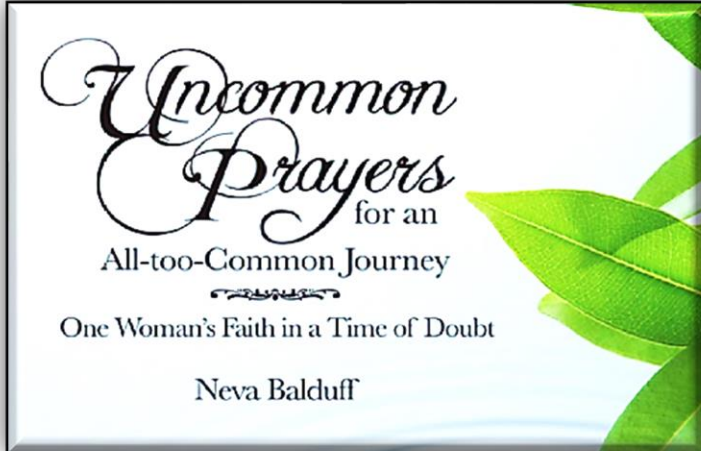


Ponca City Christian

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
210 North Fifth Street
Ponca City, OK 74601
580.762.1667 www.fccponcacity.com

Seeking, Serving, Sharing
August 4, 2024

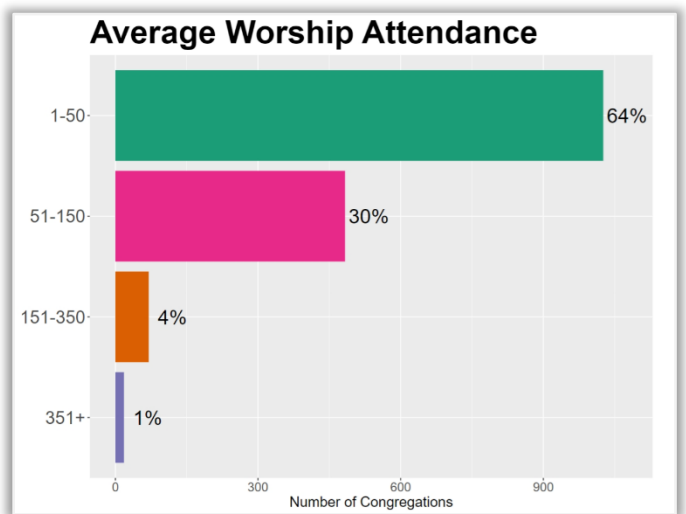


The ALEX database of congregational statistics allows

us to explore congregational data with a depth and breadth that was not possible with the printed Yearbook and Directory. Rather than consider a single congregation or a small set of congregations, using ALEX we can examine the congregations that submitted an annual ALEX Yearbook report as a whole.

Looking at a larger population of congregations enables us to discern what might be typical for Disciples congregations. For example, we can delve into the size of congregations. Looking across the church in the U.S. and Canada, what's the typical size for a Disciples congregation?

From the 1,650 congregations that reported for 2023, the median number of reported participants was 66. Half the congregations reported having 66 or fewer regular participants, and half reported more. Similarly, from the reporting congregations, the median reported worship attendance was 40. Half the congregations reported an average attendance of 40 or fewer, and half reported more. If your congregation welcomes 40 or fewer people in worship weekly, your congregation is like half of the Disciples congregations in the U.S. and Canada. Data, in and of itself, is neither good nor bad. Data is a tool for learning and understanding. Data answers questions, and its best use raises new questions. Looking at this data, we begin to understand that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is primarily a fellowship of smaller congregations.



↔️ WALKING AT OUR SIDE ↔️

We seem to be in a holding pattern,
caught somewhere
between past and present.
I don't know how to move us forward,
and sometimes I resent
having to make too many decisions—
most of them are not any fun.
Our lives are going
through major revisions—
it's painful for me to watch him today,
sorting through remnants
of his former life;
what to keep and what to throw away,
cuts through me like a knife!
Things that had defined his work,
now no longer needed,
but the memories will always lurk,
and they will not go unheeded.
It's good to know
that remnants of the old days
can be woven into new goods.
We can build on the past in many ways.
We didn't know we could
until faced with challenges
so unexpected.
It's taking all our determination
to keep from feeling sad and dejected.
But we can conquer this situation,
if we'll just let you be our guide.
We will reach our final destination
with you walking at our side.
~Neva Balduff

Service Attendance ~ July 28, 2024

In Person: 59 Live Online: 14
Social Media Hits: 75

Sunday, August 4 ~ Service Information

John 6:24-35

"Do not work for food that perishes."

Sunday School @ 9:30 ~ Fellowship Time @ 10:30
Services @ 8:30 & 11:00

Giving in Review

As of June 30, 2024

Income Received YTD	\$154,416.17
Actual Expenses YTD	\$134,521.59
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$153,371.01