

The Week of August 17, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Friends,

Since last fall, I've been receiving a monthly subscription from an independent artist named Brandi Kincaid. She calls it Extravagant Hope & it includes postcards, stickers, a monthly playlist of songs, a couple of book reviews - all with her original art. It always is so delightful to receive it & go through each month's elements. In fact, I've got several of the postcards framed in my office here at the presbytery. She always includes a letter written from her, typed out on one of her many thrifted typewriters. I received this month's mailing on Tuesday & when I read the letter, I knew that I wanted to share some of her words with you. She talked about the notion of helpers - receiving squash from a neighbor & peaches from another person in her neighborhood. She also talked about Fred Rogers & his often quoted thing from his mother to look for the helpers when things are particularly scary. Here is some of Brandi's words -

"I also always want to give credit to the next part, too. Because Fred didn't leave us only looking for the helpers. He also taught us to be BE the helpers he reminded us to look for. I'm thinking about that a lot these days, how we might look for who's helping, but also emulate that very work, too. It's easy, I think, to only count the big help that matters - the huge financial donations, the endless volunteer hours, & while both can be necessary & good, sometimes so is a squash shared from a garden bed. Often the help we need in a day is to be seen & heard, so that we're more confident in doing the work we need to do in the world, & oh, wouldn't it be such a gift to give that back to someone else as well? The helpers are on the sidelines, Fred said, just on the outskirts of the catastrophe, doing what needs to be done. We don't have to be flashy at the front, & we certainly don't have to do it all, but we can do something. May we remember what goodness we hold just by being who we are, & then, may we remember to be the helpers we've been looking for. We're just who we need."

Isn't this what is all about, as people & as the body of Christ in the world? We are called to not just look for the helpers, but to be the helpers. Be the helpers - the ones we look for in the world, following the example of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve. May we be those helpers - in both big & small, simple ways.

Blessings,

September Stated Gathering

The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas will meet for a Stated Gathering on **Saturday, September 13th** 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 11th at noon.

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

Afternoon workshops will be offered **in person only** - see page 3



[Kiski Presbytery](#)
[Synod of the Trinity](#)

Rev. Erin Kobs: orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org
Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser: trainingpresbyter@kiskipby.org

Presbytery Upcoming Events

August 18th - 27th: Angela here in PA

August 26th: 6pm Organization Commission

September 2nd - 4th: Erin at Synod of the Trinity
Presbyter Gathering

September 12th - 26th : Angela here in PA

September 13th: 10:00am Stated Gathering at Slate Lick

October 11th: 9am-2pm Workshop with Graham
Standish at Dayton Glade Run - Register Here

October 25th: 11:00am Installation Service for Rev. Erin
Kobs & Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser 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. 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

October 2025

September 28-October 8: online

October 9 - travel (air) to PA

October 10-31: on the ground

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 25th 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)

From the Desk of Rev. Dr. Angela Cowser



Here are some of the things I am working on in the coming weeks:

1) New Commissioned Pastor Training curriculum; the hope is to begin this program in the beginning of 2026. There will be opportunities for clergy, lay leaders, & those interested in learning to participate in these classes.

2) Curriculum for congregational revitalization & rebuilding - aimed at churches to move from decline to equilibrium & those who want to move from equilibrium to vitality. The opportunity to engage in this process will begin this fall.

I look forward to meeting with you all & learning more about your congregations!

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

November 2025

November 1-20: on the ground

November 21: travel (air) to TN

November 22-30: online



Upcoming Events Around Kiski

- Shelocta is holding their **2025 Golf Scramble** on Saturday, September 6th. 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 8th at 7:00 PM.
- New Rehoboth Greenville is having a **Drive Thru Dinner** on Sunday, September 14th.
- New Rehoboth Greenville is holding **Three Evenings of Miracles with Randy Stear** on October 14th - 16th at 6:30pm. Discussion, food, fun & fellowship. Invite your neighbors & friends!
- 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? We are seeking 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)
- **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

- **Concord Dayton** along with the Presbytery were able to put together 122 school kits for grades 1-3 at Shannock Valley Elementary School.
- **Trinity** put together 60 school kits for students at River Valley Elementary in Blairsville.
- **Atwood** donated anti-bacterial wipes, kleenax, toothpaste, toothbrushes, & deodorant to Dayton, Shannock Valley, & Elderton Elementary Schools.
- **Shelocta** is putting together hygiene kits for kids & received a gift from Rotary to do the Power Pak program.
- **Punxsutawney** hosted their 3rd Summer Arts Camp for elementary aged kids from July 28th- 30th. There were 16 kids enjoying music, art, & drama workshops.

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.

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 13th, 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-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.

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)

NEW: Trauma Informed Care & Leadership Course

Angela is going to be offering a four session course for all current clergy & commissioned pastors on trauma informed care & leadership. It will be hybrid at the office & on Zoom. The dates are September 29, October 1, 6 & 8 - all sessions from 6:00-9:00pm. The books will be provided & this course is eligible for continuing education, as long as all four classes are attended. [Register here](#).

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.



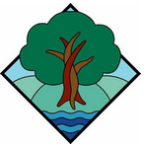
Presbytery Directory

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 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.

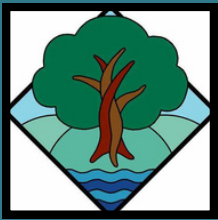
Information about Records

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.

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 11th
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