

## Going to Church

This summer, the Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life surveyed people about why they go to church. The answers make sense:

Three-quarters of people who attend church infrequently claim they practice their faith “in other ways” or are dissatisfied with the churches they’ve visited. This means a lot of believing Christians who want to be closer to God, to raise their children in the faith, and to find comfort and Christian discipline don’t do so in traditional congregations.

Here at GCPC, we are defying this trend. At last night’s monthly fellowship dinner, folks were asked why they support GCPC. Here are some of the responses:

This church is my family. I believe in our desire to be a source of community and healing for all people.

This church does so much good in the community; I support these programs.

For the choir and music programs, for youth programs.

The financial gifts are used in a prayerful manner.

GCPC is a place of acceptance, challenge, hope, joy, energy, care in action and creativity. These things are important to me and I want them to continue.

Because Jesus asks me to.

The Good News of GCPC is that God is working in us and through us to live our faith ‘out loud’ in Asheville and beyond. Despite the national trends, we are thriving! The fulfillment of our 2019 Stewardship goals enables GCPC to continue to do so. If you have not yet pledged, please do so today. IF you have but continue to think about the role GCPC plays in the quality of your life and faith, consider an increase in your 2019 pledge. With all of the good we experience at GCPC, “How can we keep from Sharing?”