

Protestant Churchgoer Views On Regular Church Attendance

A SURVEY OF 1,002 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway **research**

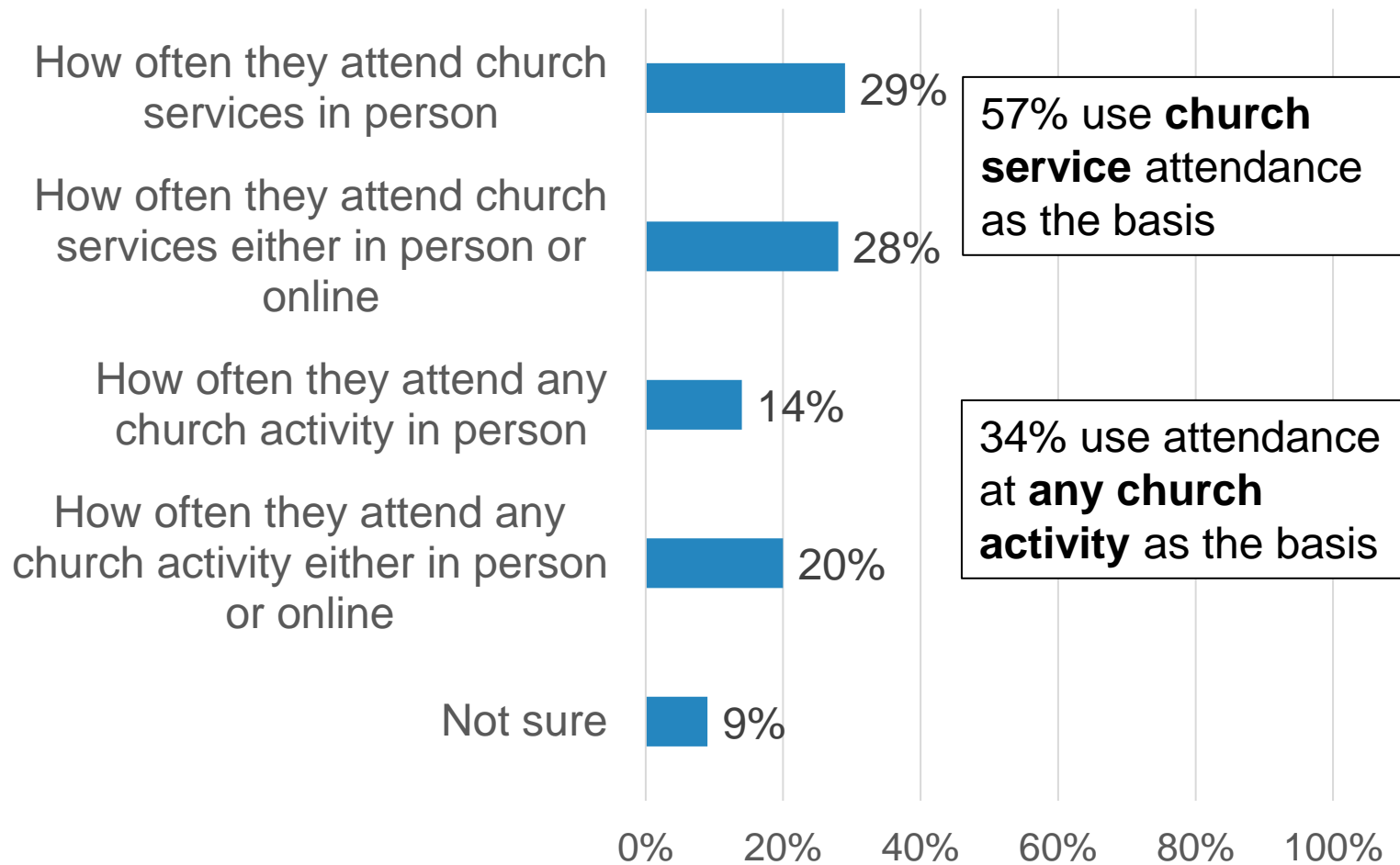
Methodology

- The online survey of 1,002 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted September 19-29, 2022, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and religion to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,002 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed $\pm 3.3\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Definitions

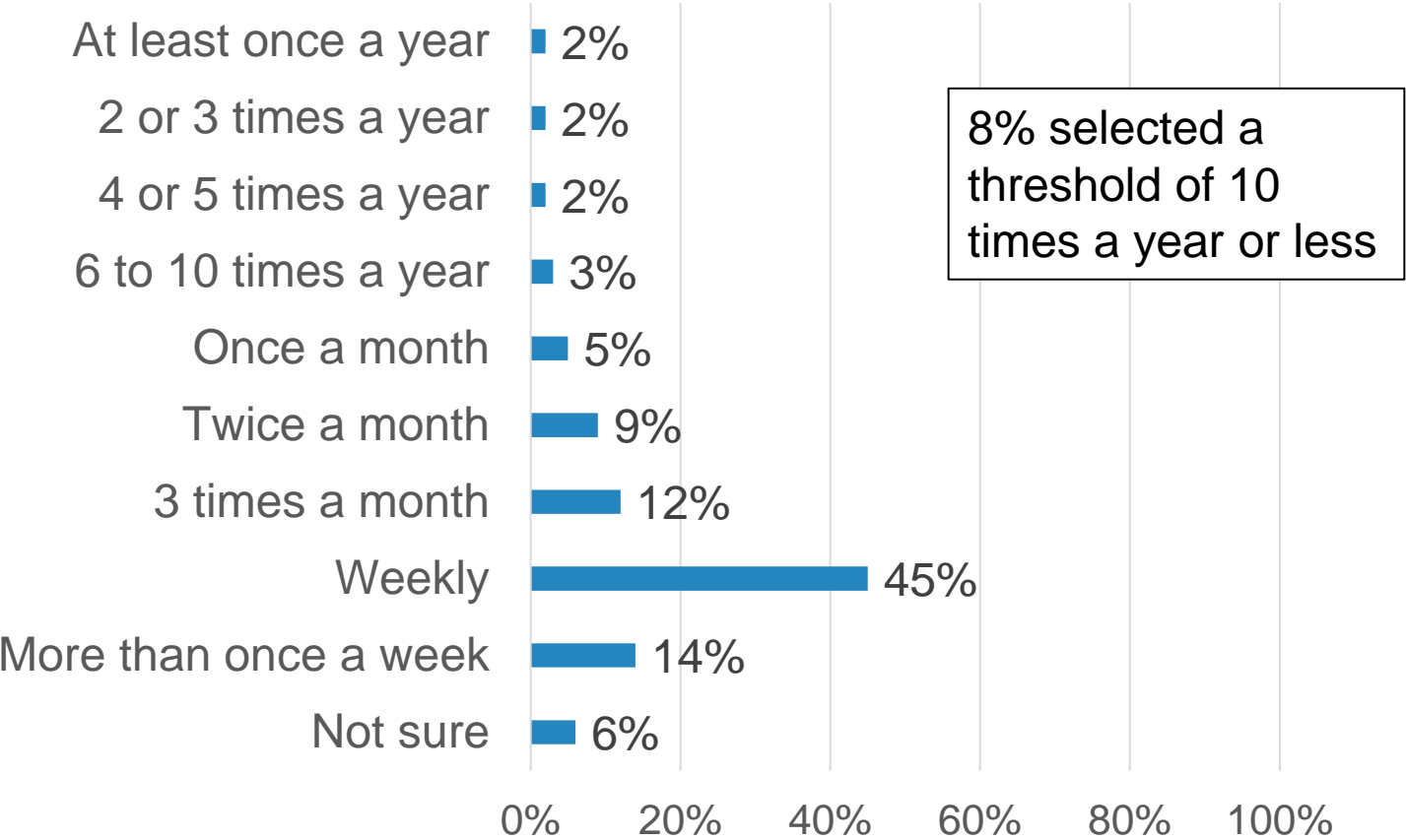
- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, 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

57% consider someone a regular churchgoer or attender based on how often they attend church services (in person or online)



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45% say that a regular churchgoer or attender is someone who attends weekly



Note: This survey was limited to Protestants who attend church at least once in a typical month. Among respondents, 60% report attending weekly and 39% attend 1 to 3 times a month

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Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Denomination

Worship Service Attendance

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	18-34	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	35-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+	Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

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

DENOMINATION	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS
Baptist	1 to 3 times a month	Yes
Methodist	4 or more times a month	No
Lutheran	Not sure	
Presbyterian/Reformed		
Christian/Church of Christ		
Non-denominational		

“In your opinion, what is the basis to consider someone a ‘regular churchgoer’ or a ‘regular church attender’?”

- Those age 18-34 (20%) are more likely to select “How long they attend any church activity in person” than those 50-64 (12%)
- Whites (29%) and African Americans (30%) and Other Ethnicities (34%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than Hispanics (18%)
- Whites (30%) and Hispanics (32%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person or online” than Other Ethnicities (14%)
- African Americans (25%) and Hispanics (28%) are more likely to select “How often they attend any church activities either in person or online” than Whites (17%) and Other Ethnicities (13%)
- Those in the Midwest (33%) and South (31%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than those in the West (20%)

“In your opinion, what is the basis to consider someone a ‘regular churchgoer’ or a ‘regular church attender’?”

- Baptists (35%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than Church of Christ/Christian (21%) and Non-denominational (26%)
- Methodists (44%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person or online” than Baptists (23%), Presbyterian/Reformed (27%), and Non-denominational (27%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (31%) are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than those who 1 to 3 times a month (25%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “How often they attend church services in person” than those without evangelical beliefs (33% v. 26%)

“In your opinion, what is the threshold to consider someone a “regular churchgoer” or a “regular church attender?” Someone who attends ...”

- Those age 18-34 (55%) are more likely to select “Weekly” than those 50-64 (43%) and 65+ (48%)
- Those age 35-49 (21%) and 50-64 (16%) are more likely to select “More than once a week” than those 18-34 (6%) and 65+ (9%)
- Whites (37%) and African Americans (38%) are more likely to select a frequency “Less than weekly” than Hispanics (23%)
- African Americans (20%) and Hispanics (21%) are more likely to select “More than once a week” than Whites (11%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (44%) are more likely to select a frequency “Less than weekly” than those who are High School Graduates or less (33%) or with some college (30%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (47%) or with some college (48%) are more likely to select “Weekly” than those with a Graduate Degree (34%)

“In your opinion, what is the threshold to consider someone a “regular churchgoer” or a “regular church attender?” Someone who attends ...”

- Lutherans (58%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (60%) are more likely to select a frequency “Less than weekly” than Baptists (30%), Methodists (29%), and Non-denominational (27%)
- Baptists (46%), Methodists (54%), and Non-denominational (51%) are more likely to select “Weekly” than Lutherans (32%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (33%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (47%) are more likely to select a frequency “Less than weekly” than those who attend 4 or more times month (28%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (50%) are more likely to select “Weekly” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (37%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select a frequency “Less than weekly” than those with evangelical beliefs (45% v. 22%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “Weekly” than those without evangelical beliefs (55% v. 38%)

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