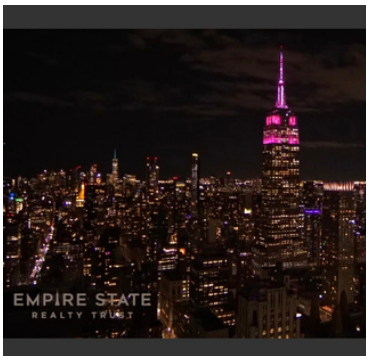
The Week of August 23, 2026

THE KISKI WEEKLY

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

This week, we lost a true American icon. Dolly Parton was an incredibly talented singer/songwriter whose career spaned over 60 years. Her music touched so many people, not just here in the United States, but across the globe. Yesterday, the news covered her career in moving ways. As I scrolled through my social media, there were so many folks posting about her passing & what she meant to them. I watched Tik Tok videos of people sharing her songs, expressing their deep sorrow at her death. There was a video from the BBC News who showed folks sitting in a West End theatre, ready to see the musical 9 to 5, when a cast member read a statement announcing her passing to the audience & noting that the cast would continue with the show with all the gusto that Dolly would've wanted. In New York City, the Empire State Building was lit up in pink sparkles at 9:25pm in honor & memory of her - I watched it happen live on the Empire State Building's live stream. I did see a



video of folks on the street below watching the pink light appear - strangers gathered together over a shared sense of loss & gratitude.

She was more than a singer/songwriter & cultural icon. Dolly Parton was a philanthropist & always wanted to give back & lift up the community from where she came - Sevier Co, TN. As someone who spent some of her life in East Tennessee, I was familiar with Dollywood (which is a great theme park) & her amazing program Imagination Library that sent books to kids from birth to age 5. What I appreciated most was that after the major fires in the Smoky Mts in 2016, she gave $1000 a month to every family that lost their homes until they recovered; she did the same when Hurricane Helene came through the area. Dolly technically was a billionaire, but decided to give her money away to support incredible things. She was selfless in the biggest way possible.

I saw these words on a video last night - "A light has dimmed. May we honor her memory as we pick up her torches of kindness, compassion, & community & carry them on with love in our hearts."

I will always love you. Thanks for the reminder, Dolly.

Blessings,

Erin

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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 30th: Angela at Heilwood & Cherry Tree
September 1st: 6:30pm Evangelism Class Begins
September 6th: Erin preaching at First, East Brady
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.

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.**

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.

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