

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

December 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



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service
at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.
Holy Communion will be celebrated
during this service of Lessons and Carols.



Worship Service and Children's Sunday School is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.
Holy Communion is celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month.
Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Congregational Meeting. There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 8. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

Cookie Exchange will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, in Roan Hall. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, Dec. 8. For more information, contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to go caroling after worship on Sunday, Dec. 15. We will sing Christmas carols to our homebound members, and we will also deliver cookies to them.

Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Pajama Sunday. Please feel free to wear your pajamas and comfy clothing to the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 29. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 29.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

During our time at the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church, my family and I have given Alternative Gifts for Christmas in honor of our church. This year, we continue this tradition by giving the following gifts through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>):

Family of Chickens (\$25)

Eggs for food, feathers for pillows, and fertilizer for crops. A family of chickens can help improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.

Cow (\$50 for a share)

A dairy cow can provide a family in need with a reliable source of income and nourishment. This gift also supports training in caretaking and sustainable breeding of livestock, improving food and income security for families and villages for years to come.

Hygiene Kit (\$30)

Hygiene kits help support relief efforts that provide supplies critical in controlling the spread of infection and disease. Included are emergency food items, mosquito nets, blankets, and soap.

Supplies for Displaced Students (\$30)

This gift provides the opportunity of education to students who have lost everything. With a gift of school supplies, 3 students living in a refugee camp can be empowered through learning.

Sewing Machine (\$50)

A sewing machine isn't just for use at home. New sewing equipment can be just what someone needs to launch a business that mends, alters and sells clothing and linens. A sewing machine could help provide a stable source of income for a family in a developing part of the world.

Farming Tools (\$10)

Growing and harvesting a fruitful crop is possible only with the proper tools, such as shovels and machetes. The necessary equipment can help bring a fruitful yield from the land.

Jerry Cans (\$25)

UNICEF estimates that women and girls around the world collectively spend 200 million hours every day fetching water. A gift of \$25 provides up to 10 jerry cans to transport water more efficiently, freeing women and girls to have more time on enriching activities, like attending school.

It is my prayer that these gifts would be a source of “good news of great joy” to those who receive them. What better way to celebrate Christmas than to be a blessing! To give so that others may simply live. To give the gift of life and to have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

As a church, may we always be a blessing and strive to be “good news of great joy” in our love for God and in our love for our neighbors, both near and far.

May you have a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,
Pastor Stephen and Family

November at SPC



Many people from our congregation helped Connie Collins celebrate her 92nd birthday on Sunday, Nov. 10 at Gracedale Nursing Home.



On Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 17, members and friends came forward to offer up their 2025 Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets.



2025 Mission Trip. We are planning a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic from June 27 to July 4, 2025.

We will again work with Foundation for Peace and will continue our work with the same church we were helping to build this past summer.

Please let Pastor Stephen know if you are interested in participating. A \$50 deposit is needed to reserve your spot.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Sports Scene Restaurant at Oakwood Lanes, 234 Route 31, Washington, NJ.

In celebration of Christmas, we will take up a monetary collection which will be donated to a charity to be determined at the luncheon.

We had 23 people attend our November luncheon, and we collected \$50 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. Each month we encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheons to donate to the food bank.

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



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

In November, we donated 11 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of juice, jelly, coffee, hot chocolate mix, cake mix and frosting, and condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc.), as well as grocery bags.



Allison de Haas and **Michael Gouck** were married on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Townley House in Easton.

Allison is part of the rotation for our Children's Sermon, and previously served as our Children and Youth Intern.

Allison is the daughter of Dan and Christine DeHaas and the granddaughter of Ralph and Danielle DeHaas.



Confirmation Class. We are beginning a new Confirmation Class in January 2025. Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you have questions and if you would like to have your child attend.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 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.

Nursery. The Nursery will be open, but not staffed on Sundays, Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

November Deacons Offering. We received \$395 for the special offering collected in November for the work and ministry of our Deacons. Thank you for your generosity!

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed
Wednesday, Dec. 25 and
Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025.

Regular office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.



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| 4 | Will Sampson |
| | Bud & Carol Evanoski – Anniversary |
| 5 | Kathy Montgomery |
| 7 | Pastor Stephen Choi |
| 9 | Joe & Jackie Lubinski – Anniversary |
| 10 | Stella Bove |
| 11 | John Muentener III |
| 12 | Justin Jewell |
| 13 | Carly Alpaugh |
| 15 | Gabrielle Poremba |
| | Chris Winans |
| 16 | Tammy Oberly |
| | John & Heidi Hawk – Anniversary |
| 17 | Colton Banghart |
| 20 | Anthony DeMasi |
| 21 | Barry Oberly |
| 22 | Bob Morris |
| | John & Terry Lefler – Anniversary |
| 24 | Jackie File |
| | Ana Wagner |
| | Linda Williams |
| 25 | Alan Deak |
| 28 | Linda Roan |
| | Dave Bove & Nicole Viscomi-Bove – Anniversary |
| 29 | Brodey Colucci Keller |
| 31 | Madelyn Duckworth |
| | Vincenzo Viscomi |

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!

College Care Packages. The Deacons assembled and distributed 9 college care packages on Sunday, Nov. 3.

The packages went to our students in college, trade school, and graduate school.

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 be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. 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.

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

Giving Tree. All 45 of the "Giving Tree" tags have been taken. Thank you to everyone who picked a tag!

If you would still like to help a child in need, the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency has also asked for gift cards to Target or Walmart.

The deadline to return unwrapped gifts and gift cards is Sunday, Dec. 8.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6:00 p.m. at Warrenside Tavern, 511 Route 173, Stewartsville.

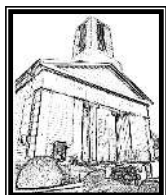
All women are invited to join us for a meal, good conversations, and the opportunity to encourage one another.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

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, we have started a support group.

We will meet at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 6 and Friday, Dec. 20 in the library.

Please let Pastor Stephen know if you would like to participate.



175th Anniversary Survey. 2025 will mark our 175th anniversary as the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

As part of our anniversary celebration, we ask that you share some of your fondest memories.

There are surveys on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Place your completed surveys in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office.

2025 Pledge Cards. If you have not already returned your 2025 Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheet, please put them in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office as soon as possible. Extra Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office.

Session Notes – November 18, 2024

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Pastor Stephen Choi.
- The 2025 General Fund Budget was approved. More information will be given in the Annual Report and at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025.
- The 2025 Communion Dates were approved. We will continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month, as well as Ash Wednesday and Christmas Eve.
- An annual review for Pastor Stephen was completed by the Session.
- We received an update that Djimysson, our Compassion International Child who we have been sponsoring in Haiti, has moved out of the country. We pray that God would continue to provide and watch over him and his family. (Djimysson has been our child sponsorship child since December 2021.)
- Our next Session Meeting will be on Monday, December 16.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - December 29: Elder Fred Gary
- Treasurer's Report:
As of October 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$166 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.

OFFERING



2025 Offering Envelopes. The 2024 Offering Envelopes will be available on a table in the back of the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 8. Please remember to stop in the back and pick up your box of envelopes. If you would like envelopes but do not see your name, please contact the church office. Also contact the office if you need your box of envelopes mailed to you.

Christmas Eve Offering. Offering received during our Christmas Eve Worship Service will go toward the work and ministry of our church. You may use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

2024 Giving Statements. Offering received by Sunday, Dec. 29, will be counted toward your 2024 Giving Statement. Offering received after that date will count toward your 2025 statement.

Christmas Joy Offering. We are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the Advent season. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you will help families of active and retired church workers, and support Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Please use the special envelope in your box of envelopes, or write a check with "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. To give online at the church website, www.stewartsvillepc.org, Give Now, Special, and note "Christmas Joy."

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be on vacation from Thursday, Dec. 26 through Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025.

If you are in need of pastoral care while Pastor Stephen is away,
please contact the following Elder on Call:

Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1 st Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	2	3 7 pm AED Training	4 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	5	6 8 am Friday Devotional Group 2 pm Grief Support Group	7 9 am Hanging of the Greens
8 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Congregational Meeting to Elect Elders & Deacons Time for Fellowship after Meeting 6 pm AA	9	10	11 7 pm AA	12 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Sports Scene	13 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	14 10 am Samplemakers
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 9:45 am Cookie Exchange 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins after Worship Service 6 pm AA	16 7 pm Session Meeting	17	18 7 pm AA	19 6 pm Women's Circle, Warrenside Tavern	20 8 am Friday Devotional Group 2 pm Grief Support Group	21 10 am Dress Rehearsal for Sunday School Christmas Program
22 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Sunday School Christmas Program Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	23	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion	25 Merry Christmas! 7 pm AA	26 Pastor Stephen on Vacation Through Jan. 1, 2025	27	28
29 Pajama Sunday No Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 6 pm AA	30	31	Coming Next Month: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be a Pot Luck Lunch after the meeting.			