

Introduction

The Session of First Pres is concerned about the future viability of our congregation. With so many churches shutting down because of lack of participation, we find ourselves at an important crossroads: we still have strength in numbers and resources, but the pandemic has severely impacted our participation, which threatens to cause a precipitous decline. Below we outline the issues we face as a church and a denomination, as well as our proposed solutions to remain a vital and growing community.

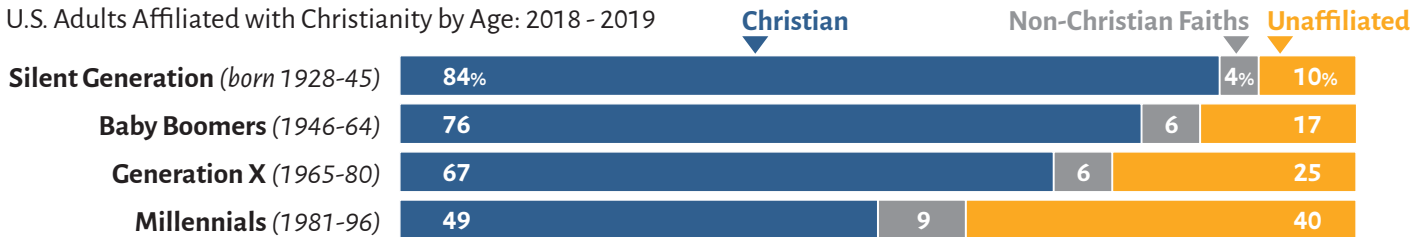
The Challenge...
MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION



21st Century Christianity

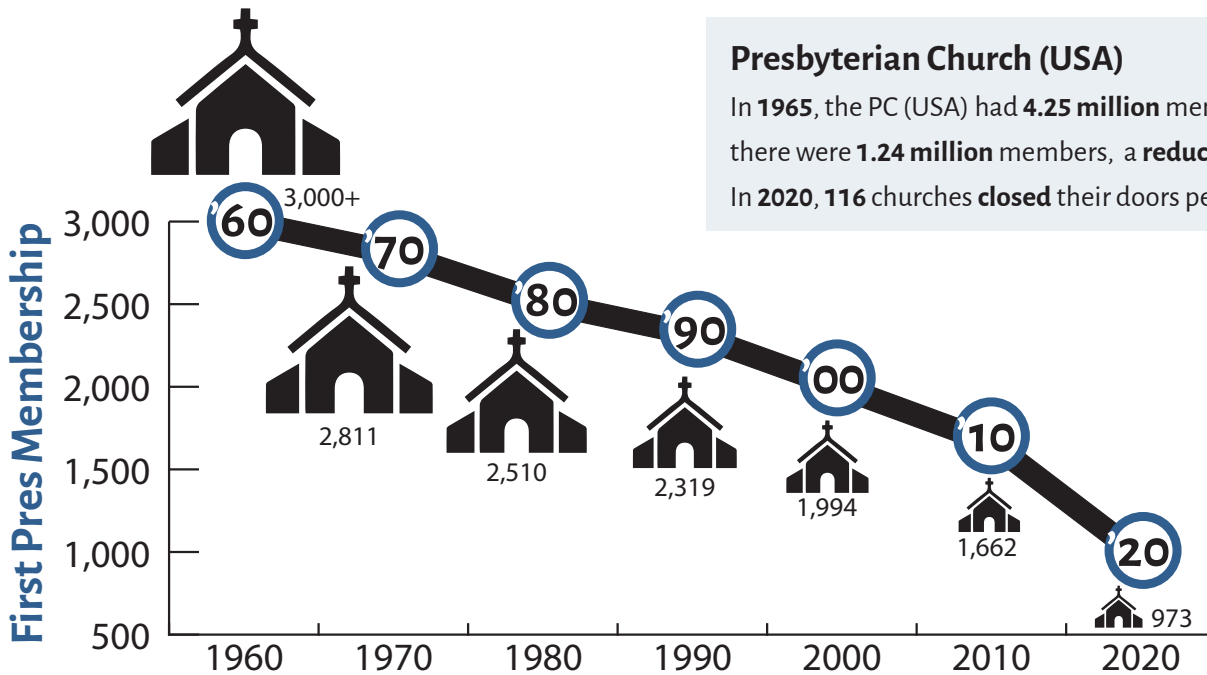
Christianity is declining in the U.S.

U.S. Adults Affiliated with Christianity by Age: 2018 - 2019



Current Trend - PEW research

As a result of the decline in Christianity, the PC (USA) and our own congregation mirror this decline




Presbyterian Church (USA)

In 1965, the PC (USA) had 4.25 million members. In 2020, there were 1.24 million members, a reduction of 70%. In 2020, 116 churches closed their doors permanently.

First Pres Membership by Age: 2020



The KEY to Growth at First Pres

 Strong vibrant programs that draw in members from our community

 The GOOD NEWS: we have many excellent programs

KIDS
Connect


Service
Saturday

Loaves & Fishes
Garden


Stone
Catchers



Concert
Series


Family
NIGHT

HOW will we
Address the
CHALLENGE?

Welcome Back!

Discover opportunities to gather,
worship, and serve.



Fall 2021 Program Highlights



First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 am | Modern Worship & Adult Education
10:30 am | Traditional Worship & Children's and Youth Education

*Fall Programming guide sent out
to members and the community.*

 We need YOUR help to keep these programs vibrant!

We need more participation

Church
Members
who volunteer
outside
of Sunday
worship

290

683

973
Members

Church
Members
who do not
participate
beyond Sunday
worship

Currently
only
30%
of
Members give
time & talent

Our
GOAL
60%
of
Members giving
time & talent

Take Action NOW!

HOW
YOU can get
INVOLVED

Church Outreach and Support

- Invite Others to Church
- Welcome People During Worship
- Greeters and Ushers
- Teach: Children, Youth or Adults
- Helping Individual Members of our Congregation
- Stephen Ministry (*listening and helping people in need*)
- Connections (*repairing the church building*)
- Gardening

Committee and Board* Involvement

- Leadership Role
- Committee member
- Volunteer for specific committee and /or committee event / program
- Hands On support
- Attend/participate in committee events

Community Outreach

- Service Saturday
- Missions Events
- Christopher House
- Kenneth Young Center (*behavioral health services*)
- PADS (*homeless ministry*)
- Family Night Dinners
- Social Justice Events

I want
to Learn
more
ABOUT...

Music Ministry

- Chancel Choir
- Bells
- Kids' choir
- Special Music: Piano, Solos, Instrumental

Share Ideas

- Give feedback when surveys are provided
- Share Ideas with Committees, Boards, Pastors and Elders
- Focus Groups
- Tell us how YOU can use your unique talents and interests to get involved




*Committees and Boards

- Worship, Music and Sacraments
- Community Life and Education
- Children's Ministries
- Communications
- Covid-19 Task Force
- Mission
- New Business Task Force
- Endowment
- Youth Ministries
- Trustees and Deacons Ministries
- Administration & Finance
- Personnel
- All-Church Nominating

Be Part of the Visioning Teams

- Join a team of people who are dedicated to enhancing the community and culture of our church

To learn more:

-  firstpresah.org/allin
-  allin@firstpresah.org
-  Mary Fino (847)255-5900



Read and understand the membership and volunteer trends

September 2021



Learn about various opportunities to serve & Pray about where your talents can be used

October 2021



Make a commitment for the next year to participate with your talents

November 2021



Become actively involved

January 2022



Draw in new members from the community at large

2022




Congregation is actively involved in GROWING THE CHURCH and REVERSING the membership decline

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