

The Week of June 29, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Friends,

I just got back from a short trip down to Washington, DC. I was invited to present a workshop at American University for their STEP (Summer Transition Enrichment Program), which is designed to empower incoming first-year students with the tools, confidence, & connections they need to thrive from day one. This intensive six residential program is rooted in academic excellence & built to ease the transition to college life. Through rigorous coursework, personalized support, & early exposure to the demands of university learning, STEP gives students a strong academic foundation & a valuable head start.

Being there with the 21 students in this summer's program brought me back to my other career - working in student affairs. Many of you might not know that I went to graduate school after college for counseling & student affairs administration. In 2017, I took a position at the University of Dayton working in a first year residence hall, which was so much fun. In 2019, I moved to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH to work as a residence life coordinator. I loved working with college age folks. When the pandemic hit, I made the pivot back into full time ministry.

It was such a great, albeit short trip to DC. I was able to spend time with my best friend Quin, who works in the Center for Student Belonging at American University & is who invited to me to lead the workshop on planning & staying organized in college. It was so much fun to be there & connect with these awesome students. It reminds me that this generation of young adults are likely going to be part of change in this world. The world is hard. There is a lot going on right now. But, I am confident in the gifts of young people & their commitment to lead with peace, justice, & compassion for others. I do believe they will do good things in this world & I hope this summer program will give them skills & confidence to share their gifts in our communities & in the world.

I hope we, as the church, will empower & support our young people. They are the church. They are the ones who will lead us forward. They are a real gift.

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.

Registration closes on Thursday, July 17th at noon.

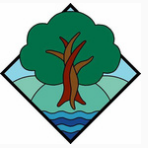
[Register Here](#)



Kiski Presbytery
Synod of the Trinity

Clerk of Session Corner

Here is important information for clerks of session of our congregations



2025-2027 Book of Order & Presbyterian Planning Calendars

The new Book of Order (goes into effect on July 2, 2025) & Presbyterian Planning Calendars are now available.

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

If you did not participate in the pre-order, you can still purchase them through the PCUSA Store.

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. **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

- **Mt. Zion** had a great rummage sale this spring. They made \$3,359.05 over the course of three days. Their pies were a great success as well! They want to thank everyone from around the Presbytery who came.
- **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)

Presbytery Wide Mission Project

This summer, we are going to be collecting supplies for 3rd & 4th grade classrooms in the Presbytery. We are encouraging as many churches who want to participate to do so. Supplies can be dropped off at to the Presbytery Office or you can bring them to the July 19th Called Presbytery Gathering. The collection will continue until August 7th. If your church wishes to make a monetary gift, Concord Presbyterian, Dayton will purchase supplies & pack the kits. You can make the check out to the Presbytery & we will ensure the funds are used for this. Contact Joel Kinnard for more information.

Supply needs for 1 kit:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 12 ct. colored pencils | 6 unsharpened pencils (rubber banded together) |
| two pocket folder | inexpensive corded earbuds |
| glue stick | 70 page wide ruled spiral bound notebook |
| blunt tip scissors (unpackaged) | handheld pencil sharpener (unpackaged) |
| large eraser | 24 ct. crayons |
- 12x14 or 14x17 lightweight canvas or cloth bag with handles (solid color or kid-friendly fabric, no logos)
Optional: handmade or store bought pencil pouch

Birthdays

Pastors with July birthdays:

- July 2nd: Ed Rudiger (Sligo); Bobbi Torrance (At Large)
- July 5th: Dick Cassel (retired)
- July 6th: Dan Little (retired)
- July 25th: Emily Koehler (Beechwoods & Sugar Hill)

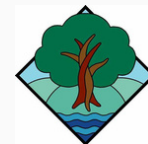
QuickBooks

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.

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

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Listening to God, Especially When We Don't Wanna

Workshop with Rev. Dr. Graham Standish
Saturday, October 11th, 9:00am to 2:00pm
Dayton Glade Run Presbyterian Church

We live in a world of too much information, conflicting beliefs, and changing values. Meanwhile the very places that ground us, our churches, are declining. How do we discover and do what God wants, especially if it may not be what we want? This retreat will give us the spiritual skills and perspectives to help us:

- Pay attention to God's presence so we experience God in our churches and life
- Listen for God's clear voice in a noisy culture, especially with out church's future
- Let go of what we want to follow what God wants for our churches and our lives
- Let go of fears, guilt, shame, doubts, control, and more so that we can do God's will above all in our lives and our churches.



Presbytery Directory

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

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



Update from Syria & Lebanon Partnership

It has been an increasingly difficult time for our brothers and sisters in Syria and Lebanon. While the U.S. attacks on the Iranian nuclear program have intensified security and economic concerns, closer to home, Syrians are now facing the fallout of a suicide bombing and shooting attack by an ISIS affiliate on the Mar Elias Greek Orthodox church in Dweila, a suburb of Damascus, that killed 25 worshipers and wounded 63 others. While several NESSL (National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon) pastors have expressed deep concern as to how these attacks will impact their congregations, churches in the immediate area are working to respond and to provide greater security measures from the government when congregations gather for worship and other activities and request more effective protection from the government. Some are considering the installation of metal detectors for all church events.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read a statement about the attack on the Mar Elias Church from the Supreme Council of Evangelical Community in Syria and Lebanon from Rev. Joseph Kassab, the Council President and General Secretary of NESSL. [See additional statements in response to this attack on the SLPN website.](#)

Several ministers from the new government of Syria have visited the church and expressed concern while the top Sunni cleric, the Grand Mufti, condemned the attack. More recently, the new government arrested a number of individuals suspected of playing a role in the attack, a departure from its passive response to other acts of violence against civilians, calling them “overreaches” by individuals, thereby refusing to take responsibility. The immediate response from the international community, including the United States, has been to condemn the attack and to show concern for the fate of minorities under the new government.

Our sources say the churches have raised again their concerns over the series of “overreaches,” labeled by the government as individual behavior and isolated incidents for which the government has refused to take responsibility. This has occurred so many times, the churches’ fear is that these isolated incidents have been transformed into “institutionalized systematic practices against Christian communities.” They have reportedly called for the government to break its silence against such attacks because it impacts the dignity of all Christians in the country. Other voices are admitting that bringing the entire country together, with its many diverse groups, under one umbrella of a united Syria will take time.

Statistics show that before the war there were approximately one million Christians in Syria and that now there are fewer than 300,000 due to emigration and flight. The new government is walking a tightrope between the international community’s demands for human rights and the demands of the Islamists that brought it to power.

Deep fear and uncertainty continue to grip our partners and churches in Syria and neighboring Lebanon. We ask your prayers for all of our NESSL churches and the entire region as events unfold.