

KISSINGER'S CHURCH
715 Berkshire Blvd.
Wyomissing, PA 19610

December 2019

Kissinger's Caller
Calling all people to Jesus Christ



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Friday 9-noon

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CHURCH COUNCIL

(date)=Year term expires

President—Heidy Coldren (2021)

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Ron Heilman (2020)

Cheryl Harting, sec. (2021)

Sandy Kurtz (2021)

Bryan Seyler (2020)

John Lindemuth, vice pres. (2020)

Jeff Kring (2019)

Doug Swoyer (2019)

David Bytof (2019)

Pastor Dave Reinwald

The Real Reason for Christmas



Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sinful nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for **all** of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over. "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9

Having time off work, a year-end bonus, receiving gifts on your wish list... none of those things are bad in themselves.

Kissinger's

Mission Statement

Where the Bible comes alive through worship, prayer, study and fellowship while serving others with love and respect.

But you can get all those things without Christmas. So, they can't be the ultimate reason you need Christmas, right? Maybe you're on the opposite side of the spectrum: you don't think you need Christmas at all. The decorating, awkward family gatherings, shopping, and traveling add so much stress. Or maybe Christmas makes you feel incredibly lonely. You'd love to sleep straight through Christmas and wake up just in time to ring in the New Year. What both these mindsets have in common is that they each focus on things that are relative to the true significance of why Christmas happened and why we celebrate.

Why do we really need Christmas? What does Christmas do for us, and how should Christmas affect us? The answer, you may be surprised to know, does not lie first in the Christmas stories of the gospels. The reason we need Christmas goes back to when it was originally announced, in Genesis. The third chapter of Genesis is the sad account of how the human race fell into sin. Adam and Eve, having been tempted by the serpent, desired to "be like God" (3:5), and therefore they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is interesting that, after the sevenfold refrain of "God saw that it was good" in Genesis chapter 1, that here "the woman saw that the tree was good" (3:6). She has taken the prerogative of the Creator and determined what the creation is good for. She, and Adam with her, has attempted to dethrone God and make herself like God. The results are tragic. Adam and Eve, expecting illumination, immediately experience humiliation, seeing their nakedness. They fear God's presence and throw each other under the bus to avoid his

**Christmas
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wrath. The serpent, Eve, and Adam are cursed. Death enters the world. They are forbidden from reentering God's paradise.

Despite the darkness that shrouded that day, one beam of hope shone through – and this is where we come back to the topic of Christmas. God promised that a special child would be born, who would defeat the serpent: "I will put enmity between you (i.e., the serpent) and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). God promises that someone among Eve's offspring will win the ultimate victory over the serpent. The promise of this offspring is fulfilled in Jesus.

Are you a sinner? Then you need Christmas. This quick exploration into Genesis 3 reveals the real reason we need Christmas.

This holiday of holidays doesn't exist because we need vacations, presents, and extra church services. Christmas exists because we have sinned. If Genesis chapter 3 didn't happen we wouldn't need Christmas. If we had a pure, true relationship with God, we wouldn't need Christmas. If mankind had trusted God to determine what is good and evil, we wouldn't need Christmas. But because Genesis 3 did happen, and because rebellion against God happens in our hearts every day, we need Christmas desperately. Matthew, in his account of Christ's birth, wrote, "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). We needed God to intervene in our lives, and that is exactly what God the Father did by sending God the Son to be born of a virgin by the power of God the Holy Spirit and to die on the Cross and live again.

This is What Christmas is All About

If you look for ME at Christmas, you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are!

You may not be aware of ME amid the celebrations;
you'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations!

But if you take a moment from your list of things to do
and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you!
You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason why I came
and you'll find ME in the stillness as I'm whispering your name,
Love, Jesus



The Faces of Kissinger's

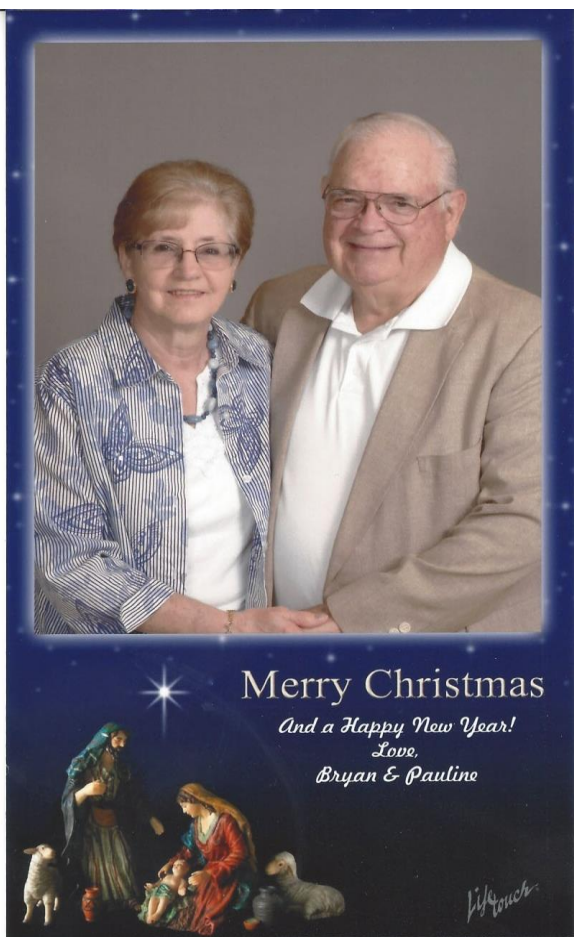
We continue our column featuring members of Kissinger's. Each month a different member(s) will be featured.

Bryan & Pauline Seyler

When Disciple Lutheran Fellowship closed its doors in June 2016, Kissinger's was the first church the Lord led us to "check out". Because we felt so welcome and at home here, we did not need to look any further and we became members in February 2017.

In addition to teaching adult Sunday School, Bryan began a monthly newsletter featuring "Chipmunk News". He was elected to Church Council in 2018 and also serves on the Growth and Development Team, Special Events Team, and Prayer Ministry Team.

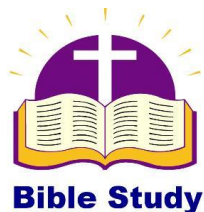
Bryan graduated from Wilson High School in 1964, Industrial Management Institute in 1966 and Belknap College in 1968. He then enlisted in the Army and was sent to Germany in 1969. Pauline graduated from Governor Mifflin in 1966 and Shippensburg State College in 1970. We were married in Germany on Christmas Eve 1969 and will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this year. We have two children and four grandchildren.



After serving in Germany, Bryan went to work in his family's Hardware business, Dries Paint and Hardware in Northeast Reading. Pauline was also employed there till 2001. The business was closed in December 2003. Bryan is currently employed at Seidel Hyundai and Pauline is at Crossroads Family Restaurant since 2001. They live in Cornwall Terrace.



Bible Study Opportunities at Kissinger's



Wednesdays at 1:00pm

The Pastor's Bible study focuses on the scripture passages from the Sunday Services.

Saturdays at 10:30am

This Study is held at the home of Barbara Adams.

The First & Third Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

6:30pm they gather for light refreshment. The study begins at 7:00pm.



Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 8, Kissinger's Church will hold its annual Congregational Meeting. At this meeting we will review committee, staff and financial reports for 2019. In addition, new council members will be elected.

Christmas Gifts for Stabon Manor



We received a letter from Stabon Manor asking for help at Christmas. Stabon is a personal care home in Reading for low-income people with health issues.

Church Council decided it was a good opportunity to be Christ to others and the Kares Team was asked to handle the project.

We are seeking donations of:

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Clothing | Sleepwear |
| Candy | Slippers |
| Shoes | Toiletries |
| Snacks | Personal Hygiene Items |

If you chose to participate, please bring your gifts to the church by December 15. Bins are available in the lobby for your gifts. Thank you for your generosity.



December Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following friends and members of Kissinger's Church. Please notify the church office if your name was missed. Birthdays will now appear in the newsletters instead of the calendars.

Andee Swoyer	5
Linda Brown	6
Robert Hollinger	19
Sandra Fischer	19
Betty Loomis	28
Sandra Wentzel	29
Edward Hess	30
Steve Geras	30

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



In case of inclement weather, closings or changes in worship time, will be announced on WFMZ (wfmz.com or the WFMZ TV, Channel 69.) and Facebook.



*Join Us as we Celebrate
Jesus this Christmas!
(The best gift of all!)*

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24

The Service Begins at 5:00pm



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia plants are available for sponsorship for the Christmas Eve service. The plants cost \$5.50 and may be sponsored in memory or honor of someone. You have the option to pick the plant(s) up after the service or ask to have it delivered to a shut in.

Cost is \$5.50 per plant. Order forms are available in the narthex; payment is due with your order. Deadline for orders is **December 15.**



John Denver/ Oldies Concert Benefits Mentors for Berks Youth

On November 3, Pastor Dave Reinwald, Jackie Reinwald, Lee Shappell, and Andy Wlasniewski also known as the Rocky Mountain Band, held a John Denver/Oldies Concert at Kissinger's Church. The event was a fundraiser to benefit the Mentors for Berks Youth Organization. Along with the concert, Kissinger's Fellowship Team sold food, drinks and snacks.

Due to the generosity of Thrivent's Community Impact Card we were able to purchase all the food we needed and donate all the proceeds from the sale of the food to Berks Mentors. We had fifteen volunteers help put this event together and there were one hundred people in attendance.

With your help we were able to raise \$1,084 for the Mentors for Berks Youth program. Our heartfelt "Thank You" for helping us carry on God's work.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

*We Have a Class
for You!*

Sundays at 9:00 AM

- ◇ Dave Kauffman is teaching the “Gospel of Luke”
- ◇ Bryan Seyler continues the “Study on Angels”.
- ◇ Pauline Seyler will be teaching classes for children ages 5 through 12.

Website www.kissingerschurch.org

Email kissingerschurch@yahoo.com

Facebook www.kissingers.church.3

CHIPMUNK NEWS

Friends,

As you read this, you are probably considering what gifts that you would like to give to family and/or friends. We are all aware that God the Father has given us the greatest “gift” of all, the life of His Son.

And, yet, God has more gifts to lavish upon us. Yes, He has given us the gift of life and many blessings like food and shelter. He gives us the ability to make a living and provides for all of our needs.

But the Bible speaks to something that the Holy Spirit wants to give to every believer – “spiritual gifts”. The 3 main sections of scripture that refer to spiritual gifts are Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, and 1 Corinthians 12:28.

In most church situations, a minority of members tend to do most of the ministry of the church. However, scripture is crystal clear that this is not God's will. God doesn't want “the few” doing “everything”, but “everyone” doing “something”!

Romans 12:6 says, “In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.”

1 Peter 4:10 says, “God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

So, as you consider what you're going to give someone this Christmas, what spiritual gift do you think God will give you? Or, if He's already given it to you, won't you consider using that “gift” for His glory in 2020?

Please, contact me any time with what God has revealed to you. If you're not sure, please give me the opportunity, as your pastor, to help you discover how God wants you to utilize “your spiritual gifts”. Don't leave your gift, “under the tree” this Christmas. Open it up and become part of sharing the gift of Jesus to a dying world!

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Coming Events!



Paolo's: Listen, Learn, Lunch
Thursday, Dec. 5 at 11:00am at
Paolo's Restaurant (Shillington).
Guest Speaker: Sandy's Cookie Co.
RSVP to Andee Swoyer.



Friday, Dec. 6, 5-9:00pm

Parents take the night off and we will babysit for you! For children ages 3-13 years. Games, movie, craft and music. Food provided. Must be registered to attend. Call April at 610-406-5445.



Fellowship Luncheon
Sunday, December 8

Join us for our monthly Fellowship Lunch. Sign up at the kitchen window to bring a potluck dish.



Kissinger's Christmas Bazaar
Sundays, Dec. 8, 15 & 22
Before and after the worship service.



**Christmas Concert &
Spaghetti Dinner**
Dec. 14, 4:00 to 7:00pm

\$8.00 for meal includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, drink and dessert.

Christmas Concert at 5:30pm
Music by Dave & Jackie Reinwald.
Goodwill offering will be received
for the concert.

Benefits Kissinger's Church and
Hands & Heart, Inc.



Christmas Caroling
Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2:00pm

We will carol in our community and
return to church for fellowship.



Recipe of the Month:

Butterfinger Cookies

YIELD: about 4 dozen.

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter, softened	1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
3/4 cup sugar	1 cup all-purpose flour
2/3 cup packed brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
2 large egg whites, room temperature	1/4 teaspoon salt
1-1/4 cups chunky peanut butter	6 Butterfinger candy bars (1.9 ounces each), chopped

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350°. Cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg whites. Beat in peanut butter and vanilla. In another bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Stir in candy bars.
- Shape into 1-1/2-in. balls and place 2 inches apart on greased baking sheets. Bake until golden brown, 10-12 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.

