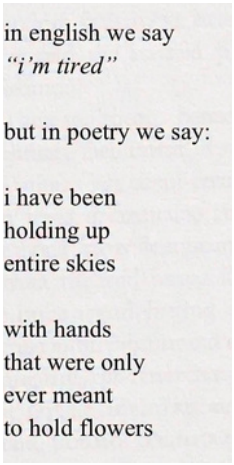
The Week of August 9, 2026

THE KISKI WEEKLY

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



I keep coming back to those words.

Perhaps because "I'm tired" can mean so many things. It can mean we need a nap, or a quiet afternoon, or a little more coffee. But sometimes "I'm tired" means something much deeper. It means we have been carrying more than we were ever meant to carry. It means we have been trying to hold things together for our families, our congregations, our communities, & even for ourselves.

And sometimes, if we are honest, the church can become a place where we learn to carry too much.

We hold the concerns of our congregations. We worry about declining numbers, budgets, buildings, leadership transitions & uncertain futures. We carry the grief of people we love. We try to find the right words when there are no easy words. We show up when people are hurting, & we keep showing up even when we are hurting, too.

But the poem reminds us of something important: our hands were only ever meant to hold flowers. We were not created to hold up the entire sky. That is God's work.

There is something deeply freeing about remembering that. Scripture repeatedly invites us to lay down our burdens not because they don't matter, but because we were never meant to carry them alone. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, & I will give you rest."Rest is not failure. Asking for help is not weakness. Letting go is not giving up.

Sometimes faithfulness looks like putting down what we have been carrying & trusting that God will still be God without us holding everything together. Perhaps our churches need to hear that, too. We don't have to hold up the entire sky. We are called to be faithful, to love our neighbors, to worship, to serve, to care for one another, & to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. But the future of the church does not rest entirely on our shoulders. The sky is already being held.

Perhaps this season invites us to unclench our hands a little. To make room for flowers. To notice beauty. To receive instead of always giving. To rest without apology. To remember that beneath all the things we carry, we are beloved children of God. Maybe when someone says, "I'm tired," we might learn to hear the poetry underneath it. Maybe what they are really saying is: I have been holding up the sky for a while. Maybe our response can simply be: You don't have to hold it alone. God is already holding the sky.

Blessings, Erin

In this Issue

Page 2: Upcoming Presbytery Events; Upcoming Events around Kiski; Birthdays; Fall Classes; Clerk of Session Corner; September Stated Gathering

Page 3: 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?
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Kiski Presbytery
Synod of the Trinity

Rev. Erin Kobs: orgpresbyter@kiskipby.org; 717.419.0608 (cell)
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Presbytery Upcoming Events

July 31st - August 14th: Angela on vacation
August 15th: 9:00am-2:00pm Intermediate Preaching Class
August 18th: 6:00pm Formation & Organization Commission
August 23rd: Angela at St. Benedict & St. Paul's United
August 30th: Angela at Heilwood & Cherry Tree

Birthdays

Pastors with August birthdays:

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

Upcoming Events Around Kiski

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

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

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.

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