

The Stewartsville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church
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May 2018

The Rev. Stephen P. Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Jean South – Music Director Emerita

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary – Treasurer

Mary Sampson – Children and Youth Intern



Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner. We will hold a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner on Saturday, May 5, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Roan Fellowship Hall.

All proceeds will benefit the Summer Mission Trip to Houston, TX, where we will help with the recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey.

The dinner will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, homemade desserts, and beverages.

Tickets will be available at the door. Tickets cost \$10 and are free for ages 5 and younger. Take-out dinners will be available for \$12 each.

We are still in need of people to contribute homemade desserts to the dinner.

For more information, or if you are able to bake a dessert, please call Denice Morton at 484-226-7499.

Blood Drive. Our church's Blood Donation Ministry, in conjunction with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, will be sponsoring a blood drive from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon on Sunday, May 20.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or e-mail her at cmbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

We must have at least 20 people sign up.

**Blood
DRIVE**



Church T-Shirts. We are selling "Stewartsville Presbyterian Church" T-shirts. The shirts are available in black, green, heather gray, navy blue, purple, red, and royal blue. The cost is \$15 for sizes S-XL; 2XL shirts cost \$20 each.

The deadline to place your order is Sunday, May 20.

If you are interested in purchasing a "Stewartsville Presbyterian Church" T-shirt, please contact Kay Piperato at 908-479-4944, or speak with Pastor Stephen.

Life Together – May 2018

On Sunday, April 29, Pastor Stephen shared the following reflection by the Rev. William Forbes. Bill was a much-loved church leader who died in 2009 after battling pancreatic cancer for several years. He wrote the following excerpted reflection a year before his passing:

“Pancreatic cancer has assisted me, indeed it has endowed me, with a mandate to re-order my priorities. I don’t ‘sweat the small stuff’ nearly as much as I used to!

“Prayer shapes and guides my life more than it did pre-diagnosis, and I take uncommon joy in praying through and for an extensive and growing intercessory prayer list. How often we have been told to pray for others, and yet how often do we find ourselves actually doing that?

“When I encounter people struggling with any issue at all, I find myself called to pray for them, and I realize that I want to let them know that I am doing so. When I am told by someone that I am being prayed for, it lifts my spirits as nothing else does. The mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves is inextricably linked to a life of daily prayer for others.

“As a pastor, husband, parent, and friend, I have tried to be a note and letter writer over the years, and I find myself writing more notes than ever – letters of encouragement and acknowledgement to those who might need to know that someone is thinking about them and praying for them. I often send notes to those who have encouraged me and opened doors for me over the course of my life journey.

“These notes often result in receiving responses and e-mails that can make the spirit soar!

“Each of us has suffered or will suffer at some time in our lives. The Book of Job was a preview of what can happen to the most faithful and to the least faithful. Yet, the greatest gift we can offer to one another is encouragement – encouragement through spoken or written word, through deeds however small or gracious, through intercessory prayer and through the kindness of recognition: ‘I know this is a difficult time for you and I am holding you in daily prayer.’

“God’s gift of life is truly amazing!

“None of us knows how many days we will be granted. As you look in the mirror each and every day, take time to marvel that you have been created in the image of God. Count your blessings often.

“Smile more and frown less! Tell those you love how much you love them each and every day. Share yourself abundantly with those who need encouragement, hope and care. Give thanks that with Christ all things are possible!

“Keep that twinkle in your eye and help the world learn to laugh.”



On Sunday, April 15, the youth and Deacons assembled 14 College Care Packages. We send out care packages each semester to our college students.



Our youth enjoyed an afternoon of laser tag on Sunday, April 15. We all had an exciting time!



Some of our helpers, hard at work at our Old-Fashioned Rummage and Bake Sale on April 27 & 28. Thank you to everyone who supported our sale. All proceeds benefit our Summer Mission Trip to Houston, TX.



Pastor Stephen will be attending a conference from April 29-May 3.

If you need pastoral care while he is away, please contact the Elder on Call:
Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823

Family Promise/IHN Host Week.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church will be hosting families experiencing homelessness in our church from May 6-13. Thank you to all who have signed up to help with this ministry.

Evening Women's Circle. The Evening Women's Circle will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15 at Panera.

For more information, call or text Laura Choi at 717-599-9875.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group meets at 9:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the Classroom.

This month, we will meet on Fridays, May 11 and May 25.

For more information, call Sue Gruver at 573-999-7014.

One Great Hour of Sharing. During Lent and Easter, we received \$206 for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank You Note. We received the following thank you note from Dolly Baxter in response to her Easter lily:

"To the congregation of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church, God bless you all – I'm so glad that my church family of Bloomsbury Presbyterian Church is settled into your congregation – you belong together.

"I loved the Easter lily you delivered to me. It is so tall and stately with beautiful fragrance. With love to you all."



MAY

- 1 Scott DeMasi
- 2 Sean Marek
Jean South
Keith & Rachel Villano – Anniversary
- 3 Liana Peralta
Joyce Shauger
- 5 Brian & Marlaina Montgomery – Anniversary
Timothy & Maureen Sampson – Anniversary
- 6 Elsie Freeh
- 7 David Huffman & Nellierae
Clark-Huffman – Anniversary
John & Kathy Montgomery – Anniversary
- 12 Katie DeMasi
- 13 Phyllis Ballentine
Cliff & Sheila Oberly – Anniversary
- 14 Timothy & Dawn Hamlen – Anniversary
- 15 Ruth Ann Hoyt
- 17 Adam Yanow
- 18 Marian Abbott
Miranda Oberly
Richie Sbriscia
- 19 Giulianna Cantagallo-Rohm
- 23 Karen Crouse
Noah Culcasi
- 25 Jim Riley
- 26 Bradley Fry
- 27 Pastor Stephen & Laura Choi – Anniversary
- 29 Daniel DeHaas

Birthday/Anniversary List. Are we missing your birthday or anniversary? Please let the office know, either by calling 908-859-1399 or e-mailing office@stewartsvillepc.org
We don't want to miss your special day!

Office Closed. The church office will be closed Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day. Regular office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Pastor Stephen's day off is Tuesday.

Children and Youth News

Kids Connect. Our monthly Kids Connect meeting, for children ages kindergarten through sixth grade, will meet from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2. Come for an evening of pizza, lessons, crafts, and games! Older youth are needed as helpers.

Please contact Laura Choi by e-mail at lauraluchoi@gmail.com or text her at 717-599-9875, so we know how many children to prepare for. Please bring \$2 per child for pizza.

Youth and Adult Hiking. On Saturday, May 19, we will hike Point Mountain near Port Murray. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, or if you plan to attend, please speak with Mary Sampson or call her at 484-294-0711.



Food on the First. On the first Sunday of each month, everyone is encouraged to bring in food donations for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Phillipsburg. There is a box in the back of the sanctuary where the food may be placed.

In April, we donated 22 bags of food.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, canned tuna and chicken, soup, canned vegetables, and spaghetti sauce.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," the Adult Lunch Group, will meet on Thursday, May 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden, 50 Kunkle Drive, Easton, PA.

We are encouraging participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the lunch to donate to NORWESCAP Food Bank.

We collected \$20 and five cans of soup at our April luncheon.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Don and Louisa Miers at 908-859-0277, by Monday, May 7, to make your reservation. Also, contact Don or Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.



Friday Devotional Group. The Friday Devotional Group meets every Friday at 7:15 a.m. at Panera. This is a time to gather together at the end of each week for study and fellowship. We are reading the book "Devotional Classics" by Richard Foster. Following are the chapters we will be discussing:

Friday, May 4: "Soren Kierkegaard: Praying to Will One Thing," pages 350-356.

Friday, May 11: "Evelyn Underhill: What Do We Mean by Prayer?," pages 94-100.

Friday, May 18: "Thomas à Kempis: Dealing with Temptations," pages 150-156.

Friday, May 25: "Jean-Pierre de Caussade: The Present Moment," pages 200-206.

Books are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

For more information, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



We're Proud of You!

Attention Proud Parents! We would like to include information about our high school and college graduates in the June Newsletter.

Please e-mail the following information to the church office by Wednesday, May 16: Student's name, the school from which they are graduating, the date of graduation, the type of degree they earned (if graduating from college), and what their future plans may be (which college they may be attending, or what type of work they will be doing).

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 27, will be our last day of Sunday School until September. Starting on Sunday, June 3, our Worship Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. Our Summer Worship Schedule will run through Sunday, Sept. 2.

Session Notes – April 23, 2018

We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Peggy Smith.

Pastor Stephen will be on Sabbatical June 4 – September 4.

The Pulpit Supply Schedule for the Summer is:

- June 10: The Rev. Cheni Khonje
- June 17 & 24: The Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco
- July 1 & 8: Pastor Tyler Callum
- July 15: Summer Mission Trip Presentation
- July 22 – September 2: Pastor Tyler Callum

Because Pastor Tyler Callum is not yet ordained, we will not have Communion on Sunday, August 5.

The session adopted an “Equity Allowance Contribution” for Pastor Stephen. Because pastors who reside in manses are not able to build up equity that can come with home ownership, the purpose of the contribution is to provide the pastor living in the manse with savings that may assist in the purchase of a home in the future. The session has approved a quarterly contribution of \$1,000 to the pastor’s Retirement Savings Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The session approved the repair of the front porch of the church.

Treasurer’s Report:

As of March 31, we have a year-to-date abundance of \$474 in our General Fund Budget.

As we concluded our meeting, we committed to praying for one another and our church, lifted up our joys and concerns, and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

LAY READERS

May 6	Chuck Nowalk
May 13	Bob McFarlane
May 20	Madison Wolfinger
May 27	Laura Choi

GREETERS

May 6	Rich Higginson
May 13	Ruth Ann Hoyt
May 20	Judy Melchore
May 27	Susan Perez

NURSERY

May 6	Madison Wolfinger and Mary Sampson
May 13	Janis Clark and Belinda Pisarri
May 20	Lynn Alpaugh and Nancy Sampson
May 27	Mary Lou Gary and Janis Clark



Father’s Day Breakfast. Our Annual Father’s Day Breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 17, in Roan Hall.

All men of the church are welcome to attend.

Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and the June Newsletter.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:30 pm Kids Connect 7 pm AA	3 6 pm BSA Troop	4 7:15 am Devotional Group, Panera 4 pm Spaghetti Dinner Set Up	5 5 to 7:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner, Roan Hall
6 9:20 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Family Promise Host Week 5/6-5/13	7 7 pm Deacons Meeting	8	9 8 pm AA	10 11:30 am Adult Lunch at Olive Garden 7 pm Grange	11 7:15 am Devotional Group, Panera 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	12 10 am Samplemakers
13 Mother's Day 9:20 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship	14	15 6 pm Women's Evening Circle, Panera	16 7 pm AA	17 6 pm BSA Troop	18 7:15 am Devotional Group, Panera	19 9 am Youth Hike to Point Mountain 9 am to 5 pm Grange
20 9 am to Noon Blood Drive 9:20 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Worship Service	21 Meals on Wheels Deliveries 5/21-5/25	22	23 7 pm AA	24 6 pm BSA Troop	25 7:15 am Devotional Group, Panera 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	26
27 9:20 am Sunday School 9:30 am Choir Practice 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship 2 pm Deacons Chapel Svc.	28 Church Office Closed for Memorial Day	29 7 pm Session Meeting	30 7 pm AA	31 6 pm BSA Troop		