

The Week of December 7, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

As we move deeper into this holy season, our congregations will light the second candle of Advent—the Candle of Peace. Its soft flame glows against the early darkness of December, reminding us that Christ’s peace is not fragile, nor is it confined to one moment in history. It is a living gift, offered again & again to a world that longs for calm, healing, & wholeness.

Peace can feel elusive these days. Our congregations are carrying their own joys & burdens, & our communities are navigating uncertainty, rapid change, & the ordinary stresses of life. Yet Advent proclaims a countercultural truth - God enters the world precisely in places where peace seems most unlikely. The Prince of Peace was not born into stability or comfort, but into a humble setting, amid political tension & human struggle. His emergence into the world assures us that no circumstance is beyond the reach of God’s reconciling presence.

Across our presbytery, we see signs of this peace taking shape. It appears in congregations that pray faithfully for their neighbors. It rises in gatherings where people listen deeply to one another’s stories. It reveals itself in ministries offering food, support, compassion, & welcome in Christ’s name. Peace is not simply the absence of conflict; it is the active presence of God’s love working through ordinary people to mend what is broken.

The season of Advent invites us to slow down long enough to notice these glimpses of God at work. It encourages us to breathe deeply, to listen for God’s still, small voice, & to make space for Christ’s peace to settle into our own hearts. As we do, we become bearers of that peace for others by carrying it into our homes, our congregations, our workplaces, & every corner of Kiskiminetas Presbytery.

May this second week of Advent renew our commitment to be people of peace: peacemakers in conversation, peace-bringers in acts of service, peace-holders in moments that require courage or grace. And may the peace of Christ, the peace that surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts & guide our steps as we continue to prepare the way of the Lord.



Advent Blessings,

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

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Presbytery Upcoming Events

December 15th: 7:00pm Advent Lectionary Group
December 17th: 6:00pm Vision Team (office & via Zoom)
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

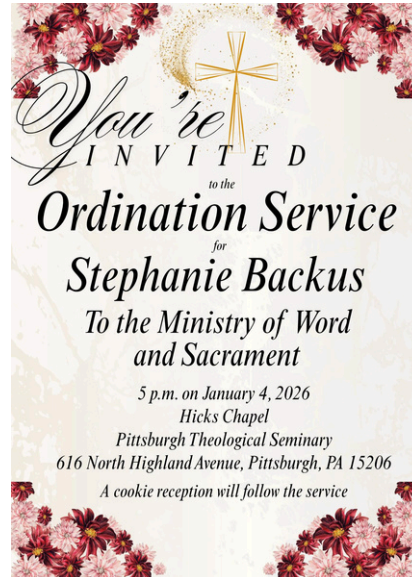
Interested applicants can email their inquiries to: officemanager@calvarychurchpa.com

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



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

Crete Presbyterian Church will hold a special Candlelight Service on Friday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m., led by Pastor Stephanie Backus. Prelude music will begin at 6:30 p.m., performed by pianist David Reiter. All are warmly invited to join us for this beautiful time of worship and reflection.

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.

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

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](#)



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 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 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



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 1st & will close on Friday, February 20th. If you do not have your church ID or PIN number, please email Erin at 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 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 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.

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 5th to the office. The Necrology Form is due by Tuesday, January 13th 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. 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.