

## Worship Liaison Report

February 19, 2021

Paul Hamaty, Vestry Liaison

### WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S

Many services are offered at St. Mary's throughout the week including a contemporary service, several traditional services, and a healing service. The Worship Ministries at St. Mary's consist of people who volunteer their time and talents to enhance the many worship services at our church.

COVID-19 has certainly presented us with many challenges and opportunities as we maintain both virtual and in-person platforms for our worship. At the risk of leaving out someone, these are the people who coordinate the various aspects of worship at St. Mary's. Please tell them "Thank You" for all they do to keep us running smoothly.

<u>Contact</u>	<u>Area</u>
Jonnie Ward	Altar Guild
Brandon Glick	Traditional Music
Pat Channing	CFW Music
Charlie Lippincott	Worship Assistants
Tom Gilson	Usher Scheduling
Sue Riddell	Attendance sheets and usher training
Genie DuPell	Online registration system scheduling
Bob Brown	Eucharist Visitor Ministry
Tom Winter	Technology - Virtual Worship

### The Contemporary Family Worship (CFW)

*Using multimedia technology and a full praise band, this service at 9am on Sundays offers a spirit-filled experience for all ages. While less formal and family-oriented, the liturgy remains rooted in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. Church school remains suspended due to COVID-19. The music is led by Pat Channing, Praise Band Director.*

The biggest news for CFW was a ribbon cutting and inaugural service in Ross Hall on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> with Christmas Eve services to follow on the 24<sup>th</sup>! As expected, Christmas services were at or above capacity while Sunday services remain well attended but not at capacity. It was a great relief for many to be back in the more open space of Ross Hall, and we are all enjoying the benefits of the renovation. Offering online worship has been a huge boon to the CFW service as we have been able to maintain interest in the services by providing YouTube/Facebook videos that people can watch in real time or at their leisure.

### The Traditional Services

*Services are offered Tuesday (12:10pm healing service), Wednesday (9:30am), Thursday (10am), Saturday (5pm), Sunday (7am), and Sunday (9am and 11am). Holy Eucharist is celebrated at each service, and all Baptized Christians are welcome to receive. Our worship is rooted in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. The music at the traditional services is led by Brandon Glick, Music Ministry Director.*

All services are offered virtually and with limited in-person capacity. Christmas eve services were at capacity, as expected, and regular Sunday services are approaching capacity. The choir remains

suspended but there is a cantor at the traditional Sunday services. With the amazing talents of Brandon and Pat, individual members of the choir have been safely recorded and remixed to produce anthems for services.

## **LOGISTICS**

*It takes a cadre of volunteers to effectively execute all of our worship services. These include the Worship Coordinator, worship assistants (intercessors, lay readers, chalice bearers, acolytes, oblation bearers), ushers, greeters, vergers, and the altar guild. These volunteers are trained to assist the clergy and congregation each week in our services. **With the exception of ushers, lay readers, and limited altar guild, many of these functions remain suspended during COVID-19.***

With the changing demographics of existing volunteers coupled with the concerns and constraints of COVID-19, we need to develop a pipeline of volunteers related to all the aspects of worship.

### **Scheduling/Registering for Services and Events**

Genie DuPell maintains the schedule of services in the online registration system. Sue Riddell is responsible for extracting this data and creating attendance lists for each service that are then emailed to the ushers.

### **Ushers**

With the resumption of in-person worship, ushers are needed at all of our services in order to welcome parishioners and visitors as well as to ensure that the proper COVID-19 safety protocols are followed during the services. Tom Gilson schedules ushers for the 8 regularly scheduled services as well as for special events (i.e., concert series). Paul Hamaty and Sue Riddell train ushers. ***We are still in critical need of a larger pool of trained ushers*** to cover the eight services held each week in the sanctuary.

### **The Worship Coordinator**

*The primary worship coordinator assigns all the service duties for the traditional services and oversees the worship coordinators. Many of these functions remain suspended during COVID-19 but we have started assigning readers and a worship assistant to the weekend services.*

The recent resumption of readers and worship assistants at certain services is slowly coming back online; however, some retraining has been needed with respect to COVID-19 protocols as well as a general refresher in duties, given the large gap in time. As with all of the worship functions, the pool of volunteers for worship assistants remains low, impacting availability sometimes for the Saturday 5PM service and the Sunday 7:30 am service.

### **Altar Guild**

*Joanie Ward is head of the altar guild. The altar guild is responsible for the preparation of the altars and flowers in both the sanctuary and Ross Hall and for the vestments for all of the services held at St. Mary's.*

Since the onset of COVID-19, the altar guild has been significantly impacted as the Eucharist is set up and administered differently. It is challenging to maintain the spiritual experience of "serving the altar" in this changed state.

**The Eucharistic Visitor Ministry** *(This function remains suspended during COVID-19.)*

*Coordinated by Bob Brown, this ministry takes the Eucharist to home bound and assisted living facilities to parishioners and others requesting the visit. Prior to COVID-19, communion was provided to approximately 50-70 people per week.*

The EVM does not expect to see any changes in health care facilities allowing visits until the pandemic is resolved (herd immunity), and the EVMs miss being able to take communion to our shut-ins at these care facilities.

**MUSIC AT ST. MARY'S**

**CFW Music Ministry, Pat Channing, Praise Band Director**

*The Praise Band leads the music for the Contemporary Service. Music is chosen to support the scripture readings.*

The Praise Band musicians are extremely happy to be back in Ross Hall and continually works on how to achieve the best sound in the newly renovated space. As such, there are plans to erect a plexiglass shield around the drummer to allow for a better blend instruments and vocals.

**Traditional Service Music Ministry, Brandon Glick, Music Ministry Director**

*The traditional music program at St. Mary's (choir, concerts, special music) is largely on hold during COVID-19; however more offerings in terms of concerts and special music are occurring.*

The music department continues to thrive with Sunday services, concerts, and choir videos. Services continue with a single vocalist and the occasional musician, and two choir videos were produced recently with more in the works for Lent and Easter. Brandon and the choir are grateful to Pat Channing for his invaluable help. The music department remains grateful for the support it receives from the church and from parishioners.

On another note (pun intended), the Atlantic Classical Orchestra has rented Ross Hall for chamber music concerts, and this has been a wonderful opportunity to introduce new people to our campus and showcase Ross Hall as a concert venue. We are, however, in need of a concert level piano for Ross Hall to increase its rentability and for our own use. If anyone knows of a good instrument someone wants sell or donate, please contact Brandon. [brandon@stmarys-stuart.org](mailto:brandon@stmarys-stuart.org)

**VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE STATISTICAL DATA**

Although some of our seasonal parishioners have returned to Florida and more parishioners feel comfortable returning to in-person worship, the data in these charts continues to reflect the growth in our virtual worship such that we are now virtual church that happens to have a brick and mortar component. In fact, the virtual component represents 88% of our attendance, with the CFW service taking the lead. This is a significant paradigm shift in the way we minister and conduct worship, and while it presents some challenges, it presents many more opportunities for us!

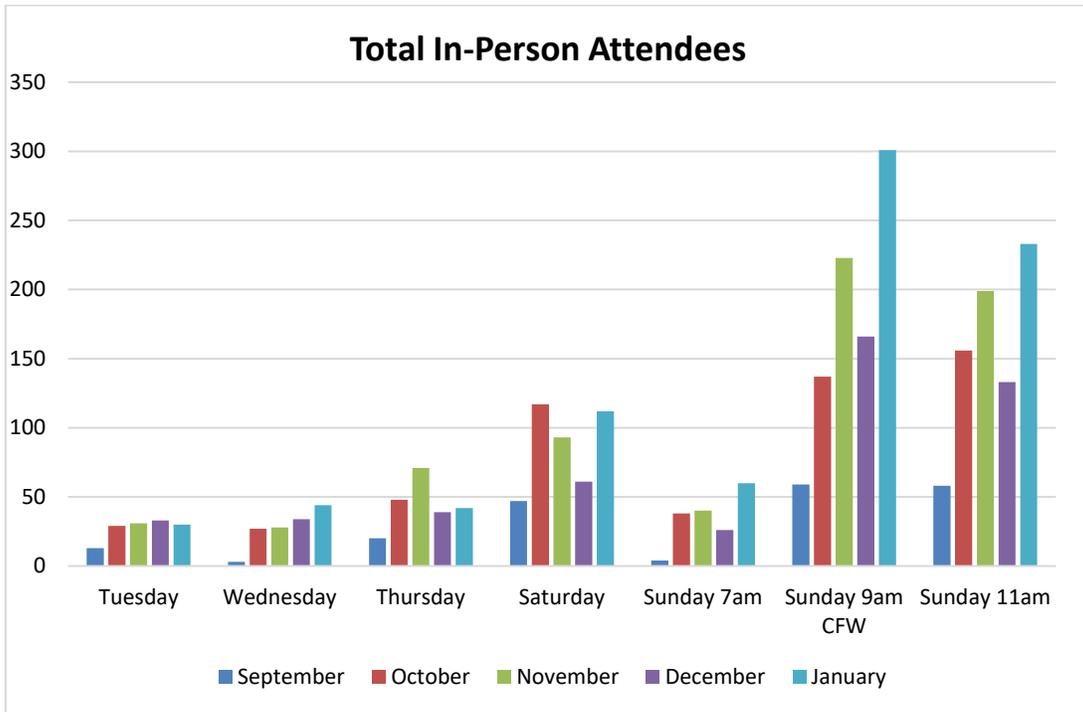
Respectively submitted,

Paul Hamaty

*Please see the follow pages for the charts*

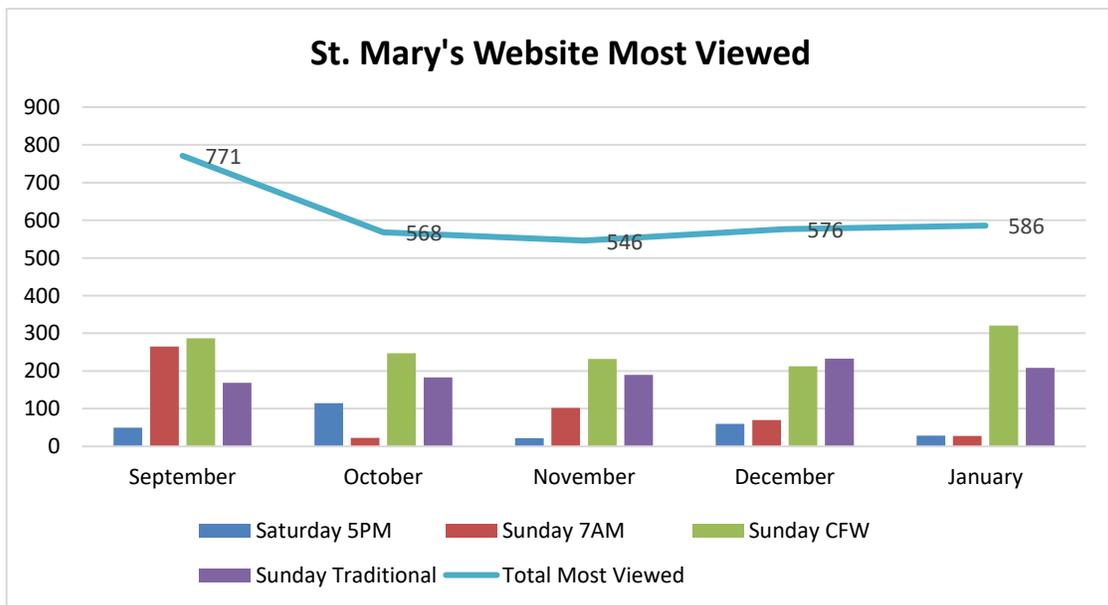
**In-person worship:**

As would be expected, in-person attendance seems to be increasing for January probably due to the return of our seasonal parishioners along with an increased comfort level for in-person worship. The re-opening of Ross Hall has significantly increased the available capacity for CFW attendance, and the fact that January had 5 full weekends also increases monthly numbers across all services, both in-person and virtually.

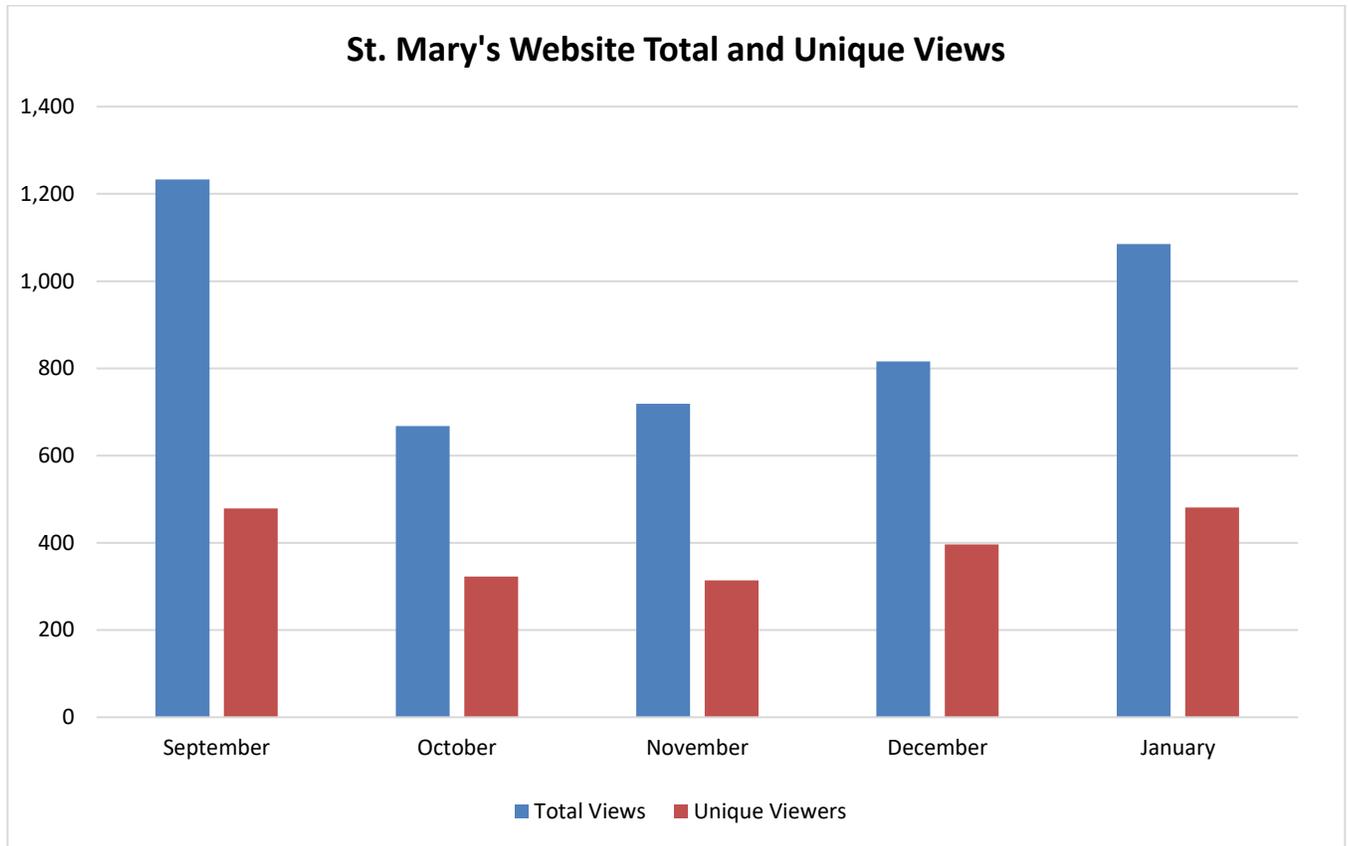


**Virtual Worship via stmarys-stuart.org Website:**

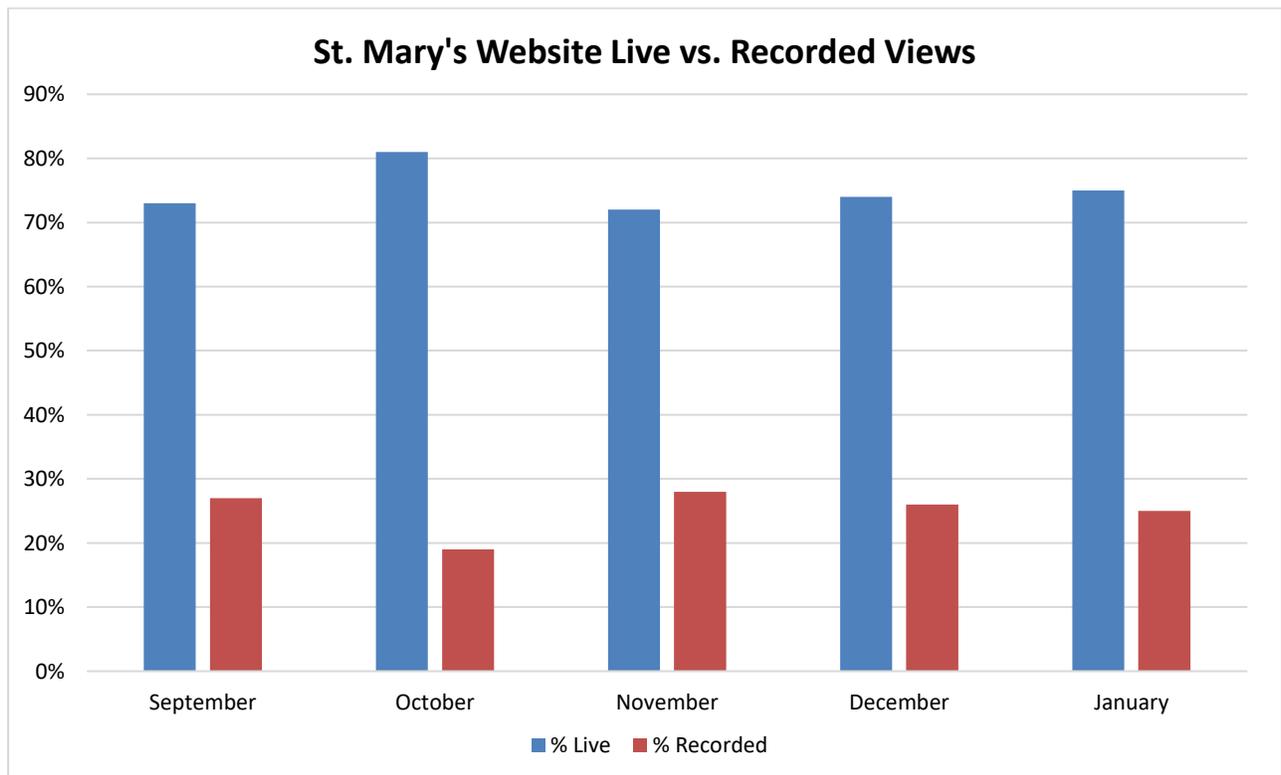
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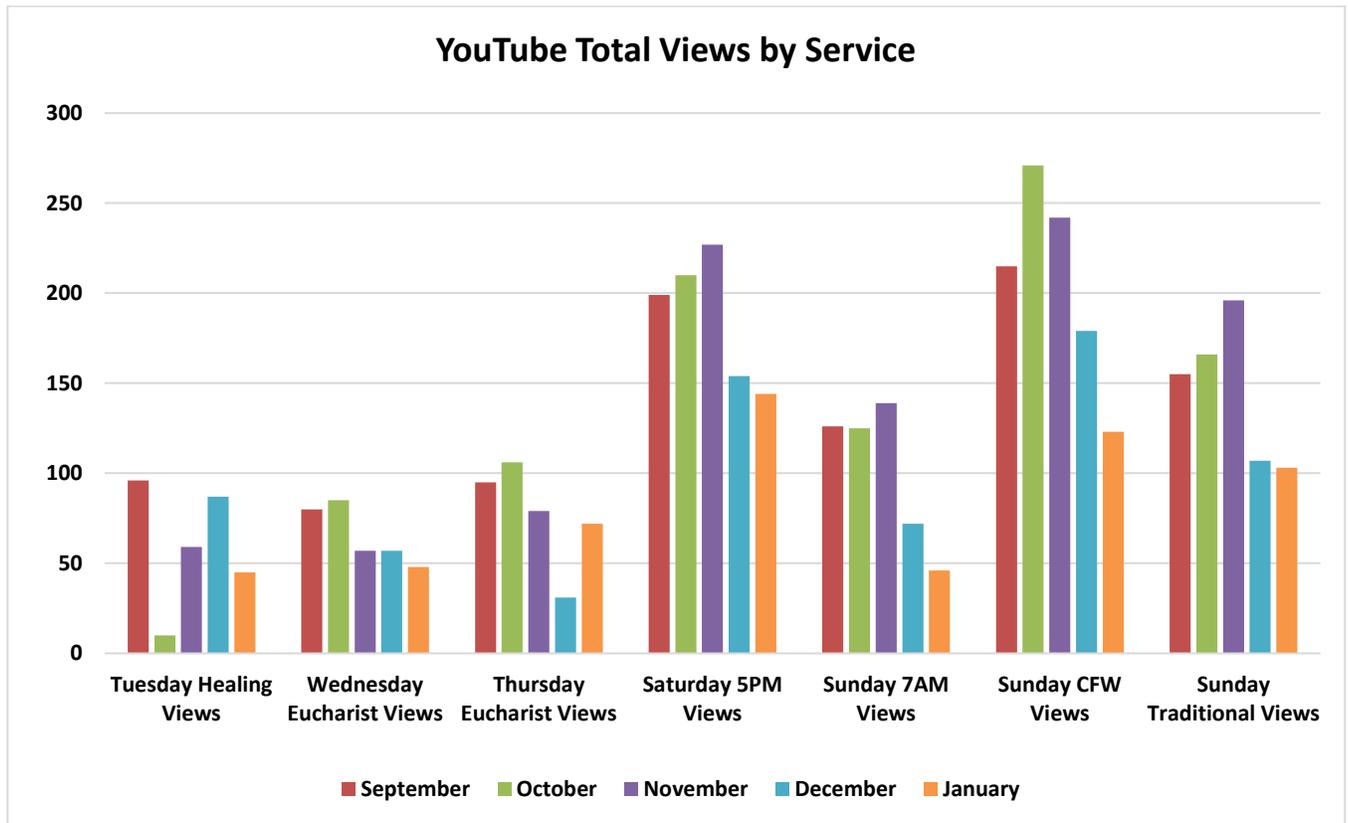


The percent watching live via the website remains constant at just over 70%.



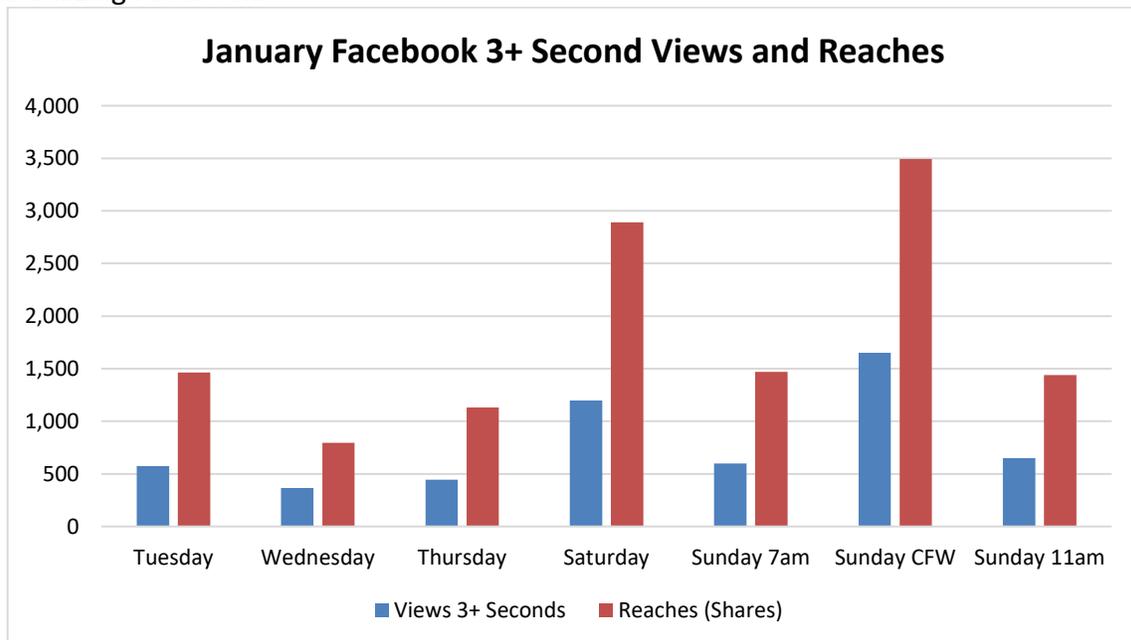
**Virtual Worship via YouTube:**

Data indicates that we might be losing market share via YouTube views in the recent months.

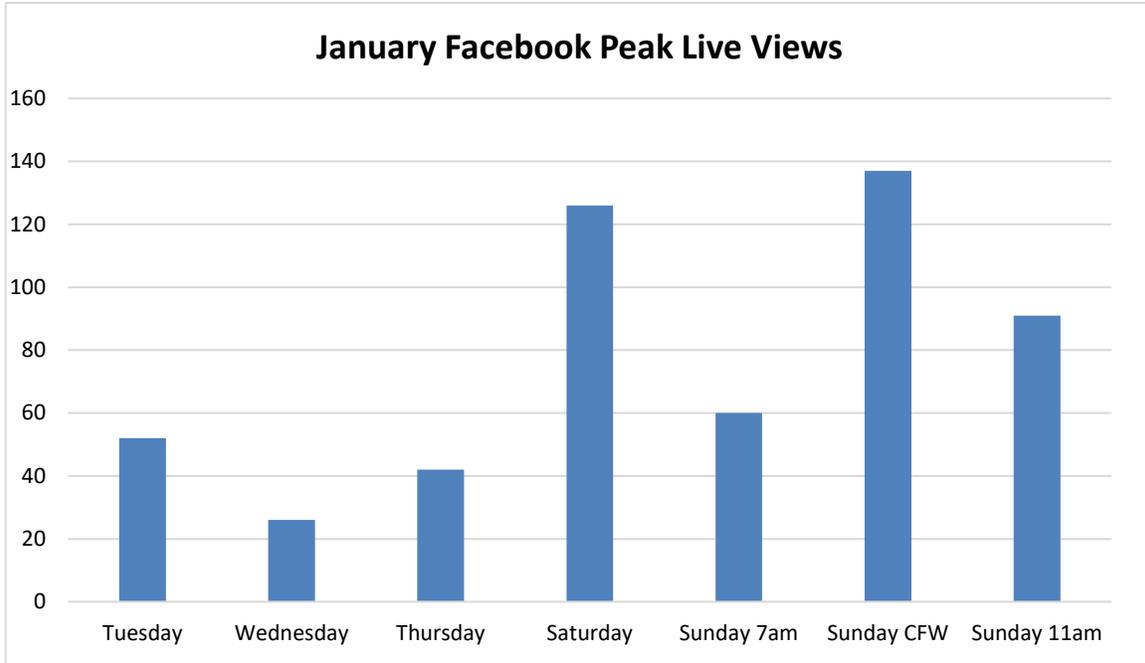


**Virtual Worship via Facebook:**

Our virtual footprint continues to grow via Facebook. We should continue to focus outreach efforts utilizing Facebook.



**Virtual Worship via Facebook (continued)**



**Aggregated Views by Platform:**

The relative proportions of attendance by platform remains consistent in recent months with virtual platforms accounting for 88% of attendance.

