

Pastors' Views on July Fourth Services and Patriotism

A SURVEY OF 1,000 PROTESTANT PASTORS

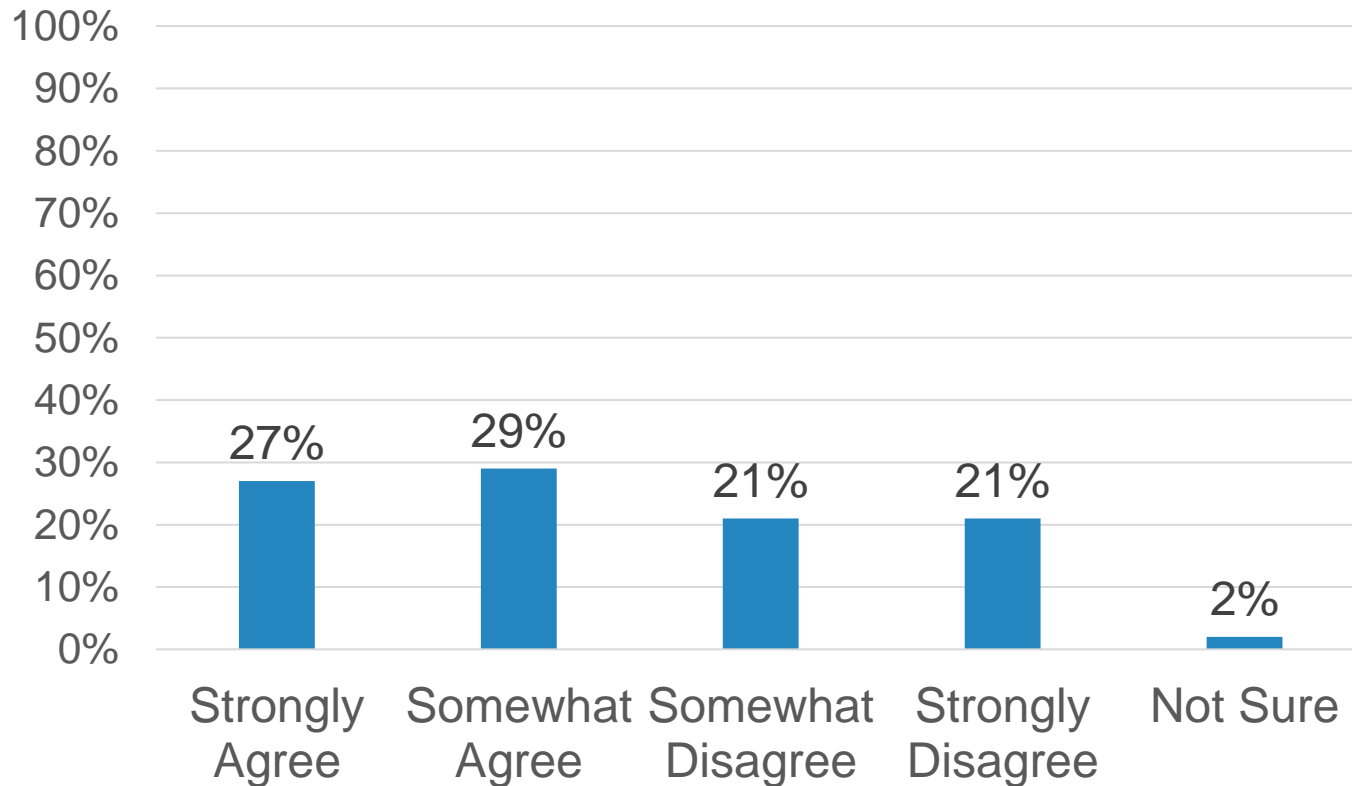
Lifeway **research**

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 1-29, 2021
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interviews was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to a survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors conducted by Lifeway Research March 9-24, 2016 using the same methodology

56% say that it is important to incorporate patriotic elements into worship services the week of July Fourth

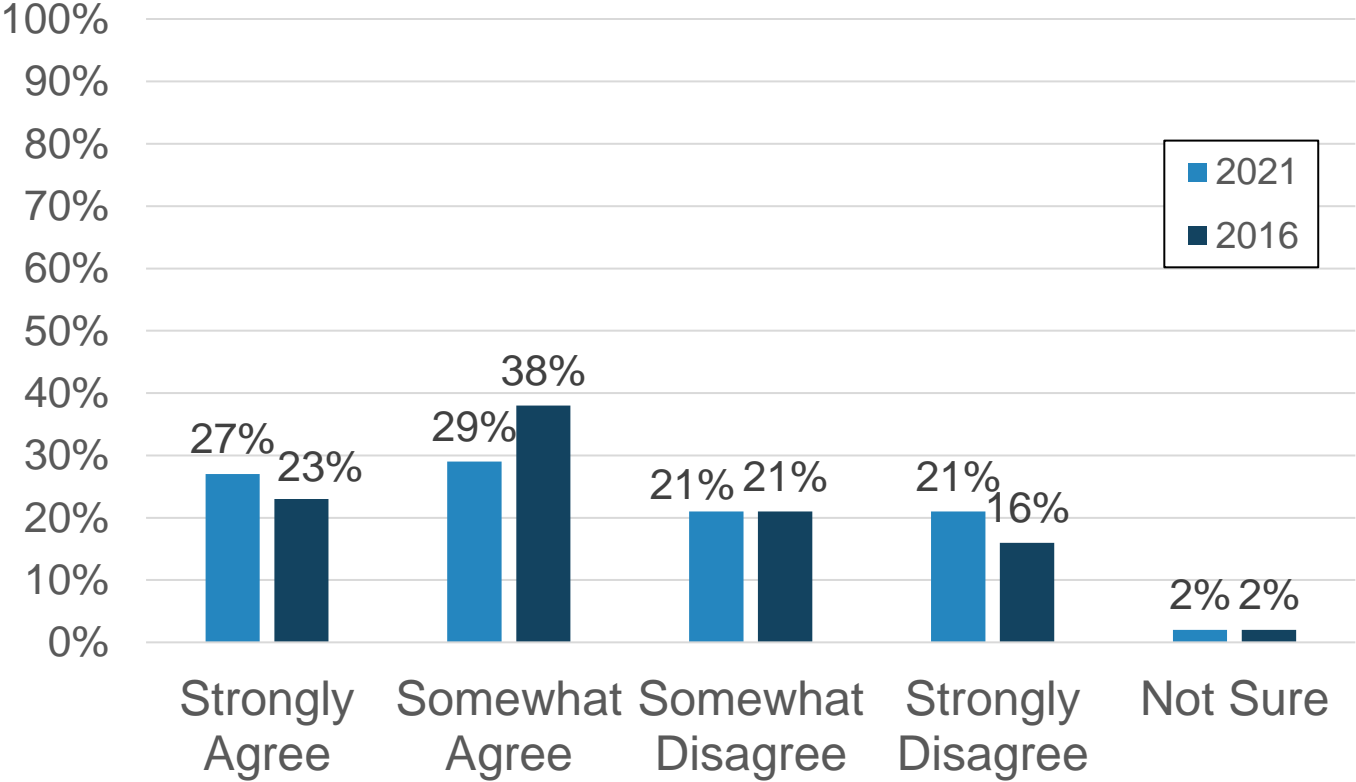
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Slightly fewer pastors agree it is important to incorporate patriotic elements into worship services the week of July Fourth than in 2016

Among Protestant Pastors

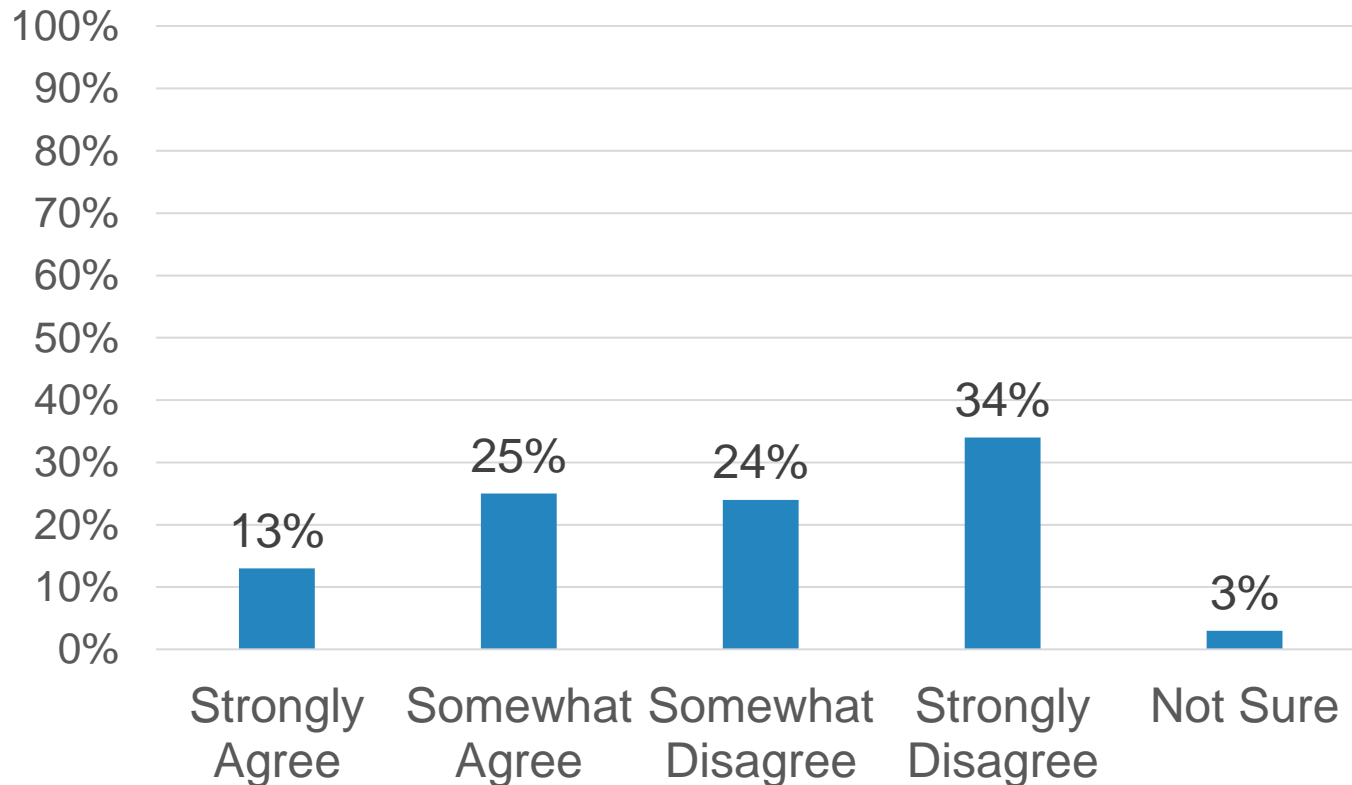


Lifeway research

Q16: "It is important that worship services the week of July Fourth incorporate patriotic elements to celebrate America." n=1,000

38% say that their congregation's love for America sometimes seems greater than their love for God

Among Protestant Pastors

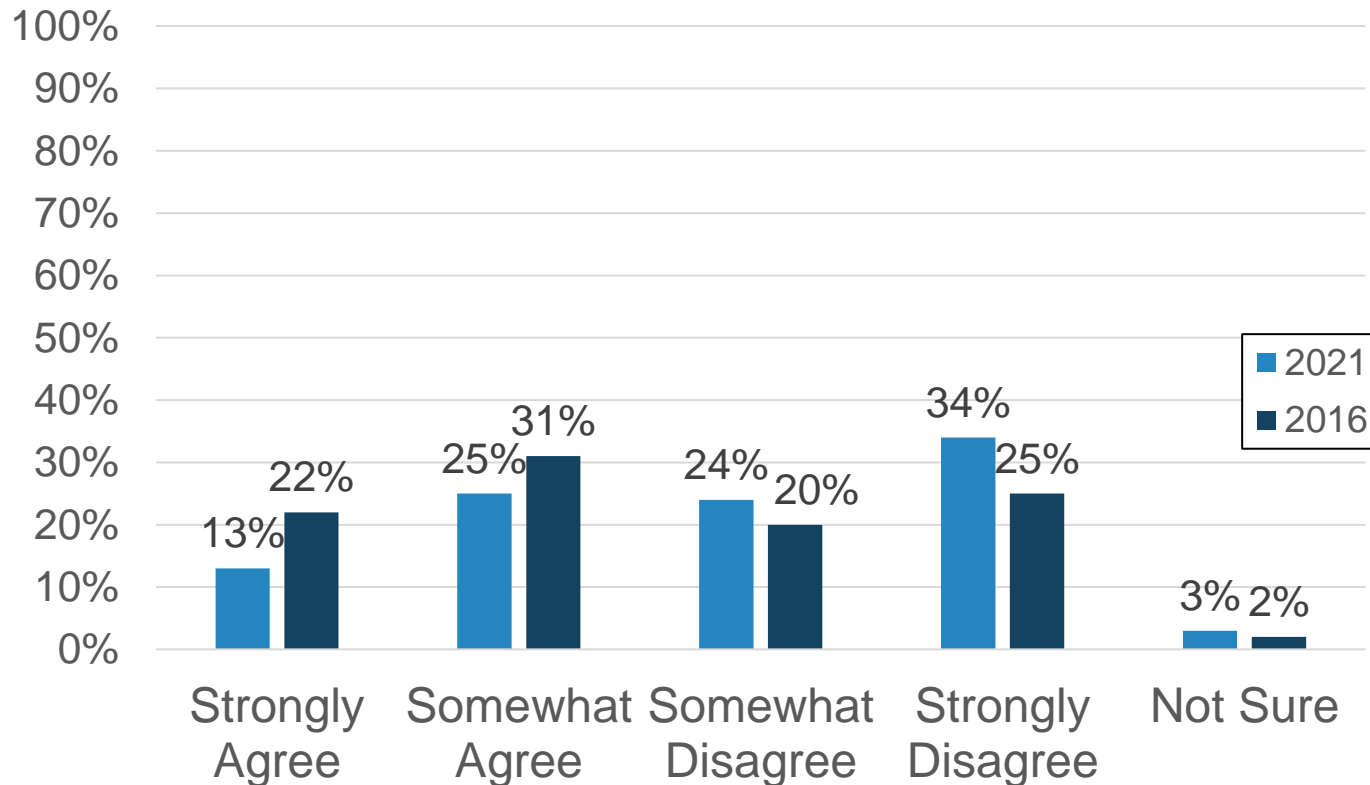


Lifeway research

Q17: "Our congregation's love for America sometimes seems greater than their love for God." n=1,000

Fewer pastors say their congregation's love for America sometimes exceeds their love for God than in 2016 (38% v. 53%)

Among Protestant Pastors

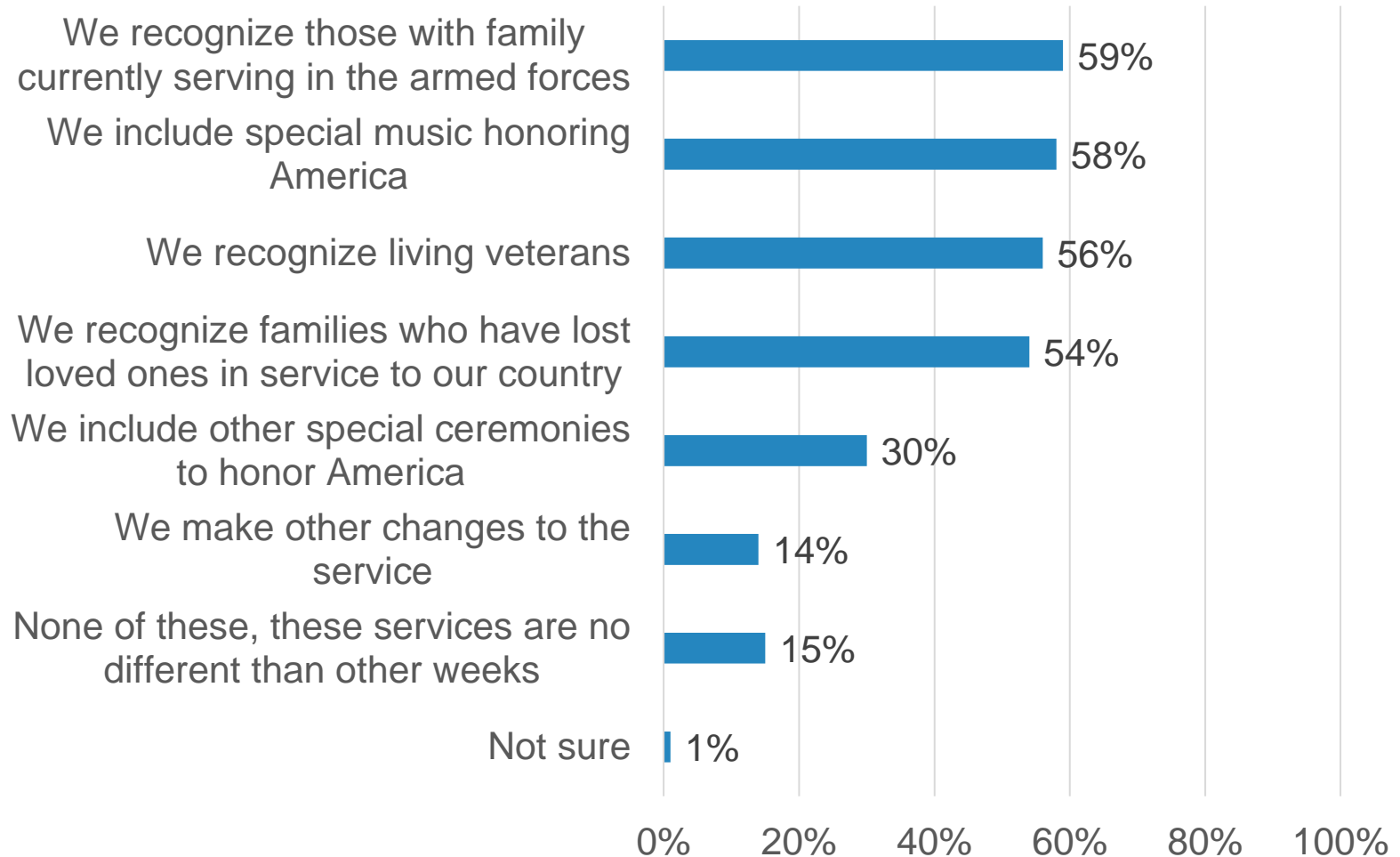


Lifeway research

Q17: "Our congregation's love for America sometimes seems greater than their love for God." n=1,000

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

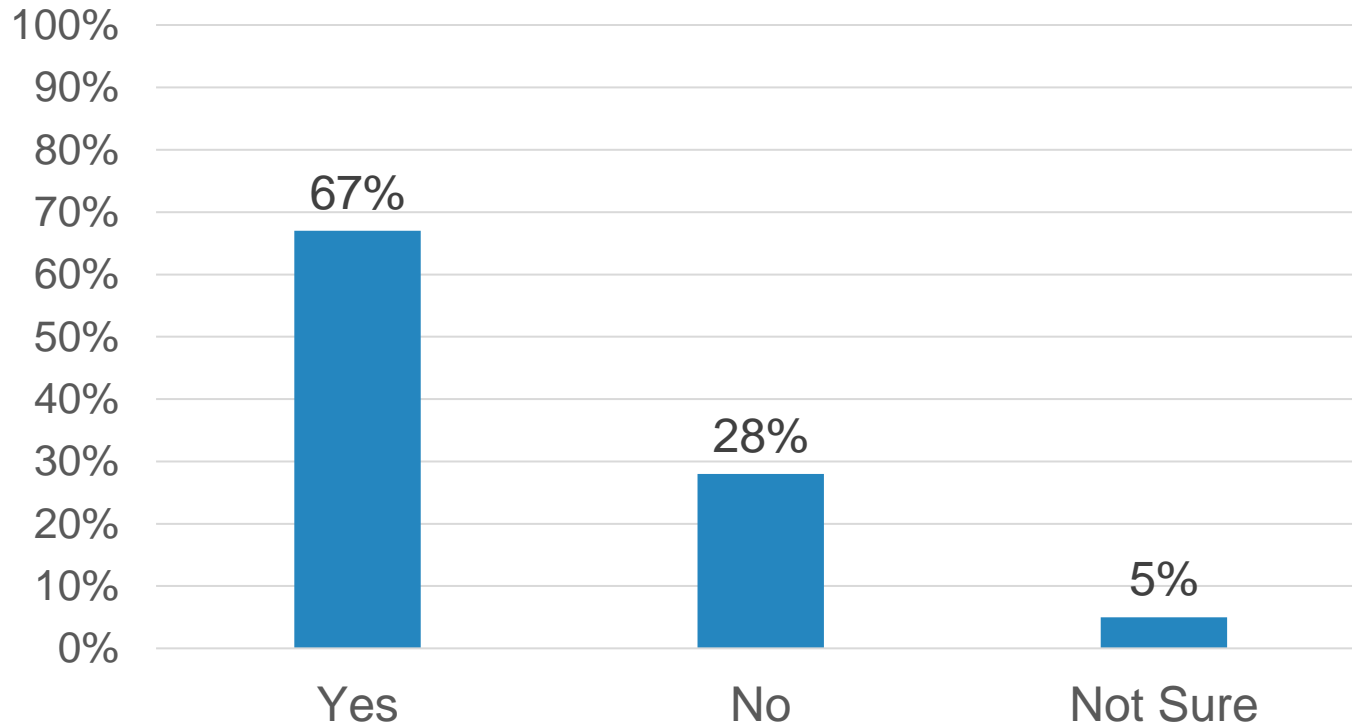
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

67% say that it is appropriate to display the American flag in worship services throughout the year

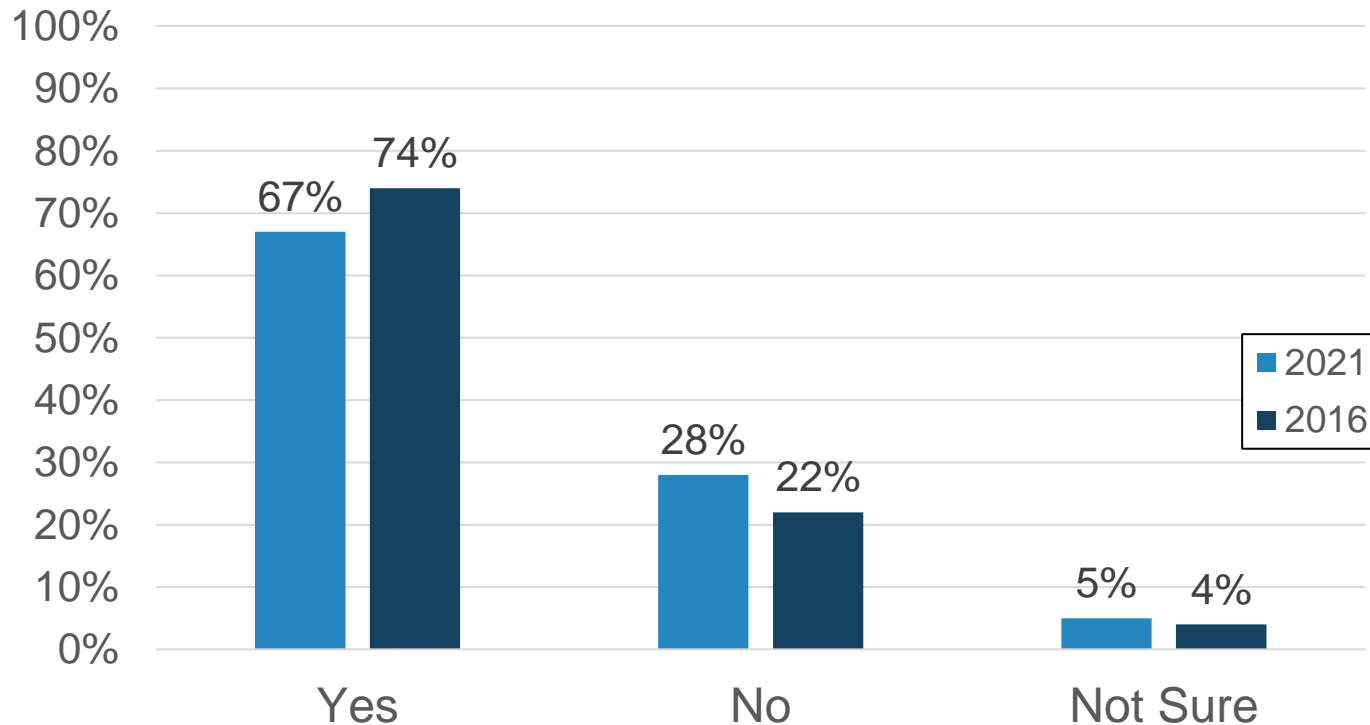
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Fewer pastors say it is appropriate to display the American flag in worship services throughout the year than in 2016

Among Protestant Pastors



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Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

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Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

AGE	GENDER	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	Self-Identified
18-44	Male	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	Female	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64		Hispanic	Graduate Degree	
65+		Other Ethnicities	Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-Denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“It is important that worship services the week of July Fourth incorporate patriotic elements to celebrate America.”

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to Disagree (65%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (67%) are more likely to Agree than White pastors (55%)
- Pastors with no college degree (70%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (67%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s Degree (46%) or a Doctoral Degree (50%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (64% v. 48%)
- Pastors in the South (60%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (51%) and West (51%)
- Pentecostals (77%) and Non-Denominational (70%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (48%), Methodists (52%), Presbyterian/Reformed (44%), and Christian/Church of Christ (29%)

“Our congregation’s love for America sometimes seems greater than their love for God.”

- Pastors age 18-44 (47%) and 45-54 (42%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 65+ (29%)
- Male pastors are more likely to Agree than females (41% v. 32%)
- African American pastors (70%) are more likely to Disagree than White pastors (57%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree are the most likely to Agree (45%)
- Pastors in the South (39%) and Midwest (42%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Northeast (29%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

We recognize living veterans

- Pastors age 65+ (64%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (50%) and 55-64 (52%)
- White pastors are the least likely to select (52%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree are the least likely to select (47%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (61% v. 49%)
- Pastors in the South (61%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (44%) and Midwest (51%)
- Pentecostals (79%) and Non-Denominational (71%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (45%), Methodists (50%), Presbyterian/Reformed (46%), and Christian/Church of Christ (37%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (66%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (50%) and 50-99 (55%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

We recognize those with family currently serving in the armed forces

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select (69%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (65% v. 56%)
- White pastors are the least likely to select (55%)
- Pastors with no college degree (72%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (66%) are more likely to select than those with no Master’s Degree (50%)
- Pastors in the South (63%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (51%)
- Pentecostals (85%) and Non-Denominational (76%) are more likely to select than Baptists (59%), Lutherans (48%), Methodists (58%), Presbyterian/Reformed (53%), and Christian/Church of Christ (42%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (68%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (56%) and 50-99 (57%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

We recognize families who have lost loved ones in service to our country

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select (65%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (59% v. 52%)
- White pastors are the least likely to select (50%)
- Pastors with no college degree (68%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s Degree (47%) or a Doctoral Degree (51%)
- Pastors in the South (58%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (45%)
- Pentecostals are the most likely to select (78%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (63%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (50%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

We include special music honoring America

- Pastors age 55-64 (70%) and 65+ (74%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (36%) and 45-54 (55%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (66% v. 55%)
- African American pastors are the least likely to select (34%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (60%) or a Doctoral Degree (62%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (51%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (60%) and South (60%) are more likely to select than those in the West (48%)
- Methodists (71%) are more likely to select than Baptists (60%), Pentecostals (46%), Presbyterian/Reformed (55%), Christian/Church of Christ (31%), and Non-Denominational (48%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (60%) and 50-99 (61%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (48%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

We include other special ceremonies to honor America

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select (45%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (38%) are more likely to select than White pastors (28%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the most likely to select (42%)
- Pastors in the South (33%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (24%) and Midwest (25%)
- Pentecostals (47%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (19%), Methodists (32%), Presbyterian/Reformed (18%), Christian/Church of Christ (11%), and Non-Denominational (29%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

We make other changes to the service (please specify)

- Pastors age 65+ (20%) are more likely to select than pastors age 45-54 (11%) and 55-64 (13%)
- Pastors in the South (15%) and Midwest (17%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (7%)
- Baptists (17%), Lutherans (17%), and Pentecostals (19%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (4%)

“Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4th?”

None of these, these services are no different than other weeks

- Pastors age 18-44 (23%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (11%) and 65+ (7%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (16% v. 11%)
- Pastors in the South are the least likely to select (11%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (31%) are more likely to select than Baptists (12%), Methodists (12%), Pentecostals (10%), and Non-Denominational (8%)

“Is it appropriate for a church to display the American flag in their worship services throughout the year?”

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select “Yes” (81%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select “Yes” (51%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than females (71% v. 57%)
- White pastors (30%) are more likely to select “No” than African American pastors (18%)
- Pastors with no college degree (79%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (73%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with a Master’s Degree (59%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than Mainline pastors (76% v. 59%)
- Pastors in the South are the most likely to select “Yes” (73%)
- Baptists (80%), Pentecostals (85%), and Non-Denominational (77%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutherans (55%), Presbyterian/Reformed (42%), and Christian/Church of Christ (43%)

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