

Associate Pastor's Note



Good morning! Take a few moments today to read the blog post below from Thom Rainer of LifeWay Research! Be sure to read point number 5! Thanks for being here today!

They welcome a conversation with believers. They aren't staying out of church for the reasons you may think. They are the unchurched. And because many church leaders and members have such misperceptions about them, churches often fail to reach them, or even attempt to reach them.

In one of the most comprehensive studies ever done on the unchurched, LifeWay Research, in partnership with the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism in Wheaton, surveyed 2,000 unchurched Americans. They defined "unchurched" as someone who has not attended a worship service in the last six months. One-third of the respondents were non-white. Genders were almost equally represented (53% male), and almost half have a high school diploma or less. I want to unpack this massive research more in the future. For now, let's look at five surprising insights about the unchurched.

Most unchurched do indeed have some church background. Contrary to some perceptions, the great majority of unchurched have a church background. Almost two-thirds of them (62 percent) went to church regularly as a child.

Most unchurched quit church because they got out of the habit of churchgoing. For certain, a number of them did leave churches for negative reasons, but that is not true of the majority.

One-third of the unchurched have plans to go to church in the future. Please read that statement carefully. One of three unchurched Americans are actually planning to return to church. Is your church actively inviting them?

The unchurched are very open to a gospel conversation. Nearly half (47%) would interact freely in such a conversation. Another third (31%) would listen actively without participating. Pause for a moment. Look at those numbers. Almost eight of ten unchurched Americans would welcome a gospel conversation. Another 12% would discuss it with some discomfort, and only 11% would change the subject as soon as possible. We can't use the poor excuse that the unchurched really aren't interested in gospel conversations. **In reality, church members are more likely not to be interested in initiating gospel conversations.**

If you invite them, they will come. About a year ago, I received requests to provide a framework for churches to invite people to church. We called it "Invite Your One." We are now getting responses from churches that have initiated this ministry, and we are blown away at what God is doing. Among the unchurched, 55% said they would attend church if invited by a family member. And 51% said they would attend church if invited by a friend or neighbor. These numbers are staggering. The opportunities are incredible.

I have been involved in church research and practice for four decades, a testament to both my passion and elderly status. These data confirm my anecdotal observations that there has never been a more opportune time to connect with the lost and unchurched.

Bro. Mike

Connect

Reimbursements

Just a reminder: all church reimbursements for 2016 need to be turned in prior to **December 31st**, 2016 to go on the current budget. Thank you.

Christmas/New Year's

Our annual Christmas Eve service is **Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.** It will include Christmas hymns, a brief message, and the children's "Bathrobe Nativity." Our Christmas Day service is Sunday, **Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School. Worship on **Sunday, Jan. 1** will be at **10:30 a.m.** There will be no Sunday School that day either. Please plan on joining us and bringing friends!

Giving Statements

Giving statements will be available via email or paper copies this year. This will save time and money. You will notice on the "Connect Card" there is a line for "giving statement email". That is the email address that will receive your giving statement. If you do not provide an email address a paper copy will be available the second week of January at the Welcome Center. Please fill out one card per family. Please also take this time to update any outdated contact information. Thank you!

Thank You

Precious Church Family,
Our heartfelt thanks for all of your expressions of condolences, love and many prayers during the passing of Kathryn. The hard work that you all invested into our lives during our time of grieving and celebration have helped us so very much. May God richly bless you and comfort you as he has comforted us. We feel your love and it is overwhelming. Thank you for everything! — Blake Waters

Kathryn Waters Memorials

The family requests that memorials for Kathryn be made to the West Haven Baptist Church building fund. Thank you to the Waters family for your generous spirit.

New Member



Christina Wager by Statement of Faith

Connect

A New Way To Give



We now offer giving by debit and credit cards at our welcome center. Our Square register is easy to use and someone will be available at the Welcome Center to help you get started with the process. We have worked through all the details to make sure your transaction is private and secure. We can accept all forms of debit and credit cards, so if you prefer giving by card stop by the Welcome Center today!

Have you picked up a box yet?

Last week we introduced a new idea for reaching out to our neighbors. It's super easy. First, Pick up a box at the back of the Worship Center. Second, fill the box with a gift for your neighbor (baked goods, candy or simple gifts). In the box is an invitation to our Christmas Eve and Christmas day services. Be sure to place the card so your neighbor will see it the second they open the box. Last, deliver the box(es) to your neighbor and invited them to join you at church. Even if you are not going to be around during Christmas you can give your neighbor a box anyway and encourage them to check out our church.

Budget Vote

The annual budget vote passed 58-0. Copies of the budget can be found in the basket on the north wall as you face the Welcome Center. This year's budget is a **.07% decrease** over last years' budget. If you have questions, please feel free to talk to one of the members of our Stewardship Team.

Budget Information

Weekly Budget Requirement: \$8,726.72
General Fund Receipts: \$6,802.00

Month to Date Budget Requirement: \$17,453.44
Month to Date Giving: \$19,195.00

This Week

Tuesday, Dec. 20

6 a.m. Prayer Meeting
Bulletin items due by 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25

No Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 21 & Dec. 28

TES No School
No AWANA or Student Ministry
No Adult Bible Study

Saturday, Dec. 24

6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service & Bathrobe Nativity

Get our most current calendar at www.westhavenbaptist.org.

New to West Haven?

- Thanks for coming! I hope to meet you today! – Pastor Mike
- There is a cry room located in the southwest corner inside the worship center. It is equipped with recliners, a changing table, a few necessities, and a TV that broadcasts the service.
- The nursery is located at the north end of the lower level. You can leave your infants or preschoolers in a warm, caring and well-supervised environment. After drop-off you will be contacted via text message if needed.
- Children's Church for children K-2nd grade is located on the north side of the lower level in Room 103.

Membership

- Church membership is valued at West Haven. It is a formal commitment to a local church for divinely given purposes: receiving and giving instruction in God's Word (1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:2), serving and edifying one another (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Co. 12:4-31; 1 Pet 4:10-11), participating in the ordinances, and proclaiming the gospel (Matt 28:18-20). It requires a system of leadership, direction, teaching, discipline, an agreed theology and a set of values directing how the church will carry out life together.
- The biblical basis of membership is seen in examples such as the early church (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 16:5), the establishment of church government (1 & 2 Tim, Titus), the context of epistles, and the exhortation to church discipline (1 Cor 5, Titus 3:10-11). You can explore membership by signing up for our next New Members' class! The way to join is by being baptized by immersion upon your profession of faith, by transferring your membership from another Southern Baptist Church (Acts 18:27, Rom 16:1) or by a statement of faith having been baptized by immersion in a church like belief.

Our Staff

Mike Bronson, Senior Pastor mike@westhavenbaptist.org

Ryon Sander, Associate Pastor ryon@westhavenbaptist.org

Christina Lindholm, Admin. Assistant christina@westhavenbaptist.org

Kirk Baggett, Min. of Maintenance kirk@westhavenbaptist.org

Bill Weatherford, Student Ministry Director

Nathan LaFave, Student Ministry Associate Director

Gordon & Terri Brest and Bill & Donna Mages, AWANA Leaders

Office Phone (913) 369-9422

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 28

TES No School
No AWANA or Student Ministry
No Adult Bible Study

Sunday, Jan. 1

No Sunday School
Pastor Ryon preaches

Tuesday, Jan. 3

6 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 4

6:15 p.m. AWANA
6:30 p.m. Student Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 5

9:30 a.m. W.O.W. Group Meets

Sunday, Jan. 8

7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
9:15 a.m. New Member Class

Monday, Jan. 9

7 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

Facebook



Like our pages on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/westhavenbaptistchurch

www.facebook.com/pages/westhavenstudentministries

www.facebook.com/westhavenawana

Connect

Getting Excited About Christmas

Luke 1:8-13, 18-20, 57, 62-64, 67-77

Dec. 18, 2016

Pastor Mike Bronson

1. _____ GOD FOR SALVATION

_____ HIS _____

_____ IN _____

A. It Is _____

B. It Is _____

C. It Is _____

D. It Is _____

2. _____ GOD BECAUSE OF SALVATION

3. _____ MEN FOR SALVATION



BAPTIST CHURCH

WWW.WESTHAVENBAPTIST.ORG

December 18, 2016

