alive as congregation.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
68	To get all our young people to get them to church worship.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
69	Do we go back to the programs we had before. Our church aged and we don't have the younger people, although the pastor has begun a fairly successful young adults group.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
70	Gradual decline; difficulty connecting with the unchurched.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
71	Raising money for our new building.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
72	Same, but getting better	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
73	How to come back together in a way that is kind and genuine.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
74	Accepting needed transitional changes in hiring a new pastor	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
75	Not sure	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
76	Help people leave their homes. Some have become comfortable watching us online.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
77	Finances	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
78	Changing ministry conditions have caused us to re-evaluate our outreach	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
79	We are still trying to grow our numbers and get people to come to meetings.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
80	Trying to build sense of community. Not enough people to do basic functions s of ministry and finances are a huge concern just to cover building costs	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
81	How to go forward in a post pandemic world. Neighborhood outreach.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
82	Reconnecting members, reaching out to community, staff	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
83	Fear of Covid, and hesitant to return to in- person Worship.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
84	Letting folks know we exist and open for worship	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
85	attracting more people of all ages	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
86	None, of which I am aware.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
87	Recovering from the hurt of the last few years and learning not to repeat patterns.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
88	aging congregation	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
89	Getting people back, music	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
90	adjusting for our increased capacity for ministry from our building project.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
91	Lack of people, lack of thithe and offerings; lack of money for renting hall 4 church	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
92	Finances and keeping folks healthy and sharing the Good News.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
93	Rebuilding Sunday school	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
94	I think the most challenging thing that my church is facing probably is similar to the American Baptist and that is the polarization of the right in the left wing. I think the right wing is most dangerous over the MAGA cult.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
95	discerning what hybrid worship is and how it aids in faith formation. how can distant relations aid local ministries?	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
96	Being stalled and pivoting to something new. Although we are starting to see some movement.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
97	Getting folk back to worship	9/29/2022 11:47 AM

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98	Weak pastor	9/29/2022 11:44 AM
99	Keeping members engaged and inviting new people.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
100	Reduced numbers and giving.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
101	Trying to get back into active ministry. Trying to find a way to engage in meaningful ways. People are tired. Also--the pandemic created an atmosphere of doing other stuff on Sunday mornings.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
102	pastoral search & vision	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
103	The ways COVID behaviors have spiritually de-formed people. This is an ongoing challenge that most people in the congregation don't fully understand but exists below the surface of their lives and relationships.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
104	The attendance	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
105	Discerning our mission identity and discovering how we can "do church" in new ways.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
106	Surviving as a church and staying open	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
107	Fighting the natural draft to go back to 'normal.' We've GROWN in every way since the pandemic. The last thing we need to do is go back to where we were prior to it. That means constant refinement of our vision and working toward new ways of living into it in our changed culture.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
108	Continuing challenges with bringing back people who left; continuing to identify and implement technology appropriate for present times.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
109	Vision to move forward	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
110	Declining numbers, an aging congregation	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
111	Finances	9/24/2022 1:46 PM
112	Financial as we work to draw both old members back and new ones in.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
113	Post COVID19 health issues	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
114	Anxiety of worshipping in person; the knowledge that it won't be the same as pre-covid worship services	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
115	Finding a new pastor	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
116	need for growth	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
117	Adjusting to new pastor and post-pandemic worship	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
118	Reaching unbelievers with the truth of the Gospel.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
119	complete return to normal from pandemic. We will be looking for a new Pastor in October. Present pastor is taking a regional job.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
120	We are a small congregation with limited resources to do ministry in the community.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
121	Uncertainty about how the new church plant is going	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
122	How to attract younger families	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
123	Wonderfully, it is the blending of so many new congregants. We have since completed a kitchen addition, and are become serv safe certified this month so we will begin our meal ministry soon.	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
124	Pastoral transition with one pastor retiring	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
125	Need for stability in leadership, vision, mission and membership engagement	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
126	People dying of old age or moving	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
127	Need more young people in order for church to continue to thrive. Older leaders are getting tired.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
128	Where to go from here with a crumbling building and smaller congregation.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM

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129	Financial shortfalls.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
130	Finding a new senior minister	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
131	Same	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
132	Pastoral transition	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
133	Attracting young families.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
134	Pastoral transition and how to emerge from the pandemic socially stronger than we were prior to the pandemic. Our spirituality remains individualized at the detriment to a tight-knit social community within which we innovate and progress naturally. We risk stagnation.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
135	That we loose out totally our convention and our connection	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
136	Again - same concerns as above.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
137	new direction, given the resignation of our pastor	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
138	providing a balance between serving houseless persons and our own congregation	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
139	Getting people to come back to church instead of viewing the worship service remotely.	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
140	Wrestling with "Where Do We Go From Here?"	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
141	People are still getting Covid-19	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q13 What have been other challenging concerns outside of Covid that have impacted your life and ministry?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 9

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	we are looking for ways to reach our community, particularly the youth	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	Work and family commitments.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	Getting the help needed.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	health and age	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	Sr Pastor's recent retirement, struggle to fill empty positions, political climate.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	technology, aging board members, outreach	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Same as answer to #10 and #12.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	The fear of change and the avoidance of difficult conversations have been challenges for our congregations for the last two decades. There is a tendency by some members to disregard the thoughts and ideas brought up in congregational meetings by young adults and or individuals who were not raised in the congregation. We have become a congregation that is stuck in "tradition" and doing things the same way they have always been done.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Unwilling to be with large groups of people	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Lack of good sound doctrine leadership and loss of interest in the church body	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	nothing outstanding	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	Depression, questioning my role as Pastor	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	The way technology and loss of faith/need for institutions of all kinds has divided people. Loss of community. Loss of a "center/focus" in our town.	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	Less income, unemployment, difficulty finding workers in the community	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	Working full time on a part time salary.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
16	Outreach to young, digitally oriented families and the fading loyalty to denominational churches and institutions.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
17	Already addressed above.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
18	Reaching out to others	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
19	The change in Pastors has been a challenge as we forge a new path. We aren't trying to change things for the sake of change, but to make church more inviting, to continue to move forward and not become stagnant.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
20	Church building maintenance and repairs... considering moving to a new location better equipped for outreach.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
21	Carrying out a succession plan for pastoral transition that was in place prior to Covid and needed to continue during and after the pandemic ended	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
22	See #12	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
23	As the people dwindled the giving dwindled until there was not enough of both to keep going. This began before the pandemic. The pandemic only finalized it.	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
24	Further death of self in the process of serving the people GOD brings.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
25	Personal challenges, burnout	10/5/2022 2:24 PM

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26	Reaching a generation that is creating their own "spirituality" outside of the word of God, i.e the use of crystals, burning sage	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
27	Staff change, political tensions.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
28	Getting people out to Sunday school and Bible study	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
29	N/a	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
30	Not relevant, since I am no ,longer interim.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
31	Political subtexts creeping into congregational relationships	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
32	Loss of many congregants while trying to resume a more normal church life.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
33	Family stress	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
34	Overload in my ministry areas.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
35	basically our congregation getting older and not attracting younger families	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
36	job loss/changes, illness/death of church and family members	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
37	Increasing congregational involvement in ministry.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
38	Economic development	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
39	Reaching the younger generations	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
40	No pastor for 5 years but thankfully we have a great pastor now.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
41	The community around the church has become ethnically diverse.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
42	The usual stuff.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
43	Lack of desire by society to learn and worship	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
44	My spouses illnesses which meant I had to lean on the leadership of the church to help me through.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
45	aging congregation, lack of leadership	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
46	aging, caring for elderly parents and grandchildren, my health	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
47	Balancing secular career with full time pastoral duties.	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
48	Keeping everyone included in the life of the church including those on Zoom.	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
49	Aging	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
50	Major health challenges for our pastors	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
51	We are committed to helping and supporting each other. We know each other well and provide aid in difficult circumstances, whether financial or health-related. However, we do not have the numbers to be able to sustain our church indefinitely.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
52	The traumas and the mental health of the members of all Latino churches	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
53	Age and ability to be as active as in previous years.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
54	Keeping the channels of communication and fellowship going.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
55	the opportunity to sell our church building; integrating new members; imagining new ways of being a community of faith	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
56	Dwindling congregation size and aging members, inability to attract younger church goers	9/29/2022 5:22 PM
57	Increasing costs and declining revenue.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
58	Political divide and lack of empathy for economic and environmental justice have been ongoing challenges.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
59	Keeping from getting depressed from seeing death within the church	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
60	What does discipleship look like today? How can we enable people to experience God in life	9/29/2022 4:06 PM

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	transforming ways?	
61	Fewer people coming to Sunday School, but we now have young adults meeting for Sunday evening study and meals. We share summer Bible school with the Methodist.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
62	Leaders who I thought were solidly committed who were nit	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
63	Division	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
64	political unrest in our country and hostility that is so prevalent in our society now	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
65	The great military brutalities in Mynmar where we were born.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
66	Changes in the church have been harder to communicate since we don't meet together except for worship.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
67	The national political tensions do pour over into the church; however, I feel our congregation handles these better than many do.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
68	Finding ways to use my gifts in retirement.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
69	The economy, rising prices without rising donations.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
70	People have changed. Life as we know it is different. People came out of pandemic with different goals, different growth and different challenges. We have to relearn all of the people we once knew.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
71	A situation within the church membership that was very caustic was dealt with. There were those who were not aware and felt dealing with it was not necessary.	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
72	Trying not to get covid to protect my daughter-in-law with underlying health conditions.	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
73	Many burdens, suffering, and pain especially mental illness.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
74	Neighborhood push back on our services to the homeless community.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
75	Pastoral care needs greatly increased	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
76	We are still trying to get the older members to come around to some of the modern music and videos that will draw younger members in.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
77	Trying to have a vision for the future while trying to deal with immediate realities	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
78	How to minister in an ever changing world with a congregation that has an average age now above 50.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
79	Economic concerns	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
80	Just fear, and questions concerning information conveyed throughout	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
81	dealing with cancer and recovery	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
82	dealing with individuals anger/frustration	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
83	None.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
84	Raising a teenage son.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
85	stress	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
86	Youth	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
87	The marxist BLM movement. The satanic Trans movement invading schools. The divisive CRT movement. The LGBTQA+ mafia that attacks the family at every point, concern for church planting	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
88	Poverty	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
89	See above.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
90	Aging congregation	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
91	Within a huge disparity of thought and living, the right wing has been seditious, hypocritical, and cruel to people who are not part of their uneducated and simple ways of thinking.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM

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92	moved into retirement just before Covid. How does that life episode hinder or help continuing faith journey?	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
93	fear and burn out.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
94	Finding youth minister	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
95	Boring poorly prepared sermons	9/29/2022 11:44 AM
96	Finding a new pastor during Covid.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
97	The political climate and how some in the church, with limited experience with Baptist polity, struggled with our church not taking "stands" on issues.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
98	Political divisions are the elephant in the room. There is lots of anxiety around Trumpism, nationalism and the war in Ukraine. Locally, Indianapolis has a high murder rate and there is poverty.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
99	pastoral transition.	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
100	The ongoing stress of dealing with the unexpected issues that come up. Having to think of contingency plans for changes at a moments notice. Not having enough support through prayer and practical service.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
101	The interests of young people at church changed.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
102	Our building is big and old, requiring more maintenance than our small congregation can manage. But we feel that God is still calling us to our inner city neighborhood.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
103	being far from family and health concerns	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
104	The isolation of the pastorate (I'm the senior pastor); a younger generation that is very committed to social justice but seemingly avoidant of the call to holiness. The shrinking ministry dollars that everyone is dealing with. Continual sense of distance in theology and practice from our denomination (and increasing alignment with our regional leadership).	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
105	Recognizing the ongoing threat of COVID. Determining appropriate next steps to reach those who did not return. Understanding our aging membership and my own personal health concerns.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
106	Building repairs. People able to do ministry	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
107	Personally, it's my wife's health.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
108	Family health issues	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
109	Active shoot protocols	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
110	Food supply for those in need	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
111	Visiting with the congregation	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
112	change in staffing	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
113	Remaining active as an advocate for the community	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
114	Realizing that our local church and ABC USA have gradually been turning away from biblical truth.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
115	A small congregation that relies on a small number of people to carry out the mission of the church.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
116	Unhoused population ministry	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
117	No confidence in American Baptist organizations	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
118	Many personal losses, both in my life and in those of my congregants.	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
119	Decrease in membership	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
120	Military moves, family member health	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
121	Mental health crisis	9/22/2022 5:37 PM

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122	Life is good.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
123	With attendance under 20 for worship, we have lost several of the older and most committed members in the last 2 years---not from Covid, but aging.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
124	We changed our constitution and by-laws in January. We lost three family units over the change along with their gifts of time, talent and treasure. We will overcome and are better organized as a result of the changes.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
125	The American Baptist Women's Ministries died.	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
126	Aging population in a small community which is not growing economically or in numbers	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
127	None	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
128	Pastoral transition (2 pastors leaving with 1 remaining plus an interim); 2 Pastors were hired mid-pandemic but only 1 remains; Our congregation has shrunk due to deaths which is natural for the age of our congregation; General Age leads to exhaustion of volunteers and lay involvement (our physical capacity is not what it once was).	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
129	The loss of fellowshiping	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
130	Political division in the country. Distance and online only participation gave permission for a more critical spirit to emerge with one another.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
131	new forms of engagement with others, including missionaries	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
132	travel was restricted so outside events were not possible	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
133	Structural damage after a flood (all resolved, praise be to God)	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
134	Isolation from Ministry Peers/Family Death/Financial Stressors	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
135	Struggling with my health and people losing their jobs.	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q14 As you think about your own life, what have been the spiritual impacts of the pandemic on your walk with God? If you are a pastor, how are you different as a pastoral leader from your pre-Covid self? If you are a member of a congregation, how are you different as a member of a congregation from your pre-Covid self?

Answered: 138 Skipped: 6

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	As a pastor, Covid helped me to slow down...my body and mind were tired, but did not know how to change. Covid forced me to spend time on myself.	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	My experience with Covid was personal since I became so sick that I was unable to do anything for myself. I had to completely rely on others to survive. It was a reminder of how God is in control of my life and how I cannot be in control no matter how much I try to be. It was humbling and helped me appreciate the kindness and generosity of others. God took care of our family when we could not take care of ourselves.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	I had covid just a few weeks ago but it has not changed my ministry nor my desire to help people to grow in their faith so it will grow the church.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	My faith and life in Christ have grown stronger. My love for fellow church congregants has grown.	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	I am more anxious about the world we live in. As a Pastor, I am also more aware of the pain of our congregation but at the same time not sure the rules of engaging and caring for my congregation in this new world.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	a member of another congregation - took a while to get comfortable going back into the building. Continued to tithe every month. Was able to use social media to listen to other ABC churches in RI, which was helpful.	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	It was a stark reminder that our only hope is in our relationship with Christ. As a pastor, I feel more urgency in reminding our church family that we are called to be a source of light in this dark world.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	I started seminary in August 2020. I am in leadership at the church and was part of the online worship team. I cannot tell what has impacted my spiritual life more, seminary or the pandemic. While I love my home congregation it is disheartening to see how stuck and dug-in they are about any change. I have seen other congregations that found ways to become more supportive of each other during the pandemic, even while going online for ministry. I realize now how much I want to be a part of a congregation that wants to do more and be more than a dying congregation. I thought by staying with my home church that I could be an agent of healthy change. I realized over the pandemic that is not the case, and that their unwillingness to do and be is having a negative impact on my spiritual and emotional health. I am staying to offer support during our search process but will move on after the new minister arrives. The search team only reflects the side of the congregation that does not want to move forward so I doubt the minister they bring in will be one that I will connect with. I am present at church but only as a functionary of the positions I work in now.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	I enjoyed worshipping from home. It was easy. My walk with God has increased because of more alone at home time to read and study	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	As a member that has contended for the faith before COVID and after just seems very draining but to see one or two stand firm gives so much joy	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	I believe we've all realized how important our church family is to our health & well-being	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	The spiritual impact is I have to trust God to cover our lack of energy in myself and the congregation. As pastor I have changed the way I do some things, I have dropped in person	10/12/2022 10:12 AM

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visits to phone calls and texts. I do focus on in person visits to the hospital and nursing homes.

13	It is sometimes harder to be a light by which others can see to walk. Easier to be fatigued.	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	More pastoral care, COVID fatigue has affected church attendance and involvement in ministries, loss of church staff	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	We have become a more resourceful, strong & united congregation	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	I feel stronger and more determined to minister.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	I have continued with my spiritual disciplines without much change. God is still in charge. Prayer and the spiritual guidance of the Bible still work. I continue to teach a Sunday School Class, sing in the choir, and serve others locally as well as with the Men's Disaster Relief Team.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	It has deepened my faith in God, and grown me in my daily walk with God.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	Challenging to develop ongoing participation of young people- ages 20 to 45-in church work.	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
20	Frustrated that people have not come back	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
21	As we went into the pandemic, I was the associate pastor, then just as the pandemic started heating up, I became the Lead Pastor. Becoming the lead pastor was challenging enough, but guiding the church through the pandemic was an extra challenge. I believe that I became a better leader because I had to put extra work into not only making sure the congregation was okay health wise, but because I was now the lead pastor, I had to communicate my confidence that I could lead as God called me to do, so that the congregation would have that same confidence in my ability to lead.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
22	As a member: the aspect of church on our couch while drinking coffee and wearing PJ's very quickly lost its allure. It was difficult to "plug in" to the service and often found myself chatting with my wife during the hymns and even during the pastoral prayers. It lacked sincerity and depth. Since returning to "normal" schedules and routines (Sunday school, meals, small groups, etc) we've been refreshed by being with our brothers and sisters. The "togetherness" is even sweeter than before. Being able to worship together has found a new level of importance in our lives.	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
23	As a Pastor it has continued to deepen my trust in Christ and His Holy Spirit leading, as well as affirm the importance of developing other leaders and delegating ministry where possible to other members of the congregation and church leaders.	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
24	Not spiritual impact, but certainly discouraged by loss of some of our congregation.	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
25	It has gotten very easy to go to church on Youtube.	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
26	Each trial we face can undermine or strengthen our faith depending on how we choose to react. By GOD's grace I have had to grow in faith and learn to trust more in the face of painful circumstances.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
27	As a pastor, I am more empathetic and understanding but also more tired and jaded.	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
28	In my own life my relationship with God has grown deeper and as a result my relationships have become more meaningful. I feel I have a deeper sense of compassion and I am more focused and intentional. As a member of my congregation I am more attentive to my fellow believers and our relationships have more depth.	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
29	Highs and lows came more frequently. At times I felt good spiritually and as a leader and then at other times I felt lost, lonely and discouraged. I am now re-energized and ready to move forward. Just need congregational support.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
30	I'm different as a leader because now I'm able to do some of the things that I tried to do prior to COVID such as using technology when some of the older members fought against it.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
31	More casual in worship setting	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
32	Adapting to changes in worship, especially in terms of developing online worship skills and technological challenges.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
33	Had to not just profess tolerance of other views but learn to live it as well. And had to use	10/4/2022 5:28 PM

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leadership skills to help folks rebuild the capacity to listen to each other and to be committed to building, and then following, consensus.

34	I've grown more in my personal focus on my relationship with God and not looking to the church program and fellowship for as much spiritual inspiration.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
35	I don't think my approach as a pastor has changed	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
36	I am a lay leader. My concern for the church has always been to keep people encouraged in their walk and in their lives. That helped during the pandemic and continues today. But sometimes the burden is very heavy as we care for so many.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
37	I am more determined to reach people for Christ, minister to our local community, and more able to meet people where they are rather than where they should be.	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
38	I am more willing to share my beliefs inside the church after running the gauntlet of COVID. I need to get better at sharing with non-believers, but I think I am in training.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
39	greater sense of personal vulnerability since pandemic, looking at final chapters of life journey more openly; taking active steps to try to make my/our passing easier on others	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
40	I think I am about the same.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
41	I was great before and greater now	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
42	Learning to truly listen to the needs of the people.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
43	As a member, I am less judgmental of people's choices including wearing or not wearing a mask, of worshipping in person v. online, of which ministries they engage in and support and even of our new pastor's decisions that are different than what we did in the past. We just have to accept people's personal decisions and support our new pastor as he works to keep our church relevant in community and inspires us to be servants and some of us to be servant leaders. People just seem so willing to support almost whatever he wants to do rather than resisting change like in the past. Thank God.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
44	As a pastor I has learned to embrace the ability for God to adjust my perception from empty pews to Reserved for non traditional pew speakers.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
45	I'm the pastor and, no, Covid is a disappearing speck in the rearview mirror. We are back to ministry as usual, clothing and feeding the poor, proclaiming the Gospel, etc.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
46	I had to change churches during this time due to a couple taking over, making decisions on their own, and not following bylaws. Needed a place to serve with those who had Christ first not me first attitude.	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
47	I have pray more, I have been more dependent on God. I had to stop planning for the future and really deal with the right now.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
48	weary and wary	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
49	I am more protective of my congregation and more aware of their health. I am so thankful that God walk with us through this pandemic. Though I lost extended family members, no one in our congregation was lost to Covid.	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
50	I don't think I am different except maybe with a renewed focus on the impact and need for the local church and faithfulness to Christ.	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
51	I am much more God directed. I look in front of me and take on the task God has put in front of me.	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
52	I have been very active in the life of our congregation for many years and continue to be.	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
53	As a pastor, I entered the pandemic already dealing with my own long-term health crisis. Overnight, my workload doubled, as I became the designer, director, producer, distributor of online worship. I am still beyond exhausted and my health has been further compromised. In the midst of this, my walk with God has become more and more one of reliance and dependence, as it becomes increasingly clear that I cannot sustain my life, my congregation, or my ministry on my own resources.	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
54	The pandemic has not really changed much for us. Paramount has been negotiating the different political views that the pandemic brought to the fore.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM

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55	I been impacted because we lost four pastors, and we had to closed four churches because of the pandemic, and I am more sensitive to the needs of pastoral families and members of churches	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
56	I think I have developed a closer relationship with God. I believe strongly in Faith over Fear. I have tried to remain involved with my church and commitments.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
57	More open to social media and more committed to serve.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
58	As a pastor I have moved a congregation entirely online and had to learn how to use the technology to serve our mission in the community. I have had to accompany people thru grief and loss, and find new ways and creative to nurture folks spiritually	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
59	As a pastor, having to become acquainted with some technology. My walk with God is as strong as ever - perhaps more so since I have had more time to study the Bible.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
60	The pandemic has caused more focus on self and greater suspicion of others.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
61	This has brought me to depend and trust God more. Perhaps more compassionate? It's hard to see folks health suffering.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
62	During covid I began to take more time for my own relationship with God. Taking time for Bible reading, prayer and reflection each day. This has allowed me to be less concerned about numbers and more concerned about the individuals within our congregation.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
63	WE haven"t had an association meeting yet. we do host ecumenical luncheon and service. Our outreach and misssions have been there for the area and community.We have been able to watch the service live with Facebook live.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
64	As a pastor it wore me out and helped to hurry my retirement,	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
65	The isolation showed me how much the fellowship meant to me and how much impact others have on my spiritual journey	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
66	I believe I have grown closer to God in some ways, more dependent on Him. As a pastor I have come to grips with the reality that there is only so much I can do for the congregation, and only so much that can be attributed to what I do and don't do. I need to look to God more for answers, the congregation also needs to look to God more for the answers and less at fix-it quick programs and scams.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
67	My close association with other pastors has been to some extent diarupted.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
68	As a member of the congregation, I don't feel as connected. I do the garden, am on a board that meets on zoom, but the person relationships are very limited.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
69	I am a much better pastor than I was pre-pandemic. I am more confident in my leadership abilities and less rattled by divergent opinions. I have been more deliberate about connecting with God and spending time outdoors. As a congregation, we discovered that our ability to adapt and innovate is greater than we might have thought. On the whole, I feel I and we have come out stronger.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
70	Relationships are important to me. I desire connection in community even more now.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
71	We have had to find new ways of reaching out. Younger people are beginning to find us and we need to get them busy out there serving the community.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
72	I now know that I would rather do less but have valuable interactions. I am more selective in what I and my family are involved in. Our time is very valuable.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
73	COVID made me more aware of the need to keep in contact with our seniors-shut-ins. Mailings and calls were greatly needed to keep them involved. As youth pastor I also had to find other ways to keep in contact with our youth to help them feel comfort during this time.	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
74	Our pastor has sent an e-mail entitled "Encouraging Words daily all through the pandemic very helpful and appreciated.	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
75	Greater dependency on God. My faith and trust in God have increased exponentially as a pastor. My preaching and teaching more passionate with urgency to dive deep and know God.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
76	My personal life was complicated during the pandemic by a diagnosis of a rare form of cancer. Chemotherapy, radiation and surgery appear to have solved that problem. This, and the	9/29/2022 1:32 PM

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pandemic, have reinforced the thought that life is precious and the value of the fellowship of my church is priceless.

77	Continuing to grow stronger and it has been the best time in ministry	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
78	Not being able to hug or touch people was the hardest for me. I still don't hug people as quickly as I used to.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
79	I think I gained a new appreciation about how important Christian community is and how much we need the Body of Christ is. I have also seen how difficult isolation can be.	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
80	It is difficult to return to a declined ministry. I am a retired pastor and the church is not meeting my spiritual needs. The church worships like nothing happened rather than using it as an opportunity to reinvent its worship style. If the current trend continues the church will close in five years.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
81	I am slower to commit to Ministries or people	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
82	I am missing the "touch" of the people, missing the interaction and fellowship. And people are used to staying home, and I don't know how to get them to return.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
83	The need to contact members more often and planning services that can be in the building and live on the internet	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
84	As a Pastor I have been challenged with technology and how to engage people I do not see in person	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
85	none	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
86	It was good to slow down during the pandemic. There was more Sabbath time and time with family. It helped us prioritize what was really import about church.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
87	Too much work and no help	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
88	Pastor, meeting all the different needs of the church and community	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
89	as a pastor, I trust God even more. The congregation has changed. many have not returned but the giving never lacked. why is that? many new people coming to church. folks getting saved. What we did in the pandemic was maintain the same priorities as before.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
90	Not. During pandemic, I was with another time to be with God, because churches were closed	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
91	I am frustrated by how easily we were manipulated by our government to do things that have been proved to be very damaging for us and that had no real impact on getting COVID or not getting COVID. My pastor friend died because he took the vaccine (forced to do so because of his other job). Trying to be forgiving but not sure some of this was a mistake...some I am afraid was intentional.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
92	No real difference	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
93	The pandemic taught me how to be alone, how to be focused, and how to get physically fit, emotionally grounded, intellectually blazing, socially capable, and spiritually balanced in such a way that my productivity skyrocketed. Now I am teaching this to people and churches as well as corporate America.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
94	Deepened trust in God's presence. Deepened faith in people's goodness. Sadly, a deepened awareness that some folks live with security (how will next need be addressed) issues; and adhere to false beliefs (health, social, political).	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
95	I am burning out quicker and require more quality breaks to recharge.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
96	I'm comfortable with live streaming worship at home, but try to be physically present on Sunday which I prefer	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
97	I no longer attend	9/29/2022 11:44 AM
98	I became more aware of those in the church who are isolated. I'm different by being more aware of reaching out to people.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
99	I've needed to adjust to the reality of hybrid worship, in-person and online, and how to meet the needs of those who do not attend in person any longer.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM

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100	I am a pastor. My pre-covid self was very skeptical about online worship, or virtual therapy, or zoom meetings. I doubt I even knew what zoom was. A world of possibility has opened up to me and to our congregation. I love that result of the pandemic. As a leader, I am less willing to pack my calendar with activities. I feel bone weary. When we do something as a church, I am invested if it is congruent with our mission. If it isn't, I really have no interest in doing it. I am becoming aware of the lack of Biblical and church knowledge that exists in our people. I am trying to teach some basic church polity in new ways--during sermons mostly. As with our culture and the lack of civic education, I feel like this uneducated church population can lead to Christian nationalism and I want to do everything in my power to continue to espouse the very important Baptist tenants of Separation of Church and State, Soul Liberty, Priesthood of the Believer, and Believer's Baptism. Of course, I do this along with trying to carry on the legacy of missions that we as American Baptists have.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
101	I don't know yet - definitely causing me to rethink things. Re-evaluating priorities and clarifying the nature of community are two big tasks now	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
102	As a pastor, COVID was a reminder of how little we are control of in regards to our lives, communities and relationships. It provided an opportunity to re-evaluate what matters most to God as well as it helped me to be more honest with myself on issues pertaining to managing outcomes without God's help.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
103	The world changed dramatically and it is present now we can have many threats to deal with including travels, hurricanes, climate change, etc.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
104	I have a greater appreciation for the contributions of other people. I don't worry so much about failing. I try to encourage others more.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
105	More irritable and more anxious	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
106	I'm seeing the value of pastoral visitation and presence even more than before -- across the spectrum of age. While I was beginning to question the value of gathered corporate worship pre-pandemic, I'm even more convinced of the centrality of committing to observe the Sabbath and do so together. There's very real power in stopping everything else to sing, pray, speak, and enact the Gospel to one another.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
107	As a member of the congregation, I am much more cautious about the potential of COVID and other health threats. I still avoid participating in large crowd events. I have stepped back from many of the church activities that I previously joined.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
108	Less personal contact	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
109	I have been asked to serve in more ways than before. This can be challenging but overall it's been a blessing.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
110	Covid has been an eye opener for everyone. As a pastor, I have tried to stay focused on the message I feel God wants me to share, but as we have all dealt with Covid directly or indirectly, that can be a difficult task at times.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
111	I still participate in activities and going to in person worship	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
112	It's actually created more awareness for me of the "quiet" time with God. Not going outside a lot has given me the opportunity to manage my time so that I have quiet moments to cultivate my relationship with God.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
113	More cautious about interactions	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
114	I am more willing to view the service online when I can't attend.	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
115	I have had to quickly adjust to online worship, online teaching, and online relationships.	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
116	Covid actually strengthend my faith in Christ after seeing so many people wrongfully put their faith in government over God.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
117	involved more in Bible study & growth.	9/22/2022 10:30 PM
118	I don't think the pandemic impacted my walk with God.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
119	Less oriented around schedule. More concerned about individuals and their immediate health and finance needs	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
120	I'm not different	9/22/2022 8:15 PM

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121	As a Christian, my faith has been strengthened. Shortly after the pandemic hit, God spoke softly on my heart "focus on ME" which greatly helped me through the next two years. When I didn't know what my next step was, where to turn or what to believe, I simply focused on Him. As a pastor, I learn to trust more on the Holy Spirit to lead and guide mean as I lead my congregation and family through the unknown. None of us had known what to expect with COVID-19, but I trusted in the One who did. I am a better, stronger leader for it.	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
122	Fully trusting God each day as I tried to stay healthy	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
123	Heightened sense of Christ's truth, re-examination of what matters, greater commitment to God, family and appreciation of health, life	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
124	God has stretched me to perform new ministry (worship leader, young adult ministry) and learn to value being together in person more than I did before.	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
125	I've just worked hard, relied on the Lord, and he's brought me through. Life is good. God is better.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
126	As a pastor, I have had to learn to adapt to ZOOM worship and pastoral care by phone and email. In person contact has been very limited and continues to be. Spiritually, I have felt a deeper sense of trust for God's guidance, and a greater sense of hope for the future. And, I have found great value in quiet spaces and places.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
127	I recognize we have a limited time in the earth to impact life's. I retired during the pandemic and have committed to serving others during retirement.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
128	As a non-pastor, I am more in tune to the needs of our congregation.	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
129	I attend church via livestreaming.	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
130	I am more aware of the need for physical connection in worship and fellowship.	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
131	I have a new appreciation of the personal fellowship.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
132	As a worship pastor, I find myself much more attuned to the physical requirements of worship and the risks involved with tradition methodologies. I have grown much more aware of how to keep older populations healthy - even though it's at the detriment of beloved activities. Grieving those losses continues to be a challenge. On a larger scope, general flexibility and willingness to try new things has become necessary but remains a challenge as far as how much change is permissible. We only have so much patience it seems. Personally, I've grown an awareness of global issues previously unfelt. At times this has led to empathy fatigue, which has taught me to focus on the people in my care. That said, I have also grown an awareness of those not in my care yet who are in my community - the people outside the walls of our church building who go overlooked, forgotten, or condemned. These are the people for whom my heart breaks and for whom I "go to bat." As our congregation changes, I'm becoming ever aware of "the widow, the organ, and the sojourner" in our midst - the people who God desires to see us love.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
133	The transition that must be made in Facebook, YouTube , etc	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
134	As a pastor I felt a strong sense of isolation and disconnection trying to adapt to the challenges of ministry during the pandemic. Went through some depression, but also tried to be creative and innovative in our approaches. Now I feel much more engaged and hopeful, and have learned to let some things go that seemed important pre-pandemic, but not so much anymore.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
135	I am even more confident in God's presence, faithfulness, and guidance for whatever is before me.	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
136	I am not a pastor. My trust in God's leading spirit has expanded. It is less about doing and more about being guided by God's spirit.	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
137	God called on a few of us to be part of an online worship team providing the remote worship service for close to a year before the vaccine became available to us. I feel as if I am more prayerful than I was before COVID-19.	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
138	I was depressed as I laid in my bed and thought about everything good and bad. I prayed everyday and asked God for healing and to help me in my situation. If it was my time to go then I was ready! My mother died from Covid-pneumonia and I ended up with the same	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

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deceased. My faith is strong and I just started returning back to work but didn't sit next to anyone and kept my mask on. God didn't bring us this far to leave us!

Q15 As you think about your own life, what have been the impacts of the pandemic on your relationships, both within and outside of the church?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The pandemic strangely made me realize the importance of self care and family.	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	I appreciate how so many were willing to help our family when we were sick, but it frustrates me to see how many squabble over things like masking. It seems selfish and petty not to consider how it may benefit someone else.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	I do the things the same now as before except with more caution.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	I have much higher value each face-to-face encounter with everyone on the continuum of complete stranger to beloved family/ friend	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	It has strenghtend relationships in the church as we struggled and served side by side. I think in some ways I have had new connections because of the pandemic, but at the same time it has shut the door on many others.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	Still wearing mask in social setting. No more hugging/greeting	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Other than more of an urgency of the importance of pointing people to Jesus, not much has changed.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	I have become more distant from many people within the congregation. I find I do not trust many of them because of actions they took towards the church during the pandemic. I have found deeper and more meaningful relationships with classmates, staff, and faculty at my seminary. While we do not see each other often there are also a few former co-workers that I have kept in touch with.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Two years of dormant in person worship. I miss the sense of community and the music	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Lost some and have gained others that have given a stronger message for what a relationship should be like	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	Drew closer to my church family	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	The folks that left church do to fear of catching covid have not come back and have stopped all communication with me. Unknown why. My relationships outside the church have been as strong as pre covi.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	Circles of fellowship have grown smaller. Less frequent. Survival rather than celebratory mode?	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	Distancing and alienation from family and friends	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	hold each other dearer and become more flexible and team oriented	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	Most relationships have become stronger as we appreciate one another more than before.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Relationships have been harder to cultivate or maintain while contact was restricted. A few people chose to use the Covid as a reason to stop attending.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	It has strengthened them. More committed and focused in my faith.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	Continue to do what I can try not judge why people don't want to be active	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
20	I truly believe that impact on my life is that I've closer with people as far as they seen the caring side of me. I've always been a caring person, but the because of the pandemic, that had to be increased as a way to give comfort to a scared population.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
21	I've missed being able to spend time with loved ones who were mere days away from being with the Lord. I've missed birthdays and anniversary celebrations. I've missed corporate prayer	10/5/2022 9:53 PM

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and unity in the body of believers. It impacted every aspect of my life and was used, in my opinion, to further divide our country.

22	Some friends and relatives have died as a result of Covid. My personal family relationships have been strengthened and are closer, while some congregant relationships have been strained somewhat. Most are very good and in tact.	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
23	The physical loss of life of someone close and the loss of friendships over the political controversy and beliefs that masks and vaccines were not necessary.	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
24	Lack of communication	10/5/2022 3:31 PM
25	Some folks are even more difficult to connect with now.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
26	With one or two exceptions, my personal relationships have grown more distant, particularly with those who were not as cautious as I was	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
27	I am more focused and intentional about all of my relationships. I am more open about my desire to be more obedient to God and less attracted to the distractions of the world. I feel I am better able to see God working in my life and my impact upon the lives of others.	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
28	Loss of relationships with people I was close with. Felt abandoned by some. Relationships outside the church have been diminished as well because I spent so much time focused on connecting with my congregation.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
29	My relationship inside the Church hasn't changed. Out side the Church, I limit the Crowds that I am around and when it unavoidable, I make sure I try to stay safe by masking myself.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
30	Strained relationship with virtual members	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
31	Concerns over the influence of politics in a small but divided congregation.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
32	Reflection on true Christ-centered values of honoring others, welcoming the stranger, lifting up the afflicted	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
33	As an introverted person, even though a retired clergy, with a good sized extended family locally, relationships have not changed very much. Church Bds. and Coms. fellowship is not the same on Zoom. I miss that person to person presence.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
34	People have gotten used to and seem to prefer being isolated	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
35	no change	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
36	I have come to place a higher value on all my relationships since the pandemic because I more fully understand tomorrow not being promised to us.	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
37	They are better.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
38	much greater social isolation, no longer getting together with others to share a meal/fellowship	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
39	Meeting time has decreased.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
40	Both us closer	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
41	Treasuring moments together as we never know when the 'last chance' to be with one another may be.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
42	I think I am more supportive and less critical of others.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
43	I believe as a pastor I have realized that I can truly put all of my Hopes and dreams on Gods Promises. And never doubt as long as I am following God's Word.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
44	None.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
45	Thinned the herd. Those who were not good for me I let go. Found a group that lifts people up and not tears them down. Happier doing God's work	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
46	I am closer to my ministerial staff and Deacons. We took the year during COVID to train our Diaconate and that has brought us closer together.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
47	separation anxiety	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
48	I am more hesitant about visiting because of safety	10/1/2022 5:36 AM

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49	I don't know if Covid impacted any relationships presently.	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
50	Relationships have become deeper.	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
51	None	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
52	The pandemic has solidified many relationships within the church, esp. as we in leadership seemed to do a good job navigating through pandemic decisions. Relationships within my family (co-pastor spouse + two teenagers) deepened and became closer, as we had more time to spend together at home - including for family meals, which had become rarer pre-pandemic, and we even got to all sit together and worship (on the couch). I miss some of that sweet time together. I have had a number of friendships that became less close or active due to the pandemic, but that's been helpful - to see what can and should be sustained at this time in my life - a good focus on priorities.	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
53	Our relationships have grown stronger.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
54	The pandemic had brought us more together as family and in many churches	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
55	There are those that I have developed closer friendships with. I retired just prior to the pandemic, so outside relationships were changed and we were not able to meet as before. However, presently, I feel comfortable meeting in small groups, i.e. choir, Women's Circles, Gideons, etc. Also, I keep in communication with family and friends on a regular basis.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
56	More proactively involved in reaching out	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
57	Some have strengthened and others have diminished	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
58	Stress over meeting with people in person because of Covid.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
59	Relationships have become more distant during the pandemic in terms of many friendships.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
60	I think it has strengthen my relationships	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
61	I value relationships more than I did before the pandemic. I think I took them for granted and had many. Now I have fewer but more depth in them.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
62	We are slow to pick up where we left off before the pandemic. Technology has been helpful to keep the church active; we still need to build the choir up . People can get use to not coming the worship easier when commitment to Sunday worship is not every week.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
63	Taxed relationships	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
64	The church is more important to me than before	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
65	It has strained some relationships, strengthened others.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
66	We felt we need each other than ever before.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
67	I'm not as comfortable relating on these short term meetings.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
68	Actually, many family relationships have gotten stronger. Due to a decrease in all other activities, there was more time for family relationships to be cultivated.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
69	Another clergy couple said to us that they want to have intentional relationships with others and we werer at the top of their list. WE take time for our children, grandchildren, and neighbors	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
70	Much of my family has been unwilling to take any precautions and I am less welcome because I have been careful.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
71	Some are stronger relationships, others are much more strained as I saw people for what they truly were and what they added to our lives and faith (or didn't)	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
72	Closer to the few people that help run the church throughout the closing time. At home I realized how I needed to make sure my special needs brother understood what was going on. He lost all social contact with his friends. The church became even more important to all of us.	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
73	Miss seeing my church friends	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
74	My marriage has suffered a separation and I had to trust God for the restoration. We also had some members leave due to our marriage challenges.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM

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75	A significant learning process.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
76	Still very connected to one another...relationships are still the most important	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
77	I try to make more phone calls to check on shut-ins. And visit when I can. They have been pushed back somewhat with all that has gone on.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
78	See above	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
79	Relationships and social gatherings have been limited in size and are intentionally created.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
80	Lost some friends, slower to connect with people	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
81	I am more quiet.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
82	improved	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
83	people tend to keep more of a distance from one another	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
84	We've all gotten a new appreciation of what church "Body Life" is all about.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
85	I appreciate being with people more.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
86	declining	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
87	Missed due to not being aloud inperson	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
88	this disease was politicized by forces outside of the control of the local church. people lined up their mask wearing and other things according to the politics of the day. the news media and politicians and scientists were found to. be unreliable and political. So, it was a challenge to stay in the "reasonable" common sense arena. But we have done okay	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
89	Less contact of my people, and neighbours	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
90	We are all doing pretty good; supporting and caring for each other more than ever.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
91	No real difference	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
92	The pandemic helped me to see how much I can depend on myself and my family has an extreme extrovert and return to a world where I saw who really cared.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
93	Greater awareness of depth of community care and resources - both w/in congregation and in retirement community I live in.	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
94	Division has been caused by people's thoughts on the virus and what is not enough caution and what is too much. That goes across the board of my church and family/friends. I've tried to be in the middle of that and speak reasoning and respect of others feelings and opinions while having your own.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
95	Unchanged	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
96	After not being able to be together, I try to talk with and spend time with family and friends.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
97	As an extrovert, not having the ability to connect with people during the pandemic (in-person) was very challenging. It seems like I became more disconnected with church members.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
98	They are deeper in many ways. We have carried each other through the death of a member and long covid in other members. We have started a prayer shawl ministry that feels good.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
99	I've had a few relationships grow closer. Others are more remote. A few are quite strained	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
100	People continue to be too isolated and relationship remain at an arm's length distance. What seems to have changed is a lack of trusting one another because of COVID and the way our nation dealt with it. Even though there were good intentions, it created too much suspicion of other people. How quickly people thought of others negatively for not wearing a facemask.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
101	More demands at work, at family. At church we feel there is flexibility to attend activities from church virtually.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
102	I have little tolerance for people who treat the pandemic as something to be ignored. I avoid being in groups with such people.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
103	Not sure	9/26/2022 1:01 PM

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104	It's been good in many ways, given the pandemic stretched me to say "it's more important that I cancel work to go be present with that friend or family member." In the church, it was difficult to deal with some of the blatant political stances that people took, especially when they were tied to the "only Christian viewpoint." But that's been the case during all election cycles lately.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
105	I am much more cautious about interactions in public. Except for my family and Sunday worship, I avoid public activities. I still do not go to restaurants.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
106	Fewer	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
107	I appreciate the relationships I have even more.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
108	Frustration with the constantly changing requirements/restrictions.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
109	Experienced loss of my mom personally and worry over my fellow parishioners	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
110	Some relationships have been a little broken. Family members and the age difference have caused us not to get together for family dinners and celebrations.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
111	Cautious about public interactions	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
112	not as close of comradery	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
113	Get to know more people as classes increased online. However, social interaction is not the same. There is now a greater need for healing communities.	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
114	As a result of the media and government entities politicizing anything relating to covid, I have see that it has resulted in many relationships within family's and friends become damaged.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
115	The pandemic didn't really affect my relationships, I didn't worry about getting covid. I was careful but didn't let it impact my relationships with others.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
116	Closer...more deeply expressed relationships	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
117	No significant impact	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
118	I see where the pandemic has affected friendships in and out of the church. Mostly the masked vs non-masked and vaxxed and non-vaxxed folks. It became very divisive, even in families. In church, I found that not encouraging discussion on the matter helped a great deal. Sort of a don't ask, don't tell policy.	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
119	stronger connections developed within small group members and my neighbors	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
120	More distant and disconnected.	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
121	Learning what to keep and let go. You can't do it all.	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
122	Brought us closer together.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
123	In some ways, the relationships have strengthened because we have worked harder to stay in touch. The need for human contact has created the need to be in touch in any way possible.	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
124	Not much. The Midwest has recovered and are functioning as a normal society with respect to the pandemic.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
125	Missed being with friends.	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
126	My husband died at home, not from Covid but from a heart attack, but it was during the Pandemic.	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
127	It takes more effort to maintain friendships than prior to the pandemic.	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
128	Some of my friends are still cautious. I was never overly concerned about covid, but I honored others' fe	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
129	Relationships with people outside the church have deepened - especially as I've accepted this position mid-pandemic and moved to a new city. It's been hard to meet people so the relationships I've developed are strong... Inside the church has honestly been a struggle because our engagement with each other has seemed limited, plus still figuring out all the social dynamic of the church and my leadership dynamics within it. I'd say my relationships are stronger outside of the church than they are inside it.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM

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130	None Fellowship	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
131	Some relationships have been lost or strained due to the residual effects of the pandemic - not just in terms of health concerns, but politicization, etc.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
132	Most of my closest friends and I were already engaged through technology as distances often separate us. Most of those relationships seem even stronger now - perhaps because we made such a commitment to remain connected. Being together in person is all the more sweeter now.	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
133	I have had a steep technology learning curve. In some ways I have been able to connect with like minded peace activists around the USA through Zoom.	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
134	I miss the fellowship with friends at church. So many members of our congregation are still at home watching the worship service on Sunday mornings. We conduct most of our board meetings remotely because we are spread out geographically so remote meetings save on gasoline and church utilities.	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
135	I am not as inclined to welcome others into my personal space/I am not as inclined to enter into public spaces	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
136	My faith didn't waver I just stayed home to be safe and then I got Covid-19 along with my daughter and grandson. It was a mess. People offered to bring food but they could not get into my apartment building. Thanks be to God we had plenty of food and water to drink.	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q16 What new/different leadership practices have been adopted, and will continue in response to the challenges of Covid-19? (personally? congregationally?)

Answered: 133 Skipped: 11

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Our leadership team is working more closely, together. Not so much with me at the front and center; but all of us doing our own part to carry out God's vision.	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	We have Zoom available during our worship service.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	None.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Personally see previous answer Congregationally - none	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	Zoom as a board meeting option has continued to be a tool. We have also become more aware of those who need us to bring church to them. This has been a challenge, but we have been more proactive than in past years to reach out.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	This church has a new energetic pastor, communion has changed from bread and juice to the prepackaged cup & wafer. They are feeling hopeful	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Haven't really made any major changes.	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	Congregationally, very few changes have happened. With our having an interim minister it is likely that any that have happened will change once we have a new minister. Personally, I have learned more about how to have my pastoral voice, both through seminary and CPE. I have also begun to develop my personal and ministry boundaries that will continue to be a part of my future ministry work.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	I stay away from crowds - immunosuppressed. Appreciate the zoom is still available especially coming into flu season	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	Understand that mask are a part of life	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	We returned to in-building services with distance in the sanctuary & masks/hand sanitizer available. Not so much any more	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	I have taken on more leadership responsibility die to folks not returning. Our church leadership has gone from a council to servant leaders.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	More gratitude for being able to gather in person. New abilities to fall back on Long-distance Worship, should the need arise be it illness or a snow storm!	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	?	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	In whatever we do social distancing is still in the forefront.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
16	As noted above, several congregational traditions have been altered to reduce contact and create space (e.g., offerings and communion, streaming services).	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
17	Live streaming services continue. Welcoming center is beefed up and more effective.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
18	Online services, online meetings, online Bible study and Sunday School, online prayer service.	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
19	Since our pastor moved on hopefully others will step up to various tasks	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
20	I wouldn't say that there are any new/different practices. My church has always been one to care for people. I believe that part of the church has been reinforced and expanded. We are more attuned to peoples needs.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
21	A heightened self-awareness of my personal health status and the ability to stay away from others without the guilt of missing out. A mutual understanding of doing what's best for the	10/5/2022 9:53 PM

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	group instead of the individual.	
22	In addition to in person meetings, Zoom staff and leadership meetings are still conducted because of better availability for people to attend meetings.	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
23	Unknown at this time. We are using pulpit fill for our services. I am responding to this survey as the administrator/church member.	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
24	We stay CHRIST centered on the mission of building the kingdom of GOD without exception regardless of how the world or anyone else for that matter feels about it.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
25	I don't know	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
26	I don't believe I have adopted any new/different practices. I believe I am more focused and intentional. The distractions that come with cultural expectations have fallen away. I feel I am finally free from the foolishness.	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
27	Church - Live stream, online bible study, church app, new website. Personally, I have looked at renewal opportunities with retreats and trying to focus on my own health. Protecting my time/day off.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
28	As the congregation goes, we established guidelines with the Tithe and offering where we don't pass an offering tray. We have the Tithe and offering box sitting at the entrance of the Church and we have only one usher to handle it. We removed the Hymnal from the pews, and all songs are done via screen. We don't pass out Church bulletins anymore.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
29	More virtual meetings	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
30	Developing skills to address conflict in a struggling congregation.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
31	Continual subtext of keeping the mission of the Kingdom first, putting aside or coming to terms with differing views on secular institutions and our interaction in that society	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
32	Contact with most of those who are still engaged in the life of the church is mostly in person though we do have a hybrid worship service there are not many watching. The same is true of the class I teach, though with other adult classes not functioning I have picked up a few extra members. So, I have more present in class, plus several on Zoom.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
33	None	10/4/2022 3:01 PM
34	Obviously the increased on-line presence. This has provided some challenges as we try to put the best image out there for the public.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
35	new church governing structure (adopted just prior to pandemic) that uses fewer members for leadership positions; will continue hybrid worship for those who find getting out and about difficult even post covid	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
36	None	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
37	None	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
38	Our church moved into the social media world by doing live broadcasts.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
39	New constitution under review with major changes from the past. We were boards/committees for decades then moved to ministry teams and now we are considering a completely different model with Elders and Deacons treated much like staff and working together with paid staff, leading without quite so much congregational approval for every little thing. We understand the need for the congregation to engage and have input, but actually accomplishing things sometimes means asking forgiveness rather than permission from time time (my words)	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
40	We have begun to march forward with accepting that this is God's Church not ours and He calls whoever He wants as well and are only charged with Loving and Seek them as Christ Loved and sought us.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
41	We have continued livestreaming. And now, if a board member is sick or out of town, they might Zoom into a meeting. We've determined to keep these things in place, especially for the elderly and shut-ins.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
42	I choose what I do more carefully.	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
43	We ordained women Deacons and a New Minister. People weren't as concerned about them	10/1/2022 2:14 PM

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	being "women."	
44	none	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
45	Other than using zoom for a short while and meeting outside when community numbers were high, we haven't made great changes in our practices. We have been more reluctant to invite people to church.	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
46	Stoped passing the offering plate.	10/1/2022 12:59 AM
47	More contact is electronic, phone, email, text, etc. It is more efficient but less satisfying.	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
48	More comfortable using technology such as zoom, video chats, etc.	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
49	One significant change in leadership practice has been in church communications, as we've moved towards a more streamlined e-newsletter, requiring less time from pastors and staff but having higher impact on those who receive it. We've also invested in our social media ministry in new ways, which is having exciting impacts on our outreach. We were already a pretty socially media savvy congregation pre-pandemic, but the pandemic forced us to kick it up another notch, and we will continue.	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
50	We routinely broadcast our pastor's sermon via Facebook, where it is viewed not only by our congregation, but by family and friends who live at a distance.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
51	More responsive to the people in needs and to pastors	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
52	We try to allow people to remain in their comfort zone, not judging decisions made to participate in activities or not. Postponing events where people still felt unsure about meeting in person. We are gradually starting up activities again as people are becoming more comfortable. I am cautious but not crazy. Trusting in God and making opportunities out of obstacles.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
53	Social media ministry expansion.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
54	We worship on line; we do discipleship on line. We have a new, rich online presence and community: book groups, poetry group, Learning Community, worship life. I excel at using Zoom! I also need to balance my own personal online time with inperson time. And find new ways, or revive old ways, of nurturing my spirituality	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
55	Congregation has adopted some new technology and that will continue.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
56	We have employed a new leadership structure, which may also need to be changed in the near future.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
57	We have adopted some new practices but we will return to the old when it is safe to do so.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
58	I think we have learned that less can be more. Instead of doing a lot of programs, we are focusing more on individuals and their relationships to one another and to God.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
59	Facebook live for the worship service. Meals for young adults on Sunday night. Table Talk meals for ALL who want to be in a more personal relationship with Christ. Personally I have more time for daily Bible reading and prayer.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
60	Use of telephone for pastoral care. Virtual worship.	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
61	I think people sit further apart and we do some things remote, like bible study and other such things	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
62	Spending more time in prayer, less time in "brainstorming"	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
63	We need more diversified ministry.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
64	Things seem to happen in the church without discussion	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
65	We are attempting to communicate better than we sometimes have.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
66	Monitoring my anxiety and of those I am serving.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
67	Trying to get the youth to propose new outreach ministries.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
68	I don't think enough have been adapted congregationally. Personally, family and faith first has been a really important way that we are choosing to move forward.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM

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69	NA	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
70	There are none that I know of.	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
71	We encourage everyone to stay home if they are sick and enjoy the online service. We have developed a culture of acceptance of mask wearing and non-mask, vaccinated and non-vaccinated. We are pressing in more on the need for connection and community by providing gatherings around food and festivals to help us renew the purpose of Christian community.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
72	Meetings are more efficient on-line but interpersonal relationships suffer.	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
73	We will be continuing to use technology in ways we never thought of before as our congregation is now scattered across several states, but they are more connected than when we all met together in person	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
74	We no longer have a "greeting" time where we walked around and welcomed people to the service. We just wave from where we stand.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
75	I started a study group but we are not meeting in the church building. We are meeting in my home which is much more intimate and relationship building	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
76	Not sure	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
77	Much more online access, new methods of giving, Eat in meal program is now almost exclusively take-out	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
78	Still trying to process this. I want to return to in- person, have tried it 3 times. It was not successful.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
79	Outreach	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
80	encouraging trying new ways of doing things and being adaptable	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
81	None.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
82	Learning how to have a better online presence.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
83	more pray time	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
84	Harder to get people to take on leadership roles	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
85	None	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
86	Self relationship with God, personal relationship with God. Small groups of bible study, personal praying	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
87	Nothing in particular for me. They stopped passing the offering plate around at church and have never started again but everything else is back to "normal-ish".	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
88	Zooming to include as many as possible	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
89	I have realized how important it is to balance off the physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual. See my pemss.com.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
90	Slow down in judging. Growing more patience. Seeing needs in wider continuum - and resource allocation for these as well.	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
91	I don't think any. We listen to everyone and make decision we think are best. I think we did learn that we can count on each other and when push comes to shove, we will make good decisions.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
92	More remote worship and committee meeting	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
93	Unresponsive	9/29/2022 11:44 AM
94	Zoom meeting and recording worship	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
95	More collaborative with a smaller congregation.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
96	We don't do unnecessary meetings in person. We do what we can online. We post our services online and have a decent following. We were beginning to do that before covid, but now we are religious about it. Also--learning to use the technology that goes along with that. I am trying to convince my congregation to have an online giving platform and we are almost there!!!! They	9/27/2022 4:43 PM

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have been suspicious of it. I cannot wait until this is a reality. We will also probably always offer parking lot church--church on the radio.

97	Even more communication is needed when we can't "check in" in person. I'm a little more prescriptive because "taking the survey" is so much more difficult with email / Doodle / texts / etc.	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
98	The primary leadership changes in ministry have been the use of Zoom for midweek meetings. This started at the very start of COVID and will continue into the future. We had begun trying these platforms pre-COVID and at this point they have become institutionalized. Worship livestreaming followed this and will also continue for the foreseeable future.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
99	New leaders need to know new tools to attract young people using technology and to teach he congregation on how to use and have access to the technology. Personally to acquire new tools for taking care of people and serves them without losing the physical contact.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
100	We have many meetings by Zoom, which saves lots of time, and makes it possible for more people to join in small groups.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
101	Smaller leadership because of shrinking numbers	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
102	We are far more willing to host meetings via Zoom or other such platforms. There is more of a willingness among my leaders to say "this is our VISION and we're living into it (even if So-and-So objects). "	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
103	Bible studies are now virtual. That has both positive and negative effects. Older people who do not travel at night appreciate the accommodation, but it is definitely less personal. Church services are now available on Zoom and Youtube. Again, that has both positive and negative effects.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
104	Facebook and zoom	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
105	Adjustment to method of serving Communion. Change in registering attendance. Change in offering collection.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
106	Initially, we kept a tracking log of those attending and blocked off pews to maintain social distancing. That practice has since been relaxed and any personal protective practices are up to the individual. Personally, I continue to frequently wash my hands and use hand sanitizer as well as wiping down hard surfaces that I frequently come in contact with.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
107	Returned to pre COVID19 practices as such offering communion	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
108	Personally; learning to tithe/give through apps on my phone rather than writing checks; Congregationally, the order of service in worship has changed dramatically.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
109	None	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
110	improved streaming of services, not collecting offering during the service	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
111	Online platforms and modalities of worship and teaching must be maintained and adapted while going back to face to face gatherings.	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
112	Leave health decisions up to each individual and family.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
113	???	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
114	Lesser numbers of legal officers, regular check ins with those who are doing ministry as opposed to officeholders	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
115	Need to use the best technology available	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
116	Staying home if sick for one. I have always been big on hand washing, and hope that doesn't go away. Also, heightened emphasis on gloves and masks in kitchen will Remain in place.	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
117	Offered spiritual support to others	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
118	More prayerful, more virtual engagement, and greater willingness to pursue church planting	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
119	More assigned roles, using more tech to reach others	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
120	Use of Zoom. I hate it personally, but it has its conveniences.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM

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121	What we have learned about using technology has become an asset. With an older congregation, we now know that we can hold meetings, and even Bible study, on ZOOM and not need to go out at night or in bad weather. The use of technology has been a great gift and way that God has been doing a new thing among us!	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
122	We have moved from boards and committees to a central leadership council and ministry teams as a governance model. This will stay and has created efficiencies and great engagement by lay people.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
123	Congregants sit far from each other in the sanctuary.	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
124	More emphasis on online worship. We will continue to utilize and refine the use of technology	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
125	Out staff continues to encourage masks, but they are not insistent. We are asked to stay home if we have any symptoms that could be covid-related.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
126	Our means of connecting with people online have evolved; Our concern for each other's physical well-being has changed and been emphasized in new ways (maybe to the detriment of our spiritual health?); I'm experimenting with ways of allowing the congregation to lead from within and partnering with them in their goals but that remains a challenge, especially as I am the remaining staff member from a previous staff of 3 pastors.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
127	The use of the Internet	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
128	We've learned more about a "hybrid" approach to worship & ministry as a whole. We've also learned that we don't all have to agree on everything, but we can be respectful of differences.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
129	More flexibility with schedules Greater understanding of personal space needs Greater awareness of the possibilities for ministry made possible by technology	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
130	The Sunday service is on Facebook and will remain. The wearing of masks will remain optional. There is no longer the "passing of the offering plate". Donations are left at the door or done online.	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
131	We don't pass the plate. We have baskets up front for people to deposit their gifts, tithes and offerings. We have individual communion packets which eliminates the worry about contamination. We used to rope off some of the pews to help with social distancing. We have stopped that practice because people aren't coming to church for in-person worship. With our large sanctuary, the 20 people who attend in-person can spread out on their own.	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
132	I have given a lot of time and attention to Transitional Leadership/Transitional Ministry principles and training opportunities	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
133	Personally, I continue to wear my mask and wear gloves. At my church, our pastor requested that we continue to wear our mask as all times.	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q17 How has the pandemic given your congregation permission to “let go” of some things you find you do not miss? Or stated another way, “If the pandemic could be compared to a rummage sale, what has it allowed you to discard or discontinue?” What new treasures have you found?

Answered: 134 Skipped: 10

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Let go: trying to do too much Embrace: finding more community partnerships	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	We do not pass the offering plate during the service. We come forward to receive communion.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	The pandemic has discontinued some programs that we are trying to resurrect as we have been trying to invite people in.	10/21/2022 8:37 AM
4	Cling to old practices, but no interest or manpower for anything different. Offering consistently exceeds expenses	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
5	It has helped us to sunset a ministry that was struggling before. We have started live streaming which has allowed us to reach others (not a ton) that may never step foot in the door or at least could not attend that Sunday.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
6	No - old guard still hangs on to outdated bylaws, "traditions", leadership	10/18/2022 10:37 AM
7	Fellowship events have had less attendance. We've reduced the number of those types of gatherings	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
8	Unfortunately, nothing.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
9	Rather than make people into meetings, many are zoom	10/14/2022 4:42 PM
10	We are not taking any thing lightly even if seems so small and new is being detail oriented to help one another in our health	10/14/2022 11:53 AM
11	Not sure	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
12	Status Quo	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
13	We can no longer hold fund raising dinners for the community. Don't have the work force. Such a loss of vitality. New treasure- living in gratitude for what we have been given. We are surviving. Not yet thriving. Leave it to God!	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
14	It's been difficult because the congregation is older and they don't want to let go of their past and the memories they have of the church. I think they feel hopeless when they see the declining attendance and lack of volunteers and involvement in traditional ministries	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
15	See 15. We have grown!	10/11/2022 12:33 PM
16	There have been fewer in person counseling sessions.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
17	Not passing the plate of offering and communion may save a bit of time. It does detract from the symbolism of honoring and communing with God, and deletes one of the duties of the diaconate.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
18	Offering is taken outside of services, not during the service. It has not affected giving at all. Live streaming is a wonderful complement to our in - person service.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
19	Paper programs, hymnals. We have shorter services. Online Bible study participation has increased over in-person participation.	10/6/2022 6:38 PM
20	?	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
21	We have done away with many of the programs that weren't very successful, which allow us to focus more on the programs that help people. That allow us to meet the needs of those who	10/6/2022 11:25 AM

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are seeking spiritual guidance or just needing some love. Doing away with some programs, it also allows us to go outside the four walls of the church. That is where the ministry is most effective.

22	If nothing these, a new found appreciation for the elements of communion. We've done away with the terrible "k-cup, 2 in 1" communion cups and have returned to tradition elements. :-)	10/5/2022 9:53 PM
23	We have two worship services each Sunday morning, but we changed the time of our first worship service to a later time slot and restructured our adult Sunday School classes.	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
24	Many things I do miss and I honestly can't think of anything that I don't miss.	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
25	New aspects of ministry and new people to minister to... Are the treasures... What has been left behind... The dross off the top.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
26	The primary thing that comes to mind is more efficient meetings. We are finding a balance of in-person vs online, and having most committee meetings via Zoom, which has increased availability and participation, particularly for younger members	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
27	I believe as a congregation we have let go of the "performance" in worship. Our focus is on worshipping in the spirit and not relying on the music to move our emotions. We don't need to be pumped up to worship. We don't rely on the responses of others to worship. We come prepared because worship is now a part of every part of our lives	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
28	Less physical meetings. Discard some unnecessary programs. We have found new resources. Technology and curriculum.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
29	The items that we listed above is what has taken place. We don't congregate after service as much as we use to. As the team comes together under my leadership, whatever we agree upon takes place.	10/4/2022 6:48 PM
30	Let go of Sunday replaced with virtual prayer service	10/4/2022 5:44 PM
31	Congregation was too busy surviving to identify and address matters to let go, especially because of the smallness of the congregation.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
32	While we have discussed this, there is little we have jettisoned - we were already adopting at some level the Simple Church model	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
33	With the pandemic and retirement of our pastor coming at the same time I cannot attribute changes to either Covid or being in an interim period.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
34	Taking time to pass offering plates - We now have a designated place for folks to place there offering. This began during the pandemic (our giving remained strong) and continues to this day.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
35	as we are beginning the process of returning to a new normal it is not fully clear what will be let go of and what will be reinstated	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
36	Sunday night services.	10/3/2022 3:58 PM
37	Just starting meeting with church consultant to help best decide our focus of ministry going forward with limited human capital and lessening financial support	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
38	Our Order of Service has changed a little making for a shorter service. A few ministries have been stopped.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
39	None	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
40	?	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
41	We have found that control of the kitchen just doesn't matter that much. Health dept. rules and regs forced us to let go of a lot of long-standing rules around food and fellowship and funeral dinner and other new ways and ministries have been implemented engaging new and different people. "Good things come from change." We had a huge yard sale and sold hundreds of stoneware dishes sets and serving bowls and platters and more that we had not used in decades that before we could not even consider getting rid of them. The money was then shared with the local meals on wheels. There is one example.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
42	What church congratulations are supposed to look like. And that change does not have to be scary. Not looking at the bad that could happen but the wonderful and amazing things that with	10/1/2022 6:49 PM

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	God can happen.	
43	None. We're back to shaking hands, sharing food, holding hands across the aisle and singing "Blest Be the Tie."	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
44	Simplified my life by being careful of my choices. Doing more of what I enjoy for God and for myself.	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
45	We change our church programs which had been very hard in the past to do. So we got rid of a lot of tradition and went to essentials. We have found that we even work with our Sister Churches even more.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
46	none	10/1/2022 10:26 AM
47	We found the treasure of meeting in nature. We will probably do this more in the future when the weather is good.	10/1/2022 5:36 AM
48	We don't "pass the plate"	10/1/2022 12:25 AM
49	I do not know.	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
50	We let go of our old way of doing the newsletter. We streamlined our worship service and have not brought all elements back. We let go of potluck-based events, where people have to sign up to bring stuff, and have discovered the joy of instead renting food trucks for special events.	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
51	Online connection has been a positive addition, allowing older members to maintain contact and participate in meetings without having to travel to the church in the evening or go out in bad weather. We have a member who summers in Vermont who faithfully watches the Facebook sermon and maintains online contact with the pastor.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
52	The way I see it and sense from all pastors and churches, they miss more the worship together, and the teaching live.	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
53	We collect our offering differently and our communion is with individual disposable cups/elements. We look at the words to hymn, readings on the screens rather than use hymn books, instead of a bulletin, there is an informational pamphlet with sermon outline. We take attendance as people enter rather than passing a registration book. We still worship together while practicing safety measures.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
54	Doing church meetings in person.	9/29/2022 10:47 PM
55	We have "discard" about 163 yr old building and most of its contents. We have discovered the ease of making virtual connections around the globe and of trying new things and not being afraid to "fail" and try something new.	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
56	Lay worship leadership has lessened and may not return. People still want to meet together.	9/29/2022 4:29 PM
57	We have left behind some activities that had been kept going that might not have been essential and continued others of the same nature.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
58	Passing the offering plate. I thought just putting a box out would cause offerings to suffer but it has done the opposite.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
59	We are less concerned about doing programs just to do programs. We have let go of some of the committees that used to plan all kinds of programs.	9/29/2022 4:06 PM
60	We do not have to take up offerings during the service; plates are left at the doors and folks can drop offerings off via the mailbox. Special music by individual members seem to work better than the adult choir. Fellowship after Sunday worship has not picked up with new folks staying to talk. Maybe the meals and carry in dinners will begin to meet this need. Relationships and gatherings above and beyond the Sunday service we help to get to know each other.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
61	Two Sunday school classes have merged and grown. One senior Seniors has ended.	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
62	Remote classes are great, also coffee hours are more special to everyone	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
63	our congregation has not willingly given up anything, any necessary change has been taken grudgingly and with much complaint, it has been a great amount of resistance	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
64	We felt we need God's protection every minute and help from each other.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM

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65	Since I had a broken ankle at the start of covid I was happy that I could participate in worship at home on Zoom. Rooms that were not being used had some of the accumulation thrown out.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
66	We did not ultimately end up discarding much, although for quite a while we learned to adapt to not doing certain practices (e.g., offering, communion) as normal.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM
67	Bulletins and taking offering. New people who missed community life with online services.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
68	We still have things to let go. Mostly the accumulated debris of the programs we have traditionally offered that just don't seem in demand today.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
69	It has forced us to let go of some things that we did like, but no longer serve us in this moment like Women's Fellowship (which became unhealth dialogue)	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
70	I think we realized how much we missed our "get togethers". It was nice at first to just stay home and relax. Later there was discussion as to when we could get together especially with food.	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
71	Nothing	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
72	We have let go of passing the offering plate and went to stations for offering deposits. We didn't have online services, today we have people all over the US and the world watching us online. We have started a free full breakfast for fellowship before worship gatherings and free lunch afterwards to help develop connection and relationship building. We will continue to encourage zoom meetings for small gatherings and staff or leadership meetings.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
73	It is now possible to attend my home church from almost anywhere. It is very difficult to act "Baptist" without a good pot luck dinner once in a while!	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
74	We are not hosting meals in the building now and not sure that will come back	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
75	The greeting time is the only thing we have not gone back to. Everything else has returned to our services.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
76	I think there are still things we haven't let go of yet.	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
77	Zoom meetings are used more frequently rather than people physically driving to the building. Given both the pandemic and increased fuel costs.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
78	Let go of eat in meal service, changed giving methods to plates at doors and online	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
79	Not applicable.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
80	closeness of folks	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
81	expectatins for how we would provide worship and how we would "do" certain elements of worship. Some meetings/ groups no longer meet because really, it was time to let them go!	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
82	None.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
83	We finally let go of Sunday night programs. They were not well attended and were tiring for the staff/leaders. There is an openness to new and different ways of doing things.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
84	new worship practices	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
85	Bulletins no longer in use	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
86	good question. we found that we could let go of our fear. we can ignore the government and listen to God.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
87	Meeting Sundays and week-days. We treasured personal time with God	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
88	Not sure how to answer...	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
89	Offering during worship	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
90	I don't play the pandemic stop any functions of the church on a permanent basis. My church is grounded in the human witness is scripture that testifies to divine revelation, the 2000 year old traditions of the church that were spoken by Christ but not written down (at least that is the claim) and the imperfect magisterium that at minimum creates norms Unlike the American Baptist to seem not to be held together by normalcy of any kind.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM

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91	Deepened conversation on what is "church". Where can worship occur?	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
92	I would say the greatest thing is that we have to do it things a certain way to be meaningful. We definitely had to pivot some things and found that the change wasn't so bad.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
93	Little change	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
94	Passing offering plates, food gatherings, greeting each other with a hand shake or hug. New treasures are encouraged to mail offerings.	9/29/2022 9:34 AM
95	It has spurred lots of conversations and trying to really determine was church "is" and "is not." It's clear that we can no longer do church like we used to, even if that's 2 years ago.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
96	We discarded the bulletin. Some miss it, so we may bring it back. We had given up our old structure before covid and created a permission giving structure. That was a very good thing to do.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
97	Not so sure we need that building any more. People like meeting by zoom. Not as much as meeting in person, but when it saves an hour drive each way, there's no contest.	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
98	It has allowed us to get rid of certain traditional practices within the worship service, such as handing out paper bulletins, passing the collection plate and having a much too formalized Lord's Supper for too few people. These things would have been much harder to change, if not impossible, without COVID. None of them seemed to have been missed and our giving has actually improved due to our adoption of apps and money transfer services.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
99	Always we should demonstrate respect for those who didn't believe in the vaccines and look for additional recommendations that can help them. Treasures found is resiliency.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
100	We changed how we do "Sunday School" with children in a way that teachers won't need to miss worship (worship became very important during the pandemic). We chose children's curriculum that is more interactive and experiential and incorporated more intergenerational events.	9/26/2022 8:43 PM
101	Hasn't, church still wants to move back to old way of doing things	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
102	We allowed a few Sunday school classes to simply die off; they weren't healthy (or helpful!) pre-pandemic. Some of the "we always do it this way" events simply haven't been resurrected -- they were an energy drain and distracted from the church's vision. We've been able to move our coffee hour from a dark, dank basement to a well-lit area . . . thanks to COVID 'distancing' needs . . . and we're simply not going back to the old way. We've also been able to launch new initiatives, because there's a more fluid feeling about what "must" happen in particular rooms. So, for instance, we've begun a monthly worship night in our chapel and no one bats an eye that we have to set-up and tear-down the space in order to do so, because that room has been the only one large enough to host much of anything for the past 3 years. So now we're used to just doing it.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
103	New treasures definitely involve the availability of programs virtually. A real benefit to those who go south or west in the winter and for those homebound or do not travel at night. Parts of our service that have changed may never go back to our previous format, since everyone seems to like it.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
104	Discontinued children and youth ministry because we lost the few children we had. New is continue use of Facebook and zoom	9/25/2022 10:39 PM
105	Easier to count heads when taking the offering. (ha)	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
106	Covid and the pastoral transition left us shorthanded with regard to having enough people to fulfill the duties of the various boards/committees. Consequently, several duties have been combined and although it's a bit hectic at times, we seem to be functioning quite well.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
107	Nothing	9/23/2022 1:39 PM
108	I don't know.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
109	Less meeting	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
110	Preference to limit the number of evenings things are held at church.	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
111	Paper bulletins, long services, Sunday School & Bible classes in the building, decreased staff for building	9/23/2022 8:51 AM

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112	Covid actually reaffirms how important it is for believers to have social interaction is and how technology actually has its limits to keeping congregations strong.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
113	We didn't really change much. We canceled services for a relatively short time and picked right back up with activities as early as May that year.	9/22/2022 10:10 PM
114	Let "habitual programs" go. Smaller activity valued as opposed to basing value on large numbers of participants. We found a new appreciation for our region...which we've always valued!	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
115	Haven't found any new treasures	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
116	We have completely eliminated bulletins, and are now completely on our tv monitor. People love it!	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
117	Still trying to let go of things	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
118	New worship style and pattern, limited certain programs that really weren't fruitful	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
119	I crave simplicity in worship, stripped down without all the extras. It has helped me desire getting back to the heart of worship.	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
120	Many elements of traditional baptist ways of doing things are gone, thank God!	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
121	We have let go of the need to always be in person for meetings, and even worship. The new treasure of technology is a great gift to us. And, now when we are together in person, we realize what a privilege it is to gather as God's people. We will not take that for granted again!	9/22/2022 4:45 PM
122	Our worship our has changed the way we give,(no offering collected during the service, a box is at the entrance to collect gofts), no childrens message, limited announcements, no greeting time during the service.	9/22/2022 4:28 PM
123	We are trying to renew our church with a focus on younger families. However, we lost our senior and youth/children/family pastors during the pandemic and are still searching for leadership.	9/22/2022 3:09 PM
124	Can't think of any. I was not on the "inside" enough to know what practices were dropped.	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
125	The treasure is that we have found meaningful ways to connect in small groups	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
126	We are pretty much back to normal.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
127	Our bell choir has been allowed to fade, which is a blessing with good memories. It's not that "outdated" things have fallen away (we haven't innovated for the sake of the new and popular), but that underutilized and unnecessary practices have fallen away - our bulletins have changed, our online communication has been streamlined, our Sunday morning process has simplified, our services have become more relaxed and "smiley."	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
128	We have changed Sunday School, Devotion and order of services	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
129	We've let go of some tangential ministries that were dying or stagnant and have not been brought back - no one seems to miss them! There is a continued need to examine and discard or reinvigorate other ministries. New treasures have included a rediscovery of the importance of relationship.	9/22/2022 9:55 AM
130	Discard - the "need" for paper worship bulletins! New treasure - our church now has an app that includes, among other things, a playlist for upcoming worship music, a space for sermon notes that can be saved or emailed.	9/22/2022 9:51 AM
131	We now have a multi-person music program. More people have shared their gifts and talents to operate technology. We have streamlined the Sunday service.	9/22/2022 12:26 AM
132	We have lost a lot that we didn't necessarily want to let go of. Newer pastor (arrived during COVID-19) has changed so many elements of how we worship and how we meet. We're working through it.	9/21/2022 8:27 PM
133	We have not gotten that far in the congregational conversation at this time	9/21/2022 5:36 PM
134	Discard our own ways and put on a new attitude.	9/21/2022 4:42 PM

Q18 In his Message paraphrase, Eugene Peterson shared the following interpretation of Matthew 5:3–4, where we read: You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule. You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. As you think about the pandemic, how did you see God move in your life and amid the congregation? Would you share that story with us, in 250 words or less? (Maybe it was a fresh vision of God's Faithfulness, perhaps it was a new initiative or ministry that blossomed in the pain of the pandemic, whatever it was, it's a story that the wider family needs to hear to encourage their hearts and to fortify their resolve to move forward in ministry in the days to come.)

Answered: 108 Skipped: 36

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	During the pandemic, I was diagnosed with cancer. As the church planter and lead pastor, it was a surprising blow. But, the pandemic allowed me to get my surgery and receive the rest without feeling guilty and afraid that things will fall apart. God raised up more leaders and allowed me to see that the future of this church does not fall on my shoulders alone. God is in charge, and I can only do my part in seeing this church grow and reach its community. I've come of this pandemic with greater peace and a deeper trust in God; and a deeper love for my church.	10/24/2022 10:24 AM
2	God provided for our family when we were most in need as explained earlier. Zoom has allowed us to connect with members when they cannot meet in person.	10/21/2022 7:59 PM
3	Tired church with comfortable status quo leadership and no vision	10/20/2022 8:44 PM
4	One main positive we found was in connection through worship. Because of technology limitations at the time of the pandemic, our worship leader was recording most of our song sets from her house with her family. It was such a beautiful picture if her family leading the church family in worship through song from their own home. It was a bunch of professionals, it was a two parents and their 3 kids singing their praises to God. Sometimes we need the reminder that it doesn't have to be more complicated than that.	10/20/2022 7:27 PM
5	With God's grace and mercy we were able to move past the Covid-19 hysteria rather quickly. It's been mostly accepted that it's lingering affects are now part of the "new normal."	10/17/2022 10:57 PM
6	I am sad to say that I do not believe our congregation allowed God to move as only God can, during the pandemic. Some tried, while others attempted to force their will on God. However, because of this I do believe that as a seminarian I have begun to have more clarity about my call. I am a dual degree student at my seminary, working on both a MDiv and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I have been wondering what type of ministry might stem from having both degrees. I love small churches and thought it would be a part-time/bi-vocational ministry. Yet, because of conflict and keeps going unresolved and unhealed I believe my calling will lead me into a healing ministry for congregations and pastors. I grew up as a minister's child and have seen a lot of ugliness in congregations. I have also seen a lot of beauty. The difference is in the health of the people, as individuals and as a community. I long to help congregations find health and wholeness so that they can live into their congregational calling.	10/15/2022 1:01 PM
7	We kept in touch with each other in many ways. The church administration reached out with	10/12/2022 2:50 PM

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small gifts, cards, texts, etc. From that we formed a prayer chain through texts that we keep alive every week. The main core of congregants remained steady & stayed close. We have seen many miracles among our church family.

8	I and the congregation have realized that there is nothing we can do to restore the church to pre covid. In that understanding we all have moved closer to Jesus and the Father in trusting Him to meet our needs. I deeper trust and faith that God is in control and we don't have to worry about anything.	10/12/2022 10:12 AM
9	~~~~~	10/11/2022 8:31 PM
10	NA	10/11/2022 1:14 PM
11	After being personally attacked by a false prophet who tried to take us to court and take the church for his own, I now realize that these things happened when the pandemic hit which means the timing was perfect because at that time our sermons were on social media and the church was closed. Because we were not meeting in person most people had no idea of what was happening behind the scenes with Attorneys. In the end this persons membership was revoked for his un-Christian like conduct. There were other trouble makers in teh church who left at the same time.	10/11/2022 9:07 AM
12	Necessity is the mother of invention, it has been said. We have evaluated our practices, revamping, substituting, or deleting where practical and possible. We still face the same challenge we had before Covid--attracting the young families and children, evangelizing and engaging all who attend. But we are energized by the passing of the pandemic and God's continuing provisions.	10/10/2022 11:01 AM
13	A fresh understanding of the fact that God's word never changes, and his mercies are new every morning, no matter the circumstances. He is faithful, I will remain faithful, no matter what.	10/7/2022 3:47 PM
14	We used talents of individuals to set up online worship zoom meetings to carry on the business of the church	10/6/2022 11:39 AM
15	The biggest move God made during the pandemic was to remove the pastor. Many people ask me about this statement. I truly believe that God had His hand in the change in pastors. For the past two and half years, I have seen God working through me and the congregation, that gives me the confidence to make such a statement. Our church is now on the same page. We all realized that the foot of the cross, it is level. No one is better than anyone else. You could say we have become a family, a family that invites and welcomes new members all the time. When everyone is on the same wave length, then the Holy Spirit will move in awesome ways among His people. And because the Holy Spirit is stirring our souls, we have the confidence to not only help those who are need, but to proclaim the Word of Jesus Christ in a bold and audacious way.	10/6/2022 11:25 AM
16	Too much to put into words here.	10/5/2022 8:08 PM
17	N/A	10/5/2022 4:42 PM
18	We have been able to expand ministry within the homeless community and those struggling with all of life's addictions... We have reached out to those that are willing, the marginalized and watched the truth of the statement that those that are forgiven much love much.	10/5/2022 3:17 PM
19	In ways that I can't fully explain, the pandemic strengthened our vision for community care and togetherness. This has included new anti-racism initiatives as well as the strengthening of ministries that cross generations and socio-economic divides.	10/5/2022 2:24 PM
20	I believe we have begun to look more like the first century church. We are truly living out the gospel in our daily lives, in our all of our relationships. The distractions have been striped away and we are closer to God and to each other.	10/5/2022 12:51 PM
21	It truly gave us personal time to cultivate relationships with our own children. It was precious and valuable time we would bot have received otherwise. We have grown closer to one another even if it meant our church did not grow. Perhaps it was a way for me to be forced to focus on my wife and children and invest in them. I do not regret that one bit.	10/4/2022 10:26 PM
22	As I look back at where we were prior to the Pandemic, and comparison to where we are now, I can really thank God for allowing the Pandemic to take place. For my congregation it let me know who the committed members are. We follow the scripture from Proverbs 3:5-6 that says	10/4/2022 6:48 PM

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"Trust in the lord with all thins heart, and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct your path. This helps us to understand more of the fact that we need to depend on God for the thing that helps Ministry and not try top do it ourselves. He has given us an oppportunity to continue in the correct path by following Him.

23	Following the model of Barnabas, seeing the good in people, including those that I agreed with and disagreed with, and not giving up on healing, especially in terms of those who had left the church but still had historic ties with the church. There was some success, but it was emotionally draining at times, especially in such a major crisis like covid.	10/4/2022 5:29 PM
24	We were reminded of our interconnectedness and our interdependence in an emphatic way - something we had not given as much conscious voice or thought.	10/4/2022 5:28 PM
25	With the two challenges we are facing there has been more of our folks talking about how the Lord is strengthening their resolve to continue doing their personal and corporate ministry.	10/4/2022 4:51 PM
26	God helped me, and I'm sure others, remember that the church building is NOT the Church. I was reminded often of the Holy Spirit's power uniting us in spirit and in truth.	10/4/2022 2:42 PM
27	The church has grasped hold of one of their God given purposes. They are still unpacking all that God has called them to be a part of the body. They are more receptive to innovative ideas. As a congregation having to navigate most of the pandemic without a pastor it was challenging for leadership to make decisions in the best interest of all members and maintain a sense of continuity. Given their specific challenges they have risen to the occassion	10/4/2022 11:47 AM
28	Unable to share such a story, felt more distant than ever, daughter was going through difficult divorce during pandemic, everything moved at a glacial pace, fewer supportive folk available due to social distancing, lock downs, etc	10/3/2022 2:44 PM
29	I like the qoute but it doesn't trigger thoughts of things that have changed.	10/2/2022 2:45 PM
30	Have a nice day	10/2/2022 1:59 PM
31	On the Sunday prior to the Covid-19 Shutdown, we began our Live Broadcasts at the request of one of our shut-ins. An iPhone was basically pushed into the hands of a willing young adult only minutes prior to the beginning of the Worship Service. THAT was a pivotal moment in the start of our Live Streaming Ministry. It continued to be the pastor and an iPhone until it was decided to take the plunge, so to speak. A Live Streaming Task Force was created. Cameras and a designated computer were purchased and the ministry has taken on a new life.	10/2/2022 8:38 AM
32	I had just retired after a very exciting and busy career when the pandemic hit. I had planned to become an active volunteer in community and was unable to do that, but I was able to go into the church one day a week for almost two years and help our church administrator with all kinds of projects, working on the building doing handyman kind of projects, etc. and it was a blessing to get to know him better and feel I was doing something to contribute to improving the house of the Lord for when we would be able to come back to worship in person. Nearly the entire time, we were not able to worship in person so it kept me connected to the church in a way that others didn't have the opportunity to experience. God provided something special for me and I am grateful.	10/1/2022 7:40 PM
33	Unfortunately God removed most of those who were adamant about seeking people who looked and spoke differently than them. Which gave those who were curious enough to explore looking at trying.	10/1/2022 6:49 PM
34	It was pretty much just a reminder that we're not in control. We had grown from 2 children to 25. In the immediate aftermath of the pandemic, we were down to 6 or 7... Took a while to get back to where we were. The same could be said for many other aspects of church. These things are a great reminder that we are not in control of anything; it's all in His hands.	10/1/2022 6:11 PM
35	I am grieving, so the pandemic and being alone showed me who cares for me, how I can bless others in my situation, and move forward with new confidence in my life and with my prayer life.	10/1/2022 3:23 PM
36	We saw a lot of donations to help build our Soup Kitchen. We saw a very large donation to help renovate and or build a new church. We saw a larger commitment of our church leaders to get the word out.	10/1/2022 2:14 PM
37	Our church is very small (about 15 members). We used email to keep in touch during the pandemic and will continue to use it to communicate with each other. Members have	10/1/2022 5:36 AM

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commented on how they like knowing what's going on. They didn't do this prior to Covid. It has made us more of a family.

38	No	9/30/2022 9:27 PM
39	Over the past 2+ years, I've worried a lot about what would be lost for teenagers (including my own) during this pandemic time, in terms of spiritual formation, relational growth, leadership development, and connection to a mentoring faith community. There were some hard losses for sure, including planned mission trips and some of the ways we usually celebrate high school graduations and other milestones. The youth, however, were the ones most responsive to online and hybrid format events, and our youth group participation actually grew beyond pre-pandemic levels. My own sons graduated this past spring and have come out of our youth group still on their path of lifelong spiritual engagement and growth, as well as a strong sense of connection to the congregation.	9/30/2022 9:04 PM
40	I have no particular story to share.	9/30/2022 11:06 AM
41	Even do I over view that people in churches did no response to God's faithfulness as they should, and did not pray during the pandemic as church better then we did, I saw God's love and caring for the church and the middle of the pandemic, and we as a church should be more committed to God	9/30/2022 4:22 AM
42	During the pandemic, I found alternative ways to assist with worship rather than our traditional in-person worship service. I helped with the alternative videoed service and found ways to keep in contact with church members. God directed us in how we could still provide a worshipful experience for our congregation. Again, it helped me to improved in my faith over fear. Trusting in God became stronger. It was not just lip service but a real belief that I shared with others who were living in fear created by the unknown around them.	9/29/2022 11:50 PM
43	With a discipling grant from ABHMS, our congregation began a book group, a monthly poetry group, a guided mediation group and online adult learning community. We leaned into virtual gatherings and now have an active, racially diverse book group that has spent 2 of the last 3 years reading and talking about race. We have a ever-changing group of people who meet up to listen and talk with poets we invited to read and talk about their work, or provide an opportunity for the group to have "open mic" time to read and listen to poetry together. We have an adult learning community who meets regularly to talk about the bible, to study a book together, to reflect on a podcast series and how each of these speaks to our growing faith. We continue to worship via Zoom, capitalizing on its interactive nature bringing together folks from other states, even countries, to worship with together. None of this happened before the pandemic nor would have happened without it. And, we agreed to sell our building so that we could invest our resources--people, money, passion, into serving Jesus in our community, rather than sustaining a property. Big stuff!	9/29/2022 7:36 PM
44	We experienced a revitalization of facilities and equipment during the pandemic while also seeing a lessening of congregational engagement.	9/29/2022 4:25 PM
45	I think the biggest thing has been we can survive by doing things we have not done before. Done away with the idea we have always done it that way.	9/29/2022 4:09 PM
46	Faithful giving of the offerings. Helping folks to wear masks and get shots in the church. Finding a way to keep folks connected thru the internet. Praying for our members and friends in need. Remember the shut-ins with prayers and pastoral visits and phone calls . Lifting families up in prayer.	9/29/2022 3:58 PM
47	Change is inevitable and God can redeem any circumstances	9/29/2022 3:54 PM
48	There were members I did not like much, now those members are important to me	9/29/2022 3:45 PM
49	I don't have any experiences tied directly to the pandemic to share.	9/29/2022 3:32 PM
50	When we find ourselves unable to do anything practically to save physically ourselves, we are relying totally on God's care and protection.	9/29/2022 3:02 PM
51	The deacons worked faithfully to keep in contact with congregants who are alone or in need.	9/29/2022 2:47 PM
52	I don't have time for 250 words just now, but I can say that God impressed upon me his unchanging nature in the midst of a very volatile time, and reaffirmed for me his love for me, his presence with me, and his guidance in any situation. He is a creative, adaptive God who responds to the sincere reliance of his people. It is good to seek him.	9/29/2022 2:32 PM

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53	The grace that neith my family or I had no long term effects from COVID, even though I worked at the hospital as a Chaplain throughout the pandemic.	9/29/2022 2:17 PM
54	Oddly, I seem to be more recognized in the community. People see that I wear a mask. They are then surprized that I have been going into intensive units to pray with their dying loved ones. They don't get it. They do respect it.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
55	It was literally the happiest year of my life. I never knew peace, or health or love like I knew that year.	9/29/2022 2:16 PM
56	We searched out how much faith we had in trusting God to keep us safe. On the other hand, we also realized that God gave us wisdom to seek out ways to keep safe. We got to know each other and for a while there was a discord with the different opinions and views, but we need to worship and reach out, so we sought Gods direction and became more open and tolerant of different opinions.	9/29/2022 1:48 PM
57	God has been with me through the pandemic as God always is. Don't know how I would make it through this life without God's love, concern, closeness, forgiveness and always being there for me.	9/29/2022 1:42 PM
58	As the doors of the Church at large were slammed shut, we had to find ways to keep our Church open and thriving. The challenges were difficult, waters in which we have not been equipped to navigate. But through prayer and leadership, we emerged a stronger church, more committed to the Great Commission. There is a hunger and thirst among our people for more of God at worship gatherings. I believe there is a revival on the horizon. Our people have learned not to take worship gatherings for granted. We now come prayed up with the anticipation of meeting the Holy Spirit face to face. There is a distinct movement of God's Spirit among our people. We have a greater determination to reach people in Las Vegas and make disciples who make disciples. There is a new culture and value system developed through the pandemic and I look forward to how that expresses itself in the coming decades.	9/29/2022 1:33 PM
59	All I can say is the paraphrase pretty well sums it up! Amen, brother!	9/29/2022 1:32 PM
60	God is so faithful and generous and we are overwhelmed at His kindness and provision for us every day in every way	9/29/2022 1:20 PM
61	Not really sure on this question.	9/29/2022 12:56 PM
62	It has been a challenging time for our church and for me personally. God has been challenging us to do some serious soul searching. To be honest, it is easy to become institutionalized as a church as we take care of the organizational aspects of the church. But it is my belief that God wants us to look at what is really important-our relationship with Him, each other, and the world. I also see the need for me to pray for our church during these trying times.	9/29/2022 12:50 PM
63	I felt more distance from God in the church fellowship. Personally I maintained the challenge to feel connected as well.	9/29/2022 12:49 PM
64	All of my members brag about cleaning out unnecessary items at home.	9/29/2022 12:42 PM
65	increase in closeness	9/29/2022 12:40 PM
66	During Covid we had long time members die, not from covid, but I couldn't be with them at the hospital and if we did have a funeral, it was very limited. That was heartbreaking for me as a Pastor and for the Congregation who loved these people. It raised our awareness of how precious people are and we as a congregation became more intentional about contacting one another. That awareness and appreciation for one another has continued and we are a more caring congregation.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
67	The pandemic tested everyone's faith, but it was for the better rather than the worst. God used "bad" experiences to bring out the best in His people.	9/29/2022 12:37 PM
68	I think the God helped us to see the importance of gathering together, of relationships because of the pandemic. Everyone was so thankful to be able to meet again. I don't think anyone will take that for granted again anytime soon.	9/29/2022 12:28 PM
69	not at this time	9/29/2022 12:21 PM
70	God moved those of us still together, closer. A very caring church family.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM
71	We of course lost some folks. So good to see our people respond to all things with faith.	9/29/2022 12:18 PM

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72	The pandemic brings us closer to God. Times were created to be with God daily and. The congregation even not allowed to meet, was aware that everyone must seek the face of God individually	9/29/2022 12:14 PM
73	I guess that I see us racing toward the Rapture and it is important to be working hard at what the Lord has given me to do. I pray all the time to be more focused (after the pandemic demands scrambled my brain). More intensity and intentionality to everything I/we do.	9/29/2022 12:11 PM
74	Hummm, not sure	9/29/2022 12:07 PM
75	I think this quote by Eugene Peterson is fluff. We live and relate in bodies and we can't divorce our self from that. I believe that we have to be totally present with all that we are none of this silly less of me and more of God otiose thinking.	9/29/2022 12:05 PM
76	Moved into retirement community just before Covid. Saw both parish and secular communities engage in challenge of Covid. Both are now stronger and better focused on providing resources where best needed. Less drawn to "same-old" practices.	9/29/2022 12:01 PM
77	I would say the greatest thing was how much everyone valued our time together as friends. How we could count on each other even if we disagreed on some things. Above all, our relationships were more important than our opinions about how we think the pandemic should be handled.	9/29/2022 11:59 AM
78	It's been challenging to stay in touch with everyone and we need to ramp up reconnecting with folk	9/29/2022 11:47 AM
79	We've had a good relationship with the elementary school across the street. We continued to participate in their monthly food pantry giveaway. We went from inside food on tables to outside pre-made boxes...but we still participated. Recently we responded to a request from the school's Family Liaison for something to give parents to improve communication with their children. We produced a laminated booklet on a metal ring that has 101 Conversation Starters with instructions on how to use it to start...and continue...conversations with their kids. We continue to look for ways to partner with not only the school but with others to meet needs in the community.	9/27/2022 5:13 PM
80	I was blessed by the flexibility of my congregation. We quickly shifted to old technology--a radio transmitter that went about 150 feet. This allowed us all to come together and worship--all in our own cars. Parking lot church has been year-round since March of 2020. We even hosted the annual Christmas party for the pastors of the ABC churches of greater Indianapolis in 2021--from our parking lot! We stood safely at our cars or sat in them with the windows down, talked from a distance, heard scripture and hymns over the radio and had cake/drinks delivered to us at our cars. It wasn't what we were used to--but we had a Christmas party! Our people were still faithful in giving their tithes and offerings! I am grateful that we did not struggle financially during the pandemic. When our moderator died, we drove by his wife's home while she sat in the yard. We shared her grief--at a safe distance. She went on to be very sick herself just after his passing. It was a difficult time. The church family gathered in prayer online and supported her as best we could with the isolation that came from being quarantined. Looking back, it seems unreal. It seems like it didn't happen. But it did. We have a new regard for what is really important as a church. I do have a sense of expectation about Garden Baptist Church--guarded expectation. I know that God is with us.	9/27/2022 4:43 PM
81	People were more willing to be humble and real with one another. Given that we were all undone and locked in and isolated for 2 years, vulnerability came a little easier.	9/27/2022 4:02 PM
82	I preached a message that spoke of being at the end of your rope. Suffice it to say, that's all I have to say on this topic for now.	9/27/2022 11:34 AM
83	I can certainly say God is good good good. Regardless we had losses in family and young friends. We are in his hands.	9/27/2022 8:45 AM
84	The pandemic slowed us down and gave us new problems to think about. Life was put on hold. Family relationships changed because we could no longer be physically together. The internet, Zoom became a life-blood for staying connected. People who never used a computer developed new skills, regardless of their age. We played games with distant family and friends. We worshiped at friend's churches and welcomed distant friends to ours. Everyone shared the same fears and concerns and we could turn to God together. Knowing this gave us strength to get through the difficult times. Coming out of the pandemic, we are delighted to be able to be together in person. The change has been a greater appreciation of the people who hold	9/26/2022 8:43 PM

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significant meaning in our lives. We come back a gentler, more forgiving people. I pray that we will be able to sustain that blessing.

85	not sure	9/26/2022 1:01 PM
86	Our pandemic experience is one of seeing a renewed sense of the power of God, the goodness of gathering together in His name, and a desire to encounter Him. On the other side of it, we've launched a prayer ministry that simply couldn't take off beforehand, for instance. We've got 20 volunteers serving in it now, because people were HUNGRY for the opportunity to serve and to do so face-to-face for one another.	9/26/2022 10:25 AM
87	The isolation during the pandemic was not always a curse. I found myself less stressed and rushed as I prepared for Sunday service virtually. Being able to sit quietly prior to going online and pre-read the scripture for the day was a real benefit. I was much more open and ready to receive the Word, with no distractions.	9/26/2022 10:14 AM
88	It made me more aware. Not just my own health, but others' health as well. The new routines could be annoying but, having lost family members to Covid, I realized it was for the good--and the glory of God.	9/24/2022 11:18 PM
89	Ours is a small congregation, but despite Covid and a pastoral transition, we continue to thrive and grow. The challenges imposed by the pandemic only seem to have drawn us into a deeper relationship with the Lord and with each other. It seems that finding ourselves at the end of our rope on more than one occasion has only served to give us the strength to climb back up.	9/23/2022 3:37 PM
90	As I stated earlier, managing time is different. I have more private time and I've learned to use it in a way that honors my walk/talk with God.	9/23/2022 11:03 AM
91	The Lord is faithful and supplied all of our needs and we trust Him more than ever.	9/23/2022 10:04 AM
92	During the pandemic there was a commitment from many in our congregation that church is an important aspect of their lives they do not want to miss.	9/23/2022 9:10 AM
93	Pandemic exposed the great need for healing communities (not programs). So many were hurt with loss and isolation. Programs cannot cure the longings of the heart and soul.	9/23/2022 8:51 AM
94	Always choose God over government. God is sufficient. Government will always let you down.	9/23/2022 12:21 AM
95	I'd like to do this...but thoughtfully.	9/22/2022 8:30 PM
96	More responsibility has been placed on the "doers" of the church because there are fewer of them as most people have decided to stay at home	9/22/2022 8:15 PM
97	In many ways we Are still recovering. People are tired and weary, even though our numbers show we are strong. I think it's a true reflection of what we are experiencing. It has brought many people closer to God, and needing the community of fellow believers. I see people not recovering their emotional, spiritual or physical energy from the fear and turmoil of the pandemic. BUT they are in church. They are resting in the Lord and are hungering and thirsting for him. This is the good news!!	9/22/2022 8:10 PM
98	Staying humble with God's daily bread	9/22/2022 7:18 PM
99	Openness to change, grow, begin new patterns for ministry. For me personally it has moved me to love Christ more, walk away from traditional models, and embrace emerging ministry models	9/22/2022 5:38 PM
100	God moved people into our midst and moved people already there to try new ways to worship using music and tech and reading from home. More was shared by the church leaders and congregation which transferred to when we met in person. More people reading, leading, singing in church. One young man in our young adult group joined the young adults via zoom and will be getting baptized soon. Some closeness was reached because we desired to be together and dive deeper in our faith together.	9/22/2022 5:37 PM
101	Sorry...no time. God is good.	9/22/2022 4:48 PM
102	There has been a constant awareness that God is doing a new thing among us in the church. We have come to realize that the old ways may no longer be as useful for ministry as before. We have broadened our view of what is possible and found meaningful resources online to guide us and to develop our worship services, in particular. Because of live-stream and Zoom, we also have been able to participate in the lives of other congregations for worship and	9/22/2022 4:45 PM

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special events. I think the pandemic has helped us open our eyes the broadness , the vastness of God's Kingdom.

103	I realize that I was blest in that my husband did not have Covid even though in a nursing home during the excruciating lockdown. He had a window on the outside of the building and I could sit there on my folding chair daily and see him and talk via cell phone and hear him tell me he loved me. I got him out of there as quickly as I could. Our 45-minute face-to-face visit once a week was the only time we could touch each other, and he always had his hand on me as we sat there. I took him a treat every week for us to share on the porch. I would give everything to have him back. My heart aches for people whose loved ones were beyond their sight and their reach in hospitals. I knew how blest we were, even though it was awful.	9/22/2022 2:50 PM
104	I heard God challenging me with the words from Esther: "for such a time as this." Those words led us to pursue ministry in new ways through technology. It led us to deeper experiences of prayer and service to the community.	9/22/2022 1:01 PM
105	We"hung in there" and have recovered for the most part.	9/22/2022 12:06 PM
106	We held a church retreat August of 2022 during which we sought to cast a vision for the future. Much of our language up to that point revolved around "when we get more kids," so this was a time to change that script. At the time, there wasn't much progress in our "re-writing." However, two months later our church finds itself going through pastoral transition. While many assume 2 of 3 pastors leaving is a bad sign, I'm assured that it's an answer to the prayers of that retreat. It's allowing us to return to the language of an open-road ahead of us. What's just beyond our line of sight? We don't have an answer yet, but we're certain it'll be better than we could ask or imagine.	9/22/2022 10:46 AM
107	N/A	9/22/2022 10:18 AM
108	My prayer life changed and I rely on God for everything. God spoke to me and I gave my life over again and a friend texted me while I was at home trying to heal and said, "Ask God to Empower you." As I pondered that statement, I added, "Restore me." As I prepare to celebrate 68 years in October, my theme for my celebration is: "Empower & Restore" as I reflect over my life and see where God has brought me from a lot of hurt and loss. Regardless how things turned out, I still landed on my feet! Thanks be to God!	9/21/2022 4:42 PM