

Congregational Survey October, 2021

Some of our best ideas may be in YOUR head right now!

Leading up to the time when we reinstate more "normal" patterns of ministry, we have an opportunity for constructive evaluation.

Survey Objective: To uncover ideas of where to continue, cease, adapt, change, or add to what we do in order to accomplish our purpose more effectively.*

Purpose of SBIC (Souderton Brethren in Christ Church) 31 responses

1. In your own words, what does SBIC exist for?

- Spread the love of Jesus and beyond
- To be the body of Christ - building up and reaching out - welcoming
- To worship our Lord; to fellowship and strengthen each other, to communicate the gospel to others
- We are still fairly new, but it feels like we are pretty internally focused. Historical connection seems to be important.
- To be a lighthouse on the hill (Spread Jesus in the Souderton area ...perhaps with the BIC stamp)
- body of believers working together for the God's kingdom
- Souderton Brethren in Christ exists to bring people in the Indian Valley and elsewhere to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ; to disciple believers; and to be an active part of the General Conference of the Brethren in Christ worldwide.
- To come together to praise the Lord and learn more about Him so we can be more like Him
- To equip believers to reach out to those not in the Kingdom
- Souderton Brethren In Christ Church
- To Share God's love and truths to the people in and around our area and the world
- To feed and encourage believers in their faith. Also teach the Word of God to believers to deepen our spiritual knowledge.
- A place for believers to worship, pray, and lift each other up. A place to teach God's word and share with others.
- no answer
- Instruction and learning from scripture. A meeting place for Christians. Fellowship and friendship.
- -To nurture the various age levels in an understanding of God's plan for our lives and support each other. We also need to reach out to others in our area who are not part of a church family.
- Worship, equipping us to represent Jesus well to non-Christians and lead people to accepting Christ, supporting each other in our church family
- SBICC Church exists to provide our congregation with sound biblical teaching and to equip us to reach outside of our walls to share the good news of the gospel and the love of Jesus with non believers.
- After observing for the last 18+ months, I'm not sure. My general impression is that they church is focused on maintaining long-standing programs and structures.
- For the gathering of the saints and the furthering of the kingdom
- a life support for believers; conduit to reach out to non-believers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ our Saviour. A place to learn, grow, and fellowship with others in the community
- A Congregation who want to grow to know Jesus more, together!
- To be God's representation to all people that we encounter. To equip and teach our attendees how to be that representation.

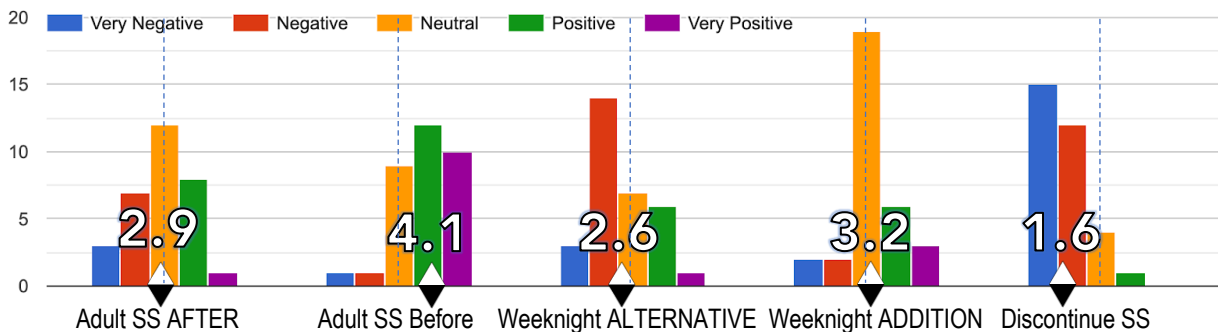
* These ideas will be considered alongside the continuing review of feedback given at the annual meeting in 2020.

- A place for fellowship, growth, encouragement, and for people to find the Lord.
- Spiritual building of the community.
- Oneness, togetherness and family. Helping each other in spiritual growth.
- Fellowship of brethren and outreach/witness of the gospel
- SBIC is a family of believers that exists to worship God and to grow in our faith and knowledge of God. Our purpose is to love and serve each other and those outside of our fellowship as commanded by Christ so that they too may experience the grace of God.
- To glorify God in knowing and enjoying him and in making disciples of Jesus among those close to us and among those who have no (or few) Christian neighbors. This also implies loving others.
- A community of believers called to share the good news of Jesus Christ, develop disciples and encourage and support one another.
- For the church family to connect with one another. Teach believers to grow in knowledge of the Bible and receive encouragement in my spiritual walk. To have a place of sanctuary each week to worship.

Adult equipping/Bible training

2. How positive do you feel about:

	Very Negative	1	2	3	4	5	Very Positive
Adult Sunday school <i>after</i> worship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Sunday school <i>before</i> worship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bible training on a weeknight as <i>an alternative</i> to Sunday school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bible training on a weeknight <i>in addition</i> to Sunday school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Discontinuing</i> Sunday school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



24 Comments:

- Weeknights for bible training is difficult. We are a dual-income family and one of us is working in the evenings and the other is home with our son. Discontinuing Sunday school would be an option, if there is an alternative created in place of it.
- We already have people here on Sunday morning, usually you have a smaller percentage that will come out another time. I do feel that we need a program on Sunday morning especially for our kids.
- I feel that Sunday School before worship allows older people, who don't come to SS, time to get to worship. Many people are busy during SS hour with technology etc. Maybe a week night would allow them to be in a study. But my past memory is that SBIC people are not great at coming to something regular on week nights unless it would be to eat.
- I am not opposed to SS especially for children Maybe look at a learning the Bible with videos that are interactive give the size of our church and members able to teach
- We need Sunday School in order to further fellowship among church attenders; disciple believers and newcomers; as a place to bring newcomers; and as a place to help people develop their spiritual gifts.
- I think Sunday School is valuable other than the Worship service as we can delve into other topics, books of the Bible or issues.
- I think Sunday school is good for studying the bible a little more in depth than in morning worship.

- We already discontinued Sunday school and other traditional practices of Sunday worship out fear of COVID-19. We need to replace fear with the sovereignty of God. More feeding is required than just Sunday service in order for our church to survive
- Without the previous gatherings, church does not seem to have life.
- no answer
- Sunday School is important for the family. Children and Adult learning.
- I would not be opposed to a Sunday evening small group or "Interest Group" time.
- Whether before or after the service, SS is important.
- No strong opinion here. Was only able to attend adult Sunday school twice before we shut down.
- Sunday school has provided an opportunity to share and discuss, ask questions, and to get to know one another. I feel SS is almost more important than the church service. I have attended SS and skipped worship in the past.
- I would enjoy adult Sunday school in any form - Sunday or another day.
- I am indifferent to Sunday school. I do think that we need to have "Bible training" but I don't think that it needs to be Sunday school.
- I have been with the church for a little over a year and have not seen any of these happen in the past year. I'm sure do to the present state of the world with covid. So, while I like the idea of a common meal and bible study and community, I haven't seen this at BIC.
- I think there is a lot of value in Sunday School and I do miss having it before worship each Sunday.
- Sunday school is a strong foundation of spiritual growth. I think should always be a part of Sunday services.
- I think Sunday school is beneficial
- Bible training/growing our faith is of ultimate importance, regardless of when it happens. My order of preference would be: 1) Adult Sunday School before worship 2) Adult Sunday School after worship 3) Bible training on a weeknight as an alternative to Sunday School 4) Bible training on a weeknight in addition to Sunday School Discontinuing Sunday School without an alternative time for Bible training is not an option. If Bible training is moved to a weeknight, it should be the same night the youth meet and there should also be something for younger children.
- I am open to exploring different options.
- Start earlier by 1/2 hour. Strongly want to sit under Dan's teaching.

3. What topics or subject matter would be especially helpful? 29 responses

- Social Justice, Raising Kids
- Family life, Evangelism
- any Christian growth topics
- A mix of Bible study and topics in areas that are useful in our daily lives for adults. That may be different for different ages and stage of life. For kids, we should be providing a comprehensive view of the Bible by the time they reach junior high, introducing different subjects as they are age appropriate. By the time our kids reach junior high they should have had a good overview of the Bible, and what it means to be a follower of Christ.
- I and 12-15 others loved the SS hour with Dan Zagorski. Any subject was very good. Not everyone is mentally geared to Dan's love for historical backgrounds. While Dan pastored Silverdale, a good group attended the videos Steve Myers showed in the youth room. Usually there was not much interaction afterwards. I think many like to sit and watch, be fed but not speak.
- I am actively reading through the Bible on CalaryChapelontario.org to not just read the bible but know what it means. I think this is huge. I look forward to every day doing this because I want to know so I can have discussions with non-believers confidently although the Holy spirit will give me words to say. Times are tough and unless we seek Him we have no defense about the fear and anger that is constantly in our face.
- Books of the Bible; marriage relations; interpersonal relations. It is very important to have classes that include or minister to single adults.

- Most of us know in our heads that we need to do devotions or study at home but somehow it seems it may not be priority for some. Studying some of the prophets or OT people like David or Samuel or Esther may shed new light on what these people knew and that is prior to Jesus' birth. Also what the apostles went through along with Paul and friends.
- What ever the willing teacher would be willing to spend time to study and teach to a group.
- Time management, I think you usually cover pretty good topics for the most part
- Bible study on specific topics or through the Bible studies
- End times - questions relating to gay people
- Living a Christian Life, Helping others, Learning to pray better.
- How to live and survive in today's time, without getting political.
- Living in today's world - possibly 6 week period on "interest Groups" with various topics - "Starting out on the right foot," (Dating/young marrieds) "Raising kids," "Empty nest," "Living alone," "Living with illness," "Grandparenting," "Coping with stress," (money, job, relatives)"Understanding and applying God's Word," etc.
- Learning to pray effectively, how to share our faith with others
- Current hot topic issues and how we can apply biblical answers and/or responses to address them.
- If the church determines, clarifies or communicates its purpose, then my suggestion would be that topics be aligned to educate, equip and motivate the congregation towards living its purpose.
- I prefer Biblical exposition over topical studies.
- Bible book studies, end times, current events, equip us on how to respond in love during this divisive time.
- Family growth, parent topics, studying specific chapters of Bible
- Acceptance/taking offense - I know this has been discussed already but I think it continues to be something we can work on. Hospitality as a church Moving and being and growing vs. remaining stagnant and what we are used to. I think we need to find a way to discuss current issues/topics in a moderated manner with respect to what the Bible teaches.
- Relationship with God. Relating stories of the Bible to current world/ life. Spiritual gifts. Women of the Bible. More acceptance (like the BLM sermons- so good) Offense. Being/ acting more like Jesus, again with acceptance
- Evangelism, reaching out to those around us.
- *Home and family. *Discerning the voice of God. *Tips on sharing our faith with none Christians. *How to pray effectively
- Home and family, Baptism, prayer and spiritually journey
- Bible book study
- Bible content, family/marriage issues, interacting with present cultural questions...
- How to relate Bible times and people's situations to current times.

4. How much emphasis should we place on small groups? 33 responses

- Greater emphasis than currently. Not aware of any small groups that are open to new people joining. Need more options for families/intergenerational groupings.
- Not sure
- a lot. Maybe reorganize them
- I feel that small groups are the life blood of the church. I think they are extremely important
- Living in Philly, I have not been in SBIC small groups, but heard lots of praise for them when they met on Sunday nights. I don't know how much deep Bible Study they did, but it created great fellowship and support for each other.

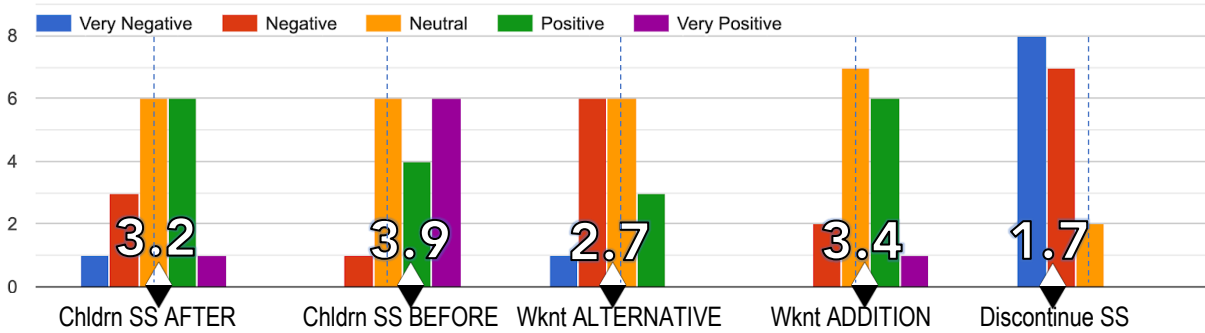
- I am currently in a small group and it has been a great experience in seeking God more and I making relationships. I would think it would be great to have it with different topics, not committed to one group.
- They are helpful if they are healthy.
- A lot except it is a challenge with covid right now. it is a mini support group.
- A high emphasis on small groups where we can invite our neighbors .
- Not mandatory but available for those who want to participate in one.
- It should be an option available for those who want to participate
- People new to faith will likely feel more comfortable in small groups than attending a Sunday service. I would like to see small groups based on various topics or programs of limited duration so that people opt in different groups.
- Small groups give opportunity to share and help each other to grow to a closer relationship with God.
- More emphasis. "Small" groups help people to intimately share with others and grow in our Christian lives together.
- It's hard for a church the size of ours, should concentrate on small groups.
- They certainly encourage spiritual growth and fellowship in a different format than Sunday morning services. If there were topics to choose from it could even draw in people from outside of church.
- I think small groups are needed to create a place to form something relationships that are more than superficial
- Encourage people to get into a small group. Small groups are important for developing deeper relationships, but should not be something that people feel pressured into.
- I believe that small groups can be the life blood of a church. It can be were Christian life and witness happens. I believe it should be the #1 focus for all churches. We've been in and led small groups for 30+ years. This is the longest period in our married life without being in a small group. It has been one of the largest senses of loss that we're experiencing in our transition.
- Little, if we approach them as we have in the past.
- a great deal
- I think they are important but not required to have a connection to the church as a whole.
- I think we need a heavy emphasis on small groups and growing those groups to include people outside of the Church. We also need to train leaders for thatas many times people are adverse to leading because they don't know how or aren't knowledgeable.
- I think the way the church grows is by making amazing small groups grow and then split and grow and split.... And grow. I think small groups should happen in all different locations- at coffee shops, around a pool table, even at a brewery. Wherever two meet, He will be there. I think it's important to train small group leaders so there is a commonality to the churches vision and values.
- I feel that small groups are a great opportunity for people to grow and connect in a much more personal way.
- A great emphasis should be placed on small groups as this is were hidden ministries and talents are discovered and trained.
- More
- I think they are good place for church members to fellowship and pray together
- If we think small groups are worthwhile, we need to rethink how we do small groups and give them more emphasis than we have. We may need someone to coordinate small groups and train leaders.
- I would place quite a bit depending on how "small groups" are defined.
- This can be an important place for people to connect but can be challenging to sustain.
- Moderate amount. It's hard to do in today's world of busy parents.
- None. People do not want to be pushed into a small group. It has occurred naturally for me.

5. How would you alter, add to, or redo the youth ministry to make it work better and be more effective? 29 responses
- N/A
 - We would like to better understand the 3-5 year plan for this ministry. We served as volunteer leaders in this role for approx. 10 years. Integrating service projects were a significant spiritual growth opportunity for students. Open to discussing ideas about this if needed.
 - It seems to be effective for those who are part of it.
 - it seems to be making good inroads among our youth; good leadership is being developed; keep it going as is
 - Since I do not have kids of that age, I don't feel that I have enough first hand information to comment here.
 - With all the activity in the youth ministry, I'm wondering why we're not hearing personal declarations of faith and seeking baptism, especially among our college age youth.
 - I think the leaders do a great job. Outside the church ministry is huge. Interaction with community project is a way to not isolate the experience. Coordinating with other churches
 - It's fine as it now stands. Just make sure it has a strong spiritual component.
 - I dont feel qualified to answer this
 - Am not qualified to answer .
 - Not alter a thing. I believe it is reaching very effectively now.
 - Keep meeting once a week, if the group is small, try to meet with a nearby youth group to add numbers and keep interest.
 - Not really aware of the workings of the youth group.
 - no answer
 - Youth ministry doing pretty well. Possibly we could involve them more often with the scripture reading, leading songs, etc.
 - Seems to be going great! Diana has built relationships with these kids!
 - No exposure or opinion on this.
 - I do not know enough about the youth program to be helpful.
 - We offer diverse activities which is good. I would like to see more 'mentorship' from the adults at SBIC.
 - I don't know enough about it to comment
 - Find a couple more leaders to help. This would allow us to have more ideas and more connection to the youth and time for planning and executing events.
 - Follow a common BIC curriculum and get to meet other kids that are literally on the same page (in Christ and the curriculum) - maybe through email, zoom, a camping trip.
 - I know this has been said to the youth many times but I truly think that if they focused on inviting more friends the youth group would have an opportunity to grow. Maybe that means hosting events outside of church and inviting friends to that first and warming them up to the group. Coming to church can be an intimidating thing at first.
 - I would move it to Sunday after worship.
 - I think its very effective and the teachers are very dedicated which makes children look forward to it.
 - I have no opinion
 - I think it is done well. We need to develop additional leadership inside the youth group and among additional adults.
 - From what I can tell, the kids all seem to enjoy things as they currently stand. I do wonder about the large age range but it has been that way for some time and they seem to roll with it so...

Childrens' ministry (if you have kids or help with these ministries)

6. How positive to you feel about:

	Very Negative	Neutral	Very Positive		
	1	2	3	4	5
Sunday school <i>after</i> worship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sunday school <i>before</i> worship	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bible training on a weeknight as an <i>alternative</i> to Sunday school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bible training on a weeknight <i>in addition</i> to Sunday school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Discontinuing Sunday school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



23 Comments:

- N/A
- Again open to discontinuing only if there is an alternative training option for kids.
- any return to SS will be good whenever it is
- I do not have children in the program
- I feel there has been good groundwork laid for the children as we have seen in the request for baptisms.
- It takes people committed to do this and parents ready to drive to church another night.
- My child is a junior in college.
- I answered this previously
- I think that once kids are in second grade they are able to stay in the service. They take in more than expected. Our grandkids (all 8 and under) often talk about John's sermons.
- I think ss is very important for kids, its where I remember learning a lot of the key stories in the bible, and I think they stay with you learning them when you are young.
- I do not think SBICC should discontinue programs out of fear, rather fear of God should compel us to actio.
- no answer
- left blank
- It is a time for the children to learn on their own level with more structure than the church hour.. Giving it up makes it seem as though church/God/worship, etc. isn't really all that important unless there are alternatives for them during the week. It's hard to have one day that suits everyone whereas most folks are already used to Sunday being a day to worship.
- No exposure or opinion on this.
- I think Sunday school is very important for kids
- Same as question 2.
- I don't have any kiddos but I think Sunday school is the foundation to a Christ led life. How many adults have fond memories of Sunday school?!
- Sunday school is a big part of childrens' ministry, they learn better at their level. Children who grow up in Sunday school are rooted in the Word.
- I think Sunday school before service is important for our kids
- Again, it seems as though it would be hard to get buy-in on a weeknight...

7. How would you alter, add to, or redo the kids' ministry to make it work better and be more effective? 21 responses
- N/A
 - I have not had enough exposure to the program to comment specifically. I do think that a dynamic kids program is essential for us to grow as a church and attract new families.
 - Keep the focus on Jesus.
 - add activity nights but not weekly
 - I do not feel qualified to answer this
 - No changes
 - I think it seems to be good now and effective.
 - Not aware or involved with program
 - no answer
 - left blank
 - More volunteers!
 - No exposure or opinion on this.
 - I think it's effective now because of circumstances out of our control. I think If circumstances change then we can add more ministry options like choir, clubs and fun outside activities
 - I don't have an opinion at the moment.
 - I've never been to a kids min session but I can offer some teaching techniques that are awesome... a set, predicted schedule- warm up/ movement time, a lesson (no more then 12 min in length, an activity to the lesson. A closing group to reflect on the lesson and check for understanding.
 - Have songs rehearsals either at the beginning or at the end of class.
 - Probably by introducing kids club during the week on youth group night.
 - I think it's best the way it is
 - I greatly appreciate the present ministry. I would love to see a larger pool of adult volunteers.
 - From being in with the kids on Sunday morning, again, it's a big age range. I think ages 4 to grade 3 would be better, or grade 4 if necessary. In my mind a fourth or fifth grader should be able to sit through the sermon.

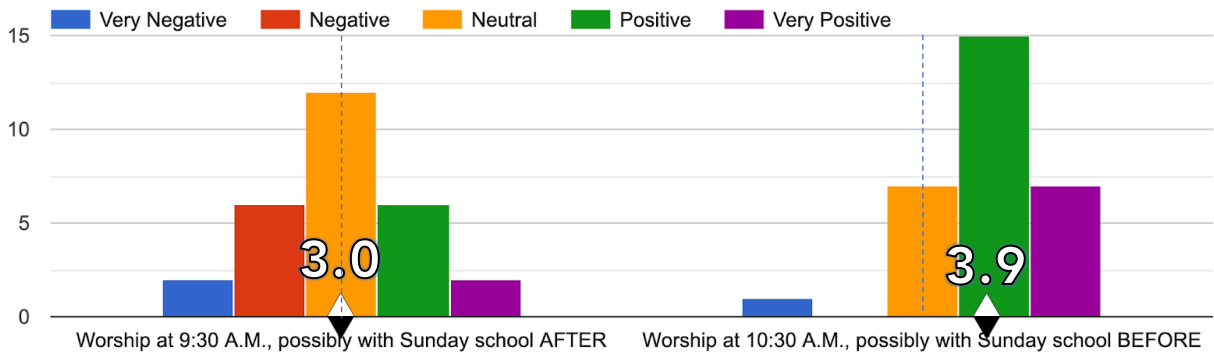
Worship

8. Think back to our pre-covid "normal" worship services. How should that pattern change to help us better accomplish our purpose? 26 responses
- No suggestions for changing the actual Sunday worship service.
 - The outside services were nice. One church used to have a drive in service on Sunday evenings.
 - I was only at 2 "pre-COVID" services, but I do not see a major difference in the structure of the service except for the masks. I do not know what you are getting at with the "Pre-COVID" distinction, although the atmosphere has been less relational with the masks, at least from my experience. Others may not feel the same. I wonder if the current atmosphere makes new people feel welcoming or comfortable. The few new people that came in the past year did not return. I am not sure what "our purpose" is. Change of structure is probably dependent on our "Purpose" or target.
 - I liked the sharing time with a mic as I feel people gain from hearing of other's battles and victories. Maybe instead of the pre-Covid sharing time, there could be a chance to respond to the message as often something in the message hits home on a personal situation. It would need to be time-limited as part of the service and before the benediction.
 - Lose our fear and just God in all we do. I think the enemy loves to stunt our growth
 - It's fine as it is. I especially would hope we reinstate sharing praises and prayer requests in church. I also hope we can bring back trumpet and flute on Worship Team.
 - I think that one hymn at the beginning, three songs in a worship set and one song to wrap up is sufficient . I really like no offering collection. I wish there was a way to reduce the same 5 people

sharing a prayer request every week. Every so often prayer at the altar would be welcome. The 30 minute sermon is nice. I wish the worship team would consistently wear their monitors and that there was some quality control on who sings. Who offers opportunities to children? Maybe a tryout with Georgia Meyers would be good.

- No change.
- SS or church doesn't matter which order to me. I think the pattern can be flexible.
- I am disappointed that we have discontinued communion and not offered it this year. We are told to hold communion often in remembrance of Jesus, not if it is convenient. There are safe ways to provide the elements. Sharing pray needs or comments about sharing our faith have been discontinued. This sharing helped our church to connect.
- Sing a few more hymns and songs we already know
- Hopefully people will be vaccinated and will not have the fear of others and we can get back to normal services.
- no answer
- Different seating. We have always been so spread out on stiff hard pews! It is so formal and doesn't lend itself to feeling part of the group.
- Although the technology for delivering the message may be of preference for the younger people, it should be used in conjunction with use of the bible. Simply reading the scripture on a large screen may not have the same impact as seeing it in its full context if reading it from the bible.
- Did not have any significant exposure to pre-covid worship services (only 2 and I don't know if they were "normal").
- Which purpose? Were we not achieving it before?
- We've gotten such positive feedback on the breakfasts, however, I know that is taxing on the kitchen team as they are getting older. We need to pass those events onto a younger generation. We could change the frequency or make them a 'community outreach' event.
- No changes I can think of
- Start the worship team at 9:15 or 9:20 with a contemporary playlist so that they are welcoming people into worship as they enter the sanctuary. I know we value simplicity and authenticity but I also think modernizing the stage and adding lighting, etc. helps to create an atmosphere that draws people into worship.
- I don't know what worship looked like two years ago but, I can offer some changes I'd love for the worship. We (humans) can't change other's behavior but we can change the environment around them, to "make" them change- laughing to myself here.... I'd love for the pews to be taken away - causing people to be closer to the band. I'd love for more modern songs - causing people to worship with their whole bodies. God shows up every Sunday - and if His son was up there on stage, I bet everyone would be rocking out in worship! If love the leaders of the church and the worship team to be modeling this. Modeling, different forms of worship. Knowing how happy it makes Him, you'd think people would be jumping out of their seats to praise Him! Id love the temperature to be cooler- causing people to be alert and awake. I'd love the lights to be dimmer, creating a more intimate experience with Him. I'd love for songs that relate to the sermon. They help set up and hit home the topic. And I'd love a preservice count down or lead in video. A count down followed by a spotlight on a family, Like the same 5 questions asked to a different family every week would be a cool way to kick off worship. "We're the xxx family and we'd love to welcome you to Souderton BIC this week!..." etc. These could all be made in advance so we've got a good "stock" of them and could always repeat in a pinch.
- Nothing I can think of at the moment
- That pattern was perfect
- I would like to get back to the previous format
- Additional leadership: cf. a facilitator plus more involvement of others in parts of the service. I love having a sharing time, but would look to see if ways could be found to not fall into ruts of who shares and about what. I might advocate a brief children's time in every service. It would be great to involve youth in worship team as appropriate and children in some public service (receiving the offering certain Sundays)?
- Make sure we include an equal number of hymns to reach all. Sharing prayer requests aloud is important to us. The congregation should be encouraged to open our Bibles and follow along as the pastor preaches on the chosen passage.

9. When we return to normal worship services, how positive do you feel about	Very Negative		Neutral		Very Positive	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Worship at 9:30 A.M., possibly with Sunday school <i>after</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Worship at 10:30 A.M., possibly with Sunday school <i>before</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	



20 Comments:

- We've noticed that sometimes it is a bit more chaotic to do Sunday School before church with so many involved in volunteer roles. This means often quite a few people are needing to leave Sunday School class early to get ready for the worship service.
- I am used to Sunday school before the worship service, but people on worship team etc need to leave S.S. class early. This would not be the case if S.S. class was after the worship service and would be a plus.
- There is pros and cons to both. I don't know if one time frame over the other would have a better chance of higher participation in both.
- I think I mentioned before that I'm concerned that the older folks who don't come to SS would get to worship.
- like an early church service with breakout sessions post
- Again either is fine with me
- none
- I have really enjoyed the earlier time for church, but then it makes SS difficult. I doubt many would stay for SS unless everyone packed a lunch for afterwards.
- Whether before or after Worship, SS plays an important part in spiritual growth.
- I read a study a couple of weeks ago that evaluated organization in the pandemic. This study noted that organizations that strive to "survive" are treating the pandemic/disruptions as an episodic event and hope to return to "normal". On the other hand, organizations that "thrive" view the pandemic/disruptions as continuous (normal) and constantly look to adapt, engage and find benefits/opportunities from current circumstances. The question I would ask is, are we trying to survive or thrive?
- The sound system is incredible at SBIC. I appreciate everything that has been done to stream our services. The worship team does an incredible job and Ben is a great leader.
- None
- If it was after, I'd love the idea of a meal. Families taking turns feeding and serving each other.
- I personally prefer Sunday school before the service as a way to start off the morning in the word and prepare our minds and hearts for worship and the message.
- Sunday school is good in the morning before service, usually after service people are conditioned to going home.
- I think Sunday school after church would be difficult/ conflict with personal schedules
- If we have Sunday School I prefer a 10:30 worship service with Sunday School before. If we do not have Sunday School I prefer a 9:30 worship service.

- If we did the earlier time, I would vote for Sunday School after.

Building and grounds

10. What does our sanctuary need to make it more useful for our purpose? 26 responses

- It may be helpful to remove the pews to make it more of a multi-purpose space.
- Less clutter in the rooms behind the front to make more room for the worship team to use.
- It depends if our purpose is to continue as we have in the past or if we want to move ahead and have a more current feel. The pews in the sanctuary and overall appearance do not give us an up to date and current feel. They also restrict the use of the sanctuary to a single type of use.
- It seems adequate to me.
- get rid of the junk, un-useful material and open up the fellowship hall
- It's fine as it stands. I especially appreciate the A/C in the summer; however, it blows the music off the piano unless I attach the pages to the piano's music stand with bankers' clips.
- I think an update in appearance would be awesome. Maybe no pews? Maybe front painted? Maybe research done. Maybe ask Lindsey for her ideas.
- Sufficient, no change.
- Maybe have some cushions available, for older people to sit on. Have everyone sit closer together.
- padded seats for us older folks
- no answer
- No needs that we can think of.
- An area that serves more functions than the service on Sundays. It needs a professional to give ideas for updating the existing sanctuary.
- Other than hard pews for some of the senior members, I believe we have what is necessary for worship. Individual cushions could be provided for some needing more comfortable seating. Our Sanctuary should be considered sacred and should not be used for eating or drinking beverages (water only excluded).
- Make it more inviting to non-church people. Remove pews, better signage for those who don't know the layout. Create opportunities for the neighborhood/community to use the facilities for non-church purposes. Get non-Christians comfortable with walking through the doors.
- I think it's time to give up the pews; we've talked about taking out some of them (in the front) and replacing with padded chairs that could be positioned for different events. I am in favor of redecorating the 'Welcome Center' and making it a coffee and conversation place with the carpet removed. Carpets are difficult to maintain and should be replaced. I definitely want a pavilion for summer gatherings.
- Allow outside community use of our building if possible
- Take out the pews. Update the carpets and drapes. Update the stage. Possibly change the lights to accommodate other uses.
- The sanctuary needs a mini makeover. The church is so beautiful but... so old. The peel and stick tiles, the blue carpet. The pews. Seating... a dream would have differentiated seating options. Comfort seating, family seating, standing room... just more welcoming. There is evidence around making church more like home and how this create a more comfortable and inviting env. To grow community in. I always say to Sean- why do we leave church every week? The answer is to eat and let the dogs out. And sometimes to change. So.... We need to make church have those things! Food, a dog meet up, changing our clothes for a quick pick up basketball game, hike , etc we don't want anyone to want to leave!
- I think the sanctuary is great for what we need but I do think if nothing else we should really replace the carpet at some point.
- Seat cushions
- I have no opinion
- Banners. Renewed offering boxes? Spikes in the rearmost pews? ;-)
- I would consider removing the pews for a more flexible worship space.

- Probably chairs instead of pews :)
- No change needed.

11. What do our Christian education areas need to make them more useful for our purpose? 21 responses

- Decluttering!!!
- Good internet connections
- I think there are more pressing matters
- More people available to man the different age levels.
- mobile
- They're fine as they now stand.
- Total overall. De-junked. Repainted? Rearranged? Forward looking for growth (less visible storage.)
- Sufficient, no change.
- Let everyone know what is available to use when they are helping or teaching so they know what they can use in lessons and don't have to go buy more. Re-use what is there.
- more cheerful atmosphere
- At one time there was talk of a gymnasium or converting the main auditorium to be a worship center and gym.
- no answer
- Updating
- Christian Ed areas need someone to take ownership/responsibility of the physical spaces. With various planned and unplanned activities occurring during the year, items just seem to accumulate in these areas which leads to clutter.
- No opinion. Not sure where those areas are.
- Discussion of current events/issues and how the God and the Bible calls us to deal with them. Training and evaluation of spiritual gifts. If meaning the library, etc. I don't know that the library is relevant any longer. It would be nice to have a collection of curriculum for classes/Bible study of all ages.
- I'm not sure of this question but I'm thinking the library and boards- these don't speak to me and I'm not sure why. Maybe it's because they're out dated. Televisions should be broadcasting updated events and materials. Even a slide to visit the library. We could tie the library into the youth/ young adult and have them read a common book together...
- I think they are fine.
- Projector
- I have no opinion
- No change needed. I do not know what is in that space. If this is about adult Sunday school classroom, it is fine.

12. What does our fellowship hall/kitchen need to make it more useful for our purpose? 26 responses

- It seems to adequately serve our current needs, but if we decide we want to do more service type of activities-hosting community breakfasts, etc. this space may need to be remodeled with the end goal in mind.
- Ask people to donate needed supplies etc.
- total remodel
- I think there are more pressing matters
- No answer
- get rid of the rug and have a more user friendly floor

- We have one of the best church kitchens of all time. It would be great to have Sunday morning breakfasts again, if it's not too much trouble for the Kitchen Committee.
- New kitchen. Cabinets de-junked and mice caught. Kitchen storage could be in kitchen and the storage room used for other storage.
- Update kitchen area.
- I think we do good in the kitchen area, Maybe some updating could be used but not needed for looks.
- Kitchen - lights are terrible - working vent fan. Fellowship Hall - new paint, carpeting, replace some chairs
- A wood floor to replace dirty carpets
- Kitchen needs updated.
- An updated kitchen that is more user friendly with ovens that work! More ways to encourage fellowship in a larger format than the youth room for a "fellowship time" before church - padded chairs that can form circles, a coffee area and then a small snack each Sunday morning with donut holes or mini muffins. (Keep it very simple!) It would probably mean it's time for waterproof vinyl or laminate on the floor!!
- Better lighting in the kitchen, appearance: more like a place for fellowship, less like a storage place
- Specific needs if any upgrading of kitchen should come from kitchen staff. Currently there are items that are no longer being used and should be cleaned out. Regular cleanout of expired items from the refrigerators is necessary. Carpeting is not a good idea for areas where food and drinks are served. Spills as they occur often go uncleaned. Food & beverages should be kept in the fellowship hall area.
- No opinion
- The lighting is awful in the kitchen. Updating it if possible. A regular maintenance schedule for cleaning the ovens and refrigerators.
- Entire update. Remove wooden dividers. Create storage.
- I've never been in the kitchen but food brings people together. This would be a great area to gather after services. ALSO- since isn't not being used.- I'm a HUGE fan of the whole downstairs being rented out to a day care, another church etc - as an income to pay for some of the much needed updates and needs. - there's potential to grow the church long term!
- I think it works well for what we need.
- I have no opinion
- Updated Kitchen, de-mouse-evidencing. Thorough cleaning/re-establishing organization.
- Updating the kitchen to be more functional. Consider removing the room dividers or some of them for a more open/updated space. Update finishes.
- Um... a complete rehaul?! I'm joking to a degree, but I do think that we no longer see the dinginess. I'm not sure how much that matters in the end.
- It is dirty and cluttered with unused items. The refrigerators are filled with opened expired food items. It seems to be a catch-all for items people no longer want, i.e., old microwave. There needs to be someone responsible to clean and maintain areas for health reasons. Carpeting should not be used in areas where food and/or drink is served. A regular thorough cleaning of carpeted areas needs to be done. To people visiting it sends a bad message when there is clutter and filth.

13. What is needed on our grounds for our property to be more useful for our purpose? 23 responses

- Community garden
- Keep up a play area for children.
- a sign with pastor's name and hours of services or email address
- If we are serious about drawing new people, I think we would want to ultimately make our facility look less "churchy" and more modern from the outside, but I think there is a lot that needs to take place before that kind of an expense is incurred.
- I have nothing of value to offer.
- none

- It's fine as it stands.
- Huger, new sign at the road.
- Sufficient, no change.
- I wonder if we would have an area with some small picnic tables for classes or groups to use, or even the neighborhood.
- no reply
- no answer
- being used effectively.
- A picnic area with a canopy? We have lots of space outside.
- Aesthetically the external dryvit (stained & hole riddled) on the facility is not very appealing. This will be corrected. The future of surrounding playground and flower beds, which have been maintained by ever growing older individuals, will need to be addressed. The idea that if we could only change this or that i.e. new parking lot, updating hanging lighting fixtures, coffee stand, location of welcome center, etc.. will draw more people to our church has not proven to be the case. It's relationships that bring people to our church.
- Same answer as #10.
- A pavilion.
- I think it would be nice to have a fire pit and outdoor seating area.
- I think eventually it would be nice to have some sort of enclosed recreational area for the youth and other fun events.
- More swings in the playgrounds
- I have no opinion
- If only we didn't have abide by the zoning for the number of parking spots we could have a nice open green space...
- The grounds outside are currently maintained by four aging individuals who at some point will not be able to handle all that outside involves.

Good news outreach

14. How can the church help you (how can we help each other) build connections with the people around you who don't know the Lord? 26 responses

- Good question! Casual engagement opportunities where we can invite others to participate alongside us: community garden. Looking at the church as a resource center for the community rather than a worship center that meets our needs.
- Conversation starters?
- more training
- Sermon series and small group teaching on how to build bridges with neighbors and those outside the church. This does not come naturally for most people, it needs to be taught. There are some really good resources out there in this area. We have activities that we can bring new people to. Are these things that have proved to be appealing to those outside the church? Are church attenders bringing friends outside the church to these activities? If not, do we know why? Do our church members have close relationships with non-Christians?
- N/A
- bible studies service opportunity to meet unbelievers
- My family and I live in Philadelphia, so our neighbors go to church (if they go) elsewhere. Our neighbor Pat says she used to be a Christian; we have good talks, and I can speak easily to her of the Gospel. She shares about her grandchildren, and keeps us informed about our neighbors. Our neighbor Michelle is a teacher in the Philadelphia School District. Her daughter is a freshman at Drexel. Michelle had open-heart surgery about 3 years ago, and just went back to in-person school this year. We talked last week and I shared that I think we are in the Last Days. She agreed with me. I was able to encourage her in her teaching, and tell her she is making a difference with her families (most of her pupils come from ESL homes). Our next-door neighbors Dennis & Karyn have some

connection to Arch St UCC, a very liberal church (Karyn's parents go there--her mother is a minister). Dennis is from Richmond and used to be a drummer in a band: they both do set design for movies. They have been very helpful--one Thanksgiving when my stove went out, they let me cook our turkey in their stove. We are on opposite sides of the fence politically, but we get along amicably. We talked last week about COVID vaccinations (Dennis & Karyn, and we, got vaccinated, but our neighbors Seth & Linda did not). Seth & Linda are our other next-door neighbors. They are close to Dennis & Karyn; Linda runs the neighborhood community garden, Spooky Gardens--they have a big Halloween do for the neighborhood (and whoever else shows up) every year--the last year pre-COVID, they got 1600 visitors. I once made hot cider for them. Politically, they (and Dennis & Karyn) are on opposite sides of the fence from us, but they all thought it was nice that I worked for Esperanza. We get along amicably. Linda and I cooperated once on getting a roofer when we both needed roofing. We, and Dennis & Karyn, also cooperated in care (or checking about care) for our neighbor Miss Rose, who had schizophrenia, but had taken part of Spooky Gardens when she bought her house. Miss Rose was wonderful to us. She died a couple years ago, and I went to her funeral. Linda is from around Harrisburg. Our neighbor Miss Anne is Armenian, about 10-15 years older than I am; she watches her two grandchildren for her daughter and her husband, who live up the block from us. She is an Episcopalian and would like a church home to which she can walk. Our neighbor Miss Anita is a Christian; she has lived in her grandmother's house, up the block from us, since the 1960s. A developer built right up against her house and caused major cracks in it. A couple years ago, she was trying to prove the developer shouldn't build there and was wrecking her house (she doesn't have the rights to her house, and her mother, who actually owns it, won't allow her to have title, but she, Miss Anita, is the one taking care of it), so I took her to Christian Legal Clinics. The lawyer we spoke with didn't give her any real help, but he was at least kind. It was on a bad day for her and she was terrified the developers would do something to her if they knew she was going to CLC. Since then, we've talked about spiritual matters.

- Encourage each other to be brave. Hold each other accountable in small groups. Remember we work with non-Christians.
- The church does a good job building us up personally. It is up to us to build up these connections.
- I think we offer of a lot of different outreach programs, and events. covid has restricted many ie yard sales and other parking lot events. Hopefully getting better till next spring.
- Let's recognize that the current worldview cause people to be fearful. The church needs to demonstrate we have a faith in something greater than what the wold fears and get back to purpose with Sunday school and small groups that teach the Bible even if it provided online.
- Share the truths of Jesus and invite them to church
- no answer
- Be more prepared in how to share our faith more effectively and the needs of others.
- We are already doing that with Ram Packs, Tot Time, etc. We could have some more events like the hike to invite people to. I feel like that other things may be difficult at this time period with covid, but as things try to return to normal at some point it could be fun to have a once a month "Craft Day" (or night) to reach out to a different group of people in the community. This could possibly even help small local businesses - flower arranging with someone from Fredericks, dog grooming ideas from a pet store, someone to show how to give a massage or have people within the congregation that have an interest in something - Cathy Musser with scrapbooking - Lori Bencsik (many gifts), etc. We could then advertise the topics of our "Interest Groups" to those who come and invite people to come.
- Most of the people I associate or interact with already profess to be christians. For those who are not, it's difficult or somewhat awkward to just start the discussion. If presented the opportunity to share my story, it can be a more natural process.
- Do we plan our events that make it easy to make connections? Do we have leaders who this is a gift or comes naturally for their personality? If so, can they model, train or mentor others on how to do this? It can feel overwhelming for those of us who this doesn't come naturally.
- Small groups.
- Block parties, movie nights, seasonal activities
- Ideas on how to connect with people and continued encouragement. I also think events to connect with people help.
- By continuing to provide opportunities to serve, volunteer, and share Gods love with our neighbors.
- Sending pamphets about services to neighbours
- I have no opinion

- Provide down-to-earth modelling, genuine encouragement, friendly accountability, relational support, creative ideas, and a prayer foundation for investing in relationships with people who don't know the Lord.
 - Need to expand circle of connections with non-believers.
 - Informally sharing our stories with each other of how we do this. A lot of us are doing this in our day-to-day lives.
15. What could the church do to help you spread the gospel more easily and effectively among those with whom you have connection? 28 responses
- See above.
 - Explore what the gospel is and is not. Memorize relevant scripture.
 - continue with friendliness at church or social events
 - Specific teaching in this area...lots of good books and resources out there. Assess whether our current activities are appealing to those around us. What kinds of things can we do that would naturally bring in people. Maybe a big Halloween activity..Carnival in the parking lot...Movie nights in a park... Give people lots of opportunities to connect people in a non churchy way and then challenge them to bring people.
 - teaching the Bible not just having discussions. learning what is actually being said
 - It will help if once we can again share in church, and I can ask prayer for my neighbors if they need it.
 - Family events like Diana plans with a twist. (Maybe you have to bring a friend to get in free.) Reminders to invite even the co-workers you don't think would come.
 - No new suggestions.
 - The Mother daughter breakfast was always nice to invite friends to, or a special breakfast for just women or just men. I know they have them monthly now, but a special one with a speaker etc.
 - Demonstrate faith in a sovereign God
 - Meals for shut-ins. Help for people with needs; health, financial, etc.
 - See above
 - Not sure. Perhaps this could be addressed once the Men of Iron begin go meet again.
 - Again, I'm not close enough to those attending Souderton to have specific suggestions but, in general, the first question I'd ask is do we even have many connections that are not church friends, other Christians or immediate/extended family?
 - Come alongside our members and train them to always be thinking of supporting others outside our church which gives opportunity to share our faith.
 - I think knowledge is key. Making sure people feel comfortable with what they know and talking about it with others. People only attain this through actually doing so building and training leaders is important.
 - Maybe read a book together as a congregation - and then encouraging each other to play out the book-circle maker comes to mind. 7 habits. Anything Bob Goff... to education and help in reaching others.
 - By continuing to share messages focused on ministry and evangelism.
 - *Through training on ways to do so.
 - Equip me with information or ways of reaching out to people, and having outreach team
 - I have no opinion
 - Pressure-free modelling, encouragement, support, creative ideas, prayer toward honest, human, appropriate, sharing with others who Jesus is and what he has done in us. Relax and help people to be willing to be #24.
 - Encouragement in ways/places to connect with different people.
 - Continue to provide "safe" opportunities for people to be around without being afraid of being cornered and preached at.

- Same as above.

Compassion Outreach

16. As we look to more clearly define our ministry efforts outside of our church, is there an area of service or group of people we should consider reaching? A few examples: Single parents, prison ministry, new arrivals/international individuals or families, seniors, homeless, support networks (people dealing with social isolation, mental illness, chemical abuse, etc.)

28 responses

- Immigrants/refugees
- Single parents and families
- the house rehab group that is down the road from us
- I think the first area of concentration should be the community around us. We need to find ways to serve our community. We need to be a presence in our community. In terms of affinity service... What do we have a passion for? What do we have acumen and resources for? Where do we already have bridges into? Where does the gifting of the congregation lie? Are we willing to make long term commitments to a ministry. None of these things are once and done. They require an investment of time and resources and a willingness to work long term with people with "messy" lives in "messy" situations. I do think this is where we should be as a church.
- With Diana's coming there has been much more outreach into the community. There were efforts to reach the half-way house near the church to no avail. i think we could do better in connecting with visitors before they got out the door. We tend to get busy with those we know best. Perhaps we need some testimonies of how it felt to be a newcomer.
- we need weekly greeters and those that can ask visitors what they are looking for. I like to see us do a breakfast or meal where any community is invited and have people there to talk with them. Movie nite for teens, or concert for teens. Opening the church to be used for those trained to work with chemical abuse. workshop on depression, single parenting..
- I should think single parents, single persons, and single expectant mothers.
- Maybe adopt a grouplike those next to the church?
- I think we should partner with existing BIC partners and not keep adding to our plates as things come up. (The exception might be to take on a ministry that is an outcome of who is in our church network.) That said, the above list looks really good. We have an amazing resource among our Zimbabwe members that should not be neglected. Some of them should serve on every idea and outreach task force.
- I don't know which one, but I do appreciate when a church has a outreach to one of these and the area/town knows about it and have the option to come in and get help.
- Focus on people who are hurting.
- ?
- Young families keep a church healthy
- Seniors unable to get to services.
- Possibly start with a few basic groups and as interest grows, expand to other topics. The problem may come with finding willing people to lead the various groups? Our church is so small and some people may feel they are already overbooked - either with their commitments at church or work. Could we partner with another church?
- I believe we should connect with organizations who already have established programs to help those in the groups mentioned. Several years ago we were able to help Sudanese boys and girls who were brought to the area. This went on for a few years. Some individuals have already been serving and supporting groups mentioned. In the past we have some great ideas and did some things on our own but after initial action, the follow up had always been an issue. Our commitment to stay with the task did not last very long. Additionally, regardless of whatever we decide on doing, other than a few committed people, more need to step up and help out.
- All these noted above are very worthwhile. What natural connections or passion to any of these group does the Souderton church body have?
- We had more 'age appropriate' groups in the past, i.e. Prime Timers, Christian Stewards. with leadership that would make a concerted effort to include those in that age group. That should not be the responsibility of staff only.

- Community - local
- I don't know at this time.
- The ministries that I really feel more strongly about are internationals and individuals with substance abuse
- Single parents as they bring their kids to church for VBS. Counseling services will be helpful for them.
- Prison ministry brings hope to the people and helping in shelters
- Support networks
- The people/needs that some of our people already have a passion for. I would also be anxious that as we pursue this good work, we would not let the work of making disciples (in our families and among our neighbors) be eclipsed in our schedules.
- New people to our community, internationals, people needing family/community support
- I do think that we have some capacity to engage with single parents. Bridge of Hope might be a way for us to dip our toes in the water without having to develop a structure ourselves.
- Keeping in touch and offering assistance by addressing needs of those in our congregation who may be ill or "shut-in". Supporting our RamPacks volunteers with donations is important.

Younger families

17. In what ways could we be more fully supportive of younger families in our congregation, or of younger families not yet in our congregation (and who may not have other family locally)? 26 responses

- Asking them what their needs are and helping meet those. For example, we had a number of single moms (3) attend VBS parents coffee and conversation. If we decided we want to support single parents. We could host a "car wash" fundraiser. Then use the funds to help the single parent families; down payment on a car; transporting kids to various activities; help with meals; financial advice, help offset some of the costs of counseling sessions for kids etc.
- Good question
- provide Parents' Night Out with babysitting/care/programming by us for their kids
- Holidays are some of the hardest time for those who have no family. Inviting families to join yours for the holidays is one way of caring for them. This is something that can be done for anyone without family close by, not only young families. Maybe providing babysitting for date nights for young couples. Empty nesters, parent with older kids and teens may be happy to help in this way. This could also be a way of building bridges between generations. I do see some things happening ie. the Tot Time that has just begun that will hopefully connect young families. Talking to the young families about what would be helpful for them, would also help to give direction.
- I feel that Diana is doing a great job in making the congregation aware of the community. I feel we need to give great prayer support for the new groups that are starting, the TOTs and the MOMs. Some of our mothers with children work and would need to prioritize time to pray together and help to make the groups grow.
- find ways to encourage and support them
- Keep eyes peeled for such families.
- Maybe have a child care evening so parents could have time alone to do what they want for 2 hours or so.
- Though I didn't go, I think the family nights at the park are a great idea. Perhaps finding a "felt need" class to offer. i.e. Pastor John on parenting. I think there is a large potential for growth among our Zimbabwe families.
- Offer babysitting so parents get get out, meals.
- Arranging a night routinely to show Christian based movies and invite families and friends not yet in our congregation or our small groups. Offer times for amateur Christian music groups to perform
- ?
- Maybe be a "parents' night out" once in awhile as a service project for the youth to plan and conduct? Could we feature a "family of the week" to highlight more about interests, etc to help those with

similar interests connect? Or...more family service projects.? The hike was a great family related activity.

- This would depend on the specific needs of the family. If there are any financial, relationship, medical, or other issues, we could help if we have the ability to do so or refer them to agencies that can provide assistance.
- No opinion on this.
- Weekly meals and meetings at the church that are free to the community
- We need to find ways to support the children and make relevant topics for those parents.
- By continuing to show that we are a welcoming congregation and to be open to hearing the opinions of young and old.
- Have child friendly activities. Being unable to bring children along to some services/ meetings/ activities discourages the participation of younger families.
- Challenges most faced by young families is child care
- Increased dialog, shared leadership (board?), shared visibility (facilitating the service some Sundays?), supporting them with relevant Sunday school equipping classes (as we have done).
- family oriented activities, connecting time for parents where childcare is provided, resources training on parenting and challenges facing today's parents.
- Well, it seems to always come back to food! I know that our past Sunday morning breakfasts were a big draw for some and that fed kids' Sunday School. The same might be true for Sunday lunch if Sunday School is after church, or Wednesday dinner if there was something for kids that night. Youth could provide a monthly babysitting night, with adult supervision.
- Unsure, but we have a fantastic VBS each year, but it does not result in more families attending each Sunday. Teach how to build strong husband/wife connections.

God's wisdom through you?

18. Now, here is your chance to give constructive feedback in any category! What ideas or insights do you have? 24 responses

- A strategic 3-5 year plan is needed so that we can understand what our vision/goals are as a church. This survey will give lots of ideas/thoughts. It seems we do a good job at gathering feedback, yet in the past, we have struggled to turn that feedback into action. The congregation does rally when clear direction is provided. Our current tagline is Connect, Grow Serve. About 10 years ago, Mike and I were asked to implement a Faith in Action Sunday. Instead of having the Sunday morning worship service, we went out to serve the community. Could our congregation have more regular intervals of service? Many churches are implementing a Fifth Sunday Serve. The meaning of Fifth Sunday is based on the fact that every 3 months there is an extra Sunday in that month. In 2022, there would be 4 months with fifth Sundays: • January 30 • May 29 • July 31 • October 30 We could focus on a theme of Matthew 25: I was hungry, you gave me something to eat I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink I was a stranger you invited me in I needed clothes and you clothed me I was sick and you looked after me I was in prison and you came to visit me Another great passage is 1 Timothy 6:18: Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share." This might be a good passage to use if we want to launch this effort with a capital campaign. Websites for ideas: <http://www.shc.life/5th-sunday-serve.html>
<https://www.reunionmovement.com/blog/2021/05/25/may-5th-sunday-serve/>
<https://catalystevansville.church/service-sunday> Mike and I are willing to lead this effort for the first year if there is interest in exploring it. Earlier this year, I was approached about helping with a capital campaign. I (Robin) am open to assisting with this effort. As the Church Board has greater clarity around this endeavor, please let me know more details. We heard that the youth group is considering a service project. We would be glad to offer the insights and learnings we had when we served as volunteer youth leaders about this specific area.
- I have a hard time memorizing scriptures - but if it is in a song I can. Could we include some old "scripture songs" once in a while?
- many thanks to the leaders who have led us through the difficult decisions of the past 2 years.
- A lot of these questions focus internally....our service logistics, our church building..timing and content of existing programs from OUR view point. Some questions that we may want to ask ourselves..... Are we actually aware of the needs in the community around us. Has any thought been given to doing a community survey to see how the church can serve those around us? "Our purpose" has been talked about in numerous questions. What is our purpose? Is it articulated clearly? Does everyone know our purpose? Does everything that we do reflect our purpose? Does our budget and

spend reflect our purpose? Are we positioned to receive new people? Do we want new people? Do we have a plan for welcoming and assimilating new people? Are we prepared for the new dynamics that new people may create? Are we “friendly” or intentionally relational? Are we willing to step out of our comfort zone and make changes that make new people feel welcome and cared for? Are we willing to take a risk and involve new people in our ministries? Are we open to new ideas from new people coming into our church? Are we willing to invite new people into our existing “friend groups”? Are we ok with not doing things the same way we have always done them? Is our Sunday morning geared to Christians or those who are still searching? Have we thought about using our building as a connection to the community? Letting community groups use our building? For free? This can build real bonds with many in the community. Are we willing to take the risk of letting someone else in to use our building in an effort to build bridges, or do we want to keep “our stuff” nice? Do we have a passion for those outside the church? What lengths are we willing to go to reach them? Do we keep our website current weekly? Many new people will check us out on our website before they visit. That is their first impression of us. Are we intentional about creating a good first impression for those whose first exposure to us is in person? Do we need to make changes to enhance “first impression”? We only get one shot at this. Have we ever considered bringing in a church consultant to help us evaluate where we are and how to get where we want to go?

- Categories not mentioned: Missions: Long ago we tried Aaron & Hur prayer meetings on Saturday evening, alternating between Souderton and Silverdale. The people attending were mostly the mission committee. Then, to reach the target audience about missions, it was suggested that a monthly Missions Moment be incorporated as part of the Sunday morning service. Often a missionary was that monthly moment which we aimed to have quarterly. The Missions Moment stopped when the worship team came into vogue with the four worship songs. I think some people missed the missions emphasis. Is there any hope for missions to gain a monthly spot? Prayer: It seems that Souderton adults are scared to pray aloud. The children are great at praying...may they never change. The old Wednesday prayer meetings died out. It was suggested that prayer meetings coincide with Clubs. The problem was at that stage, there were few BIC children in clubs. Then someone suggested moving it to Wednesday at 10. We were usually about 6 or 7. Now that we are online, the number can be less. More people are retiring but that has not made a difference. Some churches have men's prayer meetings on the way to work. Would that work at SBIC? How can corporate prayer fellowship be stimulated? Sunday morning as people are gathering: Could pictures of various committees be flashed on the screen so people would know who is serving the church. Who is the church shutter-bug?
- I miss communion . I would love to have at least a quarterly or monthly function that we invite or interact with the community.. Movie night, service projects Adults with teens, teens with younger children and adults
- See above! Thank you very much for taking the time to read this.
- I think as we look to the year ahead, it would be nice to have sheets of paper with committees and what the responsibility of members of that committee might entail. People could see the needs and sign up as motivated. Sometimes I wonder if everyone has an idea of the needs. ie grounds, kitchen, childcare, teachers aids.. I know people are aware of most of these but opportunity to see what they entail may help. Put these sheets on a table in the back so people can check them out. Just a thought. Appreciate the practical sermons. Worship team is awesome. Thank you for the Livestream. Would like to see covid go away
- I'm all about no pews. I think the welcome center is often too junky. I think ALL six doors should be open to show ourselves as a welcoming church. I think the table across from the welcome center is junky. I think the hibiscus needs more plant friends to make that area look more planned.I think there is too much "stored" stuff in nearly every room.(I think the people who use the space should get to clear the space.) I think that only a few should be designated to welcome a visitor so that we don't appear desperate.
- I feel the sermons are more like sunday school than a Sunday morning sermon. Yes they explain the scriptures, but I would like more stories of today experiences tied in with them to make them more relatable to today's real life. I enjoy and learn from a sermon that challenges me to think how I could be better at my daily life and live better for the kingdom. By hearing experiences or finding stories in today times and then relating them to some scripture it makes it more interesting and reachable. I love our pastor and his wife, but I do feel the sermons are boring to me most weeks:(Sorry to say, but for me its truth.
- The worship music team does an awesome job.
- ? I feel too many people have an ungodly fear of this Covid. Psalms points out that when we are close to God he will protect us. It is a promise (promise is underlined) from God.
- I would personally like to hear heartfelt challenging sermons instead of a Bible study on the wall. A lot of our social activities are geared to the young people. We have nothing for the older groups.
- We're not equipped very well for Seniors or handicapped to get into our church easily.

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- Years ago in another survey and leadership, it was determined that programs do not bring people to church. It was relationships. However, many of the relationships that have developed over the years initiated via some type of program. The sports teams, clubs, VBS, Nursery School, etc. involved people who were churched and unchurched. The investment being made today by Diana, Sean, SS teachers, and other leaders of youth and young adults is invaluable for the kingdom. After post high education, some never return to our church but choose to worship elsewhere. With our congregation shrinking and the attractions of the large church around the corner from us, it's uncertain whether we will be able to sustain our existing facility. The future of SBICC is something we need to turn over to the Lord.
- Again, as an 18 month visitor (albeit, during unique times) I can't help but notice that the first 13 questions and 12 "how do you feel" items to be rated are about internal programs, scheduling and property and only the last 4 are general external facing programs. It does come back to the first question. What is Souderton's purpose?
- We need to be mindful of our congregation size. I think we should join ranks with Silverdale. Perhaps utilize that building for more teen and outreach activities. It's located close to the middle school and would be a great opportunity to reach out to those school age children. Sermons are 'entertaining' but I'm not sure if people are focusing more on the optics than on the actual words of the Pastor.
- Nothing I can think of at the moment.
- Again, ascetics- maybe host a community yard sale to clean out old items from the church and make money for updated items. People could donate items and we could keep them downstairs - all money going to the church. Like removing all the old silk flowers. Updating the entrance- to allow for seating and meeting people/ hanging out. The current desk feels stiff and unwelcoming.
- I greatly appreciate our leadership (pastor, committees, family ministries director) for always finding faith building activities for our church. I think it would be helpful to have a curriculum for small groups.
- To have evening prayer meetings once a while at church praying for one another
- Our emphasis on 14 and 15 was partly shot down by Covid (didn't take God by surprise!). I am looking forward to taking back up the equipping emphasis of earlier sermons, planning sessions (and cf. the "Go!" booklet).
- Strongly feel the sanctuary is a place of sacred worship and should not be used for other purposes. Feel our facility is too large for our size congregation to keep it up. It is pitiful the lack of attendance and help given during work days.