

The Week of October 26, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

We've had some exciting things happening here at the Presbytery office. Last Friday, we had a brand new outside door installed, replacing the one that had seen better days. This new door is quite lovely, custom made to fit into the existing opening, & is going to hold up better under the elements. Also, the door does securely latch, so it will not go flying open during high winds! Now, there is one major change with this new door - there is no longer a mail slot in the door for folks to drop things off after hours at the office. If you need to drop things off, we ask that you come during our office hours (Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm) or call & speak to Cheryl about making some special arrangements.



On the inside of the office, there are some significant changes as well. The main desk has been partially removed, making extra space in the main lobby area. Cheryl has relocated over by the window with a new desk area. This was made possible through a re-wiring project to properly wire the office for internet. We have new phones in all the offices, which will now allow folks to leave messages for particular people when the office is closed. The hope is that all of these improvements



will allow us in the office to serve the Presbytery more effectively! There will be more improvements down the line, but we certainly do invite folks to come & visit us here at the office in Yatesboro! We'd love to see you!

Blessings,

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Kiski Presbytery
Synod of the Trinity

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From the Desk of Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser, Training Presbyter



Here are things that I am currently engaged with:

1) Congregational Revitalization (also called TC: Thriving Congregations): TC helps congregations explore & understand their rapidly changing social & cultural contexts. Specifically, we help churches gain greater clarity about their mission, vision, & values, & draw on practices from their theological & ecclesial traditions to adapt their ministries to the demands of their changing contexts. The aim of the initiative is to help congregations thrive by strengthening ministries that help people deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, & contribute to the flourishing of their communities & the world. As of October 4th, seven Kiski churches have agreed to work on the TC initiative: Shelocta, Crete, Trinity, St. Benedict, St. Paul's, Arcadia, & Boiling Springs.

2) Topical Courses:

- Seven students will have finished a 4-session course on trauma-informed preaching & trauma-informed pastoral care.
- An introduction to the Bible course has begun.
- If you're interested a topic, please let me know & we can create it.

November 1st Stated Presbytery Gathering

The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas will hold a Stated Gathering on Saturday, November 1st at 10:00am at United Presbyterian Church, Blairsville.

This gathering will be conducted in a hybrid manner (in person or Zoom)

- If you choose to attend via Zoom, we are asking that you have your camera turned on, so we can ensure you are participating in the business of the gathering. In addition, please remain on mute unless you are speaking.
- In addition, we cannot fully ensure audio quality, so please take this into consideration when registering to attend via Zoom.

Registration for this gathering will **close on Thursday, October 30th at noon**. This is so the staff have time to prepare the printed materials & will not be able to check the registration form after this point. Thank you for understanding!

The packet for this meeting & Zoom link will be sent out on Thursday, October 30th after 12:00pm via email to all registered commissioners. There is a spot to request a printed copy (available for in person attendees only) & those who request them will receive them at the gathering. We will not be mailing printed copies beforehand or to Zoom attendees.

Register Here: <https://form.forms.app/kiskiminetaspresbytery/november-1-stated-gathering>

At registration, we will have a bucket on the table to contribute an offering for the Hunger Fund. 50% of the collection will be given to the host church for their local food ministry & 50% will be donated to food bank organizations within the bounds of the Presbytery.

Excused absences from attendance at the Presbytery gathering will be granted up to the gathering & for 2 days (48 hours) after the gathering. Requests for excuses after that time will not be granted.

Good News Board

Have some good news to share?

Email us at orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org

- **Shelocta** hosted a Sisterhood event on October 3rd. It was a fun day spending time with “Sisters in Christ” from 8 different churches.
- The Deacons from **Shelocta** collected paper products for their food pantry participants. Also, they are holding a Rwanda Brunch & basket raffle on October 26th to support our Kirwa Church.
- **Atwood** made their annual apple butter on October 11th. It's the best!
- **Crete** is celebrating a new roof on their building & a new pianist.
- **Crooked Creek** is active with their women's meetings, a 3rd grade class, & working with the local Veteran's home.
- **Trinity** is happy to share that they have a new pianist & choir director. Valerie Stipcak has joined them (& Shelocta too). They prayed for this & prayers have been answered.
- **Dayton Glade Run** celebrates that VBS started back up & Pastor Sheila is back from leave.

Rwanda Partnership News

Our Rwanda Partnership will be celebrating it's 20th year in 2026. In honor of that, two things will be happening.

- In June 2026, we will be hosting a trip to Rwanda for interested folks. The trip will be June 1st -11th, with an opportunity to visit parishes that are sponsored by our congregations. The trip is limited to 8 folks. If you are interested, there is an [application](#). Applications are due to Mark Phoebus by November 30, 2025.
- 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.

Upcoming Events Around Kiski



- St. Benedict's Ladies Association is hosting a **Bazaar** on November 1st from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the local community center with homemade soups, luncheon, homemade goodies, & a basket auction. All are welcome!

Attention Pastors!

The Board of Pensions Open Enrollment is now active through November 7th. All pastors and employees who are enrolled in the medical plan need to log into Benefits Connect to complete their choices. If you have questions regarding BOP medical plans, please reach out to the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 or memberservices@pensions.org

Presbytery Upcoming Events

October 30th: Registration for November 1st Stated Gathering closes at noon

November 1st: 10:00am Stated Gathering at United Presbyterian, Blairsville - [Register Here](#)

November 2nd: Erin preaching at Srader Grove & UP Freeport
Angela worshipping with Elderton.

November 8th - 21st: Erin working remotely from Ohio; Angela working remotely from Tennessee

November 9th- 12th: Erin & Angela at Mid Council Leader Gathering, Louisville, KY

November 12th: 10:00am or 6:00pm Treasurer Training with Kimberly Warner, bookkeeper - [Register Here](#)

November 18th: Formation Commission & Organization Commission meetings (at office & via Zoom)

November 19th- 21st: Erin at Mid Council Financial Conference, Chicago, IL

November 24th - 29th: Erin on vacation

November 24th: Advent Lectionary Group begins (Zoom)



**2025 Stated Presbytery
Gatherings**

Saturday, November 1st, 10:00am, United Presbyterian, Blairsville

Mandated Reporter Trainings

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**.

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

Clearances

- **Mandated Reporter Training** (Child Abuse Prevention) - all ministers, elders, deacons & volunteers who work with children. Certificates are good for 36 months.
- **Boundary Training** - all ministers & elders. Must be done every 36 months (according to the Book of Order)
- **FBI Fingerprint Clearance** - all ministers. Certificates are good for five years (in accordance with PA state law & Presbytery policy)
- **PA State Police Clearance** - all ministers & those who work directly with children. Clearance is good for five years (PA state law), but are highly recommended to be done every 3 years for protection of our churches.

Presbyterian Women Upcoming Events

- Synod of the Trinity PW Gathering is from July 16-18, 2026, held at Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA. The theme is Find Joy in the Journey! Join us! All sisters welcomed!

Birthdays



Pastors with October birthdays:

- October 2nd: Lisa Lyon (Retired)
- October 6th: Rebecca Mihm (First, Clarion)
- October 8th: Jim Arter (Cross Roads Community)
- October 16th: Marty Neal (Appleby Manor & Crooked Creek)
- October 25th: Dave Koehler (Beechwoods & Sugar Hill)

Need Something? Call Us!

Have a question? Need some information about an upcoming event? Looking for a particular resource?

If you are in the need of something, please call us here at the Presbytery Office. We will make sure that you are put in touch with the correct person to answer your questions whether it is the Formation Commission, the Organization Commission, or our two Presbyters (Training Presbyter or Organizational Presbyter/Stated Clerk). We are here to help & want to make sure that you are getting the correct information.

TREASURER TRAINING

Some topics we will cover

- Safe handling of funds & records
- Audit recommendations
- Accounting systems
- Presbytery payments & reports
- Financial reporting & budgeting
- Payroll
- Q & A time

Wednesday, November 12th
10:00am or 6:00pm at Presbytery office or Zoom

[Register Here](#)

If you have specific questions, you can email Kimberly Warner at bookkeeper@kiskipby.org

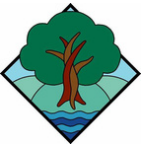


Presbytery Directory

Need to access the Directory? [Click here](#)

The directory is under password. If you need the password, call Cheryl at the office

Clerk of Session Corner



Here is important information for clerks of session of our congregations

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 will be arriving via email along with a letter shortly.

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

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. The 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.