

The Week of May 25, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



From the Desk of Rev. Erin Kobs, Transitional General Presbyter

Friends,

Over the last several weeks, I've been reflecting on the concept of kindness. When I was younger, I had this poster entitled "All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." As I think back to all the things that were listed out, kindness was at the top of the list. We learn to be kind when we begin school, whether it is at day care, preschool, or kindergarten. We learned to share our toys, how to take turns when going down the slide, & learning to say nice things to each other. Now, we all struggled to do those things when we were little. And, if we are being truly honest with ourselves, we are all struggling to be kind, to share willingly & freely, & to say genuine nice things about & to one another, even those of us in the church.

As I scrolled Facebook this morning, as one does, I saw three posts all right after each other that contained quotes about kindness & sharing the love of God. The first one said, "After close study, I have concluded that Jesus believed there are two kinds of people - 1) your neighbors, whom you are supposed to love; 2) your enemies, whom you are supposed to love." The post that followed is a quote from Fred Rogers, "There are three ways to ultimate success: the first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." Finally, came a quote from journalist David French, who wrote, "There is another faith, one far removed from the headlines - that is doing something else entirely. Quietly & patiently, person by person. This faith loves its enemies. It mends the broken heart. And it declares, by word & deed, that no one is too lost to experience the love of God."

All three of these posts made me think about our need to be kind & loving toward one another, even in the face of vast disagreement or anger toward one another. It can be hard in the world we live in, where news is hard, war rages on across the globe, & too many things create divisions amongst ourselves. It is important to remind ourselves to be kind, to be loving. It is our call as followers of Jesus Christ. May we follow this call with the best of our abilities, sharing God's love, kindness, & mercy to all whom we meet.

Blessings,



Link to Kiskipby.org

Link to the Synod of the Trinity

Upcoming Presbytery Trainings

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**.

- **NEW:** Wednesday, June 11th 5:00pm at the Presbytery Office. **This training is in person & via Zoom.** [Register here.](#)
- **NEW:** Thursday, June 19th 6:00pm at Concord Presbyterian Church, Parker. **This training is in person & via Zoom.** [Register here.](#)

There will be additional training sessions offered later in the spring & early summer. Look out for those dates & locations coming soon!

If your church is interested in hosting a Mandated Reporter Training, please contact Erin Kobs, Transitional General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

PA Annual Report

Beginning in 2025, churches will need to complete an Annual Report with the state of Pennsylvania in order to maintain their non-profit status & tax-exempt status. **You will need to file this report by June 30th** (no cost to file). If you file after June 30th, there will be a fee. Continued non-compliance could result in your church falling out of "good standing" or even administrative dissolution by the state.

****If your church has not been incorporated via the state, but only in your county, there is no need for a report.**

- Churches need to update their contact information & report on who their corporate officers are for their "Corporation" (i.e. president, secretary & treasurer)
- The corporate officers must be properly elected by the session (unicameral board) or Trustees (bicameral board) & documented in your minutes. If your church has not elected officers recently, you need to begin the process & duly elect them before filing the Annual Report.

How do you update your information?

- Log into the website [Business Services | An Official Pennsylvania Government Website](#)
- Fill out the necessary information
- [A step by step guide for filing the report](#)

Session Record Review



Attention Clerks of Session!

We have reached the season of having our annual record reviews. Thank you to all who have already signed up. There are still a few churches that need to sign up for one of the reviews. If you are not able to make one of the following dates, please contact Erin for alternative means of review.

[Register here](#)

The dates for the reviews:

- Saturday, May 31st 11:00am at Shelocta Community Church
- Monday, June 9th 5:00pm at Appleby Manor Church
- Thursday, June 12th 6:00pm at First Presbyterian, Clarion
- Saturday, June 21st 11:00am at The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney

Insurance Reimbursement Fund

Does your church have Guide One Insurance?

The Presbytery has a fund to help reimburse your deductible when you have an insurance claim. This is not just claims from storm damage. If you have a claim, you can send in your information regarding your claim for the Presbytery to review. The reimbursement will be for \$500.00.

For more information, please contact the Presbytery office.





Upcoming Events Around Kiski

- Arcadia is hosting a **Clothing Give Away** (Clothing Bank) at our church on May 31st from 9am - 1pm. Clothes in any size, just bring something (bag, laundry basket, etc.) to take as much or as little as you would like.
- Boiling Springs's **Strawberry Festival** on Saturday, June 7th from 4pm-7pm. Cost is \$11.00. They are serving sloppy joes or ham bbq, macaroni salad, baked beans, & strawberry shortcake with ice cream. Take out available.
- Edenburg's annual **Very Berry Festival** on Thursday, June 19th from 5-8 pm. They are serving strawberry shortcake, angel food cake, assorted berry desserts, hot dogs, & ice cream. Donations will be accepted for food. Take out is available. Limited seating; bring a lawn chair. Music by Sawyer Stepp. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Trinity's **Vacation Bible School** is from June 16th-20th (6-8:15pm). The theme is Live Out Loud: Discover How to Love Like Jesus. Children 3 years -7th grade are welcome! Preregistrations are welcome but not required. Call the church office at 724-639-3622 & leave a message with your child's name & age.
- Plumville's **Vacation Bible School**, Making Waves!! is from June 24th-26th (6-8pm), ages 4 & up. Call the church office at 724-397-2703 with any questions.
- **Apollo Community VBS**, Holy Holidays! is from July 7th-10th (5:45-8:15pm) at Boiling Springs Presbyterian Church.
- Dayton Glade Run is holding an **18 Hole Golf Scramble** on July 19th at White Oak Golf Course in Dayton. You can register teams of 4 members. Tee time is 10:00am. Registration is \$260/team (before June 30th) & \$280/team after that date. Register by contacting Sheila Wadding at sdwadding@windstream.net.

Free Copier

Plumville has a copier that we haven't used in 2 years. It worked but would no longer be covered for repairs so we decided to replace it. It is Xerox Work Center 3550. It comes with 2 black toner cartridges. Free to a good home/church. Contact Pastor Colleen at 724-525-6799 or pvatpastor@gmail.net

Job Opportunities

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Indiana, Pa., is currently seeking a Director of Community Assistance and Mission, and also a Director of Christian Education. The Director of Community Assistance and Mission will work closely with the Mission Committee and Pastor to create and lead faith-driven programs that make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. The Director of Christian Education will spearhead collaborative efforts to design, plan, and implement programs tailored for youth, children, and adults.

If you or someone you know might be a good fit, learn more on our website: calvarychurchpa.com/jobs

Good News Board

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

- So overjoyed at the good things the people of **Boiling Springs** did in the wake of the storms & power outages the first week of May. Thank God for the Session that voted "yay" for a generator!
- The youth of **Calvary** worked hard serving bistro guests last month during the annual Bella Notte pasta dinner. More than \$2300 was raised toward the purchase of water filtration kits needed in Rwanda.
- **Trinity** is in the planning stages of a two day trip to the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum in Kentucky. They want to open it to anyone in the Presbytery who are interested. Please talk with Bonnie Davis for more information or email Trinity Church (clarksburgtrinitypres.org)
- Trinity had a fundraiser for World Vision during the Lenten & Easter season, they collected over \$1,500. They created a paper chain to represent the money & it wrapped around the sanctuary more than one time!

Birthdays

Pastors with May birthdays:

- May 5: Niki Atkinson (Apollo & Boiling Springs)
- May 5: Dan Satler (Saltsburg)
- May 6: Boyd Edmondson (Retired)
- May 9: Adam Clever (Freeport & Srader Grove)
- May 13: Maynard Grunstra (Retired)

QuickBooks

Your church use QuickBooks? Are you concerned with the rate increase? Feel free to contact Kimberly Warner, bookkeeper, at the Presbytery Office to talk about your options!

Wee Kirk Conference

The annual Wee Kirk, a small church conference, will be held on October 13th-15th at Laurelville Retreat Center in Mount Pleasant. The purpose is to inspire, equip, motivate & encourage small churches of any denomination & to provide rest & refreshment for the clergy & lay leaders like you! There will be a variety of workshops, opportunities for networking & conversations, & a chance to peruse the Hearts & Minds Bookstore. Registration for churches with up to 150 members is \$200.00 per person. If you register before August, it is \$175.00! There are brochures at the Presbytery office or you can go [online](#) for more information & to register.

Pre-Order for 2025-2027 Book of Order

We are currently taking pre-orders for the new Book of Order that goes into effect on July 2, 2025. If your church wants to order, please email Cheryl or call her at the office. The print copies will arrive at some point in July. There will be a PDF version available on July 2nd.

Coffee with Erin



Erin is seeking a church or churches who would like to host Coffee with the GP. This would likely be during the day, most likely an afternoon. If your congregation is interested, please talk with Erin.

2025 Stated Presbytery Gatherings

Saturday, September 13th, 10:00am, Slate Lick Presbyterian

Saturday, November 1st, 10:00am, United Presbyterian, Blairsville



Pulpit Supply Gathering

The Congregation & Pastor Formation Commission is holding a Meet & Greet on Tuesday, June 3rd from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Presbytery Office. This is for those who are currently on the pulpit supply list, all those who currently fill the pulpit on Sunday mornings in our Presbytery, & those who might be interested in becoming a pulpit supply. Please RSVP to the office by

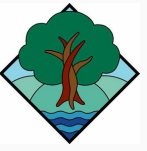


Presbytery Directory

Need to access the Directory? [Click here](#)

The directory is under password. If you need the password, call Cheryl at the office

Letter from Gitarama Presbytery, Rwanda



This letter was hand delivered by Samuel Habarurema, who was visiting with several congregations over the past two weeks.

Dear brothers & sisters of Kiskiminetas Presbytery,

Warm greetings from Rwanda, especially EPR-Gitarama Presbytery. We are very pleased to find this opportunity to present you our greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our greetings are resumed in Philippians 1.3 “ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always praying with joy in my every prayer.” We hope God continues to bless you abundantly.

As Gitarama Presbytery, we are doing well under the Almighty God, knowing that the work is His and we are His servants. As you know, we are working within 40 parishes. Most of them are in a rural place. The work we have to do is hard but with Jesus, everything is possible. It has really contributed to the knowledge of what God is doing on the other side of the world, and learned that we are not alone on the way while following Jesus Christ. Our partnership has been fruitful since 20 years ago.

We praise God for the contribution you have been sending to some of the parishes. They have really been contributing to the development of them. Temples have been built; moto given to Nyarubuye parish has facilitated the work within the parish, as it is the fattest and least expensive. You understand that the pastor is free to organize herself and this has improved the work geographically, economically, spiritually, and numbers. Other projects have been initiated, as well as school fees for some youth. Saying this, we recognize all efforts, compassion and willingness towards Christians in Kiskiminetas. Christ has made us one, and we witness that His goals have been achieved through our partnership (John 17.21). We wish we continue to pray for each other, to continue the way of believing and trust in Christ Jesus.

Please consider this as greetings from Gitarama Presbytery members to Kiskiminetas church members.

May God bless you abundantly.

Rev. Fidele Sibomana
EPR-Gitarama Moderator