



Weekly Connection Newsletter

Souderton Brethren in Christ Church

494 Cherry Road, Souderton, PA 18964

215-723-7452

churchoffice@soudertonbic.org

and find us on Facebook

December 12, 2024

www.soudertonbic.org

Office hours: Tues-Thurs 9am-1pm

Prayer Gatherings

Each Wednesday in person at the church office and on zoom @ 1:00 pm. Zoom meeting ID: 461 338 2306

Password: 6b0j8y. The zoom link is -

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4613382306?pwd=NU5Ra25uWmJ4bDJ0bFpXYmEzRUZ4QT09>

First Wednesday of each month @ 6:00pm in the prayer room (room 2), in partnership with Iglesia Cristiana.

Iglesia Cristiana Pastor: Rony Guerra

Contact: iglesiacristianasouderton@gmail.com

This Sunday

Sunday School at 9:30am

for ALL ages!

Worship Time - 10:30am!

Join the livestream:

www.soudertonbic.org/stream

www.youtube.com/@soudertonbic

Thank you for your faithful giving!
Give in person at the offering box, by mail, or at our website.

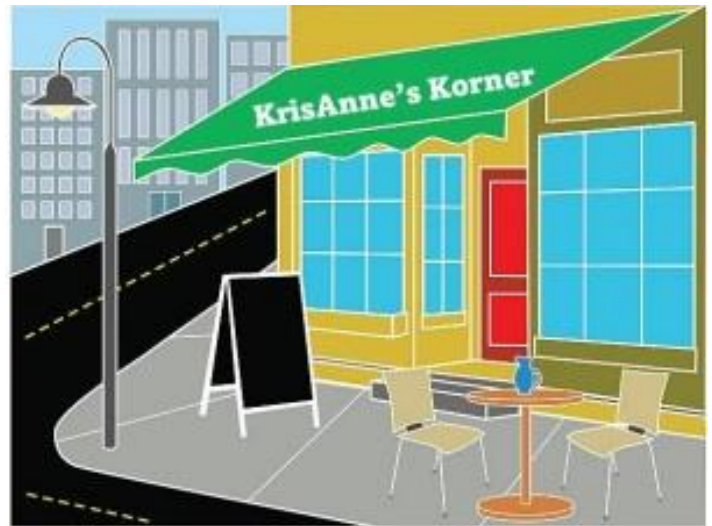
Pastor KrisAnne's Korner

This Sunday we light the joy candle for Advent. In scripture, joy is not dependent upon present circumstances. The Israelites were commanded to give joyful praise to God even while they struggled to survive in the desert wilderness. The psalmists commanded the people to sing for joy to the Lord even when they faced terrible enemies. Paul and Silas sang joyful songs of praise in prison. Joy isn't a vibe that comes and goes. It's stronger and more resilient than that. We can access joy anywhere at any time because we have access to our loving God anywhere and all the time.

I don't say this to shame anyone who is feeling down or struggling right now. The holidays can be very difficult for many people - grief, stress, broken relationships, anxiety, depression – and embracing joy may seem like an impossibility. That's ok. Sometimes we practice things before we feel them. If your joyful Christmas carols sound flat this year because your heart just isn't in it, sing them anyway. And ask God to help you feel the joy and hope of His faithfulness once again. Trust that it will come... in God's time. And know that I'm praying for you, church. I'm ending my pastor's note here to leave room for the following letter from Ben and Tara Cassel:

Brothers and Sisters of SBIC,

I have had the pleasure of being a member of this congregation since my arrival to the States in 2015. You all welcomed me in with such kindness and made me feel a sense of belonging right away. You would later extend that same kindness and welcome to Tara, which she also felt. We have been so blessed by you. However, with a lot of prayerful consideration Tara and I have decided it is time for us to leave Souderton. We feel as though we are in a new chapter of our lives in which we have a strong desire to be in a community of people who are in the same stage of life as us. We feel it will be helpful as we navigate our young marriage and raising of children, if the Lord so blesses us in that way in the future. We have appreciated in many ways the wisdom and love you have shared with us over these last several years. This has been one of the most difficult decisions we have made in our short time of marriage, but we know it is the right one. We don't know



what God has in store for us yet and we would appreciate your prayers as we seek from Him what the next steps are. Thank you all for your kindness, encouragement, and love over these past years.

-Ben & Tara Cassel

Ben and Tara have not decided what Sunday will be their last at SBIC. The Church Board is working with them to ensure a good transition for the worship team and the vacancy this will create on the board. As they prepare to go, let's express our love and appreciation for all they have added to our faith community, and pray blessings over them.

Take a listen on YouTube at the link below! Theme song for The Narrow Path : *The Jesus Way*, by Phil Wickham:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARSGgC9iQb0&p=ygUacGhpbCB3aWNraGFtIHRoZSBqZXXN1cyB3YXk%3D>

Prayer Requests:

Send any prayer requests to:
Pastor KrisAnne at 215-254-8348 or
KrisAnne.Swartley@soudertonbic.org,
or your deacon.

Don't forget! The last day for the
Christmas OPEN House
at MCC is **THIS** Saturday, Dec. 14th!~



**Mennonite Central
Committee:
Christmas Open House**



Mennonite & Brethren Encounters

A non-profit organization focused on Christ-centered marriage.

Engaged Encounter

February 9-11 @ Kenbrook Bible Camp
Learn the skills you need to build a marriage that can thrive for a lifetime!

Marriage Encounter

Spend an entire weekend focusing on your spouse and your relationship with each other, working toward God's ideal for marriage. Feb 28-Mar 2, 2025 @ Heritage Hotel, Lancaster, PA

For more details, visit: www.marriageencounter.org

Matching Donations for Hurricane Relief from Everence!

Time is running out for matching donations for Hurricane Relief! Dec. 31, 2024, is the deadline for Everence to match donations made to Everence Foundation dollar-for-dollar – up to \$50,000.

Find more information here:

<https://www.everence.com/landing-pages/corporate/everence-helps>

Our *Next* Potluck Breakfast
Will be Sunday, Dec 22nd starting at 9:00am followed by a *combined* Sunday School at 9:30am

Starting January 5th

BIC week of Prayer and Fasting
Missional Characteristics:
Examples in Scripture

Access two resources at:

bicus.org/tag/fasting/ OR scan the QR code to the right:



Fall Adult Sunday School classes at 9:30am

New Adult
Class –



*The Journey The story of the Bible from creation to new creation, and how our stories fit into it" (Access the RightNow Media QR code below for free videos)

Scan the QR code to create your free account and start browsing.



*The Study of Romans led by Dan Zagorski *continues*

Announcements

Joint Service with ICS on Dec 29th

Join us at noon for a meal
1:00pm Worship

Bring a side dish or dessert to share at the meal and enjoy fellowship with our sister congregation. We will join in worship to sing, pray and listen to scripture in both English and Spanish. Come celebrate our unity in the Kingdom of God!

Sign up for the Sermon on the Mount Memorization Contest*

Children age 11 and under:

Memorize Matthew 5:1-16

Receive a prize! A snack pack including fruit gushers, chocolate bars and candy

Youth & adults ages 12 and up:

Memorize three passages –

Matthew 5:1-16, 6:19-34, 7:13-28

Receive one of the following prizes! 500-piece puzzle from The Chosen online store; a snack pack including beef jerky, pistachios and a king-sized candy bar; or a \$25 gift card to Wawa

*Recite the passage to Pastor KrisAnne or Diana on or before March 2, 2025

Sign up for a Small Group! *Starting:*

Souderton @ Snyder's on Sun. Jan 12th

Hilltown @ Swartley's on Sat. Jan 18th

Lansdale @ Moyo's TBD

Calendar:

- **Sunday School** this week at 9:30am. **Worship at 10:30am. Kids time:** Children grades K-5th are dismissed just before the sermon to participate in a special activity.
- **Sunday Worship with Iglesia at 1 pm**
- **Wed: Prayer on Zoom or in Person at 1pm**
- **Wed. Dec 18: Youth Group Christmas Party 6:30-8:30pm**
- **Wed: @ 7:00 pm – Spanish Bible Study with Iglesia Cristiana, Worship Team practice, Youth Group**

Upcoming Events:

- **Sun. Dec 22: Potluck Breakfast @ 9am** followed by Combined Sunday School
- **Tue. Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service with Carols and Scripture readings@ 6:30pm**
- **Sun. Dec 29: Joint Service with ICS Meal @ noon** followed by **Worship at 1pm**
- **Jan 4, 2025: Kick-off for Sermon on the Mount series with a MOVIE Night @ 7pm**
- **Sun. Jan 5: Start of BIC Prayer & Fasting week**