

The Week of June 22, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Friends,

I hope that you are surviving this heat wave & staying as cool as possible. Unfortunately, my neighborhood in Punxsutawney lost power for two days in a row for several hours. I will tell you that experience tested my level of patience in a new way. I'm afraid we are in for more of this over the course of the summer!

As I've reflected on the whole experience, not only have I thought about my level of patience, but also what it means to have peace. When things get hard or frustrating, our tendency as humans is to lose our sense of peace & give into our state of frustration or anger. For me, when the weather gets hot, my ability to be suitable for human consumption drops considerably. I have to work extra hard at maintaining a sense of peace in my own mind & body. We all have those moments that we lose control over our peace.

I think the state of the world plays into our struggles for peace in our lives, our churches, & our communities. A lot is happening right now within our own country & across the globe. We've seen unrest in Los Angeles around issues of immigration. The ongoing war in Ukraine continues on with no real end in sight. Now, we are directly involved in the conflict between Israel & Iran. We don't know what is going to happen next. There is a ceasefire & we pray it continues to hold. The world is hard right now. And, it can be easy for us to lose sight of what it means to hold onto peace, even in the midst of great conflict & uncertainty. I continue to pray consistently for peace & for justice across the globe.

There is a poem by Ann Weems that is giving me some words to hold onto. It is entitled "I No Longer Pray for Peace." Part of it reads - "I pray that all the 'God talk' will take bones, & stand up & shed its cloak of faithfulness, & walk again in its powerful truth. I pray that the whole world might sit down together & share its bread & its wine. Some say there is no hope, but then I've always applauded the holy fools who never seem to give up on the scandalousness of our faith: that we are loved by God...that we can truly love one another."

May it be so.

Blessings,

Called Presbytery Gathering

The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas will meet for a Called Presbytery Gathering on **Saturday, July 19th** at First Presbyterian Church, Clarion.

The purpose is to receive the candidates for the two presbyter positions & to vote on their packages, as well as their installation commission.

There will be a meet & greet beginning at 9:00am to meet with the candidates. The meeting portion of the gathering will commence at 11:00am.

The meeting is hybrid.

[Register Here](#)

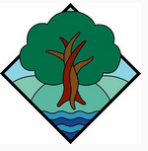


[Link to Kiski Presbytery](#)

[Link to the Synod of the Trinity](#)

Clerk of Session Corner

Here is important information for clerks of session of our congregations



Pre-Order for 2025-2027 Book of Order & Presbyterian Planning Calendars

We are currently taking pre-orders for the new Book of Order (goes into effect on July 2, 2025) & Presbyterian Planning Calendars.

Cost: \$10.00 each for Book of Order & \$12.00 each for calendars.

If your church wants to order, please email Cheryl or call her at the office by **Thursday, June 26th**.

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.

- 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](#)

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.

Session Record Review

If you have not had your records reviewed, please contact Erin to schedule a date to have them reviewed.

Information about Records

If you need record keeping supplies, check out [Cokesbury](#). They carry the archival paper & additional covers for your church register & session minute books.

The [Presbyterian Historical Society](#) in Philadelphia is where you can send your church records to be stored in their archival vault. This is important to do with your older records. In compliance with the Book of Order (G.3.0107), official records of active congregations and other records of permanent value, including registers; minutes of session, trustees, and other church groups; charters and property records; publications; and photographs. You can contact them at (215) 627-1852 or email refdesk@history.pcusa.org.



Upcoming Events Around Kiski

- **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.

Being Neighbors

This is a new column to offer resources to other congregations or to ask for needs for your congregation!

- Are you in need of a **Music Box** to provide music for your worship services? This product was talked about at our November Presbyter Gathering by Joel Kinnard, member of the Congregation & Pastor Formation Commission. We have donations to purchase music boxes for congregations in need. Please contact Joel for more information (jrkinnard57@icloud.com).
- **Wilcox** is looking for a set of paraments for their communion table. If you have a set that you wish to donate, please contact Rachel Kreig, clerk of session (rachelkreig@hotmail.com)

Good News Board

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

- **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)

Request from GPS Team

We are seeking out folks who might have places to temporarily rent to one of our potential presbyters (for several months - likely August 1st to December 1st). Please contact Rebecca Mihm, 304-612-7081, pastorrebecca@clarionfirstpresby.org if you have information on a place.

Birthdays

Pastors with June birthdays:

- June 21: Bill Starr (retired)
- June 22: Joel Kinnard (Concord Dayton & Mt. Zion)
- June 27: Sandy Atherton (Arcadia)
- June 28: Katie Ward Stear (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!

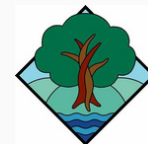
Wee Kirk Conference

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.

Day of Learning

The Presbyterian Foundation is hosting another “free” online [Day of Learning](#) on Thursday, June 26. The theme is Storytelling – Stewardship and Generosity. Even if you are unable to attend that day, register to receive the recording and slide decks of the presentations.

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**.

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

2025 Stated Presbytery Gatherings

Saturday, September 13th, 10:00am, Slate Lick Presbyterian
Saturday, November 1st, 10:00am, United Presbyterian, Blairsville

Presbyterian Women Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 21st at 10 am-Northwest Regional PW Synod Gathering at Slippery Rock Presbyterian Church, 258 Slippery Rock Drive, Ellwood City, PA 16117. Cost is \$35 and includes breakfast and lunch. Register with Doreen Stiffler. Doreen625@windstream.net or call 724-525-1359

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will be at Ebenezer Church, (5720 Newport Rd, Clarksburg, PA 15725) in October.



Presbytery Directory

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

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