

# THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

As we gather once more to celebrate the birth of our Savior, we are reminded that Christmas is God's profound declaration of love for the world. In the quiet of a Bethlehem night, God entered our lives not with power or spectacle, but with humility, vulnerability, & grace. The light that dawned in the manger continues to shine, offering hope in times of uncertainty & peace in the midst of a restless world.

Christmas is also a time to reflect with gratitude on the ways God has been at work among us throughout the year. We give thanks for faithful congregations, dedicated pastors & church leaders, & the many acts of compassion, worship, & service that bear witness to Christ in our communities. Even in seasons of challenge & change, God remains present, guiding & sustaining us.

The good news of Christmas calls us not only to receive God's gift but to share it. As we welcome Christ anew, may we be renewed in our commitment to love our neighbors, care for the vulnerable, & proclaim the hope of the gospel through our words & actions. May our churches continue to be places where the light of Christ is visible - where grace is extended freely & joy is shared generously.

As this holy season unfolds, may the peace of Christ dwell richly in your hearts & homes. May you find rest, renewal, & deep joy in the promise that God is with us, Emmanuel, now & always. Wishing you a blessed Christmas & a hope-filled New Year

Christmas Blessings,



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## Presbytery Upcoming Events

December 19<sup>th</sup> - January 4<sup>th</sup>: Angela on vacation (in TN)  
December 19<sup>th</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Erin on vacation (in OH)  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>: 7:00pm Advent Lectionary Group ([zoom](#))  
December 24<sup>th</sup> - January 1<sup>st</sup>: Presbytery office closed  
January 5<sup>th</sup>: Church Information Forms due to office  
January 13<sup>th</sup>: Necrology Forms due to office  
7:00pm Formation Commission

## January Stated Gathering

Our first stated gathering for 2026 will be on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

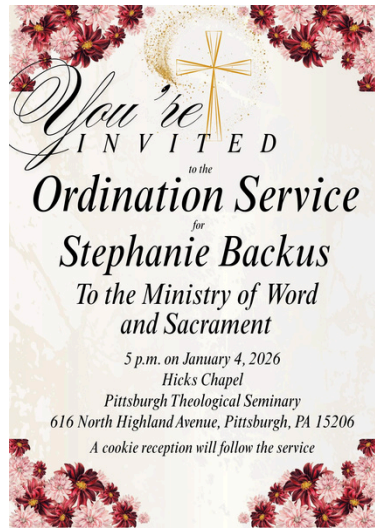
**Registration will close on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at noon!** This is to ensure the staff has enough time prepare for the gathering.

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

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may His hope, peace, & everlasting light surround you today & in the year ahead. May this holy season remind us of God's faithful love & the joy we share in Christ.

Merry Christmas from the  
staff of Kiskiminetas  
Presbytery

*Guin* *Kimberly* *Cheryl*  
*Angela* *Frank*



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



## Good News Board

Have some good news to share? Email us at [orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org](mailto:orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org)

- **Washington** hosted the annual Parish (Gilgal and Rochester Mills) Thanksgiving service with 56 people in attendance. The offering of \$396 went to ICCAP's food bank. The three Churches together with Plum Creek Church provided 30 Thanksgiving baskets for families in need in the Marion Center school district.
- Thanks to the generosity of the **Elderton** congregation & Butterfly Hill Preschool, their Angel Tree Mission was a wonderful success! Twelve families will experience a brighter Christmas this year through our Angel Tree Mission with CYS of Armstrong County. On December 7<sup>th</sup> during the worship service, the gifts were placed around the Christmas tree in the sanctuary & blessed before delivery.
- **Appleby Manor's Presbyterian Men** held their 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Train Display during the week of Thanksgiving. Thanks to the wonderful model train enthusiasts & their children, they raised over \$1,300 in donations & over 1,000 pounds of canned goods for the local Food Bank. They are looking forward to the 34<sup>th</sup> display next year over Thanksgiving.
- **Appleby Manor's Deacons** are collecting donations to purchase gifts for the residents of the Ridge at Heritage Meadows home in Ford City. Gifts will be delivered to the residents on December 21<sup>st</sup> after church lets out at approximately noon, while members of the church sing Christmas carols. Please come out & join us, the residents are so appreciative!!
- **Mt. Zion** prepared 7 Veteran boxes. They sent two to local men & the others will go to the veterans local housing.

# Upcoming Events Around Kiski



**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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm. The service will include candlelight, music, & Christmas message from Rev. Gary Lyon

**Appleby Manor** invites you to join them on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 for our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight communion service. Lots of beautiful music from our choir. Love to see you there!

**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.



**Shelocta** invites you for their Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. Pastor Stephanie Backus' message will be "An Unwavering Faith."

**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.

**Edenburg** invites all to join them for a community dinner on January 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>.

You are invited to attend the closing worship service for

*Faith Presbyterian Church*

to be held on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm  
to celebrate their many years of mission & ministry in  
the Kittanning area.

We hope you will come & celebrate the rich history of  
this congregation as we say goodbye.  
A cookie reception will follow the service.

150 East Brady Road, Kittanning, PA 16201





# Clearances & Background Checks

In every congregation of Kiskiminetas Presbytery, we are committed to creating communities where trust, care, & welcome are at the heart of our shared life. One of the most practical ways we live out that commitment is through maintaining clearances & background checks for all staff & volunteers who work with children, youth, & vulnerable adults.

Clearances are a visible sign that a congregation takes safety seriously. Parents feel more comfortable entrusting their children to our ministries when they know volunteers have been properly vetted. Members feel reassured when their leaders & helpers are part of a culture of accountability & transparency. In this way, background checks build trust, not suspicion.

Clearances help safeguard our congregations from legal risk and financial harm. Insurance providers, state regulations, & denominational policies all recognize that proper screening is essential. By keeping our clearances up to date, we ensure that our congregations remain strong & able to continue their mission without unnecessary vulnerability.

Maintaining clearances is not simply about meeting requirements; it is about living out who we are called to be. As we steward the ministries of our presbytery together, may we continue to embody Christ's care for the vulnerable, a call to accountability, & His vision of a community where all can grow in trust & faith.

[PA State Police & Child Abuse History Clearances](#)

[FBI Fingerprinting](#)

## 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](http://calvarychurchpa.com/jobs)

Interested applicants can email their inquiries to: [officemanager@calvarychurchpa.com](mailto: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.

## 2026 Mission Remittance

Each church should have received a letter & form for Mission Remittance for 2026. There are some changes in the denominations Special Offerings - going from four yearly offerings to three, along with some realignment to meet the current mission goals. The letter that was sent shares the correct information for the changes to the Special Offerings - the Pentecost Offering has been sunsetted beginning in 2026. The three special offerings are now One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion, & Christmas Joy.

There was an error on the form that was sent out last week. The corrected form is now uploaded on the Kiski website under documents. If you have any questions regarding the changes to the Special Offerings or the missional efforts of the PC(U.S.A.), please call us here at the office.



## 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 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))

## 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

## Rwanda Partnership News

Our Rwanda Partnership will be celebrating it's 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**.

## Birthdays



Pastors with December birthdays:

- December 7: Jim Dietrich (Retired)
- December 8: Donna Jarrell (Mt. Tabor & First, Marienville)
- December 24: Bruce Shannon (Retired)

## Formation Commission News

- There will be Elder Training offered on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:katieliza93@gmail.com)) for more information

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



**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



## 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 opens on **Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> & 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 will be up on the Kiski website to download shortly.

## 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).

## Church Info Form & Necrology Form

2026 Church Information Form & 2025 Necrology Form were sent out on Tuesday, December 2nd. Please be sure to return the Church Information Form by **Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>** to the office. The Necrology Form is due by **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** in order for it to be included in the packet for the January Stated Gathering. The forms are also available to download 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.