

**Over the last 14 years the number of Americans who identify as Christians has dropped from 78% in 2007 to 63% in 2022. During the same time-period, the number of Americans who identify as religiously unaffiliated (“Nones”) has grown from 16% to 29%.**

**The average age of pastors & ministers is now 57, compared to 50 in 2000.**

**The average church attendance in our country is 65 people, compared to 137 in 2000. At this point in our country 70% of churches are 100 or fewer attendees in weekly worship. Half of all churches in the US have fewer than 65 in their weekly worship services, while at the same time 70% of people who attend a worship service do so in a church that averages more than 250 people a week.**

**A staggering statistic in 2022 is that 1 in 6 young adults identify as LGBTQ. In comparison, only 5.6% of older Americans identify in this category. (16% of Gen-Z identifies as LGBTQ)**

**Only 3 of out 10 Unchurched Americans say a Christian has shared the gospel with them.**

**57% of Americans polled by the Barna Research Group think monthly or more about how they can find more meaning and purpose in life. And while they think or ponder about meaning and purpose with life, they are less likely to believe that finding meaning and purpose is important.**

1. The number of people who attend church in our country is directly proportionate to the number of people who identify as Christians.
2. The moral direction of our country is congruent with the seismic changes that we are seeing in the church. Less Christians eventually equals less moral and ethical influence in the country.
3. The number of people in our country with a basic understanding of the gospel has never been lower.
4. Lee County and Tupelo, MS, are not unique. We are following the same trends as the rest of the country here at home.

5. People are struggling to find purpose and meaning in life, while at the same time don't see the pursuit of purpose as an urgent issue. This means people aren't going to come to church for moral or ethical reasons anymore.
6. We may need to pray less for revival and more for evangelistic salvations. You cannot revive what has never been alive.

#### Worship Attendance

2020	399
2021	598
2022	726

#### Giving

2020	\$3,469,180.03
2021	\$3,595,673.22
2022	\$3,556,286.97 *Still processing year end giving

#### Baptisms

2020	17
2021	22
2022	39

#### Total New Members

2020	56
2021	82
2022	106

**“Most churches overestimate what they can do in a year, and severely underestimate what they can do in 10 years.”**

**Spiritual health requires that we are rooted in the Word and dependent on the Holy Spirit.**

**Healthy churches are rooted in the Word and dependent on the Holy Spirit.**

**Characteristics of churches that are rooted in the Word and dependent on the Holy Spirit:**

## **1. Faithful**

## **2. Fruitful**

“7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” 1 Corinthians 3:7 (CSB)

## **3. A church that is rooted in the Word is loving**

## **4. A church that is rooted in the Word perseveres**

We persevere in our preaching and teaching

We persevere in our convictions and beliefs

We persevere in our practices and purity

## **Healthy church growth requires spiritually healthy and biblically qualified church leaders**

**Healthy churches measure themselves against Jesus and the Word rather than the previous year or other churches.**

**Healthy churches are driven to missions by a love for the glory of God.**