

The Week of January 28, 2026

# THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Many of us are carrying a heavy mix of emotions as we watch events unfold across our nation. News headlines speak of unrest, division, anger, & fear. It can feel overwhelming to know how to respond. For some, this season stirs deep worry about the future; for others, it brings exhaustion, grief, or a sense of helplessness. Whatever you are feeling, you are not alone, & you are not wrong to feel it.

As people of faith, we are reminded that our hope does not rest in the stability of institutions or the calm of circumstances, but in the steadfast presence of God. Scripture does not shy away from moments of upheaval; again & again, God meets God's people in times of conflict & uncertainty, calling them back to justice, mercy, humility, & love. In moments like these, our calling is not to harden our hearts, but to deepen them.

This is a time to listen carefully—to God & to one another. It is a time to pray for peace that is more than the absence of conflict, for justice that heals rather than harms, & for wisdom for leaders & communities alike. It is also a time to practice Christ-like compassion in our daily lives: speaking with kindness, refusing to dehumanize those who disagree with us, & caring especially for those who are most vulnerable.

The church has a unique witness in seasons of unrest. We are called to be people who tell the truth, love our neighbors, & trust that God is still at work, even when the world feels unsteady. May we be a community grounded in prayer, shaped by hope, & committed to being bearers of God's peace, right where we are.

Let us continue to hold one another, our nation, & our world in prayer, trusting that the God who has carried us through difficult times before is faithful still.

Gracious and faithful God, in this time of unrest & uncertainty, we come before you aware of our need - for your wisdom, your mercy, & your peace. Hold our nation in your care, especially where there is fear, division, or pain. Calm what is restless, heal what is wounded, & guide all who lead with a spirit of humility & justice. Make us instruments of your peace in our communities, committed to reflecting Christ in all we do. Amen.

Blessings,

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[Kiski Presbytery](#)  
[Synod of the Trinity](#)

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## Presbytery Upcoming Events

January 28<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>: Erin & Angela at Synod EP Forum (Bedford)

February 1<sup>st</sup>: Erin preaching at Ebenezer Church

February 7<sup>th</sup>: 10:00am Mandated Reporter Training at  
Beechwoods Church

February 10<sup>th</sup>: 6:00pm Formation Commission

## Interest in Choir, Sewing, & Knitting

do you love sacred music? Do you find yourself humming? Do you love to sing??

if yes,

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching & admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms & hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col. 3:16)

come & join the Kiskiminetas Presbytery's choir. Over the next 10 weeks, we will prepare sacred music to sing on Palm Sunday afternoon (March 29, 3.00pm ET).

Each rehearsal will include lessons on how to read music - & after the lesson we will rehearse our music.

AND

do you want to slow down listen more deeply to the still small voice of God, be more closely knitted together with fellow humans, & learn to sew and/or knit?

if yes,

come and learn to work with wool, linen, and your hands, making coverings and garments (Prv. 31:13, 19, 22).

if you're interested any or all of these activities, please fill out [this form](#). Lessons start soon! Bless you! Angela

## Upcoming Events Around Kiski

**Shelocta** is hosting a dinner on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. Bring a bible & a friend!

**Union First** in Cowensville is hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake & sausage supper in the basement of the church from 5-7 pm on February 17th.

## Formation Commission News



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 31<sup>st</sup>: Introduction to Biblical Exegesis **(closed)**
- Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>: Introduction to Sermon Writing
- Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>: Introduction to Preaching

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

## Good News Board

**Have some good news to share? Email us at [orgpresbyter@kiskiphy.org](mailto:orgpresbyter@kiskiphy.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 February birthdays:

- February 6<sup>th</sup>: David Hanna (Calvary)
- February 20<sup>th</sup>: Wayne King (Retired)
- February 27<sup>th</sup>: Colleen McFarland (Plumville & Atwood)
- February 28<sup>th</sup>: Laurie Milligan (At Large)

## Free VBS Curriculum

**Elderton** has several VBS kits we would like to donate. If your church is interested in any of the following themes, please contact the church at 724-354-3117.

Camp Out  
Road Trip  
Rocky Railway  
Kingdom Rock  
Sky

## 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org))



# Rwanda Partnership News



Our Rwanda Partnership will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Philippian 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**.

We received this message from our partners this week:

On this Thursday, at the headquarters of Gitarama Presbytery, Moderator, Rev. Fidele Sibomana distributed seven motorcycles to pastors leading different parishes. These motorcycles were provided as support from partner churches of Kiskiminetas Presbytery, which have partnership with parishes in Gitarama Presbytery. The parishes that received motorcycles are Buha (Brookville), Mpushi, Kirwa A (Shelocta), Gisiza, Gitwe (First, Clarion), & Gitarama Presbytery.

This is precious & very helpful support for pastoral ministry in Gitarama Presbytery, especially because many pastors walk long distances to reach Christians & their parishes. Some parishes are located in mountainous areas, where traveling on foot is very difficult. These motorcycles are a timely response to the needs of the pastors, as they will greatly help them in their journeys to reach Christians & to carry out their ministry in service to God.

The pastors who received the motorcycles were filled with joy, happiness, & smiles, & they expressed gratitude for these precious blessings from Gitarama Presbytery & Kiskiminetas Presbytery.

Therefore, they ask God's blessings upon the partner churches that contributed to this support & upon Kiskiminetas Presbytery. May God's blessings fill all their activities.

The group that is planning to travel to Rwanda in June met for a travel group dinner in Brookville. The travelers are Rev. Dr. Stanley Bhasker & Sarah Bhasker (Brookville), Rev. Rebecca Mihm (First, Clarion), Rev. Erin Kobs (Organizational Presbyter), & Ruling Elder Mark Phoebus (Calvary). We've received an itinerary from our partners in Gitarama & we are getting excited about our time with our partners & seeing some of our partner parishes.



# 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 20<sup>th</sup>**. If you do not have your church ID or PIN number, please email Erin at [orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:kiski@kiskipby.org).