

The Week of November 30, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

As we enter the first week of December, congregations across the Presbytery step together into the sacred rhythm of Advent. This season invites us to slow our pace, quiet our spirits, & make space for the coming Christ. At the heart of this first week is a theme our world desperately needs: Hope.

Hope is more than optimism, & more than a vague desire for things to “get better.” Christian hope is rooted in God’s character—steady, trustworthy, and unchanging. It is the deep assurance that God is present & working even when circumstances appear uncertain. Hope looks honestly at the world’s brokenness but refuses to believe the brokenness has the final word.

In a season when many feel stretched thin, weighed down by worries, or aware of grief that resurfaces amid holiday cheer, Advent Hope meets us with gentle strength. It reminds us that the story of God’s people has always been shaped by waiting. Israel waited for a Messiah; the prophets waited for promises to be fulfilled; Mary waited expectantly for the child who would transform the world. And we, too, wait—trusting that God is with us in every moment of the journey.

As the first candle of the Advent wreath is lit in sanctuaries throughout the presbytery, that small flame points us to a truth bigger than any darkness: the light of Christ is coming, & even now it shines. In a world full of noise, that steady flicker whispers that God is not finished with us. Hope rises not because we are strong, but because God is faithful.

This week, may every congregation across our Presbytery lean into hope—hope for renewal, hope for reconciliation, hope for healing, & hope for the Spirit’s quiet, powerful work in our midst. Let us be people who watch for glimpses of grace & who encourage one another to trust in the promises of God.

God of Hope, as Advent begins, quiet our hearts & draw us into Your presence. Where we are weary, renew us. Where we are anxious, calm us. Where we feel uncertain, anchor us in Your steadfast love. Kindle in us a hope that shines brightly for all to see. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.



Advent Blessings,

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

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Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser: trainingpresbyter@kiskipby.org

Presbytery Upcoming Events

December 7th: Erin preaching at Wilcox Church; Angela worshipping at St. Benedict & St. Paul's United Churches
December 8th: 7:00pm Advent Lectionary Group
December 15th: 7:00pm Advent Lectionary Group
December 22nd: 7:00pm Advent Lectionary Group
December 19th - January 3rd: Erin on vacation
December 24th - January 1st: Presbytery office closed

Advent Lectionary Group is Back!

The Advent Lectionary Group is back for another season! This group is convened by Donna Kanouff, Commissioned Pastor at Clymer & Harmony United. It is held on Zoom on each Monday during the Advent season. All are welcome to join - all pastors, pulpit supply preachers, & anyone who wants to study the lectionary passages during the season. No registration is needed, just come!

Meeting is each Monday from 7:00 to 8:00pm [Click here to join](#).

Job Postings

Calvary (Indiana) has two job openings: Director of Christian Education, and a Sexton/Evening Custodian. Full descriptions are available on our website: calvarychurchpa.com/jobs

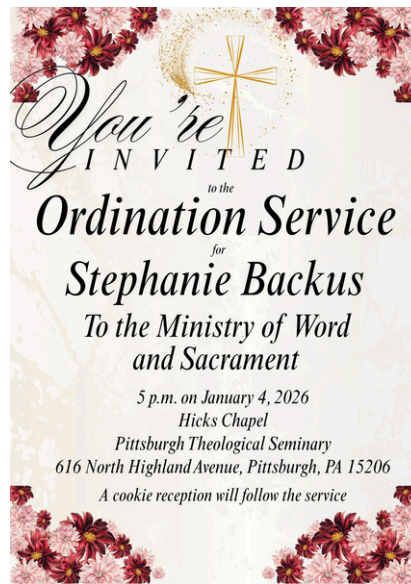
Interested applicants can email their inquiries to: officemanager@calvarychurchpa.com

Plumville is seeking a caretaker to keep our church clean & orderly. We are open to weekly or biweekly cleanings depending on cost & availability. Common tasks include:

- Sweeping & dusting common area throughout the church (stained glass windows & window sills should be dusted)
- Ensure that the sanctuary is orderly & neat
- Clean restrooms & kitchen
- Clean glass & mirrored surfaces
- Collect & set garbage at the curb
- Sweep porches & entrances
- Clean interior of windows & exterior of windows that fold inward in the spring & fall

If you are not available to open or close the church for special events or otherwise, but are able to clean, we would still like to speak with you!

Please contact Ben Gandolfi at 724-397-2727 if interested, to discuss compensation, or if you have any questions.



Stephanie began her service at Crete, Shelocta Community, & Trinity Churches on November 30th.



Good News Board

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

- **Ebenezer** packed 30 boxes for Samaritan's Purse. The congregation collected different items all year & the kids & some adults put the boxes together.
- **Ebenezer Presbyterian Women** held a salad bar lunch & Thank Offering program after church on November 16th. Joyce Johnson, Synod of the Trinity PW Moderator, shared her mission experiences at Ihanktonwan Learning Camp in South Dakota.
- **Elderton** is participating in our 13th year of the Angel Tree for the Christmas season. Each year, they receive names & gift ideas from Armstrong County CYS, offering them the chance to bless children in need within their community. The congregation & Butterfly Hill Preschool look forward to this tradition each year & continue to show overwhelming generosity, helping keep this meaningful ministry alive.
- **Shelocta** has plans to adopt a family from Salvation Army's Adopt a Family for Christmas. They will provide gifts & all items needed for a Christmas meal.

Upcoming Events Around Kiski



Christmas Concert
Get into the Christmas Spirit with a free evening of holiday music with Chad Toland!

Dec. 6

- LIVE MUSIC BY CHAD TOLAND
- BASKET RAFFLE
- 50/50 RAFFLE

Starts at 6pm
Music at 7pm
Free Shuttle

Apollo United Presbyterian Church
401 First St. Apollo

Indigo Market
2107 River Rd.
Sun-Sat 7am-2pm

Bolling Springs PC
1668 PA-56
Tues/Thur 3pm-6pm
724-478-1523

Contact below for tickets:
Apollo United PC
401 First St.
M-F 9am-2pm
724-478-4807

Contact below for tickets:
Quality Life Services
151 Good View Dr.
M-F 8am-4:30pm
724-727-3451

A Love Offering will be taken for our musician and Food4Kids.



Sunday, December 7, 2025
Grace Presbyterian Church
155 N. Jefferson Street, Kittanning
Two Performances 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Free to the Public

“Once, There Was A Star, is an original composition by Carnegie Mellon University students Chris Renaud and Alex Irwin. The cantata features the choir along with vocalists and musicians from Carnegie Mellon University.

Atwood & Plumville Presbyterian Churches will join together at Plumville Church for a joint Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:00pm.

Concord Parker Presbyterian Church invites everyone to their annual Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:00pm. The service will include candlelight, music, & Christmas message from Rev. Gary Lyon



Walk with the Shepherds

Saturday, December 6th 10:00am to 12:00pm

Beechwoods Presbyterian Church

Come take an indoor walk among the shepherds anytime between 10:00am & noon for a morning of creative fun for all ages. Free & open to the public. Any questions, please call 814-371-2981.

It is a live event where “shepherds” tell about the birth of Jesus Christ in their own words & through various stations that recount the events recorded in the Bible through drama, engage people of all ages in hands-on activities like crafting an ornament & playing music or singing, & invite all to join in refreshments

Elderton invites men aged 50 & over to join us for a transformative Bible study led by Mark Schrecengost. This engaging study will be held at Crouse’s Cafe, Shelocta, at 11:00am on the third Tuesday of each month. We’ll be exploring Quiet Strength, an inspiring guide by Coach Tony Dungy, which offers powerful insights into faith & resilience.

Elderton warmly invites you to experience the magic of the season as the Elderton Choir presents a captivating Christmas Musical “One King” on December 21st, during our worship service at 10:30am.

Elderton invites folks to join them for a beautifully planned Christmas Eve candlelight service at 8:00pm, featuring a heartwarming Christmas message, & uplifting music as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.





January Stated Gathering

Our first stated gathering for 2026 will be on Saturday, January 17th at 10:00am at New Rehoboth-Greenville Presbyterian Church (1419 Rehoboth Church Road, Clarion). This gathering will be a time of intentional worship, honoring those elders who've joined the church triumphant, installing our moderator & vice-moderator, along with other business of the presbytery.

To register for the gathering: [click here](#)

Registration will close on Thursday, January 15th at noon! This is to ensure the staff has enough time prepare for the gathering.

The packet & Zoom information will be emailed out to all registered participants on Thursday, January 15th during the afternoon.

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**.

Upcoming:

- Saturday, February 7th, 10:00am, Beechwoods Church

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

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 December birthdays:

- December 8: Donna Jarrell (Mt. Tabor & First, Marienville)
- December 12: Jim Dietrich (Retired)
- December 24: Bruce Shannon (Retired)

Formation Commission News

- There will be Elder Training offered on Monday, January 26th at 6:00pm at the Plumville Church. More details to come later.
- We are doing some work with our Pulpit Supply Preachers in the coming year. We know that congregations do better with strong scriptural preaching. More details to follow in the new year.



Ark Encounter Event

Clarksburg Trinity Presbyterian Church is offering all churches in our Presbytery to join them in April 2026 for a two-day trip to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky.

\$100 Deposit needed by January 1st to Trinity Presbyterian Church, 18 Clarksburg Rd., Clarksburg, PA 15725.

Please contact Katherine Davis (Email katieliza93@gmail.com) for more information

If interested in joining, please use the following link to register : **Ark Encounter Registration Form**

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 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**.



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.

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.

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

Annual Statistical Reports

It is just about that season again! Information regarding your statistical report will be sent out to clerks on Tuesday, December 2nd. I would advise clerks to begin gathering the necessary information in preparation of filing your report.

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.