

# VPC and the Pandemic

Thursday, July 23, 2020



VPC Covid-19 Task Force

Survey Dates: July 15 - 20, 2020

**101**

**Total Responses**

July 23, 2020

# VPC and the Pandemic

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## Who we heard from

- 101 total respondents (from ~380 VPC email recipients = 26%)
- Good representation of 50+ group (90% of total respondents)
- Majority are married
- 18% of respondents have children/youth who regularly attend something at VPC
  - Majority are school age or older
- Two thirds have attended VPC for 10 years or longer
- Engaged, thoughtful comments throughout

# VPC and the Pandemic

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## What we learned - highlights

- Congregation is paying attention - Almost all are at least reasonably familiar with local restrictions & guidance on COVID-19
  - Recognized as dynamic - *“Things are changing so fast, I need to hear daily what the rules are”*
- Most are looking for significant safety assurance before returning to worship
  - For almost half, this would have to be a vaccine, new treatment or major decline in infection rates.
- A smaller group is ready to show up at the first opportunity, but they still want to know VPC is taking all needed precautions before they do

# VPC and the Pandemic

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## What we learned - highlights

- “*Cautious*” is a key watchword. Several have health conditions making this time particularly threatening
- There is great appreciation for all VPC has done thus far  
*“I think VPC is doing a great job during very difficult circumstances.”*
- Majority say they’re confident they could easily honor all types of precautions in order to return to church (70%)
  - Exception might be distancing - seen as a bit more challenging
  - Parents say their kids could comply as well
  - In several comments, people admit good intentions may not always translate into good behavior
  - Question arose: Who would do enforcement?

# VPC and the Pandemic

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## What we learned - highlights

- Zoom and the online worship services are seen as very effective interim measures for now. Not perfect, but effective.  
*"I love the Zoom gatherings because I feel safe."*
- No great urgency to have non-worship meetings at church
- There's strong yearning to reconnect physically and experience music and worship in the sanctuary, BUT there's a prevailing belief that this will take time  
*"Unless we learn something new that is proven and failsafe, I'm going to wait. I think it may be awhile.."*
- There is interest in worshipping outside, perhaps in the redwoods, as a temporary option. Many other creative ideas appear in comments

**Highlights:** What, if anything, do you miss most about being at Valley? [Details on Pages 35-39](#)



Word Cloud based on actual comments:  
Size of word = prominence of theme

## Highlights: Comments or suggestions as we navigate through these times together? Details on Pages 46-51



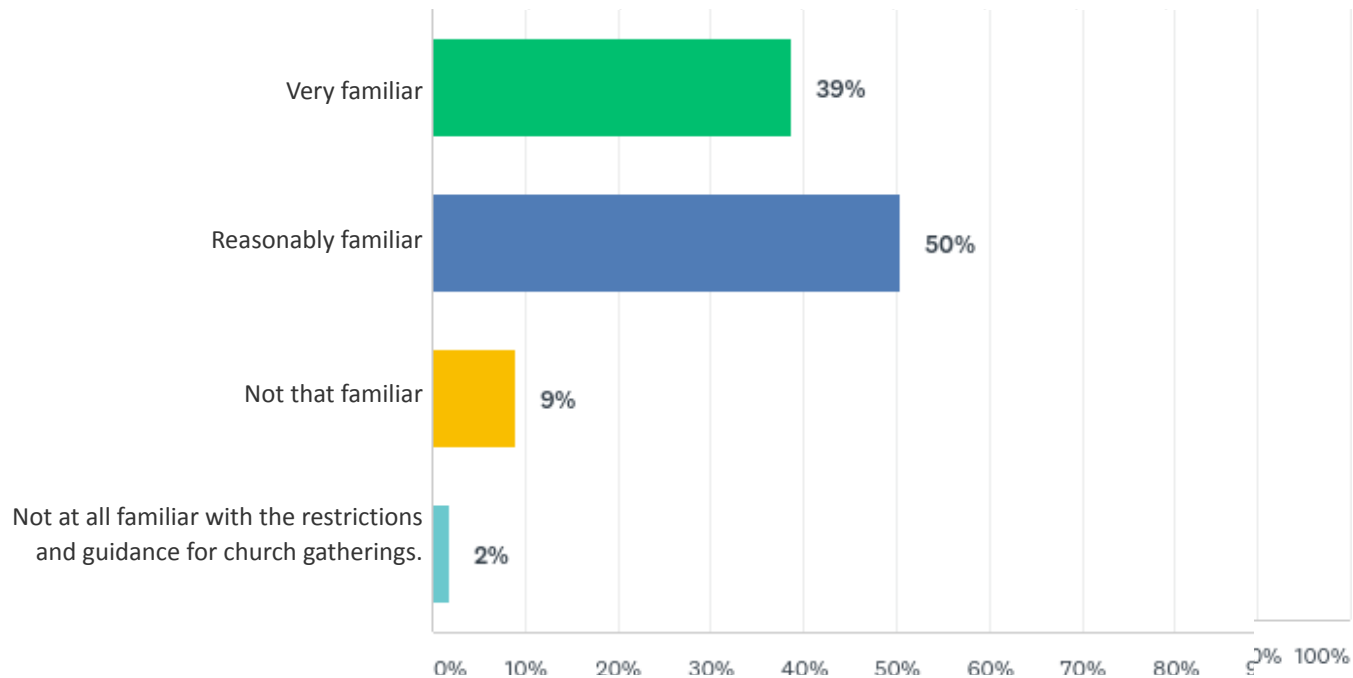


VPC Covid-19 Task Force

# Survey Detail

## Q1: How familiar are you with the restrictions and guidance from our local governments concerning church worship gatherings?

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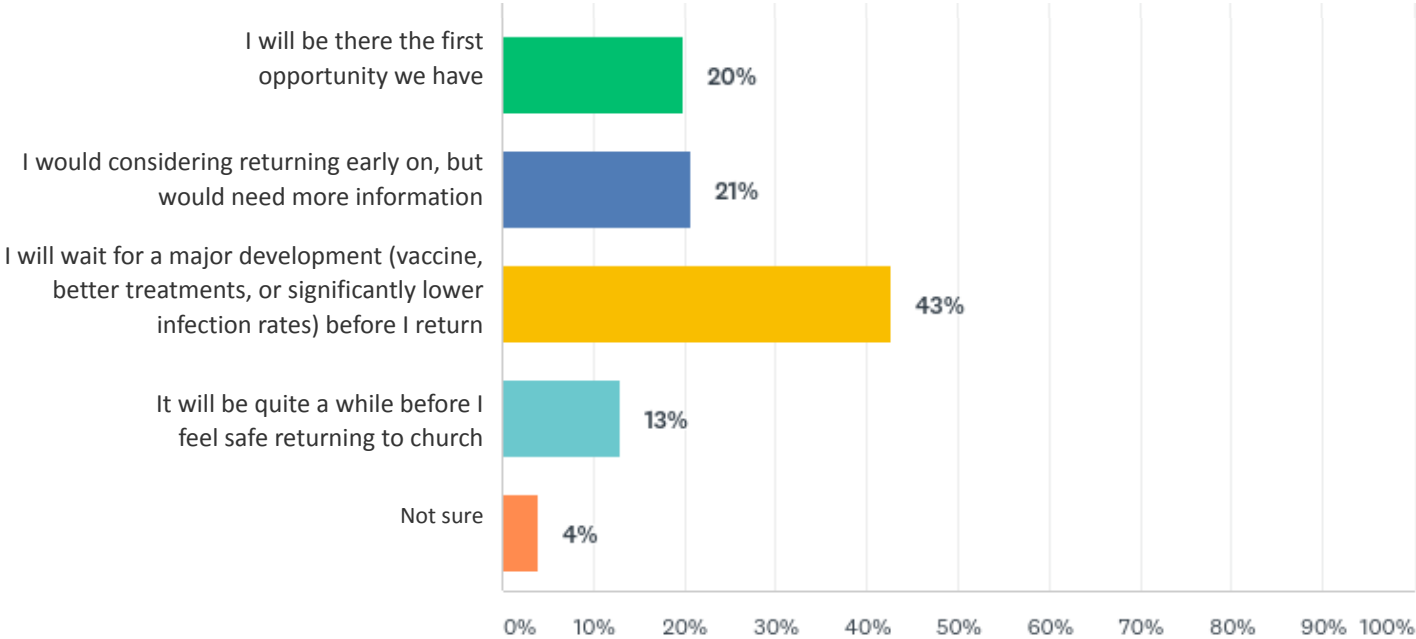


## Q1. COMMENTS about familiarity with local restrictions and guidance

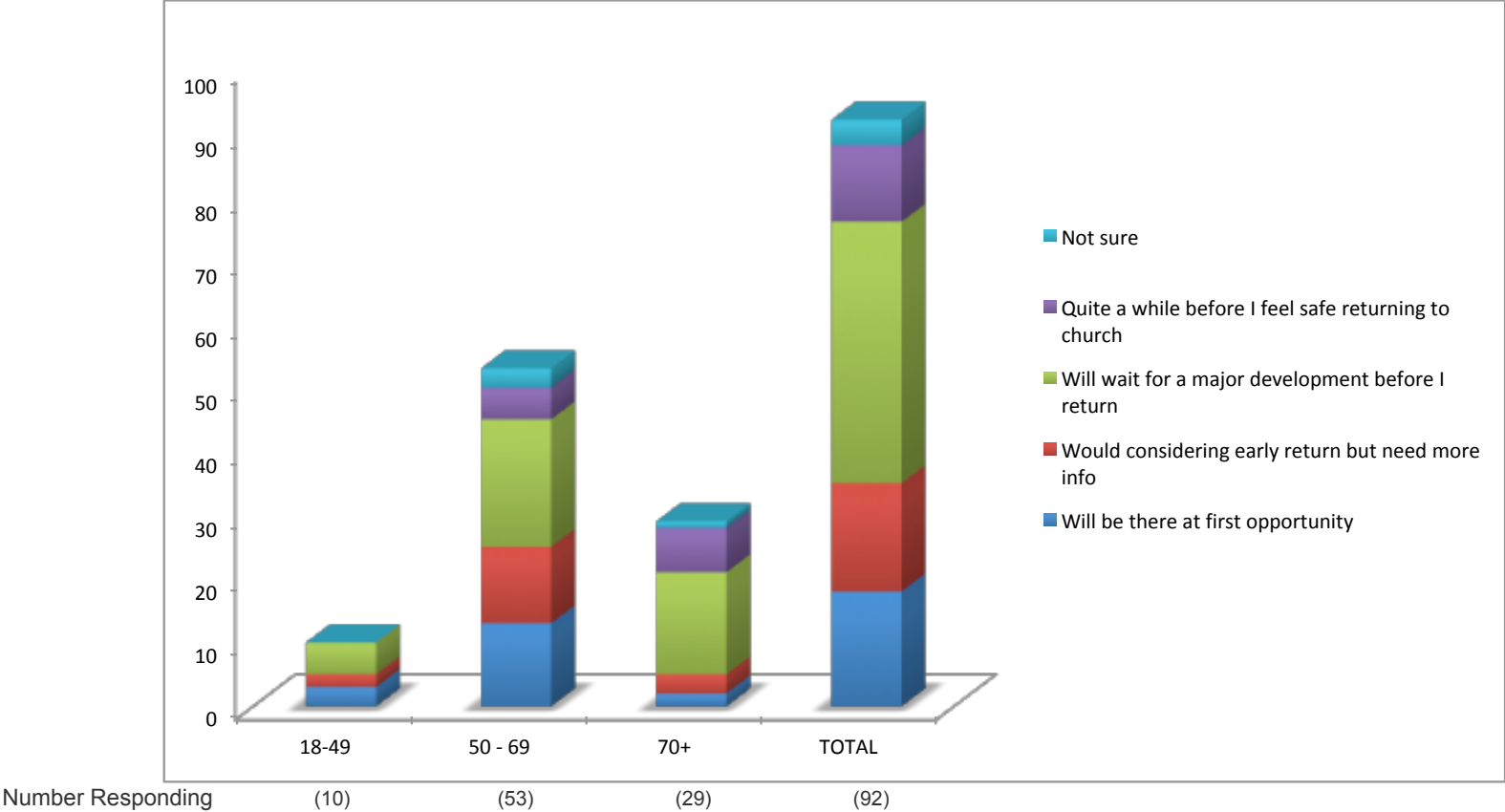
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- I have not researched this area because I do not believe we should be in close contact yet.
- I receive updates from the County on my mobile phone, but only check them when there are changes affecting me
- All churches in America should reopen . Important for America let all churches reopen to pray for protect America.
- I think we are doing it right.
- Although not that familiar, my opinion is that following guidance from local government is important
- things are changing so fast, i need to hear daily what the rules are
- I would like to wait before having indoor worship
- Zoom seems a good alternative to returning to the sanctuary. We get to see everyone face to face on zoom
- I am still reluctant
- Learned from VPC task force and news headlines.

## Q2: What best describes your attitude about returning to worship at VPC?



Q2: Attitudes about returning to worship at VPC - BY AGE GROUPING



## Q2: Attitudes about returning to worship at VPC - BY AGE GROUPING

	Will be there at first opportunity	Would consider early return, but need more info	Will wait for a major development before I return	Quite a while before I feel safe returning	Not sure	Total
Under 18	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
18 - 29	100% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	2% 2
30 - 49	13% 1	25% 2	63% 5	0% 0	0% 0	9% 8
50 - 69	25% 13	23% 12	38% 20	9% 5	6% 3	58% 53
70+	7% 2	10% 3	55% 16	24% 7	3% 1	32% 29
Total Respondents	18	17	41	12	4	92

## Q2. COMMENTS about attitudes regarding returning to worship

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### WILL WAIT

- Will wait for more specific info. I know some one I talk with at St Anthony's goes every other week to her Catholic Church in San Mateo County. Only certain part of the alphabet goes on specific days. I could see starting out in the redwoods first.
- I have several co-morbidities so must be very cautious
- I have Type 1 Diabetes
- I am a vulnerable age in decent health but my husband is very vulnerable so I am being very conservative
- im so needing that place of community and seeking but i will be cautious about returning as i am 80 .
- I absolutely want to be there and I know it isnt possible to be with one another till we can guarantee everyone's safety and health.
- I am in the most susceptible group at my age and probably won't be able to come to church for quite a while. I wish that I could, as I miss it a lot.

## Q2. COMMENTS about attitudes regarding returning to worship

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### WILL WAIT (continued)

- I am sheltering in place and for now, will continue to shelter in place because that feels safe for me.
- I would love to be there, but as a member of the choir, it's hard to know the best path. Choirs seem to be particularly vulnerable, because we're expressing air, and then breathing deeply, neither of those is good for COVID
- In my opinion we should wait.
- My decision on returning to in-person services will be affected by policies adopted by the Sequoias, which has an obvious interest in being especially careful because of all the very vulnerable residents of our community.
- I will return after getting vaccinated.
- Unless we learn something new that is proven and failsafe, I'm going to wait. I think it may be awhile.



## Q2. COMMENTS about attitudes regarding returning to worship

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### UNCERTAIN. MIGHT RETURN SOONER IF . .

- With appropriate social distancing and good ventilation I would consider returning before we have a vaccine as long as it was permitted by the authorities.
- But I will wait to see how things unfold. Perhaps I would return without major developments, but I'd be quite cautious.
- I am not yet sure what I want to do and will watch the current developments
- need well-defined rules for everyone before we are OK to gather
- Hard to wrap our heads around everything now. Child care is a major factor since we are involved in the service on the music front.

### NO RUSH. WE'RE DOING OK.

- The Zoom service is remarkably effective. Don't get to easily visit with people but do get to worship
- Continuing to worship by Zoom allows our more vulnerable members to fully participate, including virtual coffee hour
- Meeting for church via Zoom is a safer alternative until this virus is under control

## Q2. COMMENTS about attitudes regarding returning to worship

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### REOPEN NOW

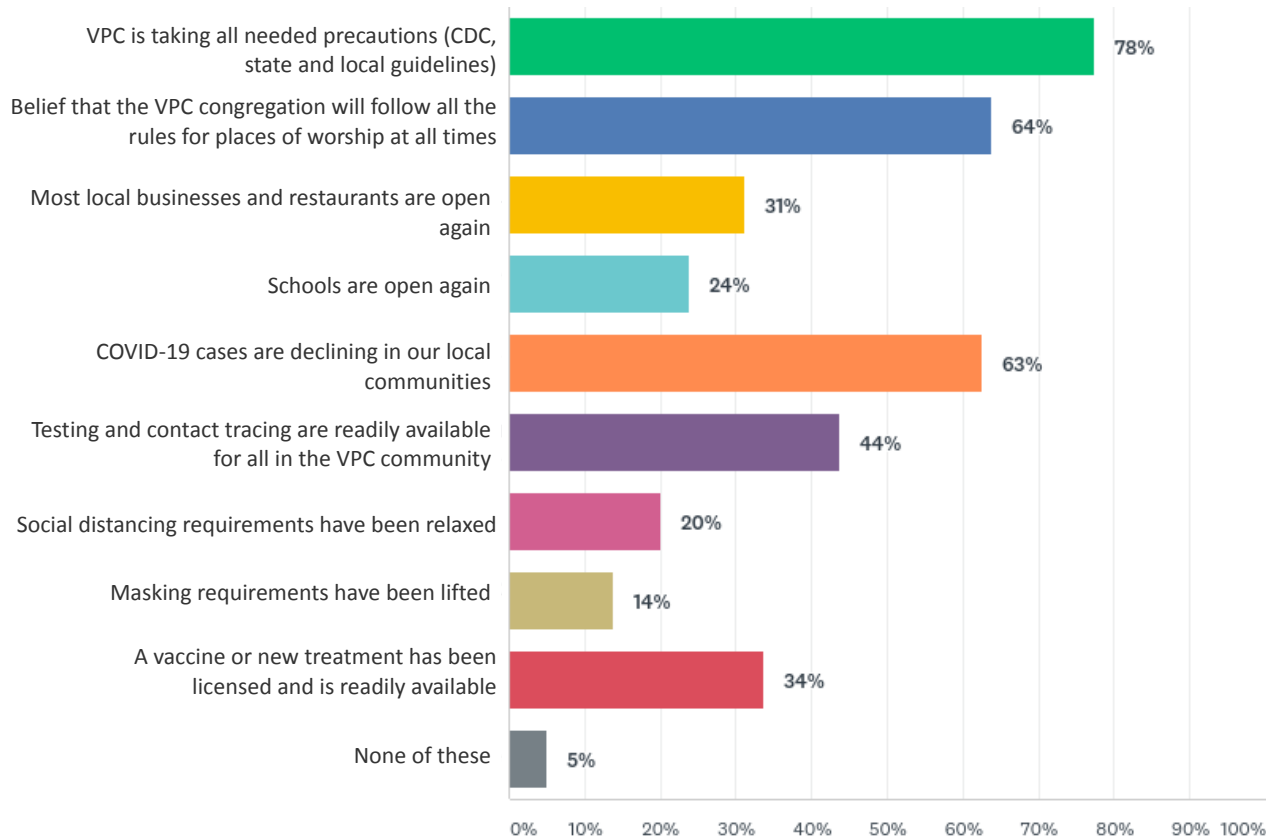
- There is God. Let all church reopen. Let God words to touch each citizen heart to help America during difficult time.

### OTHER THOUGHTS

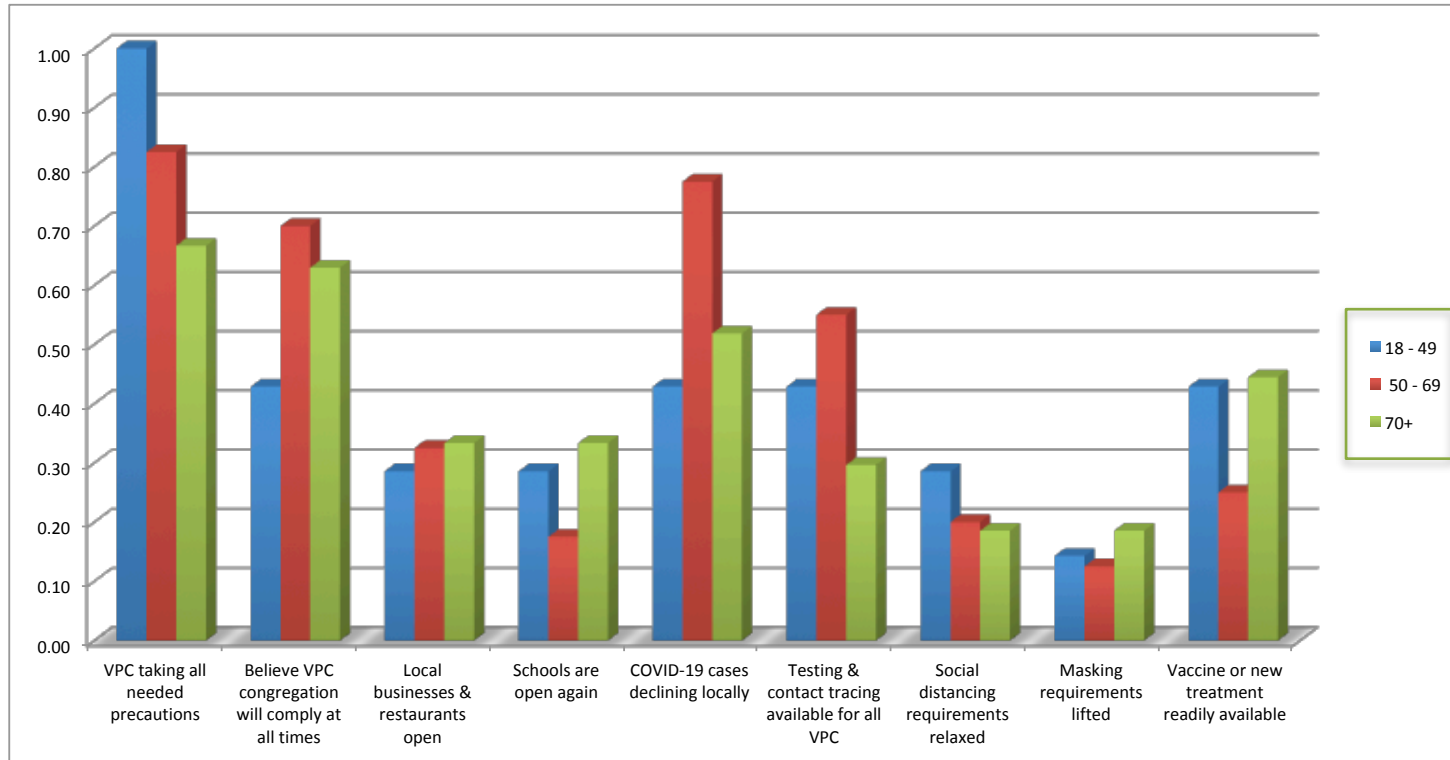
- Worship outside
- Assuming VPC is following county guidance
- 'significantly lower infection rate' is not quantitative and hard to understand making question difficult to answer

### Q3: Which of the following would need to be in place before you return to worship at VPC?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.



### Q3: What needs to be in place before worshipping at VPC? - BY AGE GROUPING



NOTE: High data variability due to small sample sizes

### Q3. COMMENTS about what needs to be in place before returning to worship

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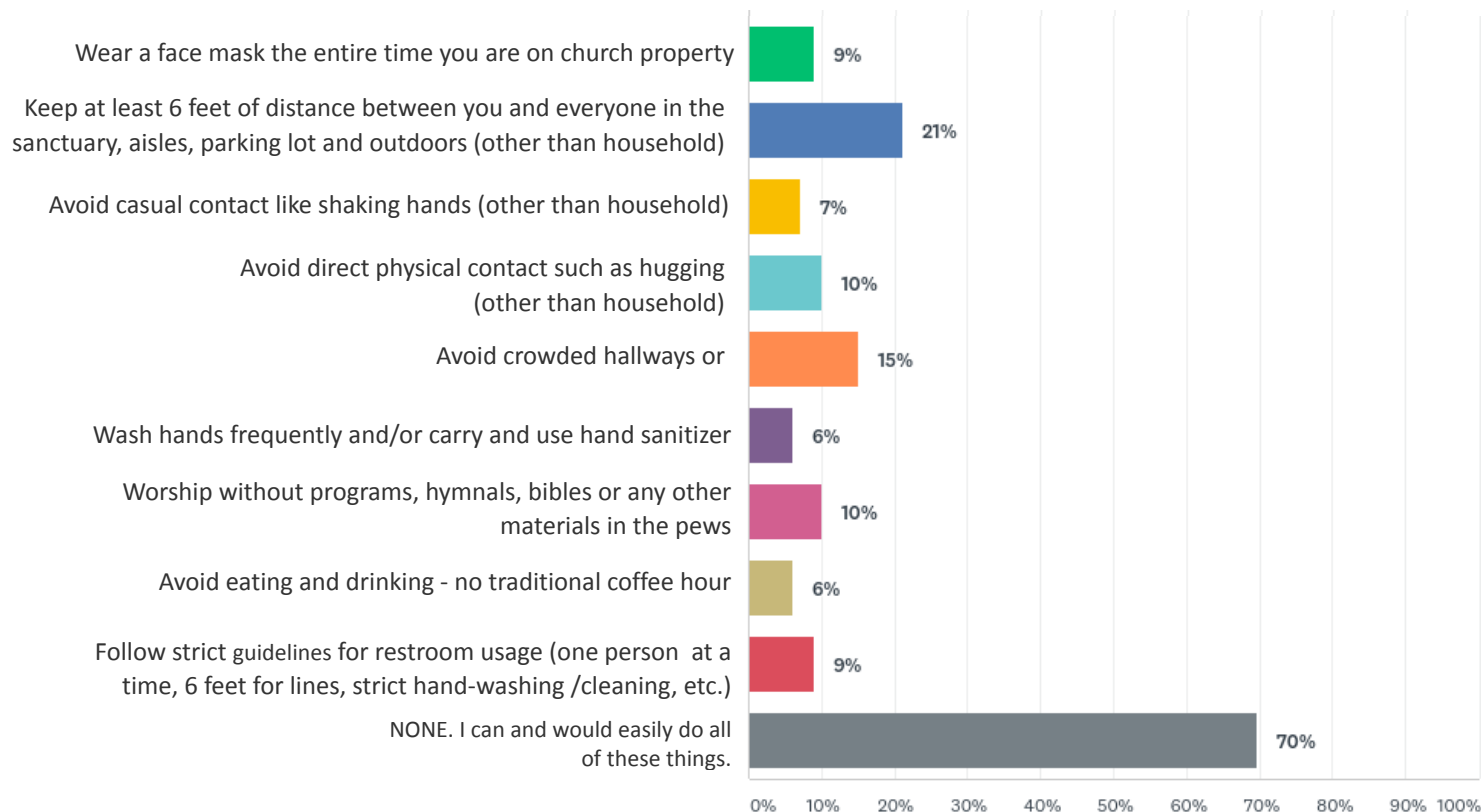
- I have asthma and am more cautious than most.
- All of the above.
- "Local communities" need to be defined as membership spans Pacifica to San Jose! Even if we were able to sit socially distanced (and whom would we exclude to keep attendance down?) and wearing masks, entering/exiting the church would remain a risk, not to mention the strong need to exchange hugs and socialize.
- I believe that VPC is taking the correct precautions.
- desire a mask mandate inside VPC buildings
- Need to feel the risk is nominal--whatever that entails.
- Basically that we're within the parameters generally regarded as safe by public health experts.
- Personally, I would need to feel safe and not face the thought that i could become infected. For me, that means staying away from gatherings until it is back to normalized living. At least that's how I feel now. That could change, but that's how I feel now.
- I will see how things are shaping up and make decision on present available information and my need

### Q3. COMMENTS about what needs to be in place before returning to worship

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- Don't have enough information as to why the staff is considering opening the sanctuary.
- until it is safe for us older people (80+) to attend.
- I would also expect that VPC is adhering to any recommendations from our Presbytery.
- Things in general feel safer based on actual science.

Q4: Let's say VPC re-opened for worship or other gatherings. Which precautions, if any, might be difficult for you to consistently do when coming to church? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY



## Q4. COMMENTS about precautions that might be difficult, if any, when returning to church

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### DISTANCING

- Likely can do the physical distancing but is tough
- IT will be very hard to keep six feet distance in church and space throughout the sanctuary, even if my family members are on one pew. That means that you cannot have anyone else in pews around me for 6 feet. Who is going to monitor that and how would be every set that up
- I would carefully follow all the rules and suggestions, but acknowledge that it would be difficult for everyone to follow them strictly, given narrow spaces, temptation to reach out, widespread desire to connect with friends we have not been close to in a long time, etc.
- I think all of us have a tendency to drift closer than we intend. I'm just being honest. I would INTEND to stay at least six feet away from others, but if I engaged in conversation, I might well end up closer despite my best efforts.
- I am perfectly willing to do all of these things, but think it might be difficult to keep enough distance from others if there are a lot of people on the grounds/in church.
- No hugging is hard but I won't let it be the reason I am not coming back to worship in person
- I've found it's hard to maintain distance when in a larger group. We all forget in our desire to connect



#### Q4. COMMENTS about precautions that might be difficult, if any, when returning to church

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##### NO HANDOUTS, BIBLES OR HYMNALS

- The only item I almost checked was programs and hymnals. But perhaps that can be supplanted with monitors
- I would bring my own bible if instructed. Perhaps we could be provided hymns by electronic links to our cell phones to allow us to sing worship songs

##### (POSSIBLY) WORTH IT TO GET BACK TO CHURCH

- We would be fine with these to get back to church for sure
- All of these items that I've checked would be challenging, but I would readily do them.
- I love the zoom gatherings because i feel safe. I would do all these things IF (and that's a big IF) it felt important to be at church in person in spite of the risks.

#### Q4. COMMENTS about precautions that might be difficult, if any, when returning to church

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##### ALL PRECAUTIONS STILL NOT ADEQUATE

- I will not come
- Just call me Adrian Monk. 😊
- Care yourself and others flowing rule wear mask. Even mask doesn't work.
- I probably would not come back until a vaccine or better treatment.
- I can do everything required but unless number of cases have been down for a long period of time...& there's science behind the improvement, I won't come.
- I'm not comfortable returning to re-opening.

##### CONCERN ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE'S COMPLIANCE

- Hopefully, as cases start to decline, I think I would feel comfortable returning to VPC as long as the above guidelines were respected by everyone.
- Bathroom alone present significant challenges. Who would ensure there is sanitization between users? Particularly challenging for the ladies.
- I could do these but not sure my children could

#### Q4. COMMENTS about precautions that might be difficult, if any, when returning to church

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##### PREFER OUTSIDE OR OTHER OPTIONS

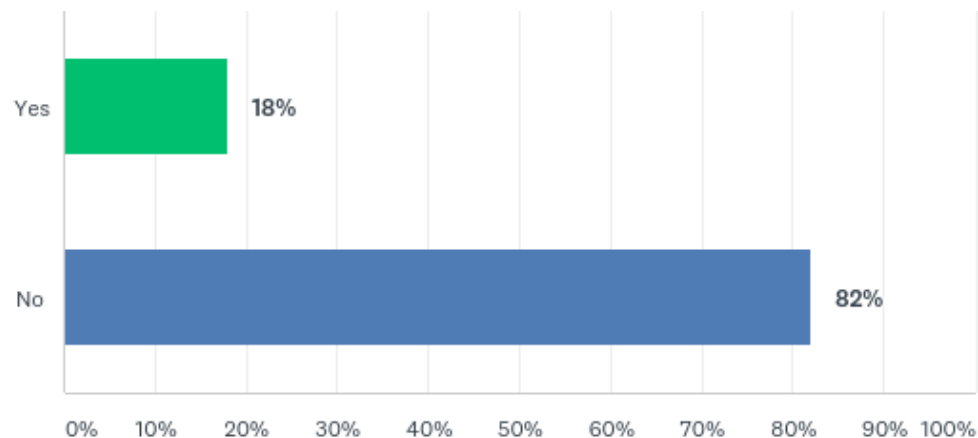
- I would like to see us worship outside for as long as possible. Maintaining 6 feet distance really only applies to shorter time periods. Once we are in building for some time (even 6 ft apart), the respiratory droplets that could contain virus will diffuse throughout room.
- Please have a live zoom broadcast. I would love to be there that way even with poor music transmissions
- i can also come and sit quietly in sanctuary for one hour with others. Just sit in silence.. I have been alone so much with God lately that carrying it into church with other seekers might be all i need.

##### OTHER

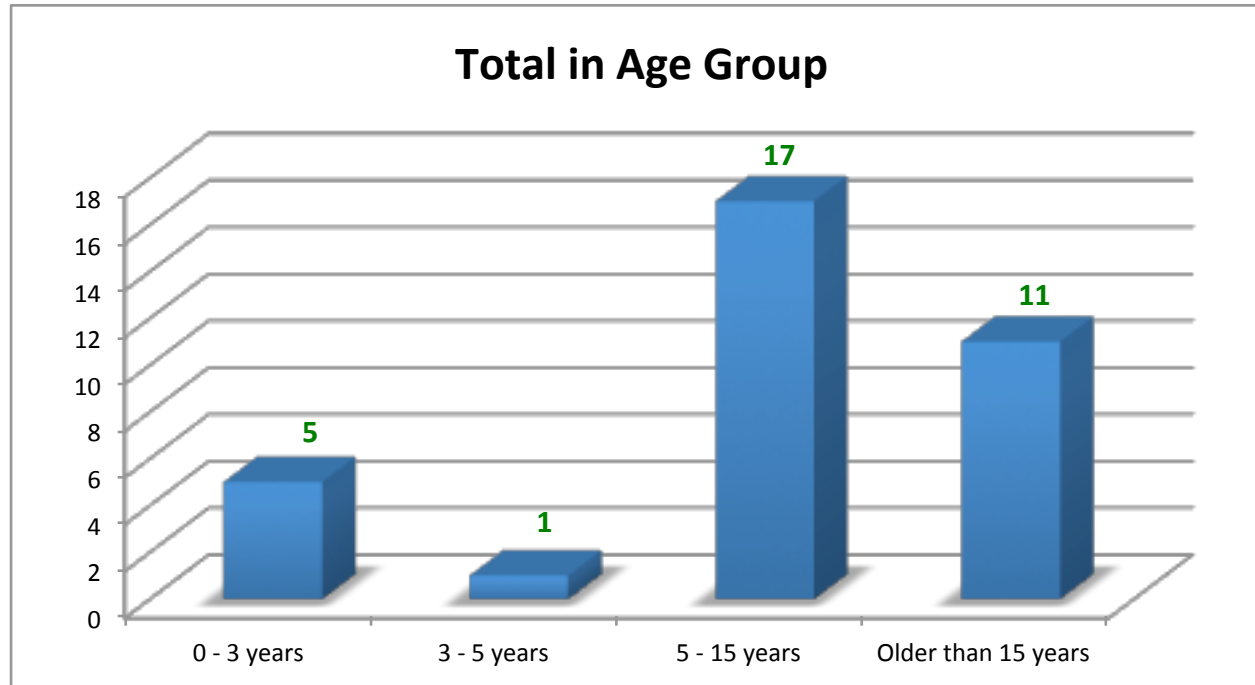
- All should be followed.
- I would miss the choir.
- 'significantly lower infection rate' is not quantitative and hard to understand making question difficult to answer
- Assuming VPC is following county guidance.
- Crowded aisles could be handled with the protocols.

Q5: Do you have children who normally attend worship or other youth activities at VPC (pre-Pandemic)?

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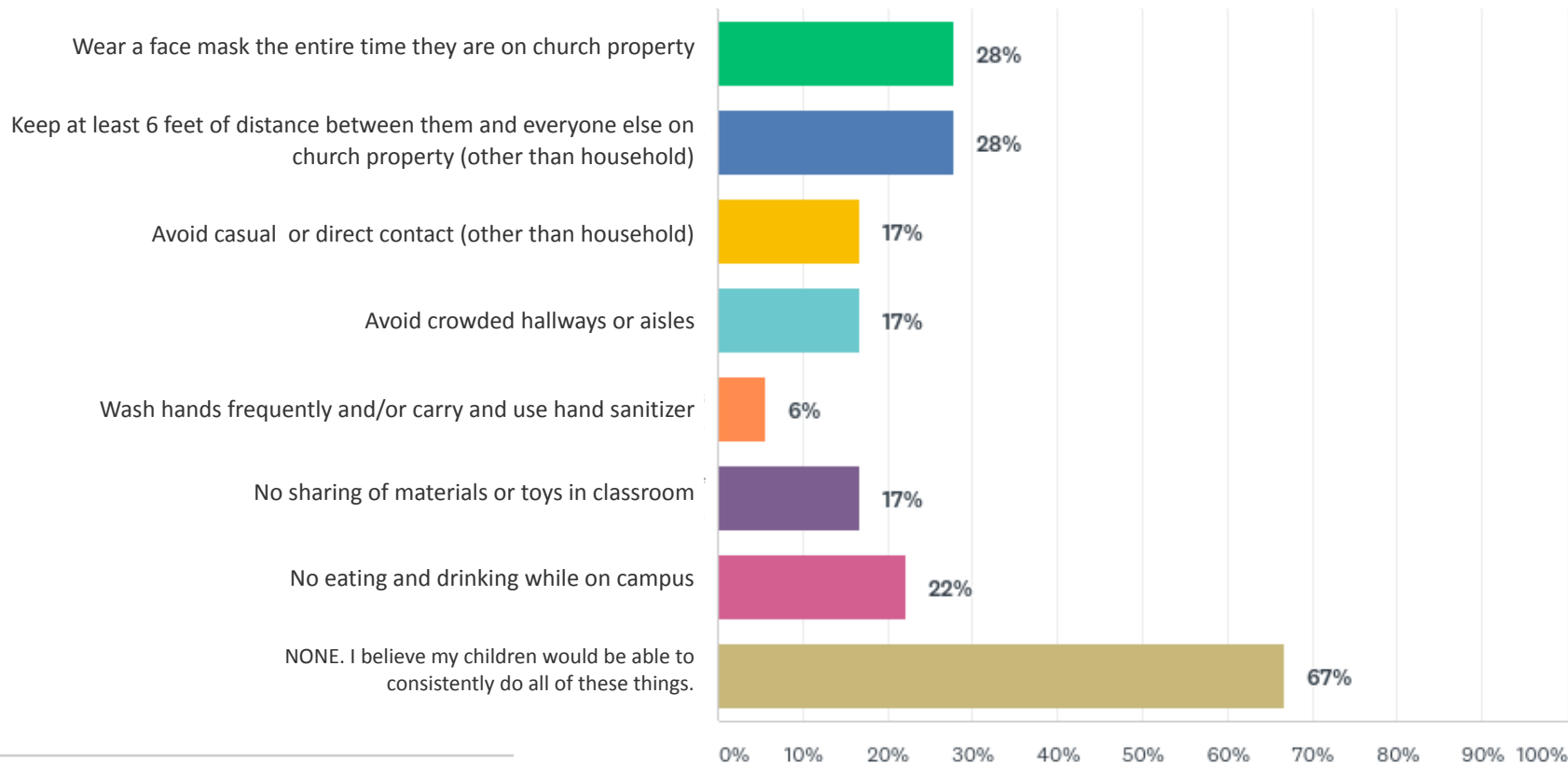
Q6: How old are the children in your household? ENTER NUMBER NEXT TO EACH AGE GROUP



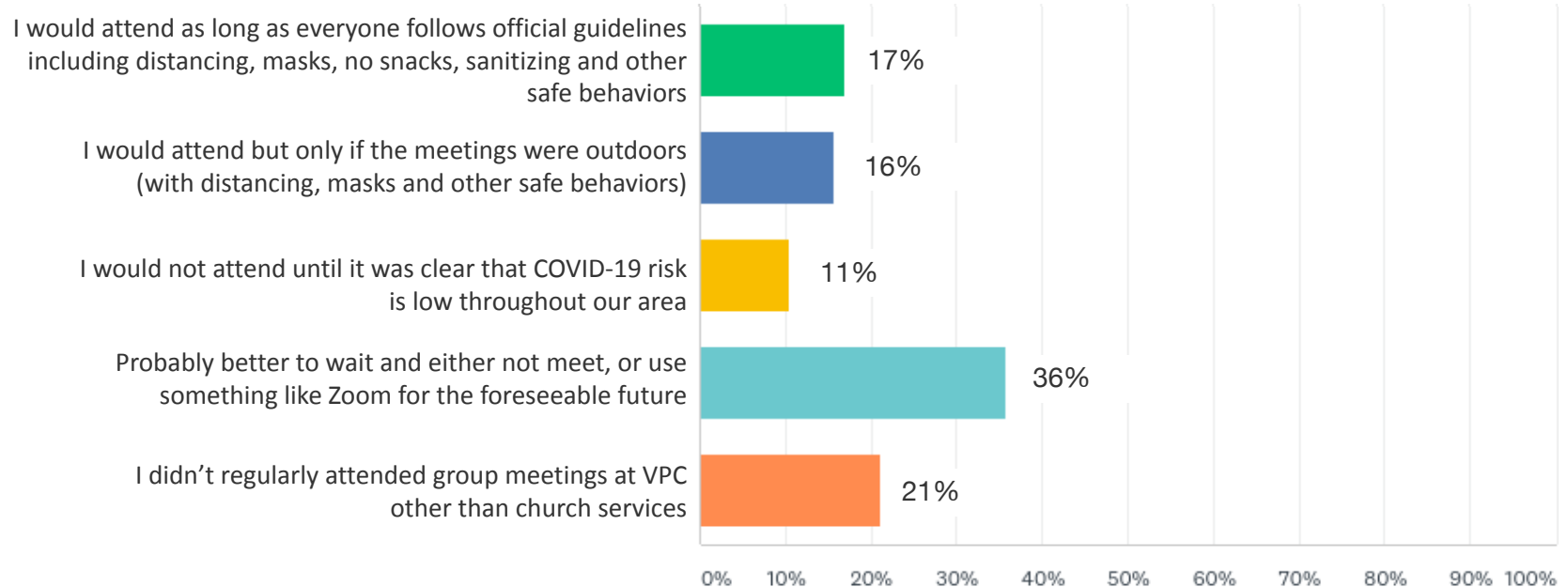
18 Parents Reporting

NOTE: Counts may be inflated if multiple household members completed survey

**Q7: If VPC re-opened for worship or other gatherings, what precautions, if any, might be difficult for your children to consistently do when coming to church?** CHECK ALL THAT APPLY



Q8: If you formerly attended gatherings at VPC (other than choir) such as Bible studies, bell choir, adult ed, deacon or session meetings, committee meetings, etc. how willing would you be to resume these gatherings on the VPC campus, assuming a 10-person limit?



## Q8. COMMENTS about attending non-worship, non-choir gatherings

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- Provided that the number of cases were under control.
- I do not plan to come to other activities at this point until it is clear that risks have significantly declined. I prefer to have on online activities and do not think our church can sustain a robust "on site" and Zoom platform at the same time. We do not have those types of resources in place. Group "pressure" to get back to normal - - even if everyone is trying hard to observe all the results strictly - - would raise challenging issues, since everyone's risk level (and behavior management capacity) is different.
- That said, I'd be most comfortable over Zoom. I would try an outdoor meeting, and see if it made me too nervous.
- Except choir
- Trust God all of your heart
- If you do meet please include zoom
- There is no reason meetings can't continue by Zoom until this is over.
- We participate in adult ed on Sunday morning. While not ideal, Zoom is working very well for us.
- Outdoor preferred

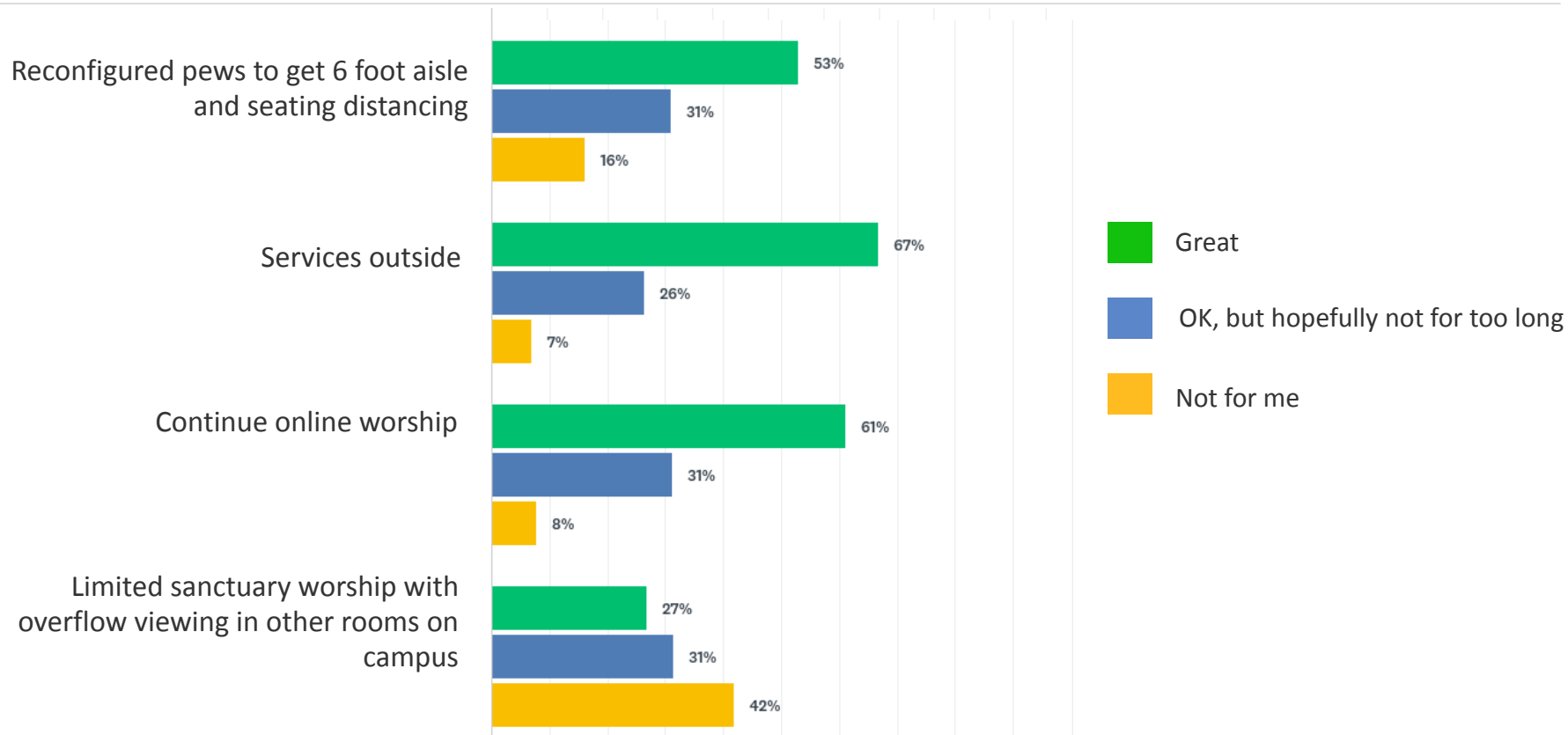


## Q8. COMMENTS about attending non-worship, non-choir gatherings

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- Singing is out. Would do Wise Women
- I did attend some of the meetings of the Mother's group and parenting classes. I would attend, schedule willing, if official guidelines followed.
- prefer outdoors
- i love the zoom meetings - makes it easier to attend and not have to worry about commuting, getting a sitter, etc. Zoom works fine for me.
- I've found Zoom works really well for adult ed. Attendance has been pretty comparable to in-person—we're even getting some who couldn't otherwise come because of choir—and discussions and the ability to screen share has been better than in person in some ways because I think that it's easier for people with hearing issues to hear.
- Even if we go back to outside, socially distant and masked gatherings, I'll feel more comfortable on zoom .

Q9: How do you feel about the following alternative ways we might worship at VPC once we determine it's safe to do so? (masks, distancing & no contact assumed)



## Q9: COMMENTS about alternative ways we might worship at VPC once we determine it's safe to do so?

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- Could work but definitely a strange feeling
- Services might be able to be done outside but the Labrinyth area will not work as you cannot distance there. It would have to be done in the parking lot. Coming in to the church building for any type of activity is problematic as there is not enough spacing.
- I would feel most comfortable outside.
- Outside service fresh air with mask
- Limit sanctuary worship but use ticketing system to limit the max number. I would not come to view in other rooms.
- any of these sound feasible
- Reconfigured pews and aisles will still carry some risk and will reduce participation to services. Services outside still with social distancing and masks! Continuing to worship online allows all who wish to participate to do so.

## Q9: COMMENTS about alternative ways we might worship at VPC once we determine it's safe to do so?

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- If too crowded, watch at home.
- I'd rather zoom than watch from an overflow room
- I would be willing to sign up to attend certain services, if it ever became an issue with the number of people who wanted to attend. if reconfiguring pews means moving them, then i do not think that the benefit of reconfiguring pews is worth the cost. The 6ft distance is a bit too arbitrary for that kind of major change. Once we are in the building together, the 6ft no longer matters as virus diffuses.
- My entire family is tired of online events
- If the last one I'm ok with it but probably would prefer zoom over satellite rooms on campus.CNN
- id try it but??
- Zoom is the next best thing to being there.
- I know that it would be resource-heavy, but I'd love to see a combination of in-person and online worship.
- Since I won't be coming until there's a vaccine, not sure I'd need any of these once that happens.
- I think I will be hard pressed to sing or be around people singing until there is a vaccine.
- My attitudes might change over time.

## Q10. Finally, what, if anything, do you miss most about being at Valley?

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### CONTACT WITH COMMUNITY, FRIENDS

- The people and feeling of close community
- The human contact, the hugging, the one on one chats, being part of a committee or team, the spiritual lift, Jenny's messages in person, the choir
- The people
- Community
- Personal contact with the "family":)
- Worship is communal. Looking each other in the eye and in the heart. Hugging each other. Personal and physical contact. In person would be better but, in favor of inclusion, Zoom suffices for the time being.
- Seeing the people I care about!
- The hugs and love when we pass the Peace
- Informal conversations, sharing our lives, joys, sorrows.
- Personal contact, not necessarily physical contact, but that too.
- Really looking around and seeing my fellow worshipers. And singing, but that will be a long time coming.
- Gods people! They are all an inspiration and a joyful reminder of the Awesome power of Jesus's message. Every person brings a unique and wonderful example of faith
- Seeing people in person
- chatting with the congregation, adult ed class
- I miss worshipping in person and feel somewhat disconnected
- Talking directly before, during, and after formal (Adult Ed) meetings. Talking directly before, during, and after formal (Adult Ed) meetings.
- Seeing people.
- Friends and peace
- Connecting with friends
- I miss seeing and speaking with people.
- Amazing people
- Worshipping together in person
- Face to face contact

## Q10. Finally, what, if anything, do you miss most about being at Valley? (continued)

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### CONTACT WITH COMMUNITY, FRIENDS (CONT.)

- hugging people; seeing people; spontaneous 1 x 1 and small group conversations that I am unlikely to schedule over ZOOM
- Being with friends in person, but Zoom is a reasonable facsimile in the current climate.
- I miss the people and human contact.
- People. hugging, being close
- feeling of community, listening to real people make real sounds (church service in all of its aspects), footprints, gatherings
- Engagement with people
- Personal connection. If we met in person with social distancing I place I would still feel something important was missing.
- I miss the love I feel attending services at VPC. However, some of that does come through over Zoom!
- Being with the people!!
- Social contact !!!!!
- Being there
- The services and my friends
- I miss seeing the broader VPC community that I don't see outside worship services
- Talking to people. I find talking on zoom awkward in a group
- In-person worship, singing and in-person activities for the kids
- The relaxed informality of our interactions generally, and the opportunities for close one-on-one conversations when that is appropriate.
- As with other activities, I miss seeing and talking with others face to face. I do get together with one friend using face masks. We just continue to need to use masks and distancing until????

## Q10. Finally, what, if anything, do you miss most about being at Valley? (continued)

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### MANY THINGS, ALL OF IT

- Other people, singing, hugging, talking after the service, the sanctuary, the redwoods.
- The whole church service: sermon, music, prayers, communion, Bible readings, passing the peace, being part of the community, visiting with everyone. Worshipping, praying, learning. Thanking God for my blessings. Appreciating our leaders' knowledge and guidance. Learning from their example.
- Where do I start? Singing together. Casual interactions with people I know and those I don't know well enough. Meeting NEW people and bringing them into the community. Sense of structure to the week - Sabbath time.
- Seeing people; being inspired/recharged; the beautiful music!!
- My friends, the calming sanctuary space
- Friends, hugs, singing, the redwoods
- Seeing people, music
- Passing the peace and singing with the choir. Jenny's sermons are great either way. I love adult education.
- Being in the sanctuary, hearing the full choir, seeing friends
- freedom to worship and pray and sing in fellowship with Christian friends, in a beautiful inspiring, sun filled church
- I miss the regular Sunday service
- I am missing pastor past God words each Sunday . Hope church reopen again. We need God words from pastor voice.
- i miss getting up on sun and knowing i have a beautiful place to go and be with people on spiritual /religious journey who are gathering themselves to God to begin the new week.
- The glass wall behind the chancel. Seeing faces of the people who over the years have become family. Knowing that there are some in our community who cannot join us now — they can't get online, don't like the zoom interface, etc. I feel so sad that they are isolated from us. The sounds of conversations, kids running around, the choir and handbells. The beeswax tapers

## Q10. Finally, what, if anything, do you miss most about being at Valley? (continued)

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### MANY THINGS, ALL OF IT (CONT.)

- The music, the fellowship and feeling of community, the children's ministry
- Physical connection , our worship space and tree grove, our pastor live , front and center :)
- everything, but willing to wait til it is safer vis a vis COVID19
- I do miss worshipping in community, seeing the trees and hearing the music soar
- The whole experience of being with the congregation in that serene beautiful space, and seeing Jenny live!
- Hugs, singing, seeing friends, hearing worship live.

### THE SANCTUARY

- The feeling that I am in a special place for worship. Going to church to worship with others is powerful.
- On site Sunday worship service.
- It is a very nice pleasant environment, i.e. people, music, nice sermon, etc.
- Being able to visit the sanctuary on Sundays or during the week.
- Being in the sanctuary, seeing my larger community in the flesh, the music, especially these but many others too of course.
- I just miss being in the sanctuary



## Q10. Finally, what, if anything, do you miss most about being at Valley? (continued)

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### MUSIC

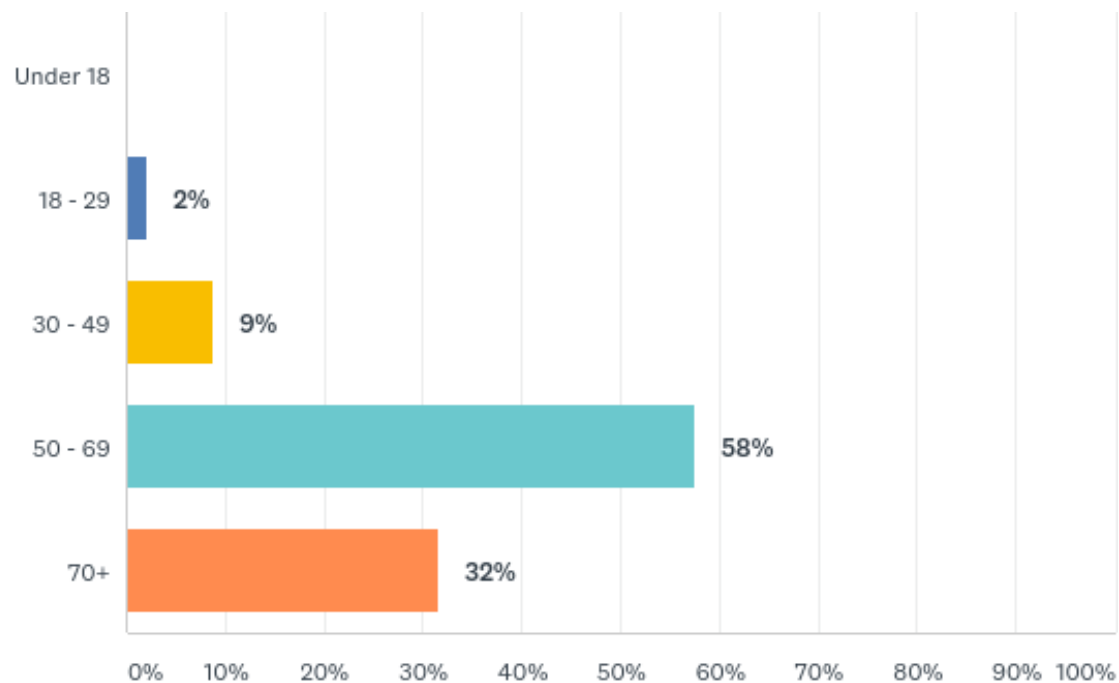
- I just miss the opportunity to bring the gift of music to the congregation.
- Live music and being together with friends
- Seeing people Singing in choir
- Seeing people, music
- Singing in choir
- Community and worship in person. Music has been such a huge part of our services and that really does seem challenging for the upcoming time, even if we start to have in person services in the Fall or Winter.
- singing and praying together
- making music together
- Face-to-face contact and singing in church ("How Can I Keep From Singing").
- Seeing everyone in person and choir singing.
- music
- The community and singing
- Singing with the choir.
- Community and singing!!

### OTHER

- Of course I miss being together but for being safe I'd suggest we do not meet at the church at all. Zoom should continue for me. I realize if others wish to meet a safe way may be found. But at 87 years of age I'm in a vulnerable situation. I would hate to not have zoom meetings if the elders choose to open the church and stopped zoom.
- I miss the people and the spiritual grounding but zoom has been great for that. I have probably gotten to know people better through zooms and done more spiritual work that I was able to do before.

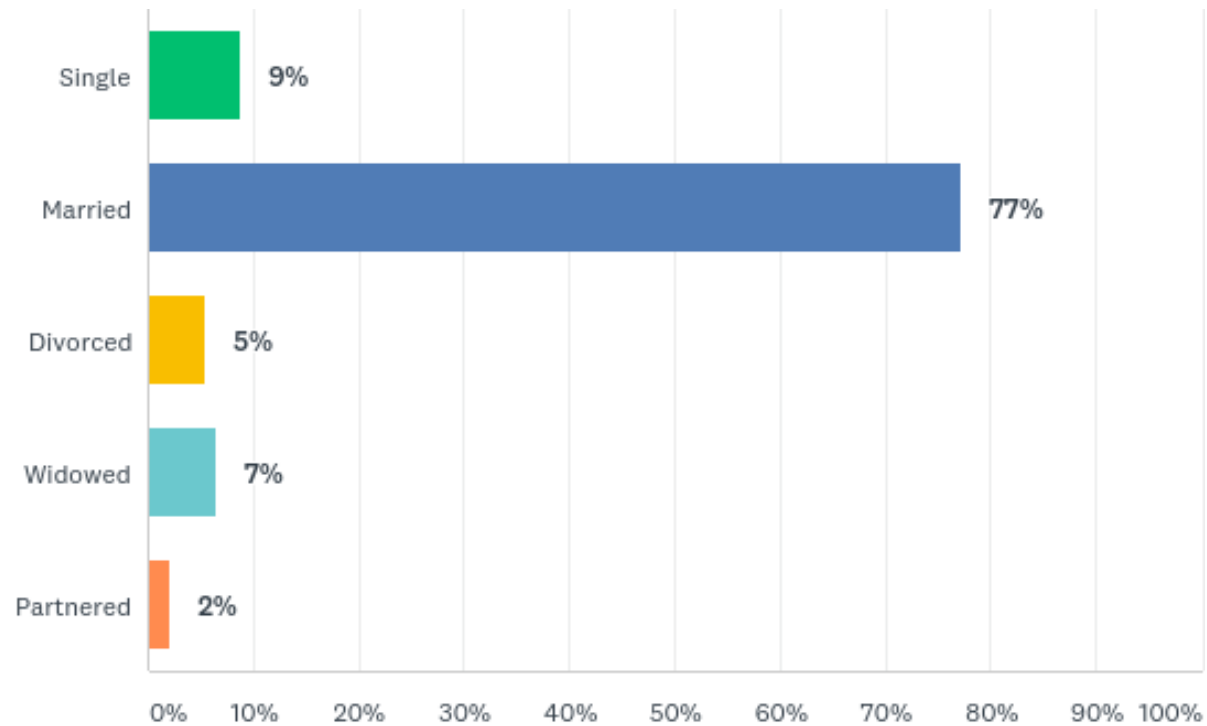
## Q11: Your age

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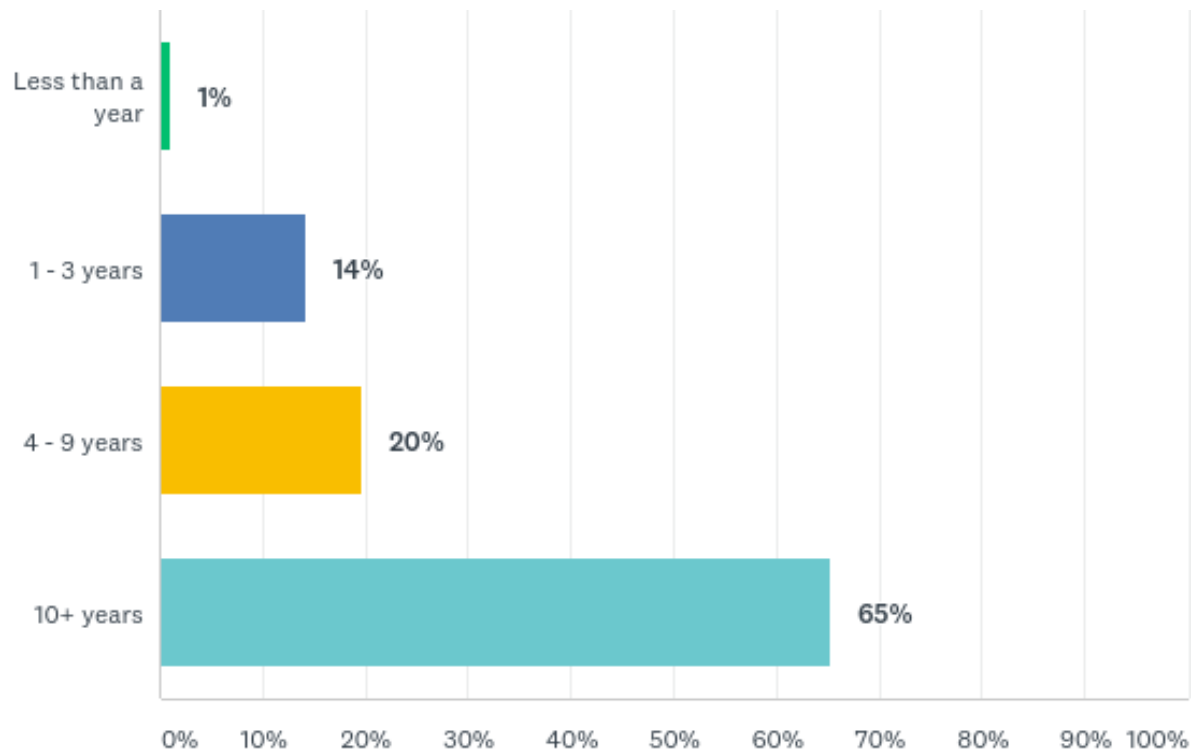
## Q12: Marital Status

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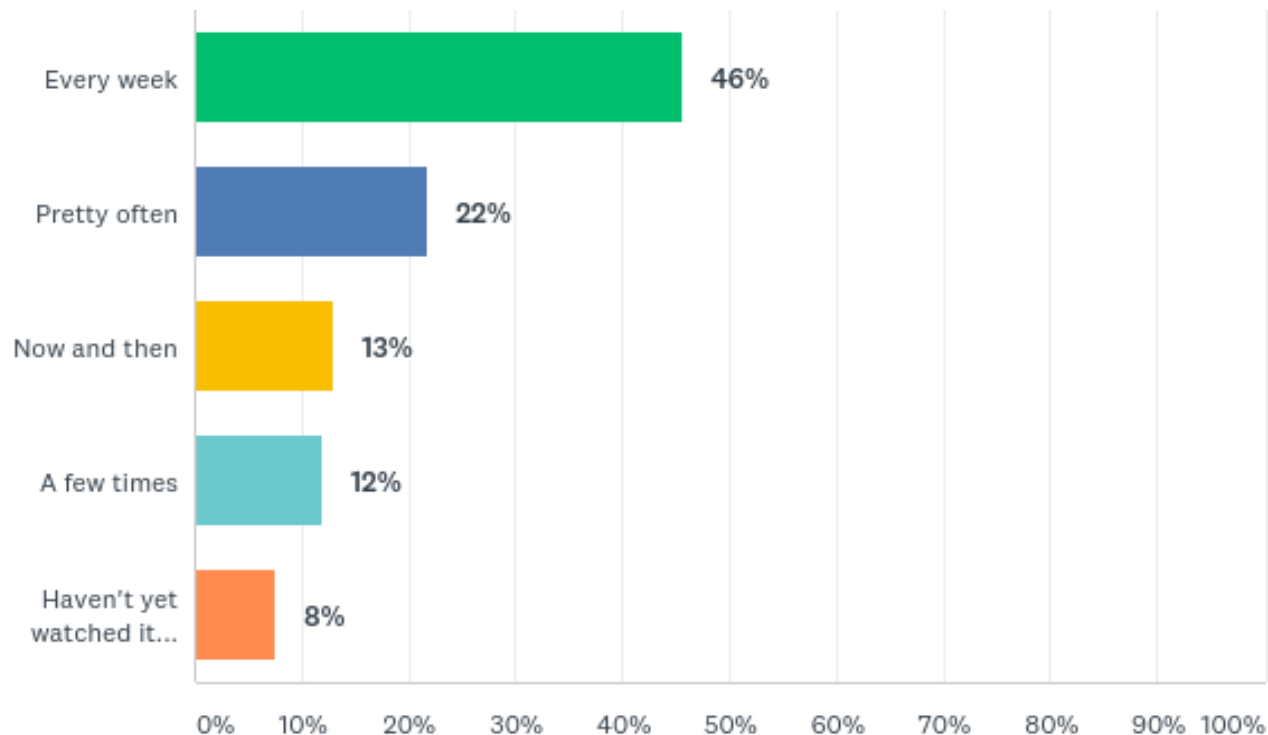
### Q13: How long have you been attending VPC?

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Q14: In the past few months how often, if at all, have you watched VPC Sunday worship online?

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## Q14. Watching VPC Sunday worship online - COMMENTS

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- Almost every week - have only missed a couple of times.
- Watching youtube not zoom
- I watch on YouTube, because I have something else at that time for right now
- Ironically, more regularly than before covid! Zoom allows us to participate in VPC services regardless of whether we're in town.
- We do adult ed every Sunday morning and sometimes it is hard to continue sitting in front of the computer after 90 min. of Zooming adult ed.
- Playing golf Sunday morning with my husband
- Tend to listen to the service vs the on-line realtime attendance.
- most every week. I think I had a scheduling conflict one sunday, but other than that, I watch it regularly.
- Missed 3 weeks but otherwise am a regular!
- I'm OK with ZOOM
- I watch frequently on YouTube. I appreciate that option so I don't Gabe to choose between activities and worship. Maybe we should continue recording and posting worship and other activities...bible study, book group, etc

## Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for VPC as we navigate through these times together?

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### GOOD JOB & THANKS!

- Thanks for all that you do!
- I think VPC is doing a great job during very difficult circumstances.
- Hang in there, team. I trust you to make the smart and healthy decisions for the whole community. And if there are people who don't understand, give me a call! I'll bring some wine and we can hang!
- We stand in humble awe and gratitude for the extra work that staff is doing to present the most wonderful and meaningful Sunday worship services.
- Keep up the good work of connecting us and keeping us safe. I know this is hard work, but the Zoom meetings are going well. Thank you!
- Keep up the good work.
- Will be very grateful when this is over! Very trying in so many ways. Thank you for all the energy and talents to keep us going!!
- Thanks for asking for the input on a tough, tough issue
- I've enjoyed the new worship online and think Jenny and staff have done well during this uncertain time. Thank you for all the work you have all done
- I appreciate the concern, caring and caution that VPC's leadership is showing in this very difficult situation.
- We are in a complex situation. There are no good answers. VPC leaders are doing a great job. We just have to move forward one step at a time.
- Thanks to all of you who are thinking about this and are making us be able to continue our religious and congregational life in spite of the pandemic.
- The ways in which staff and volunteers have been keeping us connected and worshipping has been fantastic. Thank you all.
- The children's programming has been great - confirmation and opportunity for kids to volunteer for story telling.

## Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for VPC as we navigate through these times together? (continued)

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### GOOD JOB & THANKS! (CONT.)

- Great that we have a task force to stay on top of developments. Going forward with great caution sounds perfect. Look forward to learning more about creative ways we can experience new things in these circumstances and try to be open to the gifts that may not seem apparent at first.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding. I'm sure this is very difficult for the leadership. We will get through this.
- Very much appreciate the work session is putting in to vision the future for the Church in the Covid era.
- I have found immense joy in attending on-line. And I have told a couple of friends about our service also. One of them lives in SF, and really appreciated attending. (It was senior HS sunday.)
- Great Survey!
- The virtual services and virtual choir help maintain a sense of community and support. They have both been very meaningful. Thank you for providing this, there is some sense of community seeing everyone's face and hearing everyone's prayers and concerns. Thank you so much.
- This survey is an excellent idea to gather feedback and hear what people are thinking. Working with data is always helpful and informative. Focusing on delivering a few things really well seems to be the highest and best use of our limited resources and running an onsite and a virtual program may really stretch our staff and resources. I look forward to helping with future discussions and decisions.
- I really appreciate the Zoom services. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Jenny and everyone else who make this possible.



## Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for VPC as we navigate through these times together? (continued)

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### RESUME WORSHIP SERVICES AT CHURCH

- Do your best to get face to face worship for your congregation.
- The worship team has done really impressive and creative work with online services, but it's not the same as in-person worship. The kids, in particular, are much less engaged; I have serious concerns about keeping kids, especially the older kids, engaged in worship and the church community if we do not return very soon to in-person worship and Sunday school in some form. Separately, the men's groups been meeting online, and I've been involved in that, and that seems to be working pretty well.

### ZOOM & ONLINE OPTIONS

- You are doing a great job holding the church together! Lots of good online opportunities. I think keeping worship online as long as possible will help the high-risk population, who will hesitate to return until the virus is under control. I am very worried about burning Jenny out. It must be so much work to prepare the online Sunday services. The needs of the congregation are deep and wide during the pandemic. I hope we can care for her as she cares for us.
- Connect by whatever means possible keeping safety standards and when necessary use Zoom

## Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for VPC as we navigate through these times together? (continued)

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### CREATIVE IDEAS FOR WORSHIP IN THE MEANTIME

- This is a heavy load for all of us. We should not be excessively frightened or excessively lax about proceeding to get together. Maybe we could conduct services in the grove and parking area setup with chairs ... or even circles on the ground for family groups spread all over for limber folks chairs in the Labyrinth for older folks . . .and service from the center. we would need a very good speaker set up Another idea could be...Services with 30 folks with is 1/4 of the congregation But people would have to pick/book only 1 Sunday to attend each month
- There are a lot of creative ways to make in person service work. You can make the aisles be in one direction in the main sanctuary, for example, the two outer can be for going towards the pulpit and the middle away. You can block off pews or seats in pews with rope...alternate what side the seats are open or put cardboard boxes where you don't want people to be. You can have a singer, sing on the patio. If doing outside service, you could close off the small parking lot and hold services there with spaced chairs. Have two services...people sign up for which one they want to attend ahead of time if you think that there

will be too many people. There are lots of options

- More drive through communion , choir singing outside , music
- More music in the digital services!

### OUTREACH / CONNECT / CARE FOR OTHERS

- We should just postpone Footprints for a year. Seems to be little interest in gathering or zoom for now. Would be nice to coordinate a mission project or something we can all do at home and pool at church to help those hurting so much. Much like we did making lessons and baking for All Five, although that would have been nicer if everyone and not just a few shared photos and lessons with each other.
- Nice for the elders, staff to visit folks who might be interested electronically. We have a chat structure for those who are interested at the Vi which has been quite nice
- Are there folks we haven't been seeing on zoom who feel disconnected that we could reach out to and get to join us online?

## Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for VPC as we navigate through these times together? (continued)

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### DON'T RUSH TO REOPEN

- Play it safe. I am comfortable on the church campus as long as all social distancing and personal hygiene measures are followed.

### PRAYER

- Prayers of wisdom for the people deciding; prayers of protection for us all
- Thanks pastor all of service God during COVID-19 time. Hope all of church will reopen again. Let God words give us strongest emotional support to help America
- Again, I appreciate what our elders are doing to assist us in worship. If there is a way to please us all Do it! Thanks for trying. I pray the Lord to direct your leadership in these unusual times.

## Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for VPC as we navigate through these times together? (continued)

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### OTHER

- Might be worthwhile to issue a physical mailing card with information about online worship and resources during c-19 that we can put up on the fridge
- Please decide on a consistent easily searchable email subject and sender. Searching for a link is often a chore Info, admin, Jenny or something else @valleypres.....
- I need to be in touch with Wise Women and would like that group defined on the website
- This too shall pass.
- Huge empathy for the tough times for everyone on all ends of this challenging time.
- I'm there in spirit each Sunday