

The Week of August 3, 2025

THE KISKI WEEKLY



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

Friends,

It is amazing to me that it is already August, which means we are deep into our planning for the fall programming in our churches & here in the Presbytery. It feels like this year is flying by in so many ways. I was reading an article this week that mentioned that on August 6th, we have crossed into the middle point between the summer solstice & the autumn equinox. It means that now we've actually passed the longest days of the year & heading towards when day & night hours are equal. All of that made me think about the days left until we are heading towards the end of 2025. If I am honest, I'm not sure that I am ready for all of that just yet!

What is happening around here at the office is the final preparations for Angela's arrival here in PA. We are having a **Paint the Presbyters' Offices party this Saturday, August 9th at 10:00am**. We are looking for volunteers to join us & help us get the offices ready for both Angela & me. Cheryl & I are also finalizing the furnishings for Angela's new apartment. We are still in need of a dresser & a nightstand. If you have these or know someone who does, please contact us here in the office.

Our two commissions will be hard at work in the next couple of weeks planning for the fall. The Congregation & Pastor Formation Commission is working on the plans for the **workshops being held in the afternoon of September 13th** at our next Stated Gathering (see page 2 for more info) & for the **October 11th workshop with Rev. Dr. Graham Standish** (see page 6 for the event flyer with registration link). The Organization Commission will be working on the 2026 Budget & the minimum terms of call for 2026, along with the information for contract & commissioned pastors. There is lots to do as we head into the fall months & I am grateful for these folks & their hard work.

Finally, as we move into this new season of the life of our Presbytery, I want you to know what a blessing it is to serve you in this new capacity. I am greatly looking forward to visiting with you & your congregations on Sundays, as well as being a part of conversations alongside Angela about what you need & how we can help. Kiski 2.0 is here, my friends. I am hopeful for our future together.

Blessings,

Upcoming Events

August 9th: 10am Paint the Presbyters Office Party at the office

August 18th - 27th: Angela here in PA

August 19th: 6pm Formation Commission

August 24th: Erin preaching at Wilcox

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

October 25th: 11:00am Installation Service for Presbyters at Ebenezer



Kiski Presbytery
Synod of the Trinity



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

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 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)

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...



Upcoming Events Around Kiski

- New Rehoboth is having an **outdoor service & picnic** on Sunday, August 10th at 9:00am. All are invited to attend!
- Pisgah is holding it's annual **Clothing Give Away** on Saturday, August 16th. Last year, over 600 people were served. Donations & help are accepted.
- CrossRoads Community is holding their **18th annual Golf "FORE" Mission** on August 17th at the Links at Spring Church, beginning at 12:30pm. The cost is \$100/person & includes 18 holes of golf, cart rental, free driving range balls, a full dinner buffet catered by Garda's, & prizes. The Golf Outing raises money for mission projects & trips. The registration deadline is August 6. Participants can [register online](#).
- 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.
- 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)

Good News Board

Have some good news to share?
Email us at 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 3rd Summer Arts Camp for elementary aged kids from July 28th- 30th. There were 16 kids enjoying music, art, & drama workshops.
- **Ridgway** is currently planning for their 150th Anniversary.
- **Cross Roads** distributed 100 free lunches to folks in Leechburg on July 19th.

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.

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)
- **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.



**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)



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.

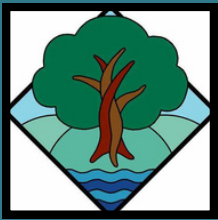
Information about Records

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