

The Week of February 1, 2026

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Over these last several weeks, I've been struggling to put into words exactly how I'm feeling about all that is happening in our country & our world. If you know me, you know that I'm a news junkie. I'm the person who loves to watch the news, even if it is just the same stories over & over again. I would find a strange comfort in knowing what was going on. Now, I'm finding myself more hesitant to turn on the TV, probably because I don't want my heart to break over & over again. The news coming out of Minnesota is heartbreaking, no matter what side of the political spectrum you occupy. People are dying. People are being separated from their families. People are scared. People are angry. It's all too much to take in.

But, there are people who are stepping into the breaches & caring for their communities, their neighbors & strangers alike. People are volunteering to deliver food & supplies to folks who do not feel safe leaving their homes. People are standing up for their beliefs. Churches are caring for immigrant families. These types of things help my heart feel just a little less broken. And, it reminds me of the goodness of humanity. Jesus asks us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus asks us to care for our neighbors. Jesus asks us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, & show the love & mercy of God.

A pastor called me this week & asked if there are resources for how to support folks in Minnesota. I shared that the Presbytery of the Twin Cities has shared some good opportunities to support our siblings in Christ do the work on the ground. I encourage you to look at those on page 3.

Finally, I want to close with this lovely prayer, written by Laura Smith Conrad -
God of all creation, you create all people in your image & call us to be makers of peace. All around us we hear of those making hate, hurt, & harm. So, re-make us today. Make us conformed more to the image of your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us be people of blessing rather than cursing.

Embolden us to be people of courage who seek first your kingdom, the Beloved Community. We pray especially for those who are angry & confused, lamenting & longing for a better way. We pray for those in need of health & mercy, homes & safety, food & freedom. We pray especially for immigrant communities hiding & afraid of wrath & violence.

We pray for a way forward for our nation & ask that you teach us to take steps that make peace & reconciliation. You are our hope. You call us to come & follow you. May it be so.

Blessings, *Erin*

In this Issue

Page 2: Upcoming Presbytery Events; Choir Opportunity; Upcoming Events around Kiski; Good News Board; Birthdays

Page 3: Free VBS curriculum; New Lenten Studies; Aid for Minnesota

Page 4: Clerk of Session Corner - 2026 Terms of Call & Contracts; 2026 Board of Pensions Rates; 2026 Per Capita Rate; Financial Information; Annual Statistical Reports

Page 5: Current Pulpit Supply List

Looking for past issues of Kiski Weekly?

[Click here](#)



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

Rev. Erin Kobs: orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org; 717.419.0608 (cell)
Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser: trainingpresbyter@kiskipby.org

Presbytery Upcoming Events

- February 7th: 10:00am Mandated Reporter Training at Beechwoods Church
February 12th: 12:00pm Women Clergy Lunch at office
February 15th: Erin preaching at Wilcox Church
February 17th: 6:00pm Formation Commission
February 19th: 6:00pm Vision Team
February 22nd: Erin preaching at Brockway Church

Interest in Choir, Sewing, & Knitting

do you love sacred music? Do you find yourself humming? Do you love to sing??

if yes,

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching & admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms & hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col. 3:16)

come & join the Kiskiminetas Presbytery's choir. Over the next 10 weeks, we will prepare sacred music to sing on Palm Sunday afternoon (March 29, 3.00pm ET).

Each rehearsal will include lessons on how to read music - & after the lesson we will rehearse our music.

AND

do you want to slow down listen more deeply to the still small voice of God, be more closely knitted together with fellow humans, & learn to sew and/or knit?

if yes,

come and learn to work with wool, linen, and your hands, making coverings and garments (Prv. 31:13, 19, 22).

if you're interested any or all of these activities, please fill out [this form](#). Lessons start soon! Bless you! Angela

Birthdays

Pastors with February birthdays:

- February 6th: David Hanna (Calvary)
- February 20th: Wayne King (Retired)
- February 27th: Colleen McFarland (Plumville & Atwood)
- February 28th: Laurie Milligan (At Large)

Good News Board



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

Arcadia received a Music Box, thanks to a donation from the Grace Presbyterian Church. There were so ecstatic & could not put into words how much they appreciate this. It will make their worship so much more meaningful & they can't believe that they will now have music to sing to!

Shelocta is enjoying the Thriving Congregations program. They are learning a lot about what our mission, vision, & values are. Also, with our covenant churches (Crete & Trinity), we are looking at & understanding the MVV for all of us as the Communities of Faith Churches.

Shelocta is preparing to offer "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday for our community. They are also working along side our new pastor, Rev. Stephanie Backus, to provide Lenten Taize services every Tuesday at 6:00pm.

St. Paul's is excited that they have five new people coming on a regular basis.

Upcoming Events Around Kiski

Shelocta is hosting a dinner on Saturday, February 7th at 4:00pm to celebrate & share God's love to our community & church.

Calvary's youth are hosting Bella Notte, a benefit spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 14th. Meals include spaghetti with a choice of meat sauce or marinara (option to add meatballs), Italian bread, salad & dessert. Gluten free options will also be available. Free will offerings collected at the door will be donated toward the purchase of motorcycles for the pastors of Gitarama Presbytery in Rwanda. Please call the church office (724-463-9791) or email Brenda Hanna (dce@calvarychurchpa.com) by Wednesday, February 11th to make your reservation to dine-in at Calvary's "bistro" or schedule a pick up time for carryout orders.

Union First in Cowensville is hosting a Shrove Tuesday pancake & sausage supper in the basement of the church from 5-7 pm on February 17th.

Appleby Manor is hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 25th from 2:00 to 6:00pm in their social hall. To make an appointment, please go to vitalant.org and search with Blood Drive Code UG0010253 or Call 1-877-25VITAL.

Free VBS Curriculum

Elderton has several VBS kits we would like to donate. If your church is interested in any of the following themes, please contact the church at 724-354-3117.

Camp Out
Road Trip
Rocky Railway
Kingdom Rock
Sky

New Lenten Studies Available at Office

We have several new resources here at the Presbytery office for adult studies for the season of Lent. We have one copy of each book, but we are willing to help get additional resources if needed.

- [Turning Over Tables: A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power](#) (Kathy Escobar). This study has videos for group study available. This book invites people to devote the season of Lent to a time of reflection on power. It is both inspiring & challenging, offering Christians a transformative guide to aligning their lives with the way of Jesus, especially on the Lenten journey.
- [Living Into Lent](#) (Donald McKim). This has 7 weeks of study materials included in the book. This book sets aside time during the Lenten season for readers to reflect on their Christian identities, listen to God's word & will, & engage in practices that deepen the Christian experience through discipleship.
- [Meeting Jesus on the Road](#) (Cynthia Campbell & Christine Coy Fohr). This study comes with videos available on YouTube. The book invites readers to journey alongside Christ through the Gospel stories that define his early path. It offers a meaningful way to engage the season through Scripture, reflection & walking.
- [Meeting Jesus at the Table](#) (Cynthia Campbell & Christine Coy Fohr). This Lenten study provides biblical insights along with thought provoking queries regarding our own time eating & communing with others, such as whom we should invite to Sunday dinner & who is left out in our culture today.

Aid for Minnesota



How can we help our siblings in Minnesota? There are several ways that the Presbytery of the Twin Cities has identified that will be most helpful during this time.

Give to Support Minnesota Communities & Congregations in Response, Repair & Recovery

Option 1: Give to Minnesota Community Care Needs

There are several organizations that are not getting as much attention in the news & social media cycles. Here are some that could use support

- [Support Minneapolis Immigrant Students](#) - vetted giving & need
- Rent Relief will be critical in the next two months as immigrant families reel from the echoes of financial impact. There are many immigrant families in the suburbs of the Twin Cities metro that are in need of support, particularly the Robbinsdale Area School District. Click on the link for the website, then click donate & select Housing Support from the drop down menu - <https://prismmpls.org>

Option 2: Give to our PC(U.S.A.) Congregations Direct Response via a special offering or individual donation

To directly support the ongoing resistance & care work of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area congregations, all donations & special offerings received will go directly for congregational ministry that addresses the impacts of this current movement in our communities

- Congregations direct ministry with immigrant families
- Community members in need
- Other community aid for our immigrant congregations who are being affected, including food, rent relief & emotional support for kids & families

To donate to the PTCA Community Care Fund

- Click on [this link for Vanco](#)
- Choose "Community Care Fund"
- Choose amount & frequency (we understand most will be one-time offerings)



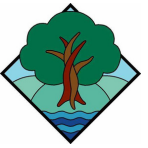
Presbytery Directory

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 is now open & 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 is available 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.

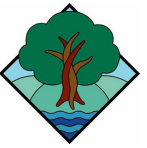
You will need to register in order to view the videos. Registration code is PCUSA.

There are also a lot of other useful information around finances available on their website.

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.

Pulpit Supply List



Fee for pulpit supply (until February 28th) is \$100 plus mileage for one church & \$60.00 each for two churches plus mileage
Starting March 1st, the fee will increase to \$125.00 plus mileage for one church & \$85.00 each for two churches plus mileage

Ministers of the Word & Sacrament (can administer sacraments & moderate meetings; those designated HR are retired)

Rev. Katelyn Hendrickson: 814-939-9305

Rev. Lisa Lyon (HR): 724-448-6036

Rev. Erin Kobs: 717-419-0608

Rev. Katie Ward Stear (HR): 724-464-3031

Rev. Gary Lyon (HR): 724-448-6036

Rev. Dr. Don Wilson (HR): 202-60-8773

Authorized Pulpit Supply (can only lead worship & preach, not administering sacraments or moderating meetings)

Dale Anderson: 724-713-3265

Noble Ramsey: 724-683-5990

Sharon Dennard: jandjmother@gmail.com

Kyle Rishell: 724-762-1702

Marissa DeVries: 724-994-7163

Eric Schall: elkneric@windstream.net

Jerry Hoch: 724-463-3292

Vivian Shaeffer: 724-664-6430

Lora Hubbard: 412-389-4843

TJ Spense: 724-664-2485 (prefers text message)

Donna Kanyan: 724-479-8941

Randy Stear: randystear@comcast.net

James Lee: 724-298-3266

Bill Snyder: 814-715-6162

Eric Longwell: 724-599-8690

Donna Yarnal: 724-840-7326

Carrie Martin: 412-901-3258

Jerry Young: 724-541-2967

Please know that a new way to help churches secure pulpit supply is in the works & the hope is to have it available in the coming months. More information to follow.