

# Long Beach Presbyterian

# BEACON

*"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to Others"*

LONG BEACH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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## Church Attendance

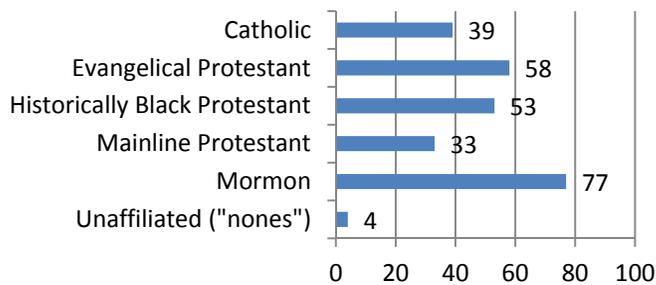


Our average weekly church attendance is lower than last year. It concerns me and I hope it concerns you too. Here are some facts. Our average weekly attendance from January through June 2017 was 39.5 people and for the same period this year it has been 38.4 people. There was a terrible flu season this year which was partially responsible for lowering our January through February attendance by an average of 8.25 people per week. Many folks got the flu and others were afraid to gather in groups for fear of catching it. Finally, those who caught and recovered from the flu were afraid to go out and get it again. That is all totally understandable. Now it's summer and attendance is still down. There are vacations and family events planned on Sundays and just a general desire to kick back and enjoy summer. When you are in town I encourage you to join in worship with your church family even if it means getting up a little earlier.

So what about the bigger picture? I went to the Pew Research Center for help on general trends of church attendance and found a wealth of information. Let's dig in. Of all adults who attend church, only 36% attend weekly, 33% attend only once or twice a month and 30% attend rarely (Easter and/or Christmas with maybe a baptism or confirmation thrown in). Now here is the kicker. Only 1 OUT OF 4 people in the U.S. attend church at all. So when you look at the statistic where 36% attend church weekly that is 36% of the 1 out of 4 or 9% of the population. Many of us can look down the street we live on and verify this statistic.

In the following chart you will see attendance trends broken down by religious groups. It is self-explanatory once you know we are clustered in the Mainline Protestant group which includes PCUSA, United Methodist, Episcopal, et cetera. You will also notice our Evangelical Brothers and Sisters along with Mormons are much more diligent about regular church attendance. It should also be noted that Mormons, like Church of Christ members, are commanded to attend worship.

## % Who Attend Church



Religion is clearly losing its influential place in American culture. Among non-attenders 46% say religion is important but that number is likely high because it just seems wrong to say religion is not important. As they say, "Actions speak louder than words."

Now this is where it gets interesting. 80% of weekly attenders report feeling spiritual peace compared to 41% of seldom/non-attenders experiencing spiritual peace.

At that point we can stop and ponder. Is spiritual peace a worthy goal and do you miss it when you do not have it? If spiritual peace was experienced more would we have less gun shootings? Would there be an easier path to speak about and treat addictions? Would we have an America where people could live as brothers and sisters whether they are blue or red? Remember, spiritual peace is not an exclusive Christian experience.

Years ago I was visiting my best friend, Martin Thielen, who is a United Methodist pastor. He lived across the street from the local Church of Christ which has a high value of every Sunday church attendance to the point of warming up the underworld if you do not attend! He looked at me and said, "I sure wish my folks felt the urgency of worship that those folks do." We laughed and went about our business.

If you need a sense of community and spiritual peace make sure you are in church next Sunday.

Faithfully,





Al Littell – 2<sup>nd</sup>                      Tal Flurry – 20<sup>th</sup>  
 John Cox – 5<sup>th</sup>                      Clay Hill – 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Jim Hightower – 8<sup>th</sup>              Petey Braud – 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Montanna Falks – 14<sup>th</sup>        Chloe Ramsay – 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Anna Favre – 20<sup>th</sup>



Dr. Hightower will be on vacation for two Sundays this month. On July 15<sup>th</sup> we will welcome David St. Louis, Esq. to our pulpit and on July 22<sup>nd</sup> we will welcome Rev. Van Edgington.



Now that Hurricane Season is upon us, please make sure that we have your most up-to-date email address and cell phone numbers.



Thank you to all who continue to donate food each week. Your continued generosity helps to ensure that those in need in our community are able to eat.

Suggested items include but are not limited to peanut butter, jam, rice, dried beans, stews, canned tomatoes, baby foods, snacks, fruit juice, raisins, soda crackers, cereal, tea, coffee, baking items, flour, honey, salt, pepper, spices, sugars, ketchup, mustard, relishes, spaghetti sauce, dry pastas, canned meat, canned fish, canned fruit, canned vegetables, soups, puddings, cake and cookie mixes, cheese whiz/Velveeta, macaroni and cheese, diapers and formula.

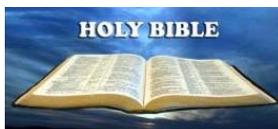


Please remember the following in your prayers:

Vicki Falks  
 Chris Hathaway



Our readers for the month of July are:



1<sup>st</sup> – Keith Cox                      22<sup>nd</sup> – Linda Osburn  
 8<sup>th</sup> – Susan Littell                29<sup>th</sup> – Terry Dill  
 15<sup>th</sup> – Bill Blackman



On June 10<sup>th</sup> we gathered after church to continue with our mission project. We packed 10 hygiene bags for women and 15 bags for men. These were then delivered to King's Kitchen. We are grateful to be able to share with those in need. The next packing session will be after worship on July 8<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate anyone who comes to join and help us out.

We always appreciate donations of toothbrush kits, socks, deodorants, soap, hand towels, and washcloths. All donations can be left in Room 12 at the church. Remembering the words of our Savior, "What you do for the least of them, you do also for me." Matthew 25:40.

- Linda Osburn



WOW, Creation of the earth celebrated in 5 days of song, crafts, science, games, food and even a water slide. We were able to join together with the Grace Lutheran Church of Long Beach for all the fun. Special thanks to Jackie Blackman and "Mr. Bill" for jumping in and contributing their time, energy and ideas.

Join us next year. It will be bigger and better with more fun surprises.

- Linda Osburn



July 17<sup>th</sup> is Amazon's fourth-annual Prime Day which will feature one-of-a-kind deals exclusively for Prime members. Remember that your shopping with Amazon can also generate donations to Long Beach Presbyterian Church at no cost to yourself. Amazon will make a donation to the church of .5% of your eligible purchases on a quarterly basis. Since becoming part of the program we have received **\$150.29** from the AmazonSmile Foundation.

The program uses your existing Amazon account so all you have to do to set things up is go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/64-0535185> (sign into your Amazon account if necessary) and select us as your charity. After selecting us as your charity start at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

If you currently use the Amazon app on your smartphone to shop you can continue to do so but when it's time to Check Out, switch to a browser either on your smartphone or on a computer and go to [SMILE.amazon.com](http://SMILE.amazon.com) to check out. **A donation will NOT be generated if you check out using the Amazon app on your phone.**



# Church Photo Directory

Our church photo directory has been delayed for a few more weeks as we have decided to also include members from the Interdenominational Special Needs Sunday School Class. Vicki Falks will be taking their pictures over the next couple of weeks.



We had a great turnout for worship and communion on July 1<sup>st</sup> which included the members our Special Needs Sunday School Class.



The service included a Children's Sermon where Jim taught them about the meaning of "community".



Following the worship service everyone enjoyed each other's company and culinary offerings as we gathered for our annual Hotdog and Potluck Fellowship.



## Session

- In June we collected a total of \$
- 773.16 for our Outreach offering which was divided between Long Beach Outreach, Rebekah's House, and the Presbyterian Women's choice of the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence.
- The contract to have our flat roof replaced has been signed and we are now waiting for our turn to be placed on the schedule.
- There will be a Back-To-School Youth Pool Party at the Pastor's house in Diamondhead on Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.
- The next meeting of the Presbytery of Mississippi on August 11, 2018 **has been moved** to J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church in McComb, MS. Diamondhead Community Church has voted to begin the discernment process for leaving the PCUSA denomination.
- The next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday July 8, 2018.

### Treasurer's Report

	Income	Expenses	Difference
May 2018	\$ 6,716.32	\$ 4,745.85	\$ 1,970.47
YTD 2018	\$ 37,464.27	\$ 25,112.56	\$ 12,351.71



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Find us on Facebook

And visit our Facebook page at <http://Facebook.com/LBPCUSA>.

You can view our Facebook page even if you don't have a Facebook account but, if you do have one, click the Like button to be notified when we post updates.



### PLEASE send us information to include in the Beacon

- By email: [Lbpcusa@outlook.com](mailto:Lbpcusa@outlook.com)
- By hand: Place in the collection plate at Sunday Worship.
- By phone: Leave a message on the church answering machine at 228-863-7633. (Phone messages are checked on Saturdays)



To receive the Beacon by email, please send a request including your name and email address to [Lbpcusa@outlook.com](mailto:Lbpcusa@outlook.com). Please note that this will be maintained as a private email list and only used for Long Beach Presbyterian Church communications.