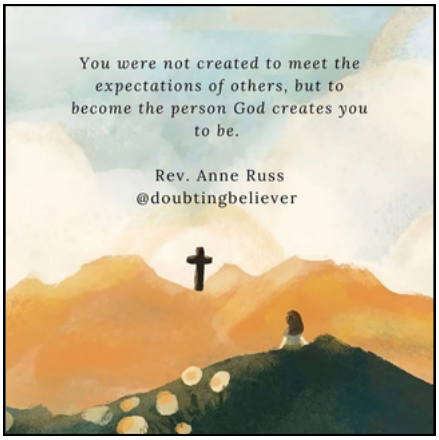
The Week of August 16, 2026

THE KISKI WEEKLY

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



As I was scrolling on Facebook, I came across this post from my friend Anne Russ. Anne always seems to have these words of wisdom. There is a quiet freedom in remembering that we were not created to spend our lives trying to become what everyone else thinks we should be. Expectations can be heavy. The expectations of family, colleagues, congregations, friends, & even the voices we carry inside ourselves can slowly convince us that our worth is measured by how well we perform, how much we accomplish, or how closely we fit someone else's picture of who we should be.

But God's invitation is different.

God did not create us to be a collection of other people's expectations. God created us to be fully & wonderfully ourselves to grow into the person God is calling us to become. That does not mean we stop caring about others or ignore our responsibilities. It means we remember that our deepest identity comes not from what others demand of us, but from the God who knows us, loves us, & calls us by name.

Perhaps becoming who God creates us to be is less about adding something to our lives & more about letting go: letting go of the need to please everyone, the fear of disappointing others, & the exhausting belief that we must always have everything figured out.

There is grace in becoming.

We are works in progress, still being shaped by God's love. And maybe today we simply need to ask: Am I living out of God's calling, or am I living out of someone else's expectations?

May we have the courage to listen for God's voice above all the others & the freedom to become the people God has lovingly created us to be.

Blessings,

Erin

In this Issue

Page 2: Upcoming Presbytery Events; Upcoming Events around Kiski; Birthdays; Fall Classes; September Stated Gathering

Page 3: Clerk of Session Corner; Foundation Grants for Pastors; Good News; Advent Resources

Page 4: Presbyterian Planning Calendar Order Form

Need to access the Directory? **Click here**

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

Looking for past issues of Kiski Weekly?
Click here

Presbytery Upcoming Events

August 23rd: Angela at St. Benedict & St. Paul's United
August 30th: Angela at Heilwood & Cherry Tree
September 1st: 6:30pm Evangelism Class Begins
September 8th-9th: Erin at Executive Leader Gathering (State College)
September 10th: 12pm Stated Gathering Registration closes
September 13th: Angela at Shelocta Community
September 17th: 12pm Women Clergy Lunch @ Presby. Office
September 19th: 10am Stated Gathering @ Elderton Church
September 22nd: 6pm Organization Commission
September 26th: 9am-2pm Intro to Presbyterian Polity
September 27th: Erin preaching at Clymer & Harmony United; Angela at Boiling Springs
September 28th: 6pm Formation Commission

Birthdays

Pastors with August birthdays:

- August 4th: Jay Montgomery (retired)
- August 5th: Elizabeth Arter (specialized ministry)
- August 13th: John Manon (United, Blairsville)

September Stated Gathering

Our next Stated Gathering is on Saturday, September 19th beginning at 10:00am at Elderton Presbyterian Church (115 Main Street, Elderton). The call letter has been sent out to all clerks of session & minister members.
Register Here

Upcoming Events Around Kiski

Welcome Back Breakfast

Welcome Back Breakfast at Calvary Church: The Christian Education Committee will be hosting the annual Welcome Back Breakfast 9:30 a.m., Sunday, September 13 in the Dining Room. Beverages, doughnuts & muffins will be provided. However, if you'd like to share a breakfast item, please bring it to the Dining Room by 9:15 a.m.

Fall Classes

This fall, there are several different opportunities for learning.

Evangelism Class: this class will be meeting every Tuesday evening beginning on September 1st from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Shelocta Church & on Zoom. Signing up for this class requires a commitment to attending classes, as well as completing all readings & homework. **Register here**.

Other Classes: **Register here.**

- September 26th, 9:00am-2:00pm: Introduction to Presbyterian Polity with Rev. Erin Kobs
- October 24th, 9:00am-2:00pm: Introduction to Reformed Theology with Rev. John Hopkins & Rev. Dr. Donald McKim
- November 14th, 9:00am-2:00pm: Introduction to Rural Ministry with Rev. Colleen McFarland & Rev. Dr. Angel De La Cruz

Clerk of Session Corner

Those of you who still need your records reviewed, please contact Erin to set up a time to get this completed prior to the end of August.

As of July 1st, the IRS mileage rate has increased to .76 per mile for pulpit supply & moderators. Please be sure to pass this information along to your treasurers & bookkeepers.

If you have not filed your annual report with the state, you need to file it immediately. Filing by June 30th is free & there is a cost to filing at this point.

Resources for Advent

It's that time of the year when churches & pastors are beginning to make plans for the Advent season! The presbytery is offering to place a bulk order for materials from Creative Communications again this year. We are also encouraging folks to take a look at A Sanctified Art. If you are interested in any of these materials, please contact the presbytery office to place your order!

Creative Communications:

(bulk prices TBD based on overall number ordered)

- The Promise Come to Pass: a 6 part Advent & Christmas Worship Series to include music, prayers, sermons, powerpoint displays & more. Built around the powerful Biblical phrase "And it came to pass", this inspiring series explores how God's promises are fulfilled in Christ. There is a 4 session small group Bible study & a Children's worship program included. $49.99
- The Word Made Flesh: a 4 session Bible study for Advent. Focus on the concept of Jesus as the Word made flesh with highlighting of the earthly substances of bread, salt, rock, & light in relation to the qualities of Christ. $7.99 for student book; $8.99 for leader guide.
- Our Dear Christ Enters In: a 4 session Bible study for Advent. Focus on preparing our homes & our hearts for the coming of Jesus, who enters in to be with us. $7.99 for student book; $8.99 for leader guide.
- Come & Behold Him: Daily devotions inspired by the writing of Henri Nouwen to prepare us to better understand ourselves & the Word of God. $2.99 each.
- The Promise Come to Pass: Daily devotions rooted in the promises found in God's unchanging Word, reminding us that no hardship lasts forever & God is always faithful. $2.99 each.
- Come & See the Savior: Daily devotions for children. Advent is a special season that prepares us for the birth of Jesus. Includes daily thoughts, activties, & prayers. $2.99 each.

A Sanctified Art: Until the Dawn: Action For the Work of Advent, inspired by Year B Lectionary.

This series focuses on the actions we can take as we move through the night with hope for tomorrow. Night is a time when the way forward may seem unclear, when our senses are heightened & fear may creep in. And the darkness also brings gifts - rest, regeneration, dreams, intimacy with God. In our sacred stories, angels often arrive in the night, calling for courageous action & singing good news.

Resources in the bundle: devotional booklet, sermon planning guide, words for worship, original hymns, poems, artwork, banner designs, branding suite, children's bulletins & curriculum, along with advent prayer calendars.

If you are interested, call us at the office.

Presbyterian Foundation

There are grants available for PCUSA pastors & Commissioned Pastors. Matching grants pay half of the cost of attendance for financial education events. These events include: Stewardship Kaleidoscope, Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising & Creating Cultures of Congregational Generosity, & Luminosity Conference. To learn more about these events & to apply for grants, you can visit **here.**

Good News Board

Carter Shotts, a student at Marion Center High School, recently joined Washington Church. His project for his confirmation was a good pantry box. It has been set up & serves the Ernest community.

Bulk Order for

Presbyterian Planning Calendar

Sept. 2026 - Dec. 2027

The 2026-2027 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is your indespensible companion for purposeful planning for September 2026 to December 2027. Designed for clarity & ease, each month is presented on high quality text paper that's perfect for jotting down notes & plans in pencil - erase & update effortlessly.

New Orientation - the calendar grid is now vertical instead of horizontal & will span across two pages for double the writing space for personal dates & notes.

Kiskiminetas Presbytery will be placing a bulk order for the Presbyterian Planning Calendar for churches & individuals at a discounted price of $11.50 - which includes shipping.

If purchased individually without bulk discount, cost is $27.80 (includes shipping)

Please return form to the Presbytery Office. Checks should be made payable to Kiskiminetas Presbytery. You will be contacted when calendars are available to pick up.

Name: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of calendars: _____ @ $11.50

If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Thomas at 724-783-7196 or programmanager@kiskipby.org