

The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church

550 North Main Street, Stewartville, NJ 08886

908-859-1399

www.stewartvillepc.org

Church e-mail – office@stewartvillepc.org

Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

April 2023

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Mary Lou Gary – Treasurer

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

Worship Service is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

**Holy Communion will next be celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 7.**

Please see page 3 for information on Zoom link.



Good Friday, April 7. We will gather for a soup dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Roan Hall. The meal will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. All are welcome.

The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will also be broadcast via Zoom, using the Sunday Zoom link.

Easter Sunday, April 9. We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

There will be no Sunday School. The Nursery will be open, but not staffed.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," the Adult Lunch Group, will meet on Thursday, April 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Annabel's Italian Restaurant (formerly Marianna's), 224 Stockton St., Phillipsburg.

We encourage everyone to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the lunch to donate to NORWESCAP Food Bank.

We had 23 people attend our March luncheon, and we collected \$33 for the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861, by Monday, April 10, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.

JOIN US
for
LUNCH

You Are the Beloved: Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living

This month, I share with you a meditation and prayer from Henri Nouwen's book, "You Are the Beloved," which I read for my own personal daily devotions. I have been blessed by the thoughts and writings of Henri Nouwen for some time, and I hope you will be blessed too. Henri Nouwen was a Dutch-born Catholic priest, professor, and author who passed away in 1996.

I Love You, I Love You, I Love You

The voice of despair says, "I sin over and over again. After endless promises to myself and others to do better next time, I find myself back again in the old dark places. Forget about trying to change. I have tried for years. It didn't work and it never will work. It is better that I get out of people's way, be forgotten, no longer around, dead."

This strangely attractive voice takes all uncertainties away and puts an end to the struggle. It speaks unambiguously for the darkness and offers a clear-cut negative identity.

But Jesus came to open my ears to another voice that says, "I am your God, I have molded you with my own hands, and I love what I have made. I love you with a love that has no limits, because I love you as I am loved. Do not run away from me. Come back to me – not once, not twice, but always again. You are my child ... I am your God – the God of mercy and compassion, the God of pardon and love, the God of tenderness and care. Please do not say that I have given up on you, that I cannot stand you anymore, that there is no way back. It is not true. I so much want you to be with me. I so much want you to be close to me. I know all your thoughts. I hear all your words. I see all your actions. And I love you because you are beautiful, made in my own image, an expression of my most intimate love. Do not judge yourself. Do not condemn yourself. Do not reject yourself. Let my love touch the deepest, most hidden corners of your heart and reveal to you your own beauty, a beauty that you have lost sight of, but that will become visible to you again in the light of my mercy. Come, come, let me wipe your tears, and let my mouth come close to your ear and say to you, 'I love you, I love you, I love you.'"

Prayer

Dear Lord,

I bring before you all the people who experience failure in their search for a creative, affectionate relationship. Many single people feel lonely and unable to sustain a friendship for a long period of time; many married people feel frustrated in their marriage and separate to go different ways; many children cannot speak to their parents; and many parents have become afraid of their children. All around me I see the hunger for love and the inability to experience it in a deep and lasting way.

O Lord, look with favor on us, your people, and impart your love to us – not as an idea or concept, but as a lived experience. We can only love each other because you have loved us first. Let us know that first love so that we can see all human love as a reflection of a greater love, a love without conditions and limitations.

Heal those who feel hurt in their most intimate self, who feel rejected, misunderstood, or even misused. Show them your healing love, and help them on the way to forgiveness and reconciliation. Amen.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

The Zoom worship service is held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live from the sanctuary during the in-person worship service.

Holy Communion will next be celebrated on **Sunday, May 7**. Please be prepared with bread and juice/wine.

Please join us every Sunday morning by using the link below or by calling with the Meeting ID.

The great thing about Zoom is even if you do not have a computer or smartphone, you can still phone in to listen to the service.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at office@stewartsvillepc.org or call the church during our regular office hours, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

For the latest news and information, please also visit the church website, www.stewartsvillepc.org

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94418910396?pwd=WlQwMHBzZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886

Session Notes – March 27, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Denise DeMasi.
- We had a shortened meeting, because the moderator was not feeling well.
- Approval was given for the baptism of Wyatt Em, grandson of Michael and Denise Morton, on Sunday, April 16.
- Pastor Stephen will be on vacation April 18-25.
- Pastor Stephen will be away at the Synod Mission and Ministries Commission Meeting in Albany, April 27-29.
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, April 17.
- 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.

Camp Johnsonburg Brochures. Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the 4 New Jersey Presbyteries, offers summer programs for children and youth entering 1st through 12th grade.

Camp brochures are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office.

Camp Scholarships are available through our church. Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.



Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, May 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot and all COVID protocols will be followed.

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.



Robert "Bob" Nuss passed away Saturday, March 11. Bob was a member of our church, who also served as a Deacon.

His funeral service was held Thursday, March 16.

Please keep Bob's wife, Sis, and their family and friends in your prayers.

Robert "Bob" Piatt passed away Saturday, March 18.

Bob was Carol Evanoski's brother.

Please keep Carol, Bud, and their family and friends in your prayers.

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We continue to donate food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

In March, we donated 16 bags of food and toiletries.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of canned mixed vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, microwave cake mixes, and juice boxes, as well as grocery bags.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Friday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. at Annabel's Italian Restaurant (formerly Marianna's), 224 Stockton St., Phillipsburg. For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be on Vacation and attending a Synod Commission Meeting from Tuesday, April 18 through Saturday, April 29.

If you need pastoral care while he is away, please contact the Elder on Call:

Bill Nixon at 908-319-2800



APRIL

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 3 | Bob Heinrich |
| | Alford "Bo" Johnson III |
| 5 | Dawn Barretto |
| | Adeline Clark |
| | Charlie & Sue Henshaw – Anniversary |
| 6 | Bob Hurte |
| 10 | Bruce Stoddart |
| 13 | Giavanna Cantagallo-Rohm |
| 15 | Madison Wolfinger |
| 20 | Paulie Williams |
| 26 | John Hawk |
| 27 | Savana Williams |
| 28 | G.G. and Kurt Schriever – Anniversary |

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!



Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 14 and Friday, April 28, in the Library.

This is an opportunity to gather together and work on your own projects, while having lively conversations!

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

Deacons Offering. We received \$433 for the special offering collected recently for the work and ministries of our Deacons.

Thank you for your generosity.

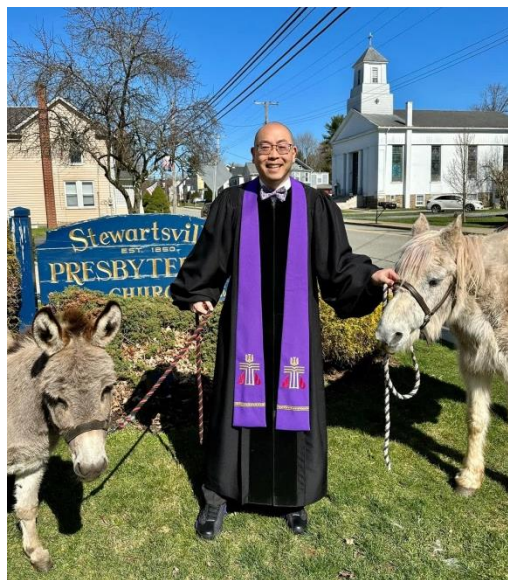
Devotionals. The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the sanctuary, or by calling the church office:

- "Our Daily Bread," March/April/May issue.
- "Today," March/April. issue.
- "Our Daily Bread," large-print edition, April/May/June issue.

Palm Sunday

We celebrated Palm Sunday with pony rides and a miniature donkey before the worship service on Sunday, April 2.

After the worship service, we had an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.



Rosie England's Art was featured at a gallery on Sunday, March 19.

The exhibit was a collection of Rosie's pieces illustrating how she sees the world with vision in just one eye (monovision).

Some of her work can also be found on Instagram at "monovision art2023"



Bill Nixon was Honored as a "Hometown Hero" at the Lehigh Valley Phantom's Hockey Game on March 12. Bill was honored for his service to our country in the Navy, as well as his service to the community.

As part of the ceremony, Bill was given a personalized Phantoms jersey.



Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday 9:20 am Sunday School with Pony Rides and Miniature Donkey 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	3	4	5 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	6	7 Good Friday 6 pm Soup Dinner 7:30 pm Good Friday Service of Shadows	8 10 am Samplemakers
9 Easter No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	10	11	12 7 pm AA	13 11:30 am Adult Lunch, Annabel's	14 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	15
16 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with the Sacrament of Baptism Deacons Assemble College Care Packages after Worship Service 6 pm AA	17 7 pm Session Meeting	18 Pastor Stephen Away from the Office through April 29	19 7 pm AA	20	21 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts Group	22
23 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	24	25	26 7 pm AA	27	28 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 6 pm Women's Circle, Annabel's	29 8 am Grange – Kitchen Use
30 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA						