

# Middle District Missionary Baptist Association

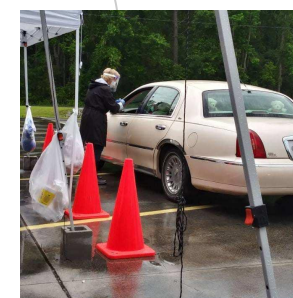
Dr. Reginald Wells, Moderator

## Middle District MBA, Inc.

### Ministering During a Pandemic: New Challenges, New Opportunities



Rev. David L. Smith, Pastor  
Bethlehem MBC  
Winnabow, NC



# Agenda

- Is hard, but necessary
- What coronavirus did the church
- Challenged to change
- Opportunities to grow



# Is hard, but necessary

*"I'm so ready to go back to church. I'm tired of online church."*

*"I don't care if they do open the church. I ain't going back!"*

*"Looks like we're going to have to cancel all programs for the rest of the year."*

*"I haven't heard from the pastor in a while. He/she must don't care."*

*"Pastor, we only took in \$300 dollars in two weeks."*

*"PLEASE MUTE YOUR PHONES!!!"*

*"Man. I am so tired. So tired of taking hits as a pastor in the middle of a pandemic. So tired of people leaving. Tired of anxiety and worry. I've been in vocational ministry for 19 years. This has been by far the hardest year of my ministry life." – Unknown Pastor*



All Regions

World Countries ▾

United States ▾

Region Data Notes

UNITED STATES

## NORTH CAROLINA

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## STATE OVERVIEW

All Time

Past Day

Past Week

Past Month

Confirmed Cases

227,431

Deaths

3,747

Total Tested

3,311,285

Testing Positivity

6.49%

## TESTING OVERVIEW

## New Daily Cases



+2,034 new

WEEKLY TREND

THIS WEEK



LAST WEEK



## Daily Tests



2.9 tests per 1,000

WEEKLY TREND

THIS WEEK



LAST WEEK



## Daily % Positive

(7-day moving average)



6.0% positive

ABOVE THRESHOLD?

THIS WEEK



LAST WEEK



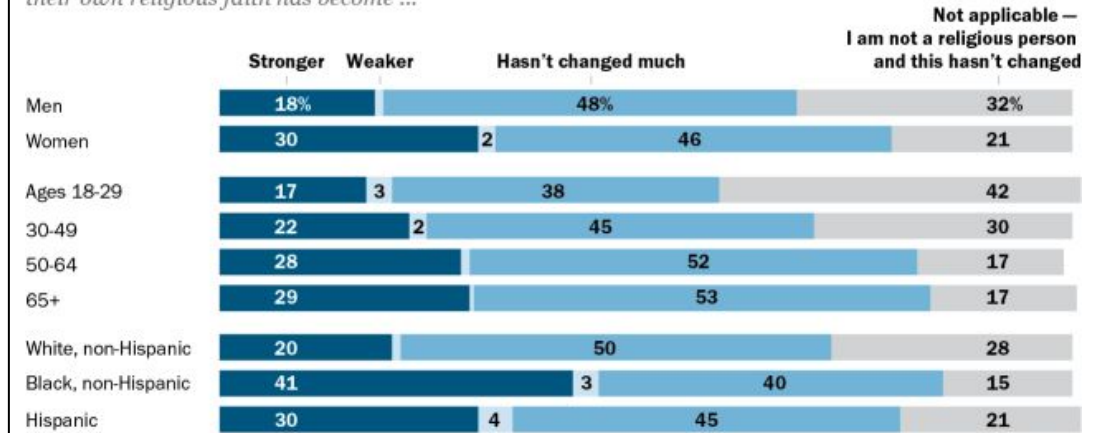
# What Coronavirus Has Done to the Church

- ~ 90% of regular churchgoers in the US saying their churches had closed to combat COVID-19
- Vast majority saying worship services had moved entirely **online**.
- Historically black churches and those who describe themselves as very religious are particularly likely to say their faith has **strengthened**
- One-quarter of U.S. adults overall (24%) say their faith has **become stronger** because of the coronavirus pandemic, while **just 2% say their faith has become weaker**.
- April 2020: 2/3 of churches in the US where hit hard financial by COVID-19, black church are ADAPTING and GIVING in OTHER WAYS

*“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” – 2 Corinthians 12:9*

## Black Americans more likely than whites and Hispanics to say their faith is stronger because of pandemic

% of U.S. adults who say that, as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, their own religious faith has become ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 20-26, 2020, among U.S. adults.

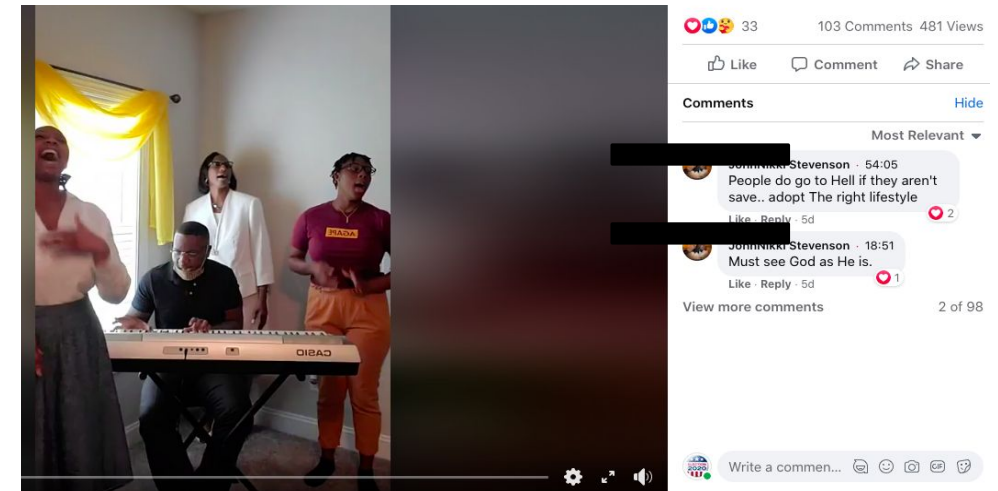
PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Source: National Public Radio, Pew Research

# Challenged to Change

- COVID 19 has FORCED our churches to redefine how we PURSUE, VIEW, and DO Christian ministry
- The church never closed!
- Technology and imagination is forcing the church to place faith in God to do a new thing instead of sustaining comfort
- God's people are HUNGRY FOR A WORD, not doctrine, denomination, and demagoguery
  - "...feed my sheep." – John 21:17
- Ministry is becoming more PERSONAL AND ENGAGING (online worship, community outreach, accessibility to counseling, etc.)
- Youth and young adults are MORE AVAILBILE



# OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

- Social media and email access: Free\*
- Website: \$230/yr (Appr. 20.mo)
- Online giving (PayPal, Cash App, Givelify, Venmo, etc.) Est. 1.5% fee from bank account
- High speed BUSINESS internet and phone: \$89+/mo (depending on internet speed)
- Media streaming equipment:
  - PTZ Optics camera: \$1,600
  - Camera interface: \$250
  - Refurbished desktop: \$150
  - Streaming software: \$60
  - Wiring, cables, and accessories \$1,400
- Estimated one time cost: **~\$4,260**
- Annual costs: **~\$1,400**
- **Consider PRIVATE grants and fundraising to help with costs**



TV monitors, wiring, electrical conduits, and network connections



PTZ Optics camera, camera controller, media computer, and network connections



Oldham  
Little Church  
Foundation

**Questions?**