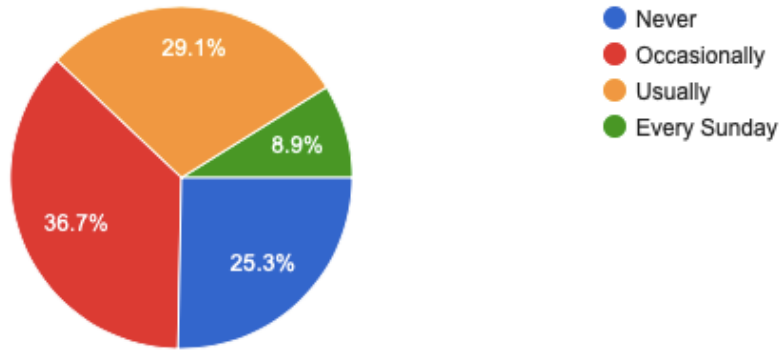


Cedar Ridge Survey March 2022

1. Do you attend Sunday services in person?

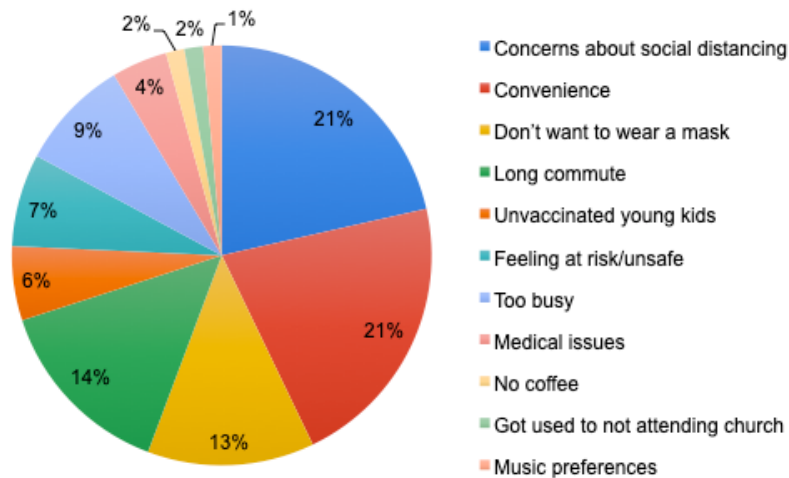
79 responses



- 62% of respondents said they never or only occasionally attend in-person services. Given recent attendance, this does not seem to be representative of our community. It suggests that some who regularly attend in-person did not think this survey was applicable to them. (Some in-person attenders confirmed they didn't think the survey was relevant to them.)

2. If you answered "Never" or "Occasionally," please check the main reason(s) you do not attend in person.

49 people providing 70 responses



- 25 respondents (51%) did not have any COVID-related concerns for not attending in-person (convenience, don't want to wear a mask, long commute, too busy, no coffee, got used to not attending, music preferences).

3. Given our commitment to community, what would help bring people back to in-person services?

79 responses

- More outdoor services—16
- Bring back coffee and donuts/potlucks/time to mingle—15
- Direct encouragement to attend in-person—8
- Time/patience—7
- Continue masking and social distancing—7
- Drop mask requirement—6
- Vaccines for young children—5
- Drop the zoom option/make it less inclusive—5

All responses:

- Safety, but I do think that some people just like the convenience of Zoom.
- Don't know
- Time
- keep gently inviting and letting it be OK that people don't come until they are ready. Covid is scary and it isn't gone yet.
- Continued reassurance of safety from health authorities. We're all pretty shocked by the past few years and it has only recently become reasonable to gather in large crowds. Patience and encouragement from church leadership will also help! And collective prayer on this topic would be really meaningful to me.
- Phase out zoom but still have a video of the message posted to the website later as we have always done. Have more outdoor services in the beginning until folks feel more comfortable being inside with large groups.
- As we reside in a congregant living setting, we are emerging slowly. We plan to start back full time at Easter with in person book discussion group starting back on 4/24
- Not having to wear a mask would give me more motivation to return.
- I enjoyed the content but just physical are unable to return
- Childcare for 3 and 1 year olds and since they can't be vaccinated yet, I'm not sure it's safe yet. So I guess childcare for them and the ability to get them vaccinated would be a huge help for us to return
- I have an autoimmune condition and am on immune suppressing medication. I'm continuing to avoid indoor activities and crowds. I'm not sure when I'll feel comfortable with in-person activities. I only attended in-person occasionally pre-pandemic though, with my medical condition and living over an hour away. I appreciate the online option.
- Good air flow or filters would help me feel comfortable. I do not want to wear a mask.
- Given option to mask or not and just opening the doors.
- I'm still waiting for a vaccine for children under five.
- Vaccines for under fives
- The weather, perhaps doing more outdoors.
- COVID numbers staying as low as they are currently.
- Mandating social distancing and mask wearing for EVERYONE, at all times. Also, knowledge of proper ventilation indoors.
- Covid case numbers falling lower than they are currently would bring people back. Although people are vaccinated & are unlikely to be seriously ill, there are other risks associated with

Covid, i.e. long-term effects. Personally, now that the weather is improving, I would be much more prone to attend outdoor services.

- Another year. Maybe two. There are fewer things I want more than returning to church services comfortably.
- I'm ready to come back, and I plan to be at church this Sunday. With COVID case numbers steadily dropping in this area, it's a good time to return. Maybe more outdoor services, as weather permits, would encourage other people to attend in person.
- End of pandemic
- Not sure
- Masks optional for those fully vaccinated
- Holding outdoor services or meetings as much as possible would help. It would reduce risks that I face due to my medical condition and allow people to be unmasked - which, for me, does matter to feeling connected to others.
- Keep masking until vaccination available for everyone. Outdoors when possible—especially for children.
- 0-5 vaccines
- Coffee and donuts? I think the direct ask on Sunday was helpful - keep asking people to come in person. It hasn't been clear that in-person was preferable. Keep making that clear. Another approach is a personal ask - if people can pair up and go together that helps. Knowing you are going to see someone you have missed is motivation.
- Continued masking and social distance
- I think this letter will help; Coffee and Donuts sends the message that there is time to connect
- For the weeks that we are not in person and joining on zoom, it has more so been a matter of convenience - we've gotten used to being able to watch church in pajamas and eat breakfast while doing so!
- Stopping zoom services
- Outside preschool Sunday school when the weather permits until the vaccine is available for 6 month-5 year olds.
- Getting back to normal
- Social exercises-small break outs
- Coffee, donuts, feeling more social and back to normal
- I think if you open. OPEN! Have the coffee & donuts, sell bags of coffee, have groups and social gatherings. Car wash, coffee houses, silent auctions, farm market etc.
- It's all on me, nothing more needs to be done in my case.
- For me, it's the convenience of staying at home and using Zoom. I understand how important it is to gather in person. I'll change my habits and start attending in person.
- That's a tough one. Socializing is the thing you can get in person but not online. But everyone has a different level of comfort ability with social events now. Sorry, not an answer but an aspect that probably drew people to church pre pandemic.
- Mask free
- Some need to understand the benefit over the convenience of zoom
- Discipleship classes before or after services.
- Coffee and the things that made it feel like home
- Some of it is that I'm introverted. So chatting with people I haven't talked to in a long time is something I subconsciously avoid. So maybe some entry points for less awkward mixing and more intentional connections between smaller groups would help?
- Coffee and donuts!

- Ensuring the everyone continue to wearing masks inside the church
- Fellowship after services with light refreshments
- Personal comfort level
- Continue to have them
- I think ya'll are already doin' it; safety and clean facilities, ventilation, perhaps more outdoor services?
- I was wondering if we might be able to have some outdoor services in the Spring? Like we did before, when the weather gets nice? That would feel a lot safer, to me. I would make the trek for those.
- Continue to ask, let people know they are missed.
- Though not the reason we don't come, coffee does help. ☺
- The God in the Movies series always used to seem well attended but not sure if that was just time of year.
- Zoom does enable the stay-at-home thing, but it also allows sick, vulnerable and out-of-town folks the opportunity to benefit from the Message and Our Community.
- Nothing comes to mind.
- Food always seems to bring people back. (Yes I know that is cynical, but it's true).
- To continue following the CDC and local guidelines for returning to full inservice church
- Ending zoom. Also masks are a negative impact to me and others. Please make masks optional sooner rather than later unless otherwise mandated by local or cdc mandates. Maybe an announcement a month or two in advance
- Willingness of people to commit to community and cooperate with safety practices
- No idea. I'm surprised more people haven't returned. Maybe outdoor services when the weather is nice. Or maybe outside picnics where people bring their own food?
- For myself, I am looking forward to seeing everyone back in person.
- I'd really like the coffee, bagels and donuts to come back. It doesn't feel like church without them. Even if it's just coffee and tea...I miss that aspect a lot. I know you are trying to be very safe, but I feel like this is something people can chose whether or not to participate. On if we just make it consistent out front under the awning when the weather is warm(ish).
- Maybe some opportunities for small groups to gather after the service? Like a potluck picnic for families of preschoolers or K-5 etc near the playground? As the weather gets better, I can imagine people coming for the service and staying for an outdoor activity.
- Utilize outdoors more
- I can only speak for myself
- Spring 'Festival' outdoors (getting folks on the property), being extra careful with those who might be uneasy or fearful, clarity about having our communities' expectations for masks/social distancing/different tolerances as of Spring 2022 (obviously different from Nov 2021 or Apr 2021 or 2020), hate to say it but coffee and doughnuts (not for me of course). Seriously, there is a lot about community that food does facilitate.
- Remove mask mandates. Now that spring is here do more outdoor services. Invest in a better PA system.
- Continued masking
- I would be happy to engage with new visitors.
- Direct encouragement to return
- Continue encouraging people to come back. I'm not sure how we go about changing the convenience of Zoom meetings to getting folks to come in person.

- I can think of three things: the value/experience of interpersonal (physical over digital) connection, the loyalty or tradition of being a consistent churchgoer, the measure of growth/encouragement that exclusively happens in person.
- Social Gatherings to connect
- Continued mask wearing and social distancing.
- Food and drink in-person, additional outdoor events, making Zoom less interactive/inclusive
- I think encouragement from others - friends who are attending in person. And continuing drops in infection rates. Maybe an outdoor service or picnic once the weather is more dependable. And of course donuts & coffee/tea.
- I'm not sure. For me its been a combo of COVID + scheduling issues. When I've come I've been glad I did do it - its pretty safe. (And I'm a person who hasn't minded the convenience of joining online and being able to be outside at the same time.) Will be interesting to hear what people say about their reasons so they can be addressed.
- Not sure. If there could be a covid safe way to meet people /mingle, that would be great. Maybe occasionally on a good weather day invite people to have a mixer after the service outside in front of the church - explicitly include the purpose of reconnecting and meeting folks?
- We plan to continue helping our parents and attending in person when we are able to do so and attend other Cedar Ridge events when we are able.

4. What important topics do you think we should explore during Sunday morning services?

50 responses

All responses:

- I like the historical aspects of what & where events happened in Biblical time. Maybe some relating/ comparison of science & theology
- Just war theory seems timely, but it may be interesting to tackle some issues like environmental issues from a Christian perspective. Application of Christian thinking to current events (of course, that may get political quickly).
- I always am challenged and blessed by what is presented each week. Don't have any suggestions for topics.
- We know that a lot of thought goes into the planning and preparation of each series. Our ears and hearts continue to be challenged.
- What does being a christian in 2022 mean, What is the role of the church today, what should the church look like today, what place should the bible have in a christians life today, finding faith / Jesus again after deconstruction, how to approach / interact with bible after deconstruction, how to be a part of the Way of Jesus in today's world, what does it look like to serve like Christ in 2022, how to sit in the grief of loss - loss of so many lives - loss of normal way of life, what does the way of peace look like and what should the christian's response to the war in Ukraine be and how to help
- How to talk to people that disagree w you.
- all important
- Staying hopeful when it feels like the kingdom is far away - life is stressful watching Ukrainian suffering. Holistic health - physical, spiritual, emotional, relationships, environmental and political health.
- Health. Holistic. Spiritual. Emotional. Interpersonal. Political. Environment.

- Peace. In relationships at home and in the workplace and community. Political relationships and peace.
- Dealing with change in all we've through in the world in the last couple of years.
- The Fruitfulness of Meditation and Prayer; and Godly Living in Ungodly Times
- The sermons already seem interesting & relevant. The topics are always relatable.
- Death, Dying, Loss. It's such a big part of our lives and we, I think, as a church and a society, don't have enough honest conversations about it, which I think is to our detriment. Note, that this isn't exactly Covid related. I've had this thought for years.
- Have enjoyed recent series. Do not have suggestions for this question.
- 1. Solidarity - I think this is a rich theological topic and particularly meaningful now. What does it mean to live and act in solidarity with others even when our experiences and perspectives are dissimilar? What does solidarity require as an ethical imperative? (Specifically, I've been wanting to read this book from the Catholic tradition, though, I'm sure there are other good ones on the topic: *The Ethics of Encounter: Christian Neighbor Love as a Practice of Solidarity*).
- 2. Healing - including those journeys that are long or do not meet the traditional expectations of becoming free of illness, injury.
- 3. Accompanying friends, family members who are experiencing illness, aging, or personal trauma.
- Suffering
- doubt and disillusionment with one's faith
- I've really enjoyed the meditative and grounding moments in some of the services recently!
- Leading with our hearts despite the temptation to lead with our heads
- Fear of war, socializing, of failing. Letting people see how broken we truly are. We all want to show we are coming from a place of strength. When actually we are hiding or fears!
- Finding comfort when God says "No" to prayer requests
- Guatemala updates - how have they fared. More on social justice.
- The good news that Jesus, the Christ, paid the penalty for our sins by His death on the cross. That Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except by me." John 14:6. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life.¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior. That there is only one way of salvation and that is through Jesus, the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, our Father in Heaven who created both Heaven and earth.
- how to survive our polarized society and disconnect from family---Hope!
- You're on the right track, no recommendations
- How to lean into God and trust with different aspects of our lives. What is the nature of God? (How can I praise God for who God is instead of only what God does). How do I transition my life now having done some introspective work these last few years? How can workshop and connection look now that were slowly easing back? (I'd love additional creative entry points)
- Our usual house blend of liberal Christianity.
- How to overcome judgment of people. How to stay grounded and sane in today's world. How to enjoy the present moment.
- Selected Bible Scholarly authors and their writings such as "A Marginal Jew" by John P Meier, "The Challenge of Jesus" by John Shea, or other writers: N.T Wright, and/or Thomas Cahill's "Desire of The Everlasting Hills" and his comparison of the synoptic gospels is especially meaningful and enlightening

- "How to find one's way back to God when God has felt far away. Dealing with uncertain futures -- (including how to retire.) Recovery from losses. When life didn't turn out the way you thought it would. Ageing without children or grandchildren. Racial injustice and voter suppression. Russian invasion and Ukrainian refugees. Issues of nationalism. (I realize some of these are from a personal standpoint, and others are from a collective viewpoint. I also realize all these topics won't pertain to everyone, and we are all at different life stages. Just sharing what's on my heart ~ random thoughts of where I'm currently at, personally.) Dealing with burnout -- when work feels like it's been all-consuming and relentless for the past 2 years -- (we've been slammed in mental health) -- (coupled with social isolation from the pandemic.) The old expression comes to mind: ""All work and no play makes Jane a dull girl."" Wanting to find a return to joy."
- You have been doing well. Fear, Trust, Compassion, Love
- Exactly what you are doing - we love the topics you choose
- I like deep dives into scripture better than thematic overviews, in general. That being said I would like to some of the "squishy" topics like sexuality, finances etc. I'd also like to explore how we address the important topics of age diversity and the related issue of ableism.
- Character as evidenced by Christ's example
- Seriously following Jesus by studying how to do what He told us to do as His disciples
- I'm exhausted. I still work at home exclusively, and there's a lot of isolation. I think that has come to impact me more in ways I haven't experienced as time moves on. Maybe some more meditative content.
- I really enjoy the moments of mindfulness incorporated into the services. It sometimes the only time all week that I feel like I really am able to do that. Being in the church building makes that easier for me. I'm too mentally exhausted to suggest topics at the moment.
- How to Pray about Evil
- I am very pleased with all
- Keep doing what you are doing. Our society in general needs to foster open dialog, compromise and non-combative, conflict resolution when we disagree. Anything you can teach to further those goals is a good thing. Your Sunday messages encourage thought and are educational which I appreciate.
- None that you don't already cover
- It's an affirming church, but for as long as I have been attending, not once has anything LGBTQ+ even been mentioned. Maybe a mention of David and Jonathan? Or a guest musician? Or a sermon on the history of the Bible and the things lost in translation. Like how the original text was anti-pedophile, not anti-homosexual.
- Nothing new comes to mind
- Renegotiating faith in light of the trauma of the last couple years
- I don't have any topics in mind.
- Continuing to focus experiencing Christ and the body of Christ
- Just a thought. I would enjoy an entire series on the Lord's Prayer. We learn it as kids and try to cobble together what these strange words or phrases mean in English, let alone the original Aramaic or Greek.
- Experiencing God through human connection and what that looks like in our modern, often virtual world
- I've really enjoyed the last few series on Luke and the Bible. I'd like to see more on finding God in nature and on climate justice. Also theodicy, heaven, hell.

- I've appreciated the recent series. Would also enjoy more exploration of the Old Testament and comparison to the New Testament.

Any other comments (optional)

31 responses

- I do miss Coffee & Donuts/ Bagels
- I appreciate the leadership commitment to safety.
- Not sure whether question 1 is referring to pre-March 2020 or post-omicron.
- We have appreciated all the behind the scenes work it has taken to be both Zoom and hybrid. Thanks for all those efforts of time and talent.
- We really love and miss attending Cedar Ridge and can't wait to return!
- Thank you for all you have done to keep Cedar Ridge going during such a difficult time and continuing to serve the community through these tough times. I'm grateful for all the staff and volunteers at Cedar Ridge and your thoughtful approach to everything you do.
- I miss Matthew's sermons! Looking forward to returning to normalcy.
- update music
- Thanks for all the staff does!
- I think we should have outdoor services as soon as the weather is comfortable enough.
- If the case counts continue to decrease over the next couple months and if the number of Covid related deaths also continues to decrease, I'm hoping to attend a few services this summer.
- All of you—pastors, staff, Board members, volunteers, and any others I may have missed—have done an outstanding job in leading our church community through the difficult, scary, and tragic circumstances of the last two years. Thank you.
- My situation may not be representative. I completed active cancer treatment a few weeks ago and am still immune-compromised. COVID is still so novel that there is not much of a scientific record examining how well or poorly protected people like myself are from COVID. So, I've been trying to put some distance between myself and the chemo and secure a second booster (apparently, a possibility) before attending public gatherings. My family is, however, intending to return to attending in person relatively soon.
- For me, it will help for people to be masked during indoor activities or for activities to occur outside. I recognize that for others, needing to attend church masked may discourage their attendance. So, I imagine that it's difficult to establish conditions that work for everyone!
- I think removing zoom as an option would have people come back for the most part. For the few that are vulnerable maybe you could offer a zoom session during the week where the Sunday message is replayed and people can chat online about it in their own little community.
- It's been a while for me. But, I feel I could only belong to this church!
- I use to attend every Sunday. I am currently living in a northern county and unable to attend services on Sunday. I love Cedar Ridge and will continue to support the church from a distance.
- I think I've gotten out of the habit of coming to church and need some good excuses to come. My daughter says she doesn't believe in God but still wants to come to CRCC so that's my biggest motivating factor now. It's easy for me to make an excuse for zooming in, which I don't think allows me to as fully participate in the community.
- I would like to thank all of those who have kept the church running so well thru the pandemic. Sending peace, blessings and many thanks to all.
- I enjoy hearing the Pastor speak and explain the Bible readings. I don't enjoy the music during the service. I'd rather the music start before the service and after the service. I like the quiet

time during the service to ponder on the readings and the Pastor's message, the written prayers, and candle lighting.

- Thank you all for the blessing you've been to Melinda and I
- I haven't been to church all winter. I am definitely erring on the side of caution. Still very concerned about catching Covid and giving it to my husband, who is 7+ years older than I am, and who has an underlying health condition -- and who is the same age as Bill Duncan was, and my brother-in-law was, who both died of Covid. Last year, my brother-in-law died on March 1st, and Bill died on March 5th. My mother-in-law died of Covid on January 9th. Last year did a number on me. Saw too much loss to Covid, up-close and personal. Just recently getting through all the 1 year anniversaries of having lost my mother-in-law, brother-in-law, and long-time friend of nearly 40 years (Bill.) Couldn't help but feel the parallels of last winter and this winter, as Omicron was raging. We are both double vaxxed and boosted, but I also know there have been folks who have been hospitalized and have died, despite being double vaxxed and boosted. We are still erring on the side of caution. Thanks for reaching out and asking our opinions, and letting us check-in, if we felt so led. Thanks for listening and thanks for letting me share. All the very best to all.
- Thank you for all your hard work!!
- CRCC has done a wonderful job of guiding people in the ways of Jesus before the Pandemic and during the Pandemic. I look forward to seeing this continue as we come out of the Pandemic.
- I generally don't appreciate the invitation to stand during the closing music. I think the standing and change of position really break whatever contemplation I have going. I don't mind that those around me stand, its just that "please stand if you're able" rubs me the wrong way. And since I'm able and now everyone is standing, peer pressure dictates that I get up even though I would prefer not to.
- I enjoy being with people. It's what keeps me showing up in person. That is what is the biggest pull back for me - the people.
- Thank you for everything!
- I do like the zoom option. I've used it when away or ill.
- I really appreciate the leadership of Cedar Ridge - everyone has done an outstanding job. The messages have been excellent and challenging.
- Thanks for checking in with the community and preparing to move forward.
- I really appreciate the worship team and the efforts they put into music selection and performance. I miss some of the contemporary Christian music that we used to sing like Chris Tomlin and Mercy Me. I also wonder why we don't include Gospel music. I grew up singing all types of music in school choirs and appreciated the diversity of singing everything from Christian choral music to Gospel. I think this would help promote and welcome diversity.