

The Week of December 28, 2025

# THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we do so with hearts shaped by gratitude & hope. The passing of one year into another invites us to reflect on where we have been, to give thanks for God's abiding presence, & to seek God's guidance for the road ahead. In every season, whether joyful or difficult, God has been faithful, & it is with that assurance that we step forward together.

Over the past year, the congregations, sessions, pastors, & leaders of Kiskiminetas Presbytery have continued to bear witness to Christ in meaningful and faithful ways. Through worship, mission, education, pastoral care, & community outreach, you have lived out the gospel in places both seen & unseen. We give thanks for your dedication, your perseverance, & your willingness to serve even amid change, challenge, and uncertainty.

A new year does not promise ease, but it does offer opportunity - to listen more deeply for God's voice, to strengthen our relationships with one another, & to renew our shared commitment to Christ's work in the world. As a presbytery, we are called to walk alongside one another, offering encouragement, accountability, & prayer as we discern how God is shaping our ministry for this time & place.

As we look ahead, may we be guided by hope rather than fear, by faith rather than fatigue. May we continue to seek justice, extend compassion, & proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ with humility & courage. May our churches be places of welcome & grace, where the love of God is experienced & shared freely, & where the Spirit continues to inspire creativity & renewal.

The new year also invites personal & communal renewal. May this be a season in which we find rest in God's presence, strength for the work to which we are called, & joy in the knowledge that we do not walk alone. God goes before us, walks beside us, & remains faithful in all that lies ahead.

As we begin this new chapter together, may the peace of Christ guard your hearts & minds, the wisdom of the Spirit guide your decisions, & the steadfast love of God sustain you in every step of the journey.

Blessings,

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

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## Presbytery Upcoming Events

December 19<sup>th</sup> - January 4<sup>th</sup>: Angela on vacation (in TN)

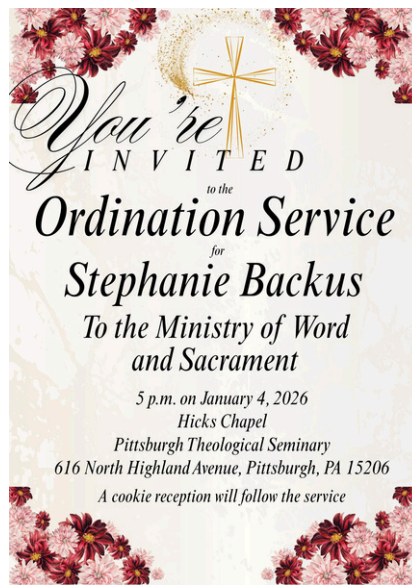
December 19<sup>th</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Erin on vacation (in OH)

December 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



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.
- **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.

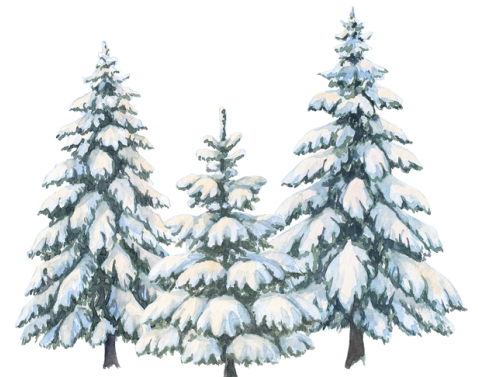
## January Stated Gathering

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.



# Upcoming Events Around Kiski



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

**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>.

## 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.

## 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.

[FBI Fingerprinting](#)

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





## 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)

## 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 January birthdays:

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

## 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.