



The Chebeague Community Church 2023 Community Survey was initiated by the CCC Pastoral Search Committee. The purpose was to understand the church’s role in the community and how the church can better serve and engage the community. This knowledge is critical to defining the qualities and skills needed in a pastor. The Community Survey will also provide a wealth of information for the new pastor.



**121**  
Total Responses

Date Created: Wednesday, February 01, 2023

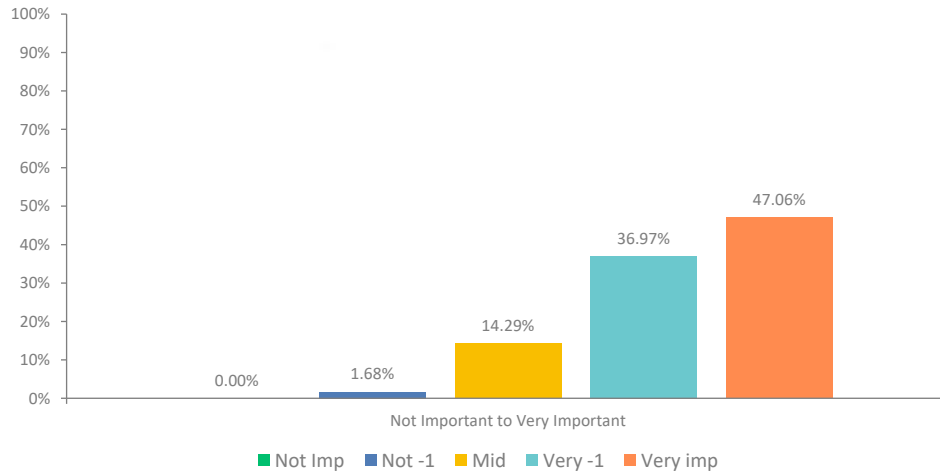
Complete Responses: 121

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We are very pleased that 121 people responded to the survey.

### Q1: How important is the CCC (Chebeague Community Church) to island life?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 2

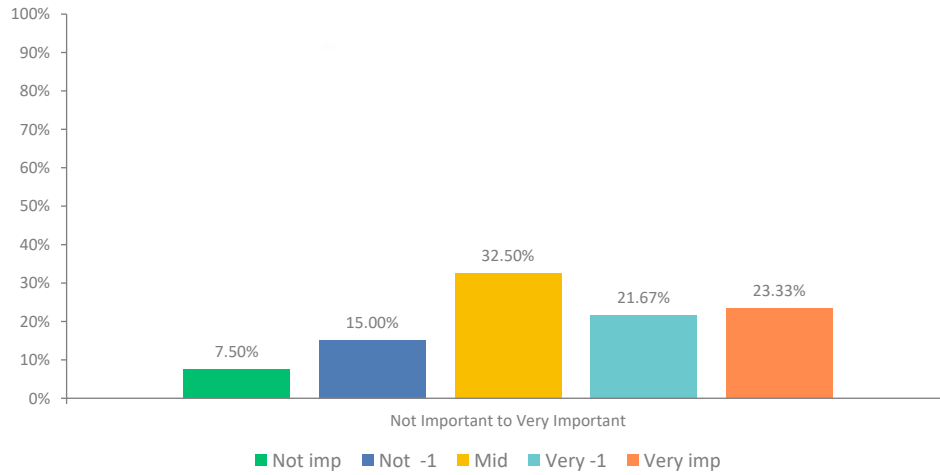


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Q1 asks how important CCC is to island life. 84% responded that the church is important to Island Life, 14% were neutral, and 1.68% responded that the church is not important to Island Life.

## Q2: How important is the CCC to you personally?

Answered: 120 Skipped: 1

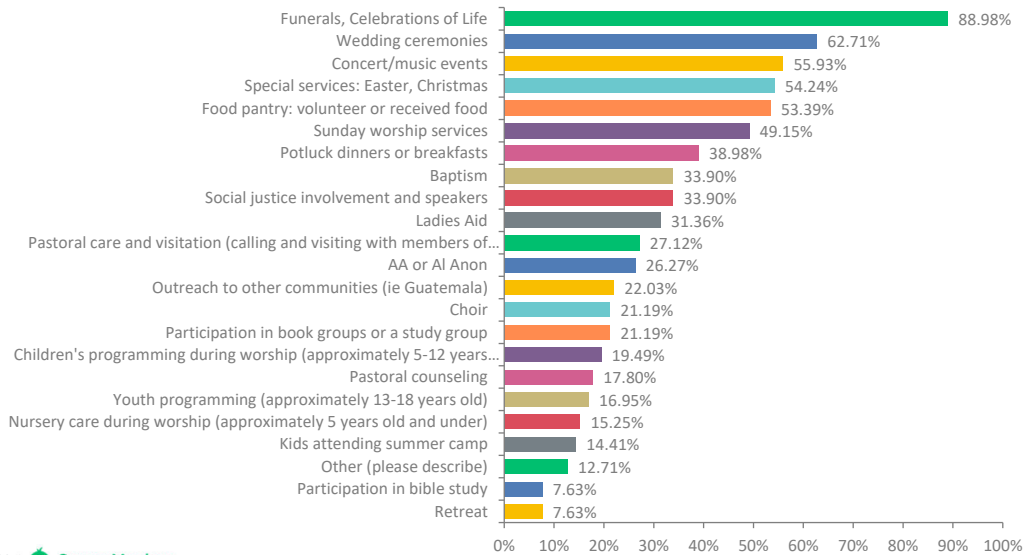


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Q2 asks how important the CCC is to you personally. 45% of respondents rated CCC important, 32 ½ % were neutral, and 22 ½ % rated CCC is not important to them personally. CCC is grateful to receive feedback from a broad range of respondents.

**Q3: The CCC serves the community in many ways. Please check all church activities you believe are valuable to you personally, and you may want to participate.**

Answered: 118 Skipped: 3

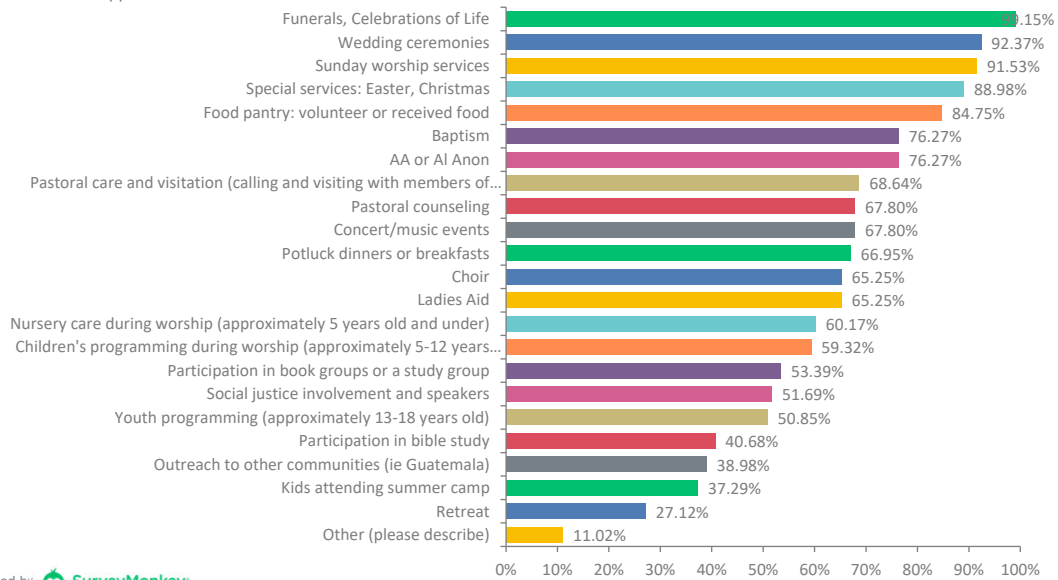


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This question asks respondents which church activities are valuable to them personally. Funerals, celebrations of life, weddings, concerts, special services: Christmas, Easter are the top 4. The Food Pantry, which is mentioned as a positive contribution throughout the survey is next, followed by Sunday Services.

**Q4: Please check all church activities you believe are valuable to offer for the island community.**

Answered: 118 Skipped: 3



This question asks the respondent to select which church activities are valuable for the community. As you can see most church activities are considered valuable with all but 4 selected by 50% or more of the respondents. Funerals, weddings, Sunday worship services, Christmas, Easter, and other special services, and the Food Pantry are the top 5.

## Q5 Beyond the above list, how does the CCC help the island community in ways you believe are important?

Answered: 64 (open text responses) Skipped: 57



Common thoughts by multiple respondents:

- Always there in times of crisis
- Leadership and support during COVID
- An open, safe, and meaningful place to gather
- Enhances the sense of community
- Part of the history and fabric of our community
- A place to celebrate, grieve, and support one another

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Question 5 asks what other ways does CCC help the island community and was an open text response. We received 64 responses and there was a great deal of consensus.

## Q6 What are some ways the CCC can better serve the needs of the island?

Answered: 58 (open text responses) Skipped: 63



Common thoughts by multiple respondents:

- Be much more open to other spiritual paths and beliefs
- Be available to the community in a way that all feel welcome. Focus on the church core values not political activism which can be divisive.
- Create a community of care. Support community members through direct services, telephone calls, notes, and visits.
- Provide services that are compelling, thought provoking and relevant



## Q7 What programs or services could the CCC offer to increase participation from members of the community?

Answered: 52 (open text responses) Skipped: 69

Common thoughts by multiple respondents:

- Offer a broader range of spiritual practices
- Host guest speakers from many different spiritual traditions.
- Inspiring music
- Services/programs that inspire and transform lives.
- Welcome new members of the community
- Sponsor support groups



## Q8 What are some ways you would like to be more involved or supportive of the CCC?

Answered: 44 (open text responses) Skipped: 77

Some examples of responses:

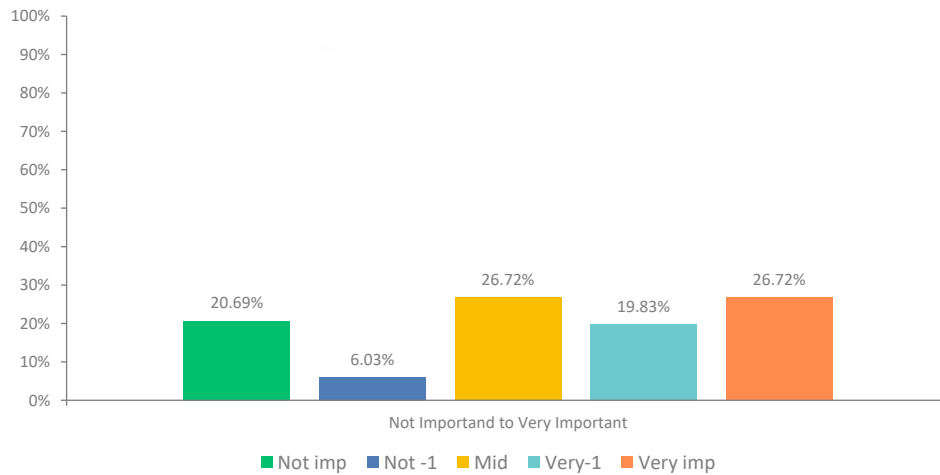
- brainstorm ideas
- attend services
- work with nursery care/children/teens/youth
- help CCC plan on how we can survive and flourish
- set up processes for each role of the council
- help with facilities/ maintaining
- engage more seasonal members to help us out
- help with organization/management of musical events



There were 44 responses to this questions and we would very much like to engage with those who offered assistance.

### Q9: Should the CCC remain an independent community church?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 5



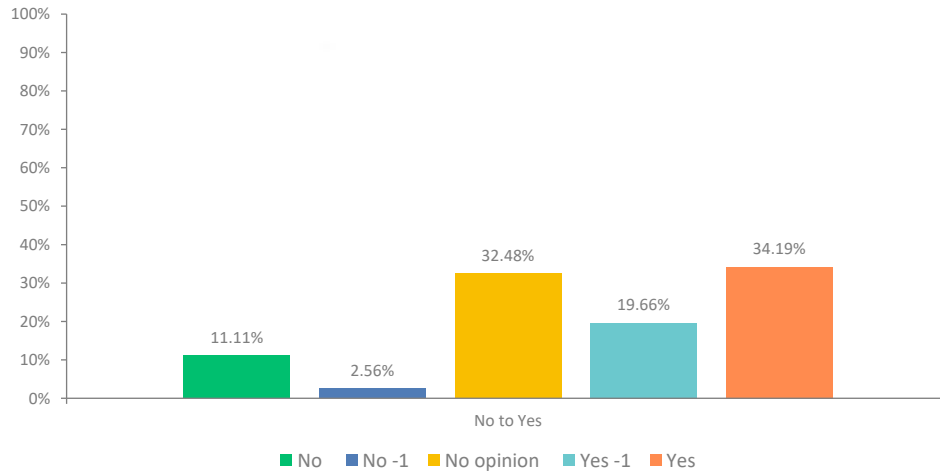
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The Pastoral Search Committee has wrestled with the question of affiliating with a denomination or faith tradition. This is because as an independent church it is difficult to find a pastor. But our independence isn't taken lightly. Chebeague has a history of striving for independence. However, we also know that pastors benefit greatly from peer groups, training, and other support. CCC could also benefit from access to human resources support, legal services, curriculum, and group insurance.

47% of all respondents indicated that it was very important for CCC to remain an independent church. 53% believed that remaining independent was either not important or were neutral on the issue.

**Q10: If the CCC considered affiliation in an organized denomination or tradition, would you support this initiative?**

Answered: 117 Skipped: 4



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54% would support CCC affiliation with an organized denomination or tradition. 14% would not, and 32% were neutral.

## Q11 Please explain your reason:

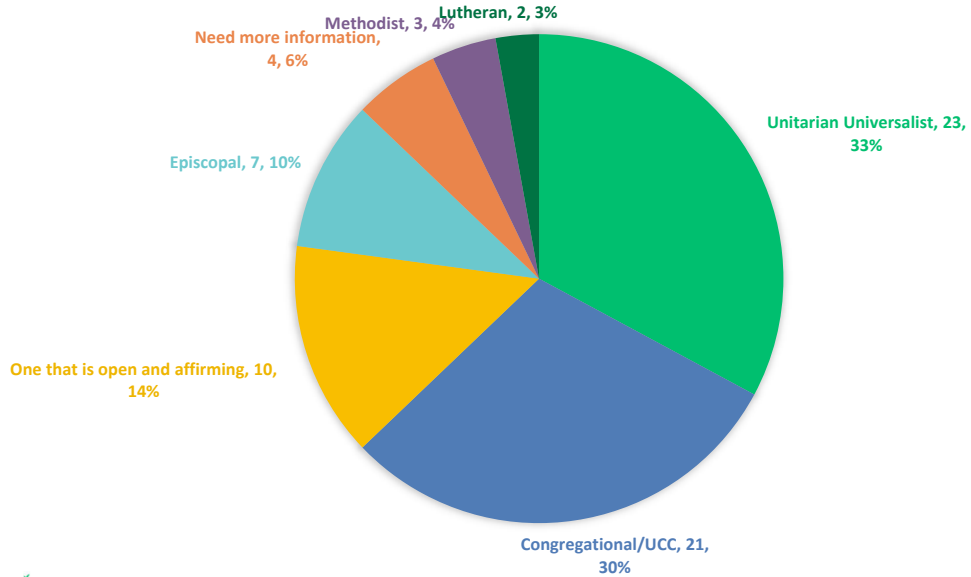
Answered: 87 (open text responses) Skipped: 34



- Survival of the church is more important than independence, but CCC must ensure the church is open and inclusive to all and retain local ownership.
- Better support, structure, and a sense of belonging through affiliation.
- Need an open, deliberative process before making this decision.
- Independence is vital to retaining the freedom to structure CCC to the needs of our community.
- Could an independent parish create a new lease on spiritual life?
- Affiliation is not necessary for the church to fulfill its mission.
- Depends on the values of the denomination
- If it leads to more stability while maintaining creativity in ideas and offerings.
- Let us make our own way.

This question asks the respondent to explain the reason for their answer to question 10 (would you support affiliation if it were pursued). Presented are the most frequently cited reasons for and against supporting affiliation.

**Q12: If the CCC considered an affiliation with another denomination, what would be your recommendation?**

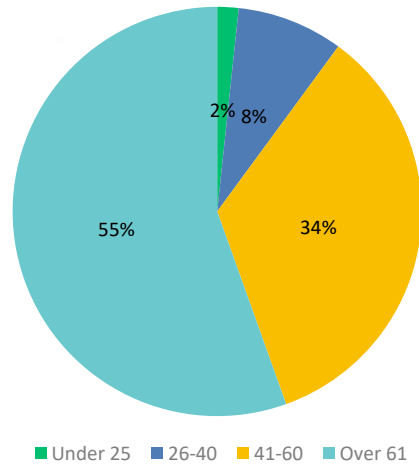


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This was an open text question and many suggested more than one denomination. Notably 14% emphasized that a potential affiliation must be with an open and affirming denomination. There were many respondents who suggested Unitarian, Congregational or both.

### Q13: Your age

Answered: 119 Skipped: 2

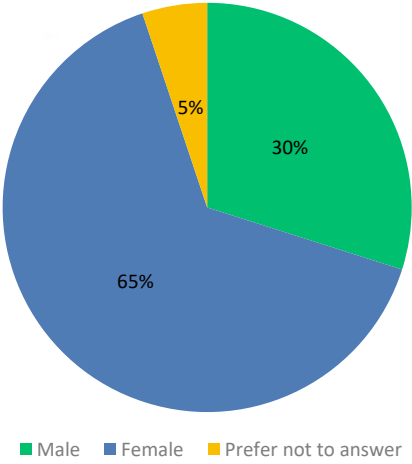


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We think this is close to the age demographics of island residents.

**Q14: Your gender**

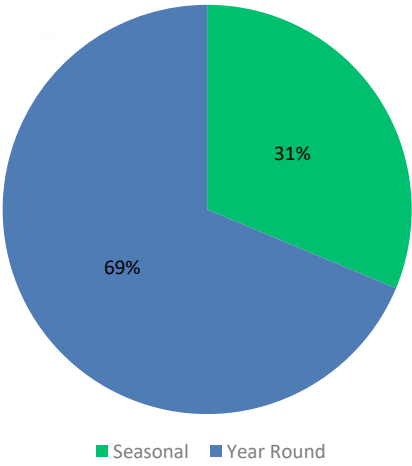
Answered: 117 Skipped: 4





**Q16: Are you a seasonal or year-round resident?**

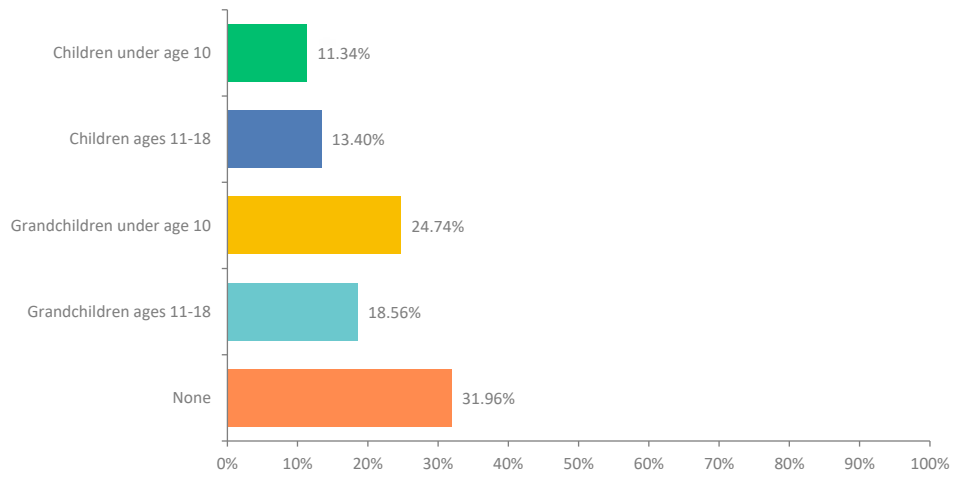
Answered: 115 Skipped: 6



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### Q17: Children/Grandchildren

Answered: 97 Skipped: 24

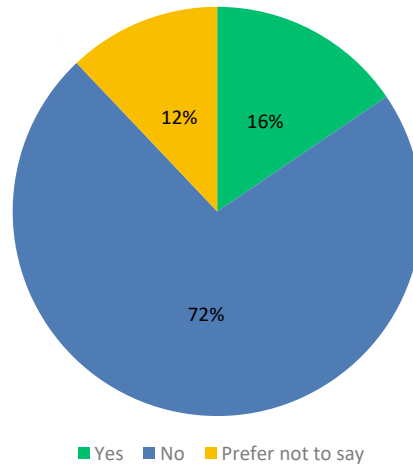


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68% of the respondents have children or grandchildren 18 years old and under.

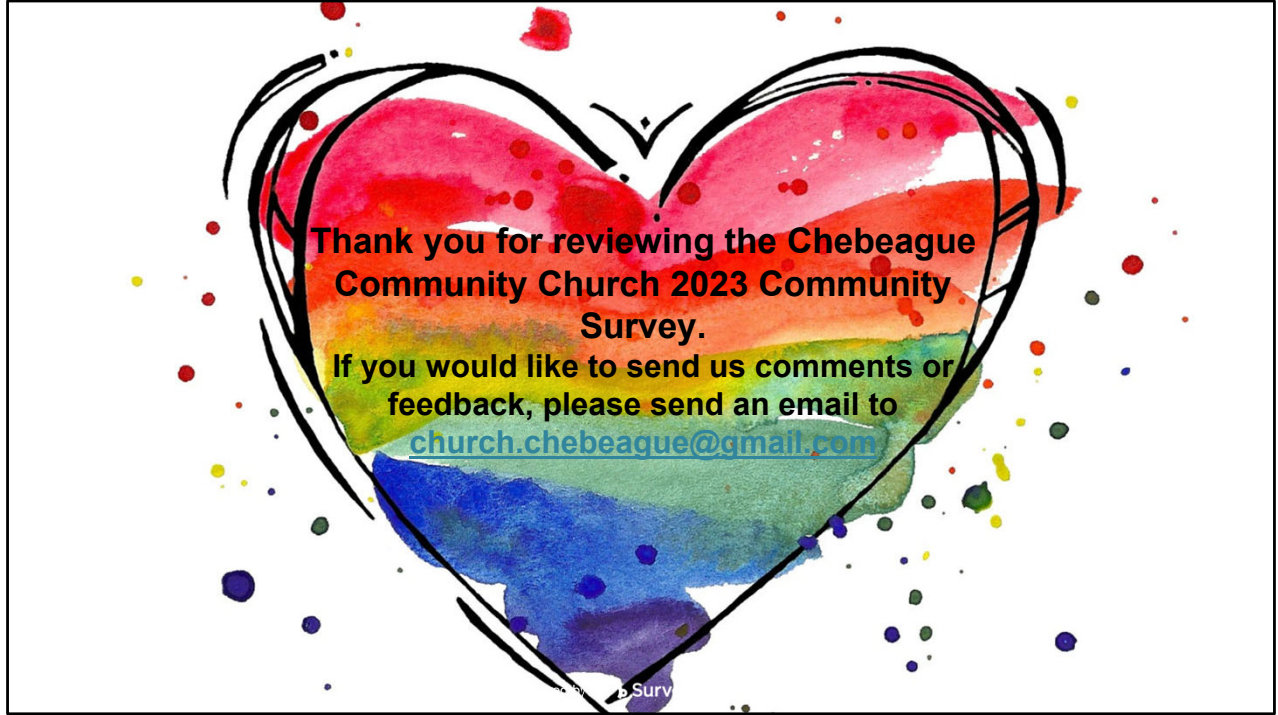
**Q18: Are you currently an active participant in a faith community other than the CCC?**

Answered: 116 Skipped: 5



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Since the members of CCC responded to this survey, the results of this question are not definitive. However, it is safe to say that a large number of the respondents are not currently an active participant in a faith community other than CCC.



We are very grateful for the 121 people who took the time to provide CCC with this valuable feedback. If you would like to send us further information or offer your assistance, please email CCC at [church.chebeague@gmail.com](mailto:church.chebeague@gmail.com).