

The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church
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www.stewartvillepc.org

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

September 2024

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

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

We will return to our Regular Worship Schedule on Sunday, Sept. 8:

Worship Service and Children's Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 8

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link



Sunday School. Beginning on Sunday, Sept. 8, Children's Sunday School will be held during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Children will start worship with their families in the sanctuary, and will then be invited to join us downstairs after the Children's Sermon for Sunday School.

Sunday School will consist of a structured story/lesson/activity time.

Sunday School is for children ages 3 through 6th grade. The Nursery will still be staffed for any children younger than 3-years-old.

On Communion Sundays, the children will be brought up to the sanctuary at the start of Communion to join their families to partake in the Sacrament together.

The Adult Sunday School will meet beginning on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 9:20 a.m. in the library and via Zoom. We will continue our study of the Gospel of Mark.

Rally Day Picnic. Please join us for our Rally Day Picnic after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 8.

The Fellowship Committee will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, and beverages. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

For more information or to sign up, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.



Grateful

One early August morning, I woke up as the sun was rising and decided to go for a walk around Stewartsville. Something I had not done in over a year.

While walking, I happened to see Bob Hurte, a Deacon of the church. We exchanged pleasantries. And after we chatted a bit, he went one way, and I went the other.

It was a nice, unexpected encounter, but I didn't think much of it until I returned home and checked Facebook.

This is what Bob posted:

"A neat thing happened while I was on my 'Path of Prayers.' I was at the part where I pray for Jack Roan and Stephen (my ministers), the Elders and Deacons, and who comes walking toward me but Pastor Stephen! I have been a little out of sorts lately, dismayed that I should have applied for a promotion, but my current quality of life did not make it a good choice. I learned that it pays a lot more than I am currently making, so I had regrets. But I got a reminder of why I am here and the reason that I am there: Pastor was wearing a t-shirt that had "grateful" printed on the front of it. I am very qualified for the other position, but I'm more qualified to support the families that I am currently responsible for. To which I am GRATEFUL!"

There is much about this story that I like.

Not so much because I am the "hero" of the story, but because I didn't even know I made any kind of difference at all. All I did was wake up early and wore a random t-shirt, and God did the rest.

More than it being about me, this is really much more a story about God and God's love, faithfulness, and grace. Bob needed a reminder, so God used me, albeit unknowingly, and we both walked away grateful and praising the Lord.

All this goes to show, we never know how God can use us to impact or bless another person's life.

As I celebrate 19 years of ordained ministry as a pastor, I am truly grateful for all the ways God has used me both knowingly and unknowingly, and most especially in spite of me.

To God be the glory,
Pastor Stephen

To God be the glory;
great things he has done!
So loved he the world
that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life
an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father
through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory:
great things he has done!

Summer at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church



Adeline and Jimbo Clark, children of Jim and Janis Clark, being dropped off at Camp Johnsonburg. Adeline and Jimbo had such a great time that they are already asking if they can go again next summer!



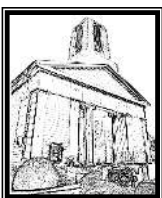
Our Deacons volunteered at the summer camp program at the Firth Youth Center in Phillipsburg. They made sandwiches and assembled lunch bags for the campers on June 13, 14 and 19.



Henry Choi and Pastor Stephen, ready to deliver meals for Meals on Wheels of the Greater Valley. As a church, we deliver meals one week every month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bud Evanowski at 484-547-2946.



The Happy Hour Bunch! Sue Gruver, Pastor Stephen, and Kay Piperato, out to celebrate Sue and Kay's birthdays. We don't know what trouble they may have gotten into!



SPC 175th Anniversary. 2025 will mark the 175th anniversary of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church! We have formed an Anniversary Committee to plan activities, celebrations, etc.

The committee will meet on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning Sept. 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested in serving on this committee.



Nathaniel George Bove, son of David Bove and Nicole Viscomi-Bove, received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, Aug. 18. He was born on April 3, 2024. Nathaniel's siblings are Vincenzo and Stella. His grandmother is Kim Stone.

Voices Needed! Our choir will meet for the first rehearsal of the season on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room behind the sanctuary.

All interested new members, ages 13 and above, are encouraged to join us every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room. We will be singing during the 10:30 a.m. worship service each week.

No musical experience is necessary, so come join the fun with our growing choir! We look forward to lifting our voices to the Lord!

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet for dinner in September on a date to be determined.

Please check upcoming bulletins for when and where the group will meet, or contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.



Needlecraft Group. After taking a break for the summer, the Needlecraft Group will resume meeting on Friday, Sept. 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the library.

The group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

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.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2 for Labor Day.



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| 3 | Tayliss Choi |
| | Dale & Lynn Alpaugh – Anniversary |
| 4 | Michael Diacopoulos |
| 7 | Jim & Janis Clark – Anniversary |
| 8 | Sarah Sampson |
| 10 | Brian Ballentine |
| | Barry & Tammy Oberly – Anniversary |
| 11 | Jeff Schoeneberger |
| | John Wagner |
| 15 | Dave Bove |
| | Noelle Steller |
| | Chris & Laurie Winans – Anniversary |
| 17 | Lindsey Culcasi |
| 19 | Jim & Cindy Bowman – Anniversary |
| 21 | Jean Bradbury |
| 22 | Tim & Melanie Loyle – Anniversary |
| 23 | Diane Olsen |
| 28 | Eileen Miers |
| 29 | Lisa Fry |

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!



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

In August, we donated 15 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of toilet paper, soup, pasta and pasta sauce, and rice, as well as grocery bags.

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

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

Sunday, Sept. 1 is the last Sunday of our Summer Worship Schedule, with the Zoom worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 8, we will return to our Regular Worship Schedule, with the Zoom worship service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live from the sanctuary during the in-person worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, Sept. 8**. 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=WlQwMHB5ZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886



Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We still need to have 11 people sign up to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or 908-619-8697 or email her at cbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Pizza Village Café, 665 Columbus Ave., Phillipsburg.

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

We had 30 people attend our August luncheon, and we collected \$56 for the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Sept. 9 to make your reservation.

Friday Morning Devotional Group. The Friday Morning Devotional Group will resume meeting each Friday at 8:00 a.m. beginning on Friday, Sept. 13. The group meets in person in the library and via Zoom.

We will be reading "Spiritual Classics" by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin for our upcoming study.

The group will meet for coffee and fellowship at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 6, at Panera.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Stephen know.

Grief Support Group. If you have lost a spouse or loved one, and would like to connect with others from the church who are walking through grief, please let Pastor Stephen know.

We are looking to start a support group, where we can come together to listen, talk only if you want to, to find strength from God, and know you are not alone.

Our initial meeting will be sometime the first week of October. Please let Pastor Stephen know if you would like to participate.

Session Notes – August 19, 2024

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Linda Williams.
- Approval was made to make capital improvements to the church sanctuary. We will be replacing the carpet, refurbishing the pews, purchasing new pew cushions, and replacing the mesh behind cross. Work is set to begin early next year, and it is estimated to take a month to finish.
- We made the prayerful decision to give \$1,000 to Family Promise of Warren County as they transition from their current location in Oxford to a more accessible facility in Phillipsburg. (Family Promise works to achieve sustainable independence for homeless and low-income families and individuals by mobilizing community resources to provide shelter, meals, re-housing, training, and support services leading to permanent housing and lasting self-sufficiency.)
- Next summer's mission trip will again be to the Dominican Republic with Foundation for Peace to help in completing the construction of a church that this year's mission trip team started.
- Habitat for Humanity has begun work on a new home at 1035 Alpha Street in Harmony. (Our Deacons deliver lunch for the Habitat for Humanity volunteers every other month.)
- Pastor Stephen will be on vacation October 7-12.
- Our next Session Meeting will be on Monday, September 23.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of July 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$1,479 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.

UrbanPromise. On Saturday, Sept. 28, Pastor Stephen will join other paddlers in voyager canoes to circumnavigate Petty's Island on the Delaware River to raise money for UrbanPromise. (Petty's Island is a 292-acre island located in the river near Philadelphia.)

For more than 30 years, Camden's youth have been growing and thriving in UrbanPromise's supportive and educational community, one that challenges them to build the skills they need to achieve the goals they envision for themselves.

Pastor Stephen's goal is to raise \$1,000.

If you would like to support Pastor Stephen, you can make a donation by writing a check to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church and note "UrbanPromise" on the memo line.

For online giving, please go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and specify "UrbanPromise" in Notes.



Trunk or Treat! We will have Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 27 in the church parking lot after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Children can wear costumes and go from car to car collecting candy and other goodies. Adults can participate by dressing up, purchasing candy, etc., and handing it out at their cars. You can even decorate your vehicles to add to the fun!

For more information, or to reserve your parking spot, contact Janis Clark at JanisR500@gmail.com

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	2 Church Office Closed for Labor Day	3	4 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	5	6 8 am Friday Devotional Group, Panera	7
8 Rally Day 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School with Holy Communion Rally Day Picnic after Worship Service 6 pm AA	9	10	11 7 pm AA	12 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Pizza Village Café 7 pm Grange	13 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	14 10 am Samplemakers
15 Blood Drive 8:00 am to 12:30 pm 9:20 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	16 1 pm Finance Team Meeting	17	18 7pm Anniversary Committee Meeting 7 pm AA	19	20 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts Group	21
22 9:20 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	23 7 pm Session Meeting	24	25 7 pm AA	26	27 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	28 10 am Samplemakers – Special Program
29 9:20 Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	30					