

The Week of February 22, 2026

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

As we continue our journey toward the cross, I am mindful that Lent is not only a personal spiritual practice, but also a communal one. Across our presbytery, sanctuaries look a little plainer, music carries a quieter tone, & prayers linger a little longer. We are walking together through a season of reflection, repentance, & renewal.

In Joel, we hear the familiar invitation: “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious & merciful, slow to anger, & abounding in steadfast love.” Lent is not about spiritual perfection; it is about returning. Again & again, we return — to prayer, to humility, to justice, to love.

For those of us serving in congregational & presbytery leadership, Lent can feel paradoxical. While we are guiding others through reflection, we ourselves may be carrying fatigue, uncertainty, or the weight of institutional concerns. Yet Lent gently reminds us that we are disciples before we are leaders. We, too, are invited to examine our hearts, to release what distracts us, & to trust God’s mercy.

Throughout this presbytery, I see signs of faithful Lenten practice: churches gathering for midweek worship, pastors collaborating across congregations, elders asking courageous questions about their mission, members deepening their commitment to service & generosity. These are holy acts of returning.

Lent does not rush us to Easter. It asks us to sit honestly with the wilderness. And yet, even here, hope is present. Christ walks the road with us — through repentance, through reflection, through the shadow of the cross.

As we continue this season, may you find space for your own prayer & renewal. May you experience God’s steadfast love in fresh ways. And may our shared journey through Lent strengthen the bonds of grace that hold this presbytery together.

With gratitude for your faithfulness in this sacred season.

Blessings,

In this Issue

Page 2: Upcoming Presbytery Events; Choir Opportunity; Upcoming Events around Kiski; Good News Board; March Presbytery Gathering; Items Available

Page 3: Birthdays; Aid for Minnesota; What is Per Capita

Page 4: Clerk of Session Corner; Current Pulpit Supply List

Page 5: Update from Syria & Lebanon

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

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Presbytery Upcoming Events

*Angela will be working remotely from Tennessee until March 5th

March 1st: Erin preaching at Wilcox Church

March 7th: 9:00am-2:00pm Preaching Class at Presbytery Office & via Zoom

March 8th: Erin preaching at Apollo United & Boiling Springs

March 10th: 6:00pm Formation Commission

March 12th: Registration for Presbytery Gathering closes at noon

March 14th: 10:00am Presbytery Gathering at Pisgah 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

Items Available

Shelocta Church has the following items available for a donation:

- Wicks & oil for oil candles
- Pews

Please contact Pam Cavalier at the church office for more information (724-354-2352)

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!

Upcoming Events Around Kiski

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.

St. Paul's is planning a trip to Sight & Sound to see the show Joshua on Saturday, April 25th. It is \$220 per person, which includes bus transportation, ticket, & lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasboard. For more information, contact Dorothy at 814-502-7834.

March Stated Presbytery Gathering

The next stated Presbytery Gathering will be held on Saturday, March 14th beginning at 10:00am at Pisgah Presbyterian Church (36 Church St, Corsica, PA 15829). We will be hosting a special guest, Rev. Tony Larson, who is one of the Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly. He will be bringing greetings from the PC(U.S.A.) & is very excited to meet folks from around Kiskiminetas Presbytery to learn about the various ministries happening in our churches.

Registration for the gathering will close on **Thursday, March 12th at noon**. To register, [click here](#). The packet will be sent out to all registered commissioners & guests on March 12th during the afternoon.



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)

What is Per Capita?

Each year, Presbyterians across the denomination make a commitment to support one another through per capita giving. This call to generosity is deeply rooted in the values that guide what it means to be a Presbyterian:

- **We are a priesthood of all believers** - we share in the responsibility of supporting the church.
- **We are a connectional church** - we are called to work with one another to make ministry possible (congregations, presbyteries, synods, & denominational offices)
- **All worshipping communities are equally important & valuable to God's church** - all churches are given equal access to resources & support funded by per capita.
- **We can only be the church with one another** - through per capita funds, the PC(U.S.A.) uplifts & empowers all worshipping communities as an integral part of being the church.

Most of all, per capita is about community. It is about committing to connection & support between all members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is about joining together & being one body, the body that is Christ's church in the world. Your church's story is one important thread in the larger tapestry of the PC(U.S.A.), & therefore woven into the story of per capita's work in the church.

When you give your per capita to the presbytery, this allows us to provide you with more resources for your church & supports the operating functions of the presbytery including paying for your staff & presbyters. In turn, giving to the Synod of the Trinity allows for them to provide resources for our presbytery & giving to the denomination supports their work for the whole church.

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)



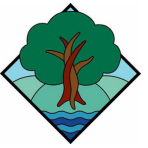
Presbytery Directory

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



2026 PA Annual Reports

As you may recall, starting in 2025, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is now requiring all businesses & non-profits to file an annual report, rather than a decennial report. You will need to complete this report each year. The deadline to file is **June 30, 2026**. There is no fee for non-profits if you file prior to the deadline, but please know there are late fees if you file beyond it. You will be receiving information from the state, either a postcard in the mail or email, so please be on the lookout for that.

It is important to file so that you do not lose the name of your church! Also, be sure to update the names of your officers to keep accurate records with the state.

For more information & the online portal to file, [visit here](#). Please note that the presbytery **cannot** file this on your behalf.

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](#).

Annual Minute Review

It is about that time again! Here are the dates for the annual review of session records (most places to be determined).

- Saturday, May 23rd @ 10:00am (Presbytery Office)
- Thursday, May 27th @ 7:00pm
- Monday, July 6th @ 7:00pm
- Saturday, July 11th @ 10:00am
- Wednesday, July 15th @ 6:00pm

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: 724-664-1177

Rev. Erin Kobs: 717-419-0608

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

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

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

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

Sharon Dennard: jandjmother@gmail.com

Marissa DeVries: 724-994-7163

Jerry Hoch: 724-463-3292

Lora Hubbard: 412-389-4843

Donna Kanyan: 724-479-8941

James Lee: 724-298-3266

Eric Longwell: 724-599-8690

Carrie Martin: 412-901-3258

Noble Ramsey: 724-683-5990

Kyle Rishell: 724-762-1702

Eric Schall: elkneric@windstream.net

Vivian Shaeffer: 724-664-6430

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

Randy Stear: randystear@comcast.net

Bill Snyder: 814-715-6162

Donna Yarnal: 724-840-7326

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.

Update from Syria & Lebanon



A team of eight members of the Syria Lebanon Partnership Network (SLPN) traveled to Lebanon January 15-23, 2026, to meet with ministry partners and to mutually encourage one another. Both Lebanon and Syria are facing very serious challenges, yet our partners in the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) continue to serve God with trust and endurance.

The SLPN travelers met with NESSL staff and pastors at the Synod office in Beirut. Reverend Joseph Kassab, the General Secretary of NESSL, greeted us and presented us with a gift of a carved cedar tree, with the Scripture ‘we always give thanks to God for all of you’ engraved on its base. Four pastors from the Synod had traveled to meet with us. Two of the pastors came from southern Lebanon, where sixty villages have been destroyed during the Israeli-Hezbollah war. Christian villages and churches were also severely damaged by the Israeli bombings. One pastor’s home was shelled, and another church was bombed. A pastor said, ‘Yesterday, there were twenty airstrikes. People cannot rebuild their homes.’ Another pastor from the south of Lebanon shared that the entire village where he pastors had been evacuated. Now there is no electricity and no water, 280 out of 400 buildings have been destroyed, and the Israeli Defense Forces continues to shell the area almost daily.

Two pastors from Syria shared about their thriving ministries in the midst of much uncertainty. One pastor serves a congregation of 400 members, which also has a school with 1,500 students. Another Syrian pastor’s congregation serves 160 children in ministry and 80 youth. He said, ‘If you live in Syria, you need to be like Rocky Balboa’ – keep getting up after being knocked down.

Students at a Compassion Community Center in Lebanon

The SLPN travelers were also blessed to meet with staff from the Compassion Protestant Society (CPS), the diaconal arm of NESSL. They learned more about the Compassion Community Centers, or Syrian refugee learning centers. Three centers serve over 150 children, who not only learn, but also receive health check-ups and trauma support. The SLPN team visited two of these centers, where they experienced the hope given to the refugee children. CPS also provides much humanitarian relief, especially in southern Lebanon. It also is enhancing its development and capacity-building ministries. One of these ministries is ‘Rooted and Rising,’ in which youth participate in skills-building workshops and dream together about future ministries in their congregations. The travel team thanks the Synod and CPS for their hospitality and faithful ministry to those needing God’s love in Syria and Lebanon.

Please pray for the work of NESSL and CPS and for the pastors and congregations serving in the Synod.