



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 5, 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.

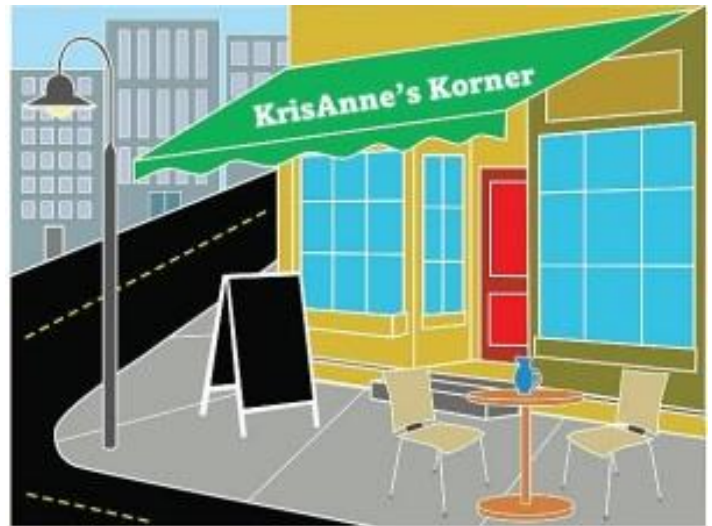
Pastor KrisAnne's Korner

It's hard to believe there are only a few weeks left in 2024. As we look ahead to 2025, I want to talk about the new small group initiative we're starting, which will be part of our church-wide journey through the Sermon on the Mount:

Why small groups? I do recognize that a commitment to a small group will be one more thing to add to our already busy schedules. However, there is nothing quite as impactful for discipleship and church growth, as small groups meeting regularly to share, study and pray together. This is how Jesus structured his whole ministry. Crowds followed Him, but he shared daily life with twelve. He shared even more with just three others. When he sent the disciples out to do ministry, they were sent out in pairs, to share the experience together. In my own life, I notice that the years I spent intentionally connecting with a few other believers - for ministry or simply in friendship - those years have been the most transformative of my life.

Church growth. Like many congregations in our community over the past decade or so, SBIC has experienced lower attendance numbers. Many of you remember the days when the pews were filled for worship and ministry programs were buzzing with activity. Many of you long for those days, but we all know it's impossible to return to the past. However, I've said this before and I'll say it again - This congregation has something very special to offer the community: the genuineness of our relationships, the way we pray for one another and bear each other's burdens, our partnership across languages and cultures, our focus on Jesus, and our love of scripture and desire to apply it to our lives. But how do we get the word out, that this is who we are and what we have to offer?

Not many people will walk into a church they have no connection to, on a Sunday morning. But if they have been invited to someone's home for conversation and prayer, and if the love and authenticity they experience there impacts them in a positive way - maybe even makes them long for God - there is little doubt in my mind that they will show up for Sunday worship.



Evangelism doesn't have to be strangers on street corners handing out pamphlets. It can be as simple as saying to your co-worker or neighbor (or mechanic or barista or....), "Hey, a couple of us are meeting once a month to read this book together and talk about it (or watch this video series or whatever). It's pretty interesting and I think you'd like it. Want to join us next time?" And then prayerfully trust God to do what God does: reach people with His Love and Good News.

I have a dream... a healthy network of small groups, where people are known and loved and feel that they belong. A dream that these groups will be vehicles of love and belonging that reach out, transforming our neighborhoods and our church.

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=ygUacGhpbCB3aWNraGFtIHRoZSBqZXN1cyB3YXk%3D>

Prayer Requests:

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



Mennonite Central Committee:



Christmas Open House

Thursday, Dec 5th, 9am – 8pm

Friday, Dec 6th, 9am – 8pm

Saturday, Dec 7th, 9am – 5pm

Dec 9th -14th from 9am – 6pm

Matching Donations for Hurricane Relief from Everence!



Everence® is committing a total of \$100,000 to support relief efforts. This includes an immediate contribution of \$50,000 to Mennonite Disaster Service and another \$50,000 to kick off Everence Helps: Hurricane Relief, a matching gift initiative aimed at bolstering hurricane recovery efforts. From Oct. 14 to Dec. 31, 2024, Everence will match donations made to Everence Foundation dollar-for-dollar – up to \$50,000 – to enhance the charitable impact of contributions aimed at helping survivors restore their homes, revitalize their communities, and rebuild their futures. 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

A 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!

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

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: @ 7:00 pm – Spanish Bible Study with Iglesia Cristiana, Worship Team practice, Youth Group**

Upcoming Events:

- **Wed. Dec 18:** Youth Group **Christmas Party** 6:30-8:30pm
- **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 Prayer & Fasting week