

# Church Practices with Physical Offerings

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

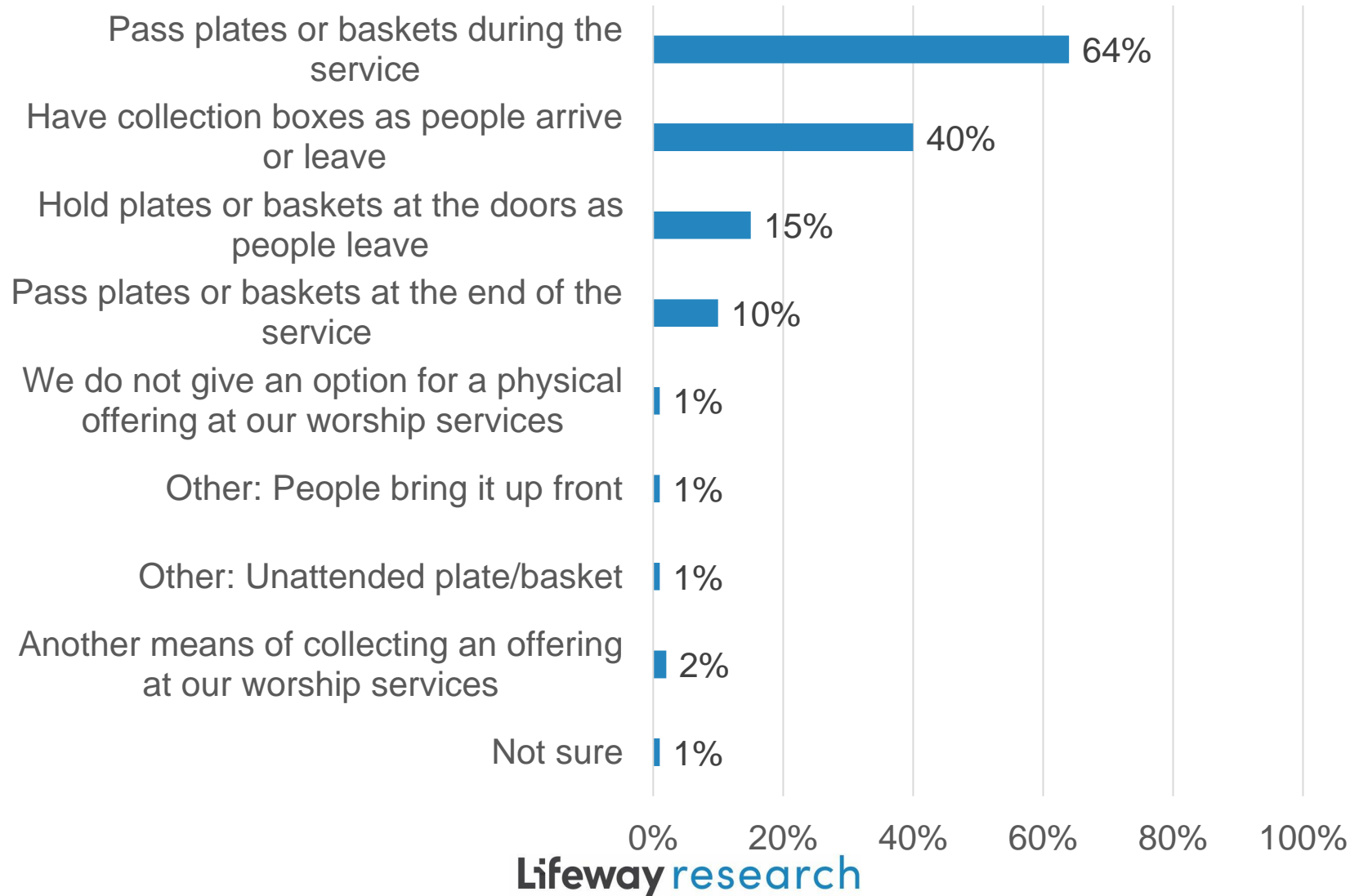
**Lifeway**research

# Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted August 8 – September 3, 2024
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,003 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.3\%$  This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# “How does your church collect a physical offering at your worship services, if at all?”

## Among Protestant Pastors



Q: “How does your church collect a physical offering at your worship services, if at all? (Select all that apply)” n=1,003

# Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

# 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		Other Ethnicities	Master's Degree	
65+			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

# **“How does your church collect a physical offering at your worship services, if at all?”**

## **Pass plates or baskets during the service**

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (74% v. 62%)
- African American pastors (76%) are more likely to select than white pastors (63%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (74% v. 60%)
- Pastors in the South (69%) are more likely to select than those in the West (58%)
- Lutherans (77%), Methodists (77%) are more likely to select than Baptists (64%), Pentecostals (61%), Presbyterian/Reformed (65%), Christian/Church of Christ (43%), and Non-denominational (36%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 50-99 (68%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (56%)

# **“How does your church collect a physical offering at your worship services, if at all?”**

## **Pass plates or baskets at the end of the service**

- White pastors are the least likely to select (8%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor's Degree (13%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's Degree (8%)
- Pastors in the South (12%) and West (15%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (7%)
- Baptists (15%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (6%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (7%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 50-99 (13%) and 100-249 (12%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (6%)



# **“How does your church collect a physical offering at your worship services, if at all?”**

## **Hold plates or baskets at the doors as people leave**

- Pastors age 18-44 (20%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (12%) and 65+ (12%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (17%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral Degree (8%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (25%) are more likely to select than Baptists (14%), Methodists (13%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (14%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (20%) and 250+ (25%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (12%) and 50-99 (11%)

# **“How does your church collect a physical offering at your worship services, if at all?”**

## **Have collection boxes as people arrive or leave**

- Pastors age 18-44 (46%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (34%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (42% v. 29%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (45% v. 30%)
- Pastors in the West (48%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (32%) and South (35%)
- Non-denominational (59%) are more likely to select than Baptists (43%), Lutherans (32%), Methodists (23%), Pentecostals (41%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (40%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (45%) and 250+ (61%) are the most likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (33%) and 50-99 (37%)

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