

THE KISKI WEEKLY



From the Desk of Rev. Erin Kobs, Organizational Presbyter & Stated Clerk

Greetings from downtown Pittsburgh & the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) Annual Event. This event brings together christian educators & pastors from the PC(USA), Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, & the Moravian Church for four days of worship, workshops, plenary sessions, times for networking & sharing of resources in areas of spiritual formation & christian education. I've attended the APCE Annual Event many times, dating back to attending with my dad while I was a seminary student, but it's been a little while (2021). When I read it was going to be in Pittsburgh, I decided to make this one of my continuing education events for 2026.

Yesterday was the first day of the event & it certainly did not disappoint. I sat at a table with folks from all over the country. Following opening worship, the Rev. Paul Roberts, the president of Justice Center for Sacred Theological Studies in Atlanta, GA. Paul spoke passionately & deeply about how we love God. He talked quite a bit about how we need to lean into the tangible, experiential connections with God & God's love. He encouraged us to take deep, cleansing breaths & this is to not only help our lungs increase their capacity, but also as a tangible experience of God's love. Wake up, dear ones, & engage in feeling God's love!

I've been able to connect with friends who serve across the country & take a gander at the marketplace, which is filled with great resources that I hope to bring back for our congregations. Today brings workshops, another plenary session & worship, which I am greatly looking forward to. I would be remiss if I did not share my favorite moment from yesterday. After dinner, I had the opportunity to snuggle a six week old baby goat in the marketplace. There are four of them that are with the Special Offerings booth & they are from a local dairy farm. Her name is June & I was holding her & rocking her, & she fell asleep! Those of you who know me, you will know that goats are my favorite animal! It's been my dream to snuggle baby goats. So, enjoy this photo of me & baby June.

Blessings,

Erin



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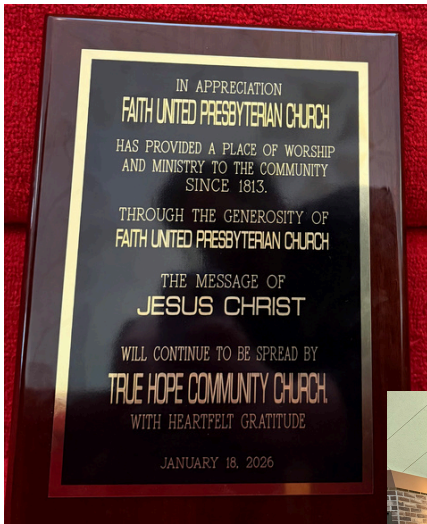


Presbytery Upcoming Events

January 21st - 24th: Erin at APCE Annual Event (Pittsburgh)
January 26th: 6:00pm Elder Training at Plumville Church
January 28th - 29th: Erin & Angela at Synod EP Forum (Bedford)
February 1st: Erin preaching at Ebenezer Church
February 7th: 10:00am Mandated Reporter Training at
Beechwoods Church
February 10th: 6:00pm Formation Commission

Closing Service for Faith Church

On Sunday, many of us gathered to say goodbye & to celebrate the 213 years of ministry & mission at Faith Presbyterian Church. Judi Paden led a lovely worship service, highlighting the story of Faith, weaving it together with the scripture from Ecclesiastes 3. While it is always sad when a church closes, we are grateful that the building is going to remain a church in the West Kittanning community. The congregation of True Hope Community Church, who has been nested there for almost a year & a half, will be meeting their on a permanent basis. We give thanks to God for their continued ministry!



January Stated Gathering



Friends, we had a wonderful January Gathering at New Rehoboth-Greenville this past Saturday. 78 folks attended in person & on Zoom as we worshipped together, celebrated commissioning of four pastor to six of our congregations, & heard the happenings of our presbytery through the reports of our commissions. There was a wonderful theme that emerged during our time together - connection to God & one another & feeling the Holy Spirit present in our midst. Rev. Marty Neal preached a wonderful sermon from I Corinthians, reminding us of the importance of our relationship with Jesus. We installed Elders Joe Billotte & Rebecca Reed to be our moderator & vice-moderator. CP John Tirpak was examined & commissioned to Slate Lick & West Glade Run. Boyd Edmondson shared his story of what the Rwanda Partnership means to him. The gathering felt so uplifting & meaningful - we are better together than we are apart! Thanks be to God for our presbytery!

Formation Commission News

- There will be Elder Training offered on Monday, January 26th at 6:00pm at the Plumville Church. If you are interested in attending, please [register here](#).
- We are offering a series of training specifically designed for current pulpit supply folks and/or elders that occasionally fill home church pulpits. These are designed to help folks better understand how to preach & give more understanding about the scriptures. The first 3 classes (see below) are a series on the elements of preaching: exegesis (history), sermon writing, & preaching. We are strongly urging you to take all three because the classes are sequential & build on each other.

All classes are from 9am to 2pm & are offered at the Presbytery office & via Zoom. There will be a light breakfast & lunch offered.

- Saturday, January 31st: Introduction to Biblical Exegesis
- Saturday, February 28th: Introduction to Sermon Writing
- Saturday, March 28th: Introduction to Preaching

Please [register here](#) for these classes. We are asking you to register by Wednesday, January 21st, so we can prepare for your attendance. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Cowser, Training Presbytery.



Upcoming Events Around Kiski

Edenburg invites all to join them for a community dinner on January 26th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Spaghetti & sides will be served as you fellowship with others around table. If attending, please RSVP to the church at 814-797-1167 by January 23rd.

Shelocta is hosting a dinner on Saturday, February 7th at 4:00pm to celebrate & share God's love to our community & church.

New Rehoboth-Greenville is hosting Digger Deeper with Randy Stear on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:00pm. Bring a bible & a friend!

Rwanda Partnership News

Our Rwanda Partnership will be celebrating it's 20th year in 2026. In honor of that, a fundraiser contest to purchase 10 motorcycles for pastors in Rwanda in order for them to get to their churches or visiting parishioners. Each motorcycle is \$2,000. The church who raises the most money per member (according to their 2024 statistical report) will win the Philippiian Prize (a gift from Rwanda). Raising only \$10 per member could just do it! Funds must be submitted to the Presbytery Office by **June 1, 2026**.

Good News Board

Have some good news to share? Email us at orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org

Shelocta is enjoying the Thriving Congregations program. They are learning a lot about what our mission, vision, & values are. Also, with our covenant churches (Crete & Trinity), we are looking at & understanding the MVV for all of us as the Communities of Faith Churches.

Shelocta is preparing to offer "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday for our community. They are also working along side our new pastor, Rev. Stephanie Backus, to provide Lenten Taize services every Tuesday at 6:00pm.

St. Paul's is excited that they have five new people coming on a regular basis.

Birthdays

Pastors with January birthdays:

- January 6th: John Hopkins (Grace)
- January 13th: Sarah Sedgwick (Edenburg); Tim Monroe (Retired)
- January 26th: Katelyn Hendrickson (At Large)

Mandated Reporter Training

A reminder that the Book of Order does require that elders, ministers, & volunteers (Sunday school teachers, VBS workers, anyone who is working directly with children) every **36 months** (G-3.0106). This is a change from the past, when it was every 5 years, which is still the requirement for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mandated Reporter training takes about an hour & a half. There is the option to do Zoom for these. The Zoom link will be emailed to all registered participants on **the day of the training**.

Upcoming:

- Saturday, February 7th, 10:00am, Beechwoods Church, [Register here](#)

If your church is interested in hosting a Mandated Reporter Training, please contact Erin Kobs, Organizational Presbyter & Stated Clerk (orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org)

Free Items

Plumville Church recently did a clean out day at the church. They are offering the following items free to a good home:

- Choir robes - 15 blue - 31 winter white
- Wooden Children's chairs - 3 different styles - 14
- Worship in Song Hymnals (old) - 52

If you are interested, please contact Colleen McFarland



Clerk of Session Corner

Here is important information for clerks of session of our congregations



Annual Statistical Reports

It is just about that season again! Information regarding your statistical report was sent out to clerks on Tuesday, December 2nd. The statistical portal for **clerks is now open & will close on Friday, February 20th**. If you do not have your church ID or PIN number, please email Erin at orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org.

2026 Terms of Call & Contracts

The 2026 Terms of Call & Contract forms are now in fillable PDFs on the [Kiski website](#). **All forms are due by January 30, 2026**. The original form must be mailed to the office - no scanned copies via email or photos will be accepted. After they are signed off by the Organization Commission, the original forms will be sent back to the church for your records.

2026 Minimum Terms of Call (as set at September 13th Stated Gathering)

- Without a manse - \$55,550
- With a manse - \$55,500 (\$42,692 salary & \$12,808 manse value)

2026 Per Capita Rates

Presbytery: \$27.00

Synod of the Trinity: \$2.40

General Assembly: \$11.26

Total: \$40.66

Remittance forms have been sent to all church treasurers. If you have not received it, please contact the office. A blank form is available on the [Kiski website](#).

2026 Board of Pensions Rates

Congregational Pastor Package

- Pastor only (required for installed pastors) - 17.5% of effective salary
- Additional optional coverage:
 - Pastor & spouse - 17.5% + \$12,250
 - Pastor & child(ren) - 17.5% + \$9,950
 - Pastor & family - 17.5% + \$22,200

Transitional Pastor Package

This is only available to those who were in the package in 2025 & this package will go away in 2028

- Pastor & family - 37% of effective salary

Church Financial Leadership

Church Financial Leadership Academy has 3 financial videos – good for sessions, auditors, and treasurers. They can be found at www.churchfla.org. These videos are between 5-6 minutes long & are very informative.

They are: Principles of Financial Reporting, Narrative Budgets, & Reading Church Financial Statements.

You will need to register in order to view the videos. Registration code is PCUSA.

There are also a lot of other useful information around finances available on their website.

Stewardship & Financial Resources

We are gauging interest in churches & sessions who might be interested in information & seminars regarding church stewardship, financial planning, or year end giving. Presbyterian Foundation offers a wide variety of resources & seminars. If we have interest, we will reach out to Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly, who is our Ministry Resource Officer for the Foundation. If your church is interested, please send an email to kiski@kiskipby.org.