

The Week of August 10, 2025

# THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Friends,

It's been quite a week around the Presbytery Office! On Saturday, Gary Lyon & Carol Hickman came to help begin the painting of the two offices. We began in Angela's office, which is a lovely shade of green. Gary came back throughout this week, after being up at the Dayton Fair, to finish up in both offices. My office is navy blue. They both look amazing & cannot wait to put the finishing touches on them in the coming week. We are so thankful for Gary's help this week in getting the paint finished up & to Carol for helping to build the new desks! If you get a chance, we invite you to stop in the coming weeks to see the changes.

Coming up on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> is our next Stated Gathering being held at Slate Lick United Presbyterian. This gathering will be both business & training opportunities. In the afternoon, we are holding three different workshops that are open to anyone in the Presbytery who are interested in attending. Descriptions are on page 3. You can register for the gathering using the link in the sidebar. We are hoping that we can include education & resourcing at future gatherings in 2026.

Please mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> for our workshop with Graham Standish of Samaritan Counseling Center. It is entitled "Listening to God, Even When We Don't Wanna." Graham is going to help us learn more about discovering where God is calling us both as individuals & as a church. There will be lunch provided at no cost & there is no cost for attending the workshop. Please spread the word to others in your congregations who might be interested in coming. More information & the link to register is on page 6.

There are lots of exciting things happening here in Kiski! God is moving in our midst. I hope you feel it too.

Blessings,

### September Stated Gathering

The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas will meet for a Stated Gathering on **Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00am at Slate Lick United Presbyterian Church & via Zoom technology.

All pastors & clerks of session will receive the call letter in their email or via mail.

[Register Here](#)

**Registration will close on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at noon.**

The packet & Zoom link will be sent to all those registered on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> after noon when registration closes.

Afternoon workshops will be offered - see page 3



**Kiski Presbytery**  
**Synod of the Trinity**



# Presbytery Upcoming Events

August 18<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>: Angela here in PA

August 19<sup>th</sup>: 6pm Formation Commission

August 24<sup>th</sup>: Erin preaching at Wilcox

August 26<sup>th</sup>: 6pm Organization Commission

September 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>: Erin at Synod of the Trinity Presbyter Gathering

September 12<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> : Angela here in PA

September 13<sup>th</sup>: 10:00am Stated Gathering at Slate Lick

October 11<sup>th</sup>: 9am-2pm Workshop with Graham Standish at Dayton Glade Run

October 25<sup>th</sup>: 11:00am Installation Service for Presbyters at Ebenezer

## From the GPS Team

It's official! We have 2 presbyters! We have an Organizational Presbyter & Stated Clerk, & a Training Presbyter. Our Training Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser, will be in transition for awhile as she was in the process of selling/buying a house in Tennessee, & must now move to Pennsylvania. Moves and transitions take time. You can contact Angela by phone at 615-294-9943 (cell) & by email at [acowser@comcast.net](mailto:acowser@comcast.net). We appreciate your patience & understanding. Angela's schedule is as follows.

### August 2025

August 7-August 15: online

August 16-17: driving from Nashville, TN to Shelocta, PA

August 18-27: on the ground

August 28-29: driving from Shelocta, PA to Nashville, TN

### September 2025

August 28-September 11: online

September 12: travel (air) to PA

September 13-26: on the ground

September 27: travel (air) to TN

### October 2025

September 28-October 8: online

October 9 - travel (air) to PA

October 10-31: on the ground

### November 2025

November 1-20: on the ground

November 21: travel (air) to TN

November 22-30: online

### December 2025

December 1: travel (air) to PA

December 2-19: on the ground

December 20-31: online

Please save the date for the Installation Service for our two presbyters which will be held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg. Also, please continue to pray for our congregations, presbyters, & presbytery during this time of transition and hope!

Grace and Peace,

The GPS Team (General Presbyters Search Team - aka PNC)





## Upcoming Events Around Kiski

- Pisgah is holding it's annual **Clothing Give Away** on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Last year, over 600 people were served. Donations & help are accepted.
- Shelocta is holding their **2025 Golf Scramble** on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to participate as a foursome, you can contact the church. You can also purchase a sign in honor or memory of a loved one.
- New Rehoboth Greenville is hosting "**Digging Deeper**" **Bible Study** on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- New Rehoboth Greenville is having a **Drive Thru Dinner** on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 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)

## Being Neighbors

- 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 (jrkinard57@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)
- **St. Benedict** has a communion table that is free to anyone who needs it. The dimensions are 22x45x30 & it is in good conditions. Call Allan Hicks at 814-418-1966.



## Good News Board

Have some good news to share?  
Email us at [statedclerk@kiskipby.org](mailto:statedclerk@kiskipby.org)

- **Shelocta** is putting together hygiene kits for kids & received a gift from Rotary to do the Power Pak program.
- **Punxsutawney** hosted their 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Arts Camp for elementary aged kids from July 28<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 kids enjoying music, art, & drama workshops.
- **Ridgway** is currently planning for their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- **Cross Roads** distributed 100 free lunches to folks in Leechburg on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Email Scam Alert

We have been alerted by several church administrators that there is an email scam making the rounds again.

They are asking for copies of your church directory. It will say it is from your clerk of session. The email address being used is [salvationandgrace222@gmail.com](mailto:salvationandgrace222@gmail.com).

**DO NOT EMAIL THEM BACK!** This will cause emails to go out to your congregation & potentially they could be victims of scams for gift cards, money, etc.

## September Stated Gathering

At the Stated Gathering on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding workshops in the afternoon that have been requested from folks in the Presbytery. There will be three options available & they are open to anyone in the Presbytery who might be interested.

- **Elder Communion Training** - this is for elders to be trained to lead communion in their home churches; open to those who need re-certification & those who are new.
- **Treasurer Training** - for treasurers, new & seasoned, who need some additional training & information about best practices, current Quickbooks software, etc.
- **Book of Order Training (BOOT)** - this is for anyone interested & curious about the Book of Order, led by our OP & Stated Clerk. There will be prizes available...



## 2025 Stated Presbytery Gatherings

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

## 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

## Wee Kirk Conference

The annual Wee Kirk, a small church conference, will be held on October 13th-15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Need Something? Call Us!

Have a question? Need some information about an upcoming event? Looking for a particular resource?

If you are in the need of something, please call us here at the Presbytery Office. We will make sure that you are put in touch with the correct person to answer your questions whether it is the Formation Commission, the Organization Commission, or our two Presbyters (Training Presbyter or Organizational Presbyter/Stated Clerk). We are here to help & want to make sure that you are getting the correct information.

## Birthdays

Pastors with August birthdays:

- August 4: Jay Montgomery (Retired)
- August 5: Elizabeth Arter (Specialized)
- August 13: John Manon (United, Blairsville)
- August 24: Gary Lyon (Retired)
- August 25: Lea Austin (Retired)
- August 30: David Crapnell (At Large)

## Presbyterian Women Upcoming Events

Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering will be Wednesday, October 22 (10:00 am) at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, 5720 Newport Road, Clarksburg, PA 15725. Our theme for the day will be from Deuteronomy 14:2 "...for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession." If you have never been to a Gathering, it is filled with love, worship, music, & more SISTERSHIP! Light morning refreshments & lunch will be served. A \$5 cost will be collected at the door.

## Clearances

- **Mandated Reporter Training** (Child Abuse Prevention) - all ministers, elders, deacons & volunteers who work with children. Certificates are good for 36 months.
- **Boundary Training** - all ministers & elders. Must be done every 36 months (according to the Book of Order)
- **FBI Fingerprint Clearance** - all ministers. Certificates are good for five years (in accordance with PA state law & Presbytery policy)
- **PA State Police Clearance** - all ministers & those who work directly with children. Clearance is good for five years (PA state law), but are highly recommended to be done every 3 years for protection of 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

# 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 (Effective July 4, 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.**

If you would like a PDF copy of the Book of Order, [click here.](#)

## 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. **Filing after June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

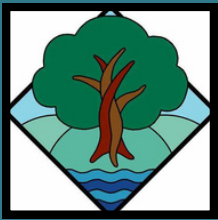
## Information about Records

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](mailto:refdesk@history.pcusa.org).

## PA Sales Tax Exception Certificates

By now, you should have received your church's new sales tax exception certificate, please contact the Presbytery office. We will make sure to get it to you.



# LISTENING TO GOD EVEN WHEN WE DON'T WANNA

Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, Samaritan Counseling Center

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?

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am - 2:00pm

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 our 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.



[Register Here](#)



Dayton Glade Run Presbyterian  
2540 Dayton-Smicksburg Road  
Dayton, PA 16222