

Protestant Churchgoers' Views on Church Participation during COVID-19

A SURVEY OF 1,000 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway **research**

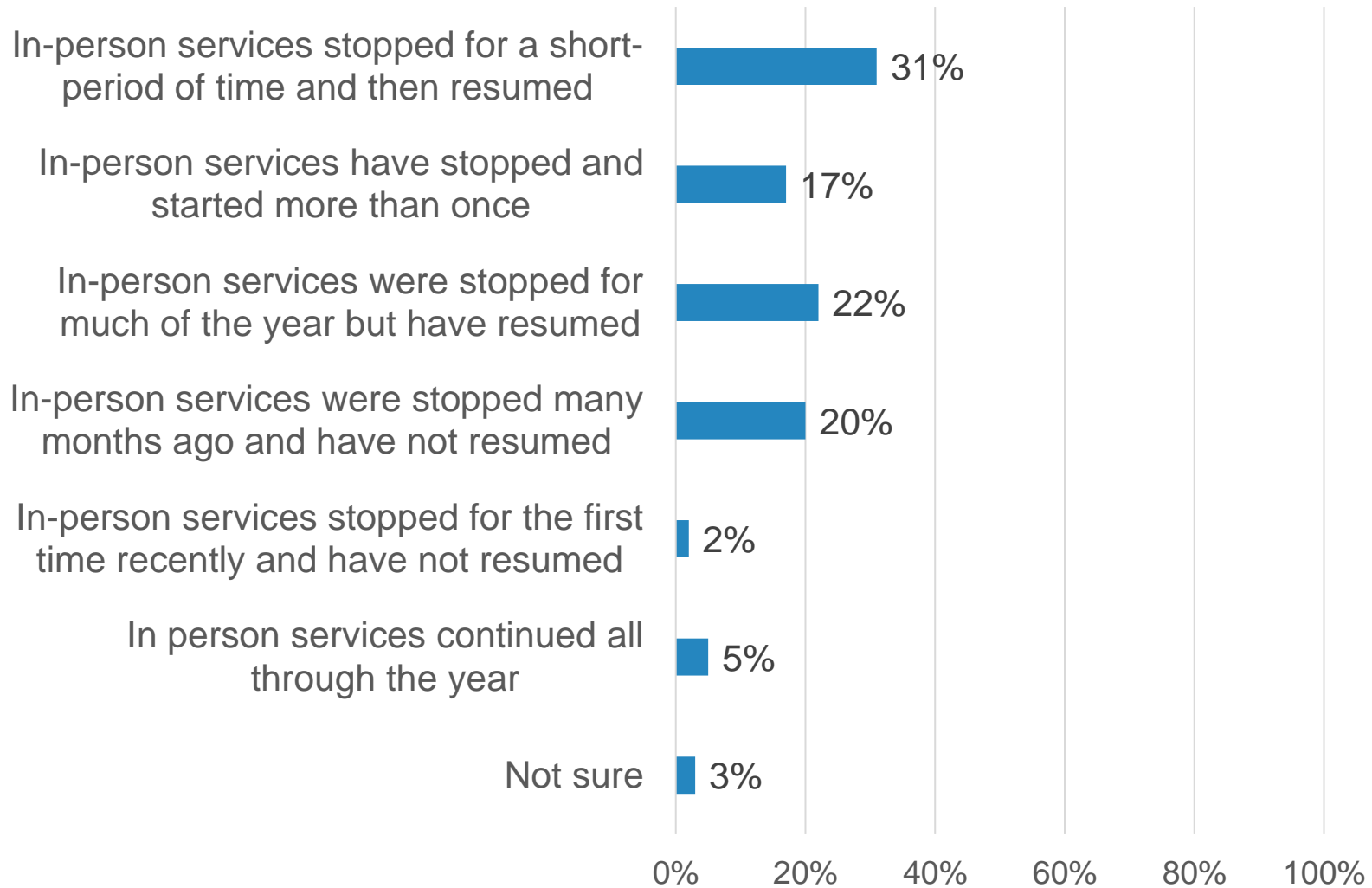
Methodology

- The online survey of 1,000 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted February 5-18, 2021 using a national, pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attended religious services at least once a month in 2019
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, and education to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weight
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to a Lifeway Research survey of Protestant churchgoers September 20-27, 2019 using the same methodology

Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
 - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
 - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
 - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
 - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

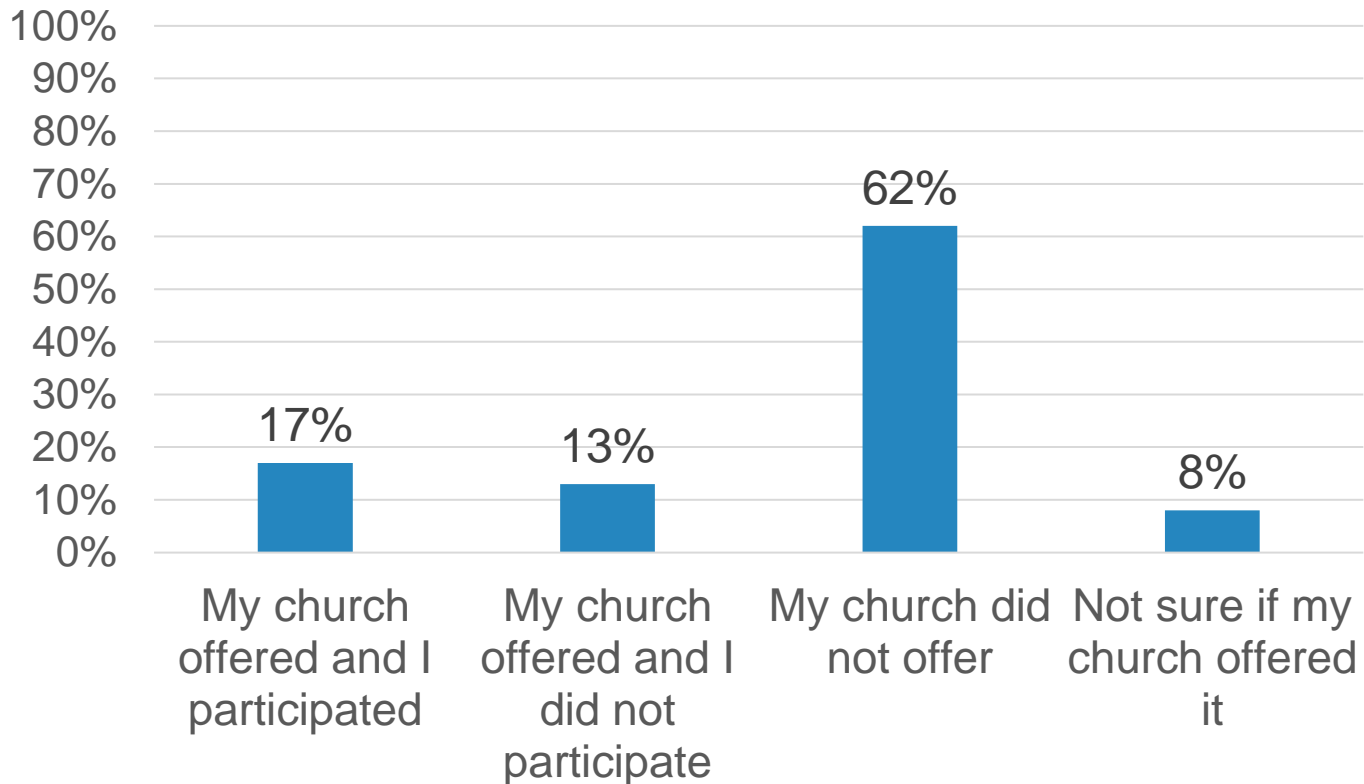
22% say their church has not resumed in-person worship services



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Drive in worship services (where people stay in their cars)

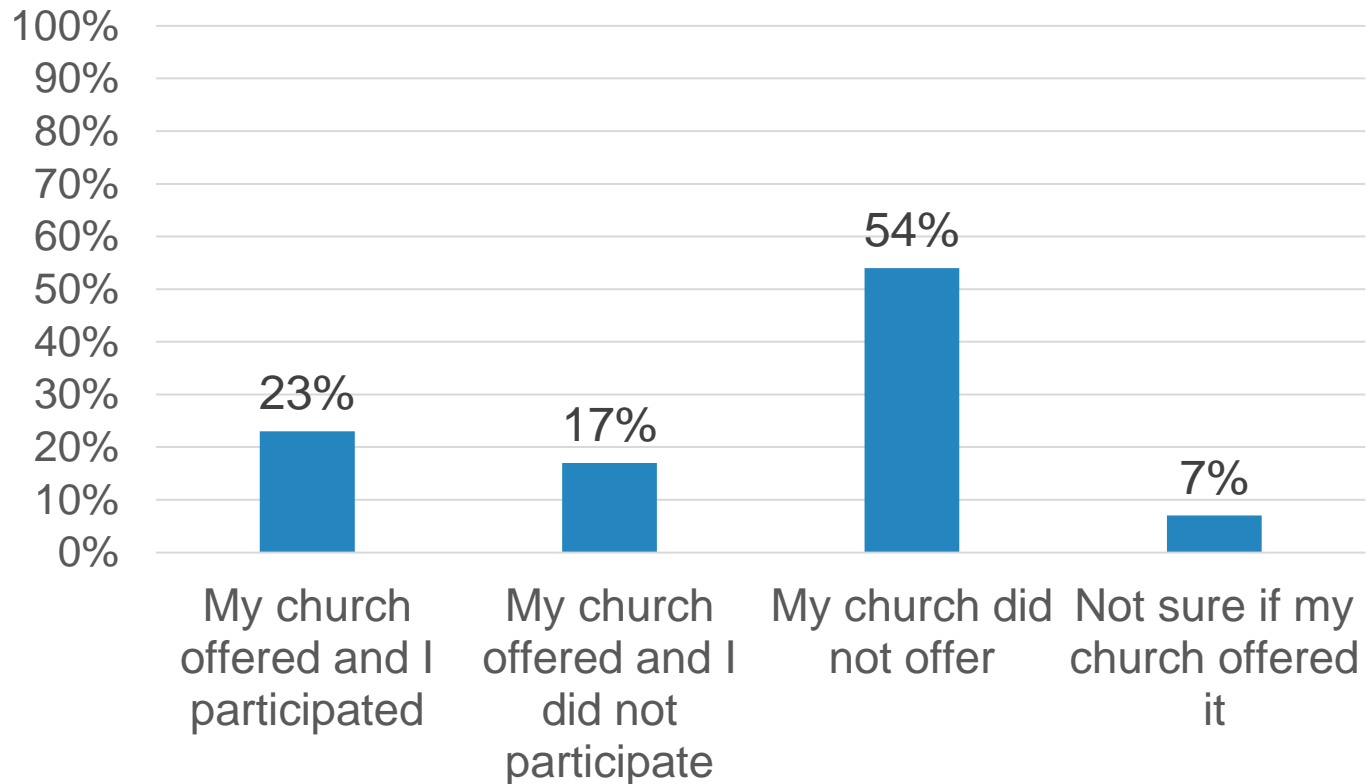
Since the outbreak of COVID-19:



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Outdoor worship services

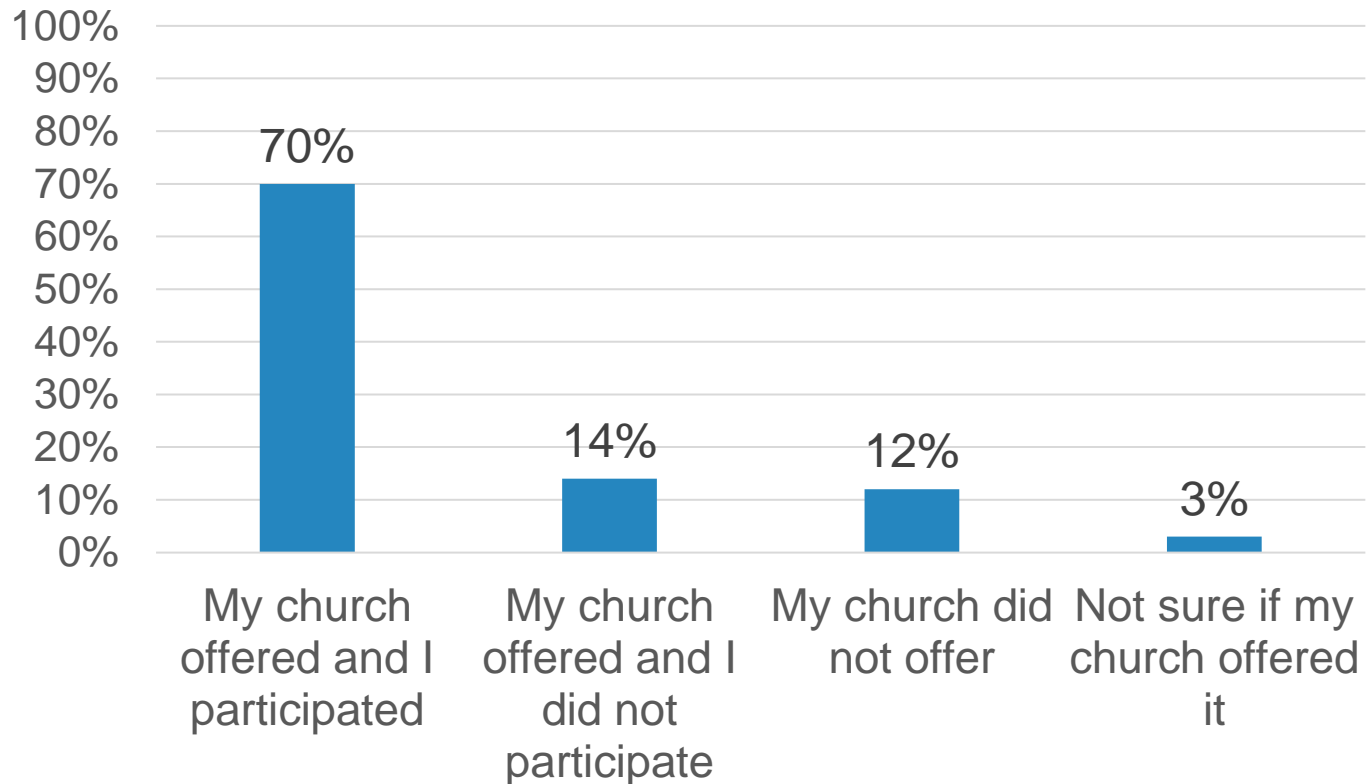
Since the outbreak of COVID-19:



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Live streamed worship services

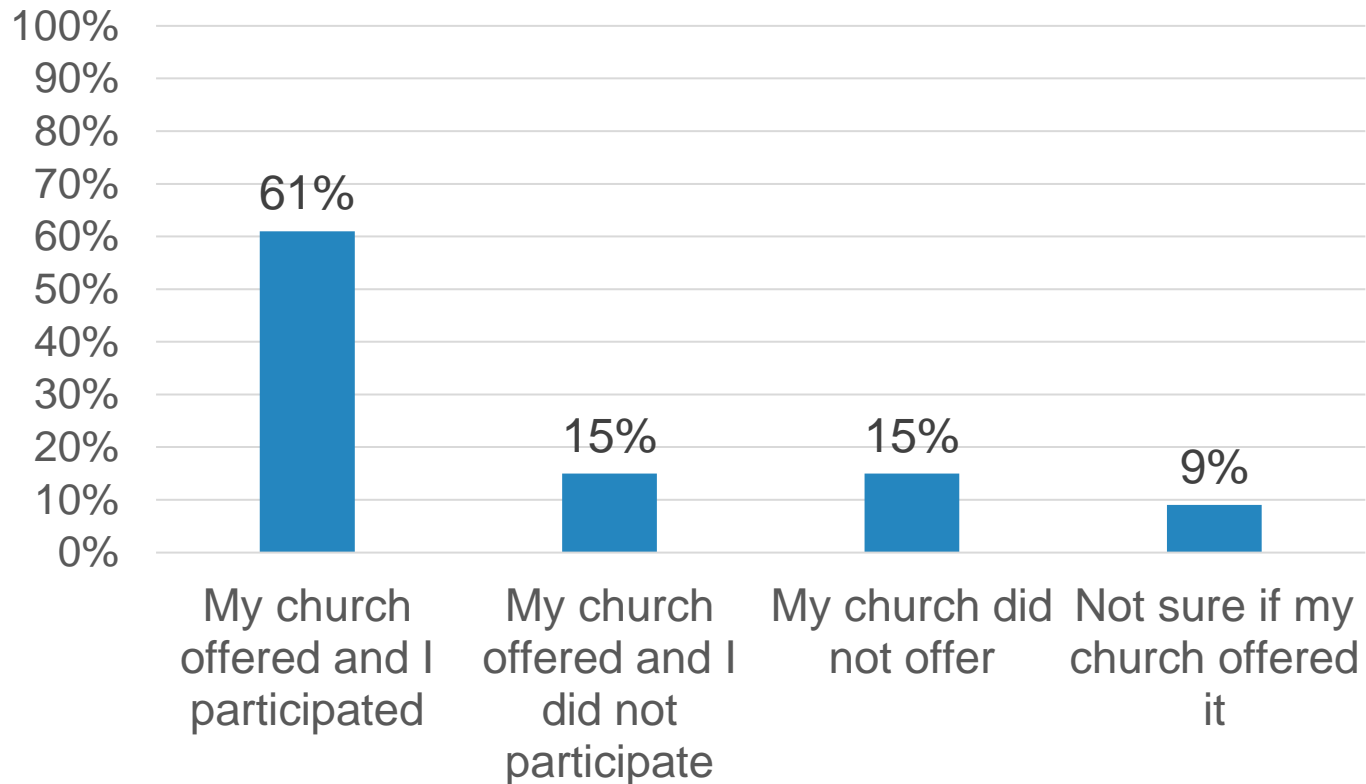
Since the outbreak of COVID-19:



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Posted videos of worship services that could be watched any time

Since the outbreak of COVID-19:

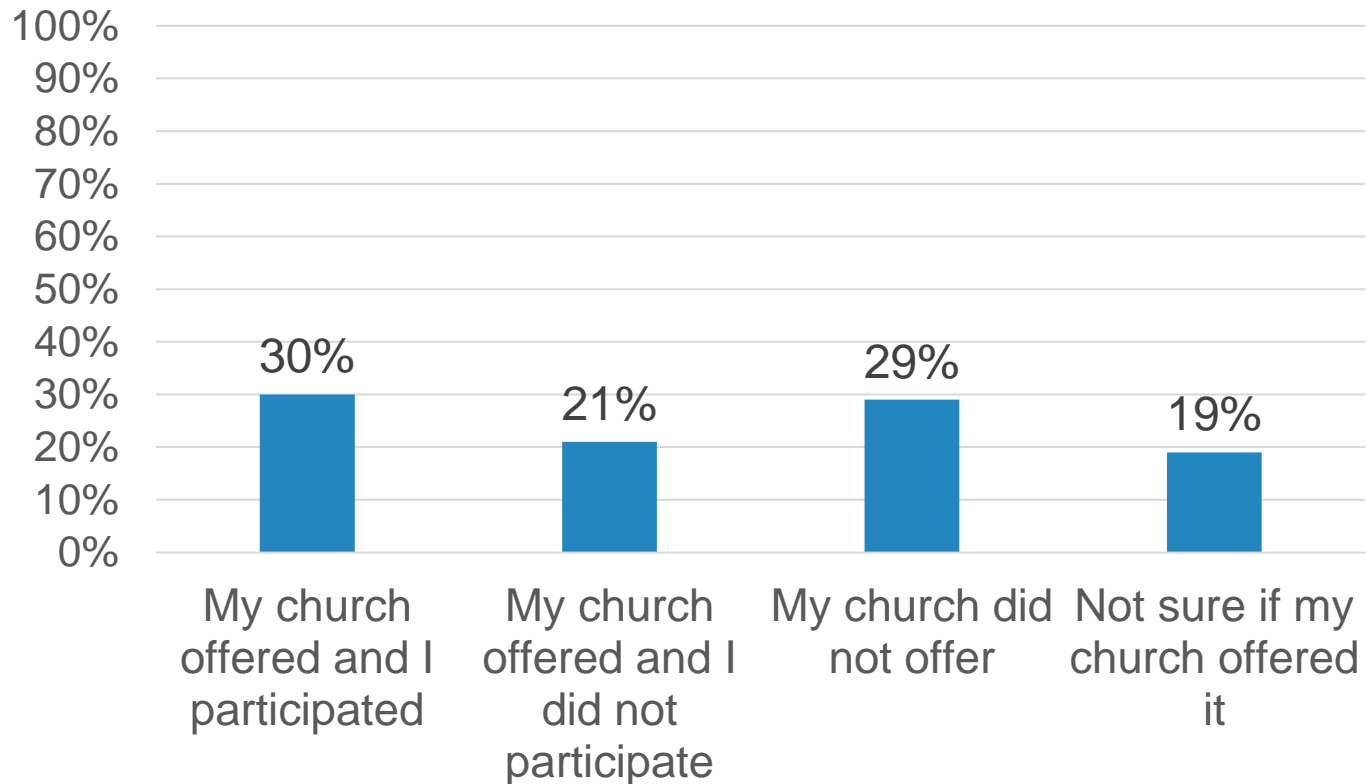


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Q14_4: "Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following?
Posted videos of worship services that could be watched any time "

Online Bible studies for adults

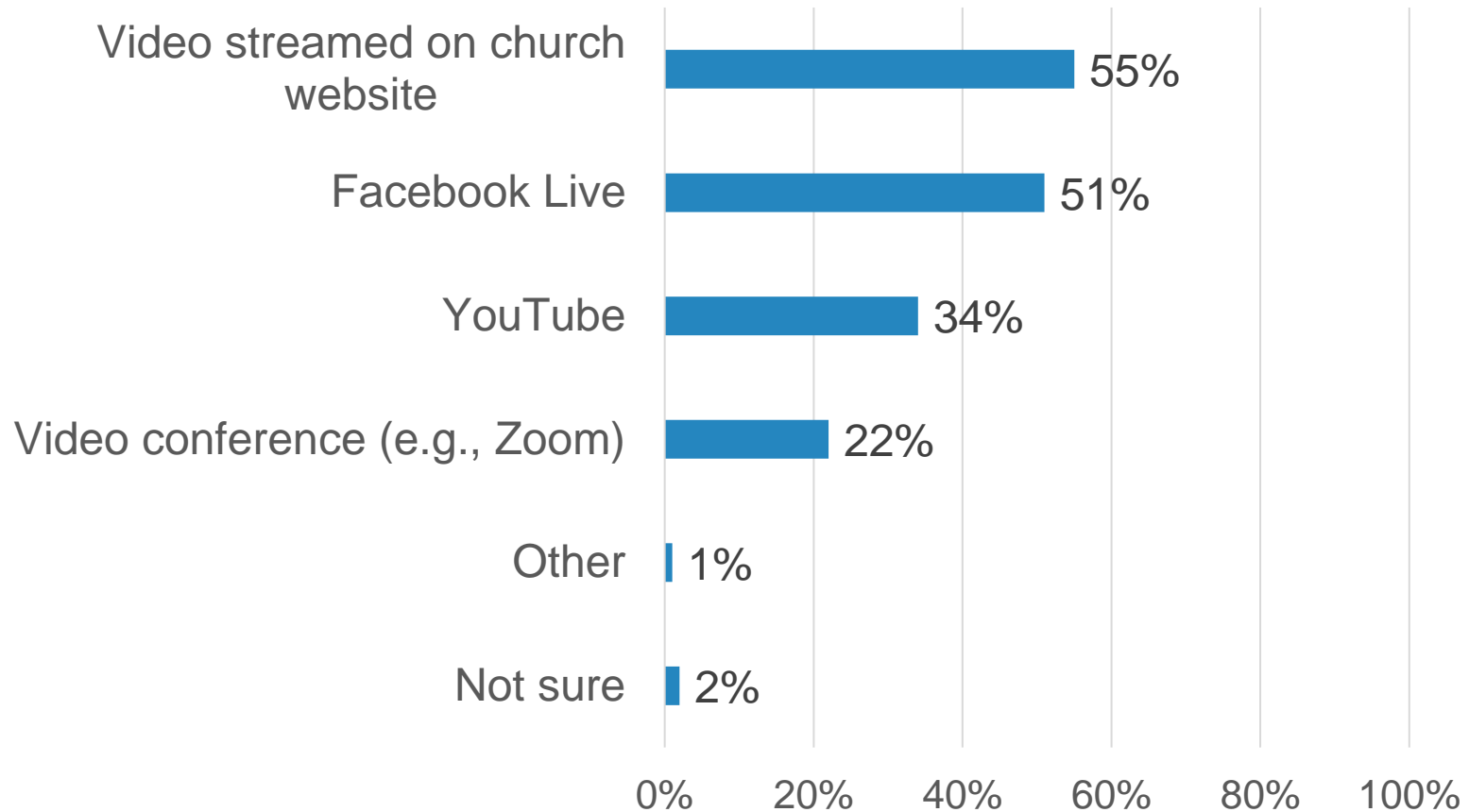
Since the outbreak of COVID-19:



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“In what format(s) did your church offer live, online worship services?”

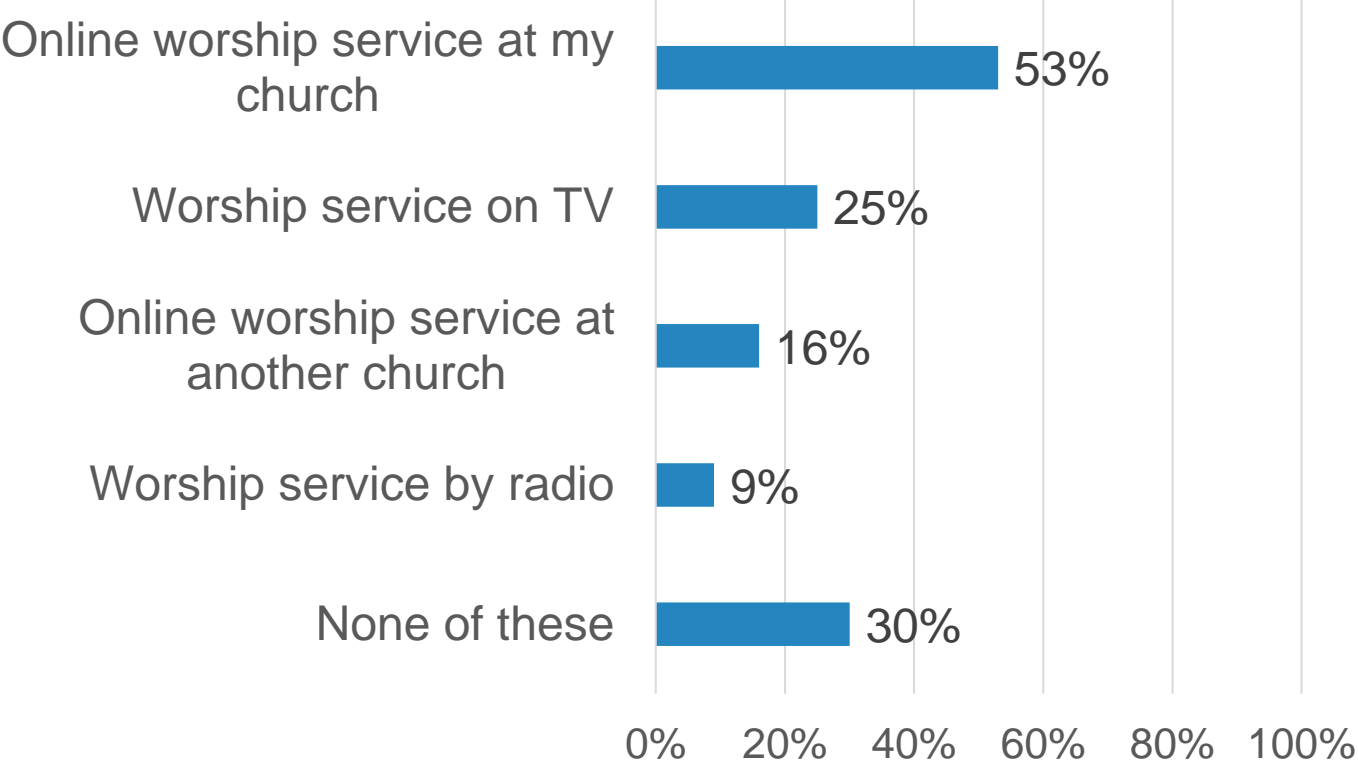
Among those whose church offered live streamed worship services



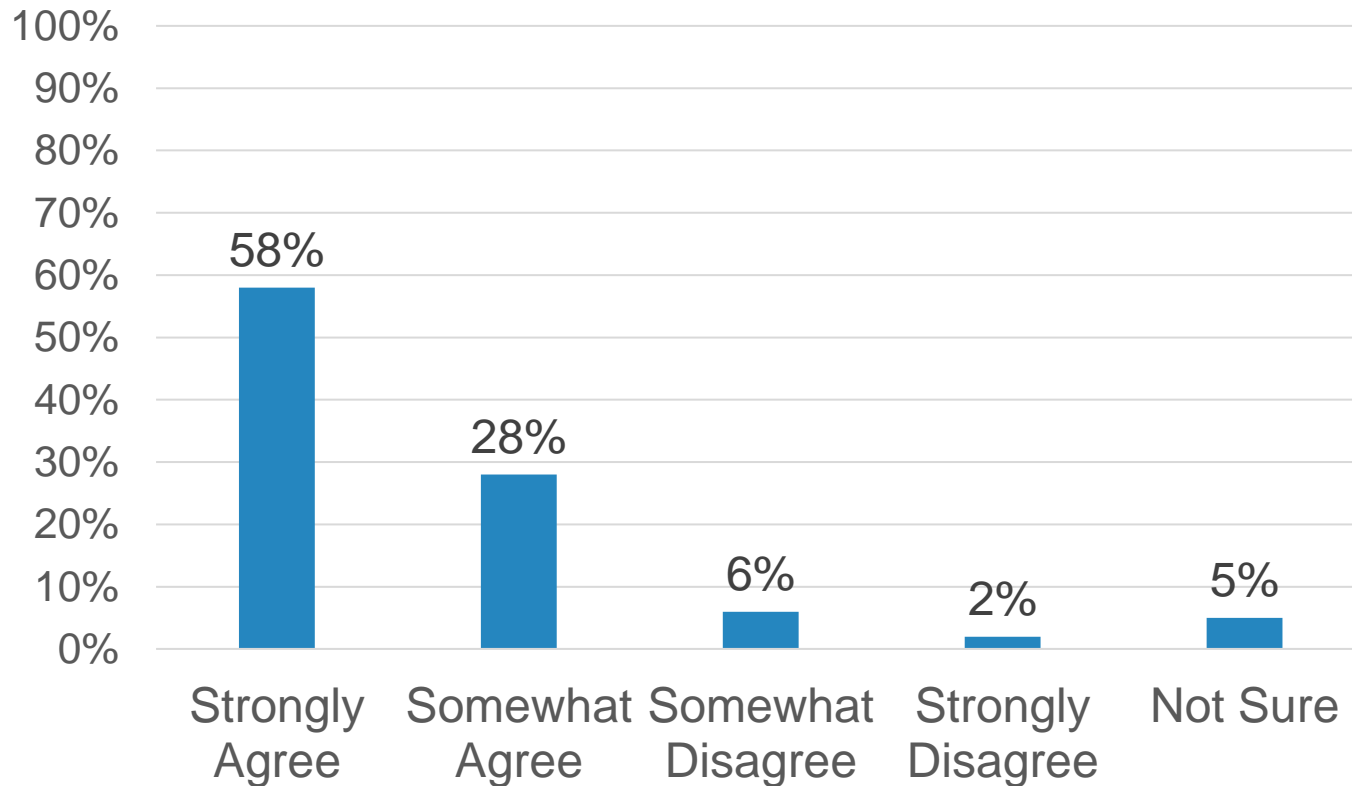
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Q15: “In what format(s) did your church offer live, online worship services? (Select all that apply)” Asked of those participating in live streamed worship services offered by their church n=848

In January 2021, did you participate in any of the following?



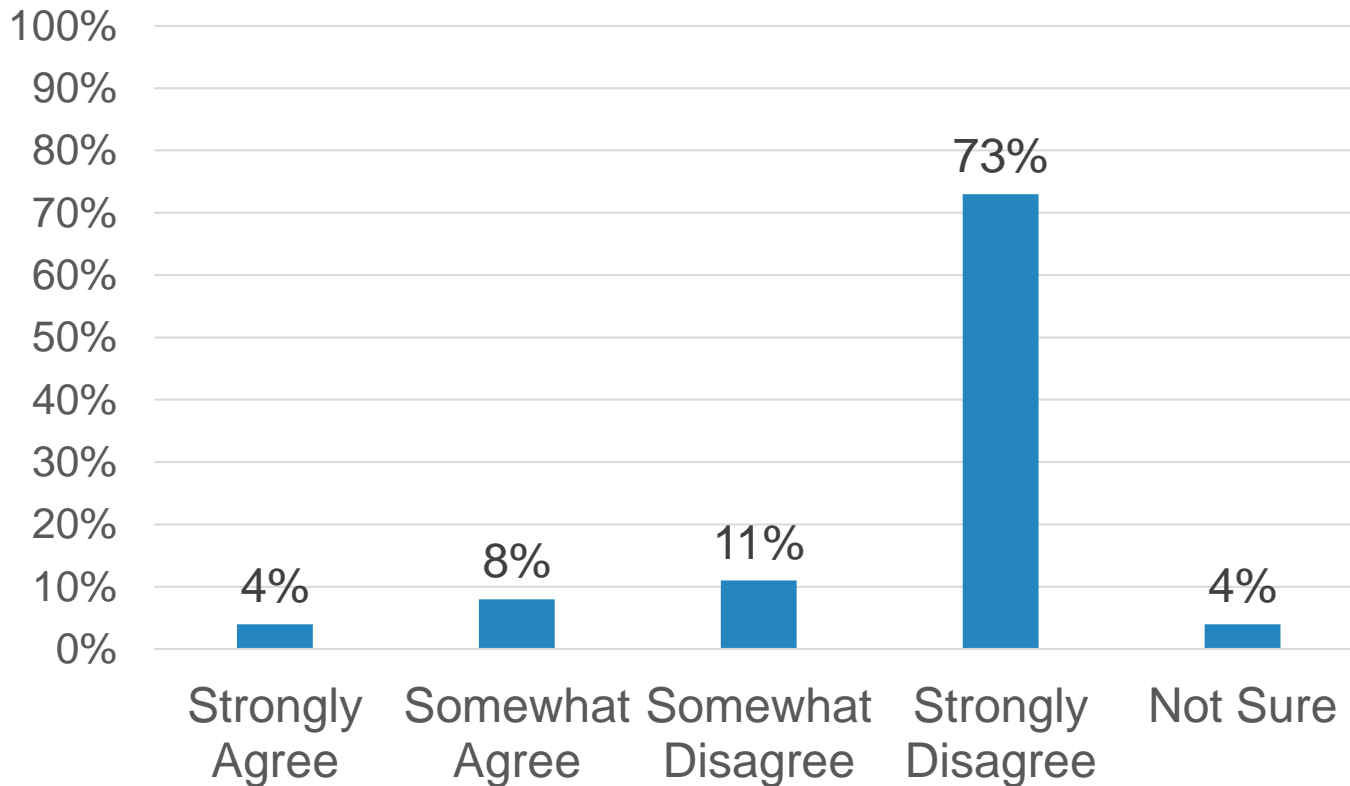
86% are proud of how their church has responded during the COVID-19 pandemic



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Q34: "I am proud of how my church has responded during the COVID-19 pandemic."

12% are ashamed of how my church has responded during the COVID-19 pandemic



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Q35: "I am ashamed of how my church has responded during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Worship Service Attendance, January 2020

Denomination

Evangelical Beliefs

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, ethnicity, region, and education.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION
Male	18-29	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	30-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+	Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among worship service attendance, denomination, and evangelical beliefs.

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE, JANUARY 2020	DENOMINATION	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS
0-1 times	Baptist	Yes
2 to 3 times	Lutheran	No
4 or more times	Methodist	
	Non-denominational	

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, which of the following best describes the in-person worship services your church has offered?”

- Those age 50-64 (35%) are more likely to select “In-person services stopped for a short-period of time and then resumed” than those 18-29 (26%)
- Whites (38%) are more likely to select “In-person services stopped for a short-period of time and then resumed” than African Americans (13%) and Hispanics (23%)
- African Americans are the most likely to select “In-person services stopped many months ago and have not resumed” (40%)
- Those in the Midwest (36%) are more likely to select “In-person services stopped for a short-period of time and then resumed” than those in the Northeast (22%) and West (26%)
- Those in the Northeast (29%) are more likely to select “In-person services stopped many months ago and have not resumed” than those in the Midwest (16%) and South (19%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, which of the following best describes the in-person worship services your church has offered?” *(continued)*

- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (27%) or a Graduate Degree (26%) are more likely to select “In-person services stopped many months ago and have not resumed” than those who are High School Graduates or less (17%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 are the most likely to select “In-person services stopped for a short-period of time and then resumed” (36%)
- Methodists (23%) and non-denominational (21%) are more likely to select “In-person services have stopped and started more than once” than Lutherans (11%)
- Methodists are the least likely to select “In-person services stopped for a short-period of time and then resumed” (16%)
- Non-denominational are the least likely to select “In-person services stopped many months ago and have not resumed” (10%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “In-person services stopped for a short-period of time and then resumed” than those without evangelical beliefs (39% v. 23%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Drive in worship services (where people stay in their cars)”

- Those age 18-29 (26%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those 50-64 (14%) and 65+ (10%)
- African Americans (25%) and Hispanics (23%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than Whites (14%)
- Those in the Northeast (69%) and Midwest (66%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than those in the South (58%)
- Those with some college (68%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than those who are High School Graduates or less (59%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 are the most likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” (20%)
- Methodists (70%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than Baptists (58%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those without evangelical beliefs (20% v. 14%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Outdoor worship services”

- Those age 50-64 (59%) and 65+ (65%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than those 18-29 (37%) and 30-49 (51%)
- Whites (57%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than African Americans (46%)
- Those in the Midwest (61%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than those in the South (52%) and West (49%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (30%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those with some college (19%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 are the most likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” (28%)
- Lutherans (61%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than non-denominational (46%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “My church offered and I participated” than those without evangelical beliefs (26% v. 20%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Live streamed worship services”

- Males are more likely to select “My church offered, and I did not participate” than Females (17% v. 12%)
- Those age 65+ (17%) are more likely to select “My church did not offer” than those 18-29 (8%)
- Hispanics (81%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than Whites (69%) and African Americans (70%)
- Those in the South (74%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those in the Midwest (65%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree are the most likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” (80%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 are the most likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” (75%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Live streamed worship services” *(continued)*

- Lutherans (25%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I did not participate” than Baptists (13%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those without evangelical beliefs (76% v. 64%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Posted videos of worship services that could be watched any time”

- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 are the most likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” (66%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those without evangelical beliefs (64% v. 58%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Online Bible studies for adults”

- Those age 18-29 (40%) and 30-49 (36%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those 50-64 (27%) and 65+ (19%)
- African Americans (42%) and Hispanics (46%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than Whites (25%)
- Those in the South (33%) and West (34%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those in the Midwest (23%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the most likely to select “My church did not offer” (37%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 are the most likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” (36%)

“Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has your church offered and have you used any of the following? Online Bible studies for adults” *(continued)*

- Baptists (33%) and non-denominational (33%) are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than Lutherans (17%) and Methodists (19%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “My church offered, and I participated” than those without evangelical beliefs (36% v. 25%)

“In what format(s) did your church offer live, online worship services?” Percentages of those offering any live, online worship services

Video streamed on church website

- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (68%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (53%) or with some college (50%)

“In what format(s) did your church offer live, online worship services?” Percentages of those offering any live, online worship services

Facebook Live

- Females are more likely to select than Males (56% v. 45%)
- Those age 18-29 (59%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (47%)
- African Americans are the most likely to select (66%)
- Those in the South (58%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (47%) and West (40%)
- Those that attended a worship service 0-1 times in January 2020 are the least likely to select (35%)
- Baptists (58%) are the most likely to select

“In what format(s) did your church offer live, online worship services?” Percentages of those offering any live, online worship services

Video conference (e.g., Zoom)

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (37%)
- African Americans (36%) and Hispanics (29%) are more likely to select than Whites (17%)
- Those in the Northeast (30%) and South (24%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (16%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (31%) and a Graduate degree (27%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (17%)

“In what format(s) did your church offer live, online worship services?” Percentages of those offering any live, online worship services

YouTube

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (46%)
- African Americans (40%) and Hispanics (43%) are more likely to select than Whites (31%)
- Those in the West (42%) are more likely to select than those in the South (32%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (41%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (29%)

“In January 2021, did you participate in any of the following?”

Online worship service at my church

- Those age 18-29 (60%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (47%)
- African Americans (59%) and Hispanics (64%) are more likely to select than Whites (50%)
- Those in the South (57%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (49%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (60%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (49%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 (58%) are more likely to select than those that attended 2-3 times in January 2020 (46%)

“In January 2021, did you participate in any of the following?”

Online worship service at another church

- Females are more likely to select than Males (19% v. 13%)
- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (25%)
- African Americans (27%) are more likely to select than Whites (13%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (22%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (13%)
- Baptists (20%) and non-denominational (17%) are more likely to select than Methodists (5%)

“In January 2021, did you participate in any of the following?”

Worship service on TV

- Those age 18-29 (33%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (21%) and 65+ (22%)
- African Americans (38%) are more likely to select than Whites (21%) and Hispanics (19%)
- Those in the South (30%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (15%) and Midwest (20%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (31%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (21%)
- Lutherans are the least likely to select (11%)

“In January 2021, did you participate in any of the following?”

Worship service by radio

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to select (22%)
- African Americans (16%) are more likely to select than Whites (7%) and Hispanics (6%)
- Those that attended a worship service 0-1 times in January 2020 are the least likely to select (3%)
- Baptists (11%) and non-denominational (11%) are more likely to select than Methodists (3%)

“I am proud of how my church has responded during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

- Whites (10%) are more likely to Disagree than African Americans (5%)
- Those in the South (88%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (82%)
- Those that attended a worship service 4 or more times in January 2020 (88%) are more likely to Agree than those that attended 0-1 times in January 2020 (79%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without evangelical beliefs (88% v. 84%)

“I am ashamed of how my church has responded during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

- Those age 18-29 are the most likely to Agree (26%)
- African Americans (19%) and Hispanics (16%) are more likely to Agree than Whites (8%)
- Those in the South (14%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (8%)
- Baptists (12%) and non-denominational (13%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (5%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to Disagree than those without evangelical beliefs (87% v. 81%)