



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

June 11, 2026

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>

Iglesia Cristiana Pastor: Rony Guerra
Contact: iglesiacristianasouderton@gmail.com

This Sunday

*No Sunday School
Worship @ 10:30am*

Iglesia Cristiana Worship 1:00pm

Join the livestream for either Worship service at their scheduled time:
www.soudertonbic.org/stream
www.youtube.com/@soudertonbic
Thank you for your faithful giving! at the offering box, by mail, or at our website.

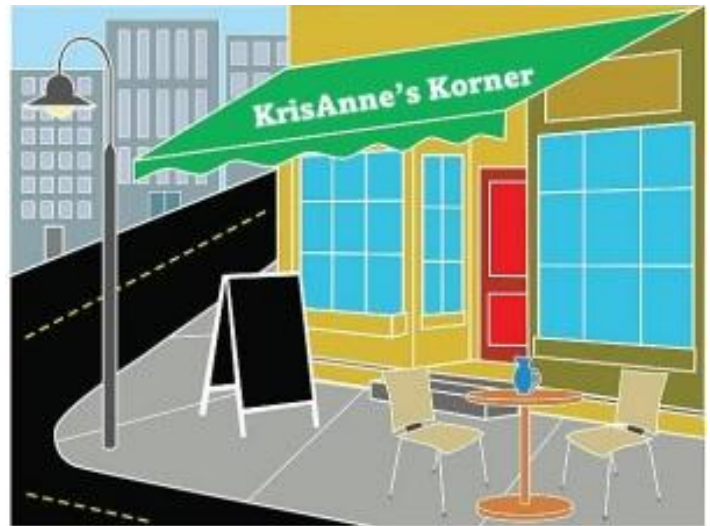
Pastor KrisAnne's Korner

There is a troubling aspect to this week's story in 1 Samuel that I want to address. It's something that theologians throughout history have wrestled with, so it's nothing I'll be able to solve for us in just a few paragraphs. But I do want to say a few things about it:

We learn in 1 Samuel 15:1-3 that God commands Saul to attack the Amalekites and completely destroy them - kill all the people including children, slaughter all the animals, every single one. It's a brutal command and a difficult one for many people to comprehend. How could our loving and gracious God command something like this? Doesn't God love the whole world and everyone in it? Why wouldn't He give these people the chance to repent and turn to Him? As a Brethren in Christ church, we are committed to the way of Jesus in peacemaking and nonviolence so, we probably wrestle with these questions more than some other churches who do not ascribe to pacifist theology.

Let me suggest a couple of things to keep in mind as we wrestle with this passage. First, is that BIC theology intentionally keeps Jesus (his person, his saving work, and his teachings) at the center of our discipleship. So when the Bible seems to give us conflicting messages - such as, mass killing commanded in one part of the Bible and condemned in another- we look to Jesus first and foremost. He commands us to follow Him, and so His teachings on nonviolence and peacemaking are our primary guide. This doesn't solve the question of how to deal with the violence in scripture, but it gives us a clear starting place while we struggle with the issue.

Similarly, there is a theological view called Progressive Revelation that addresses the issue of violence in the Old Testament. It argues that God was gradually revealing the fullness of who He was over generations and long periods of time. Whenever there appears to be a difference in God's character between the OT and the NT, we can understand that as the people of God having only a partial understanding of who God was before Christ and having a much fuller understanding in the time of the Gospels and beyond, because Jesus is the fullest revelation of God (see Hebrews 1:1-3).



Finally, there is this somewhat obscure set of verses that remind me that God's grace extends beyond the grave. In 1 Peter 3:18-20, scripture says that before he appeared to the disciples in his resurrected body, Jesus descended to hell and preached the good news to the people there. This communicates God's heart toward people condemned before the time of Christ. It doesn't lessen the violence done to them, and I don't want to minimize the gravity of what happened to these people while they lived on earth. But it does comfort me to remember that God's grace reaches them, too. Again, there is much more I could say on this matter, and I'm happy to talk with anyone who has burning questions related to violence in the Bible and how to understand it. In the meantime, I'll see you Sunday for another look at Saul and his brief (and heartbreaking!) kingship.

Prayer Requests:

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

Youth Group –

Summer Activity #1

June 28th @ Peace Valley
Park. Meet at the church @
Noon



New & Returning College Students



Apply Now!

If you are a new or returning college student, be sure to pick up a Scholarship Application (due June 21st) at the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Return applications to church office.

General Assembly in July



The theme for General Assembly 2026 is *Multiplica*, Spanish for “multiply.”

For more information on General Assembly click on:

<https://bicus.org/event/general-assembly-2026/>

Please keep our leaders and lay persons in prayer as they prepare for this gathering: Pastors KrisAnne & Rony, Daniel Castillo, Tham & Miselani Ndlovu, Georgia Myers.

**NO Sunday School
during the Summer!**

**THIS Sunday
Worship @ 10:30am**

Nursery available downstairs

Announcements

June 28th

The **Second Annual
Community Worship
Service in the Park**

is scheduled for
June 28th at 10:00am.



No Worship Service here at SBIC. We'll "see you at the Park". **BYO lawn_chair!**
**Monetary offering will be collected for
Keystone Opportunity Center and Bridge of
Hope.**

Mark your calendars!

Second ESL Summer Connects- Monday



Have extra
vegetables this
Summer?
Please donate
them to our ESL
Summer Connects

nights. No classes, Just fun!

We will be meeting at SBIC from 7-8pm
for games, and fellowship on the following
Mondays in June:

June 15th

June 29th

Calendar:

- **Sun:** Worship @ 10:30am, **NO** Sunday School, or Kids Time during Worship – children will stay in the Sanctuary with their parents during Worship
- **Mon:** ESL Summer Connects 7-8pm
- **Tue:** Iglesia Cristiana Worship @ 6:30pm
- **Wed:** Prayer in person and online @ 1:00pm.

Upcoming Events:

- **June 28:** Souderton Area Churches Worship in the Park @ 10am. No Service @ SBIC Church. **Youth Group Summer Activity #1** at Peace Valley Park – meet at the church at Noon
- **June 29:** ESL Summer Connects 7-8pm
- **July 12:** Guest Speaker Franco Salvatori
- **July 24-27:** General Assembly, Miami, FL
- **Aug 16:** Silverdale & Souderton BIC Combined Worship and Picnic in the Park @ Al Reese Park, Silverdale. Worship @ 10am with picnic to follow.