

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

January 2025

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

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

Adult Sunday School is held at 9:20 a.m.

**Holy Communion is celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month.**

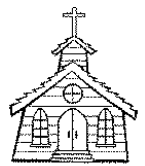
Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, Jan. 26**, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. As part of our 175th Anniversary, the Rev. Jack Roan will participate in a conversation about our church during the worship service. (Please see page 5 for more information.)

The 2024 Annual Report will be available one week before the meeting, on Sunday, Jan. 19.

Please contact the church office if you cannot be in church, and we can email the Annual Report, or mail a paper copy to you.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



We will join together for a **Baked Ham Pot Luck Luncheon** after the Congregational Meeting. Those attending are asked to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert.

Please fill out the sign-up flyer in the Sunday bulletin, or contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104 or linwms50@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

We are also in need of people to help with set up and clean up.

Confirmation Class. We will begin a new Confirmation Class on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 5:00 p.m. in the Library. We are planning on meeting 3 times a month.

Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you have questions and if you would like to have your child attend.

175th Anniversary Capital Campaign

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This year, we are blessed to celebrate a truly significant milestone in the life of our church: 175 years of ministry, worship, and community. For nearly two centuries, Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has been a place where countless lives have been transformed, relationships have been built, and the love of Christ has been shared with our neighbors, both near and far. As we reflect on the faith-filled, storied history of our church, we also look with hope and excitement toward the future.

In commemoration of our anniversary, we are launching a 3-year Capital Campaign with a goal to raise \$30,000 to support necessary renovations and improvements to our sanctuary. This capital campaign is not only about preserving our church building but ensuring that it continues to be a place where we can gather, worship, and share the love of Christ for generations to come.

The Need for Renovation

To address the areas of the sanctuary that are showing signs of wear and are in need of repair, we have contracted with Miller Church Interiors. Our sanctuary renovations will include installing new flooring and carpet, refurbishing the pews, replacing the ripped mesh behind the cross, and purchasing new pew cushions. (The goal of our Capital Campaign is \$30,000, but the actual cost is over \$115,000.)

Work to renovate the church sanctuary is scheduled to begin in early February 2025, and it will take about 6 weeks to complete. During the renovation, we will have our Sunday morning worship service in the large Sunday School Classroom.

How You Can Help

We invite you to be a part of this special moment in the history of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church by making a contribution to our 175th Anniversary Capital Campaign. We ask that you would prayerfully consider how you can help. One helpful place to begin may be to consider giving an additional month of offering toward the Capital Campaign over the course of the next 3 years.

Special offering envelopes for the Capital Campaign can be found in your offering boxes, and additional envelopes are available at the back of the sanctuary. Or you may add an amount to your current offering, with a note on the memo line of your check, and on the outside of your offering envelope, designating how much is to go toward the Capital Campaign.

To give online, go to the church website, www.stewartsvillepc.org, Give Now, Special, and specify “Capital Campaign” in Notes.

Together, we will honor the past, celebrate the present, and invest in the future of our church, as we look forward to all that God will continue to do in and through us. Thank you for your continued faith, support, and commitment to the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

With Gratitude in Christ,
Pastor Stephen Park Choi

Sunday School Christmas Program Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024

Our program this year was "Mary's Story," the Christmas story told from Mary's perspective. The congregation participated in the program by joining in the singing of familiar Christmas carols.



Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols



Our Christmas Eve Choir



It has become tradition for "Aunt" Bessie Sinclair to assist Pastor Stephen with the Benediction during our Christmas Eve worship service.

Capital Campaign Fund. As of Dec. 31, 2024, we have already received \$2,660 for our Capital Campaign Fund.

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

In December, we donated 16 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of bath soap, shampoo and conditioner, dish detergent, and laundry detergent, as well as grocery bags.

175th Anniversary Survey. As part of our 175th anniversary celebration, we ask that you share some of your fondest memories of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

There are surveys on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or contact the church office and we can email or mail them to you.

Place your completed surveys in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, Jan. 10 and Jan. 24 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.

Inclement Weather. If you are unsure if we will be worshipping on a Sunday when there is severe inclement weather, please call the church at 908-859-1399. There will be a special outgoing message if church is cancelled.

In addition, any closings or delays will be announced on wfmz.com and may be displayed on Channel 69 News.

Thank You from Pastor Stephen

"On behalf of me and my family, thank you once again for the very generous Christmas gift. Each year, we are truly blessed by the love, care, and generosity of the congregation. Please know how grateful we are."



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| 1 | Christine DeHaas |
| | Susan Ham |
| 3 | Jim Clark |
| | Ava Stecker |
| 6 | Darren Stoddart |
| 9 | Nicole Ham |
| 10 | Pastor Jack & Linda Roan – Anniversary |
| 11 | Gracelyn Banghart |
| 13 | Vanessa Poremba |
| 15 | Laura Morris |
| 16 | Dale Alpaugh |
| | Bill Nixon |
| 18 | John Evans |
| 23 | Savannah Lemon |
| | Brandon Stecker |
| 24 | Sue Higginson |
| 25 | Nicole Viscomi-Bove |
| 26 | Norman Smith |
| 27 | James Melchore |
| 28 | Heidi Hawk |
| | James and Judy Melchore – 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!

Thank You!

Esther Schoeneberger thanked the congregation for the beautiful poinsettia that was delivered to her at Christmas.

Thank you to our office helpers: **Peggy Smith, Jean Bradbury, Kim Stone, Betty Corio, and Pam Alercia**, who alternate Fridays to come in and fold the bulletins. Also, thank you to **Mary Lou Gary** who helps with the monthly newsletter and special projects.

We are able to get a lot accomplished because of their assistance!

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

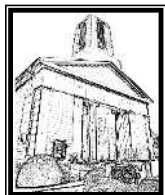
<https://zoom.us/j/94418910396?pwd=WlQwMHByZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886



Honoring 175 Years of Faith and Service. The Stewartsville Presbyterian Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary this year, with special events and initiatives planned throughout the year.

As part of this celebration, we will hold special Sunday services that highlight the Past, Present and Future of our church. These services will provide an opportunity to honor where we have been, celebrate where we are, and look forward to where we are going as a church community.

The worship service focusing on the Past will feature a conversation with the Rev. Jack Roan, and will be held during our 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26. The Rev. Roan is our Pastor Emeritus, who served our church for over 30 years. He will return to share stories and insights from his time as pastor, reflecting on the significant events that shaped our church's history. His message will kick off our anniversary events and set the tone for this special year.

As part of our 175th Anniversary, throughout the year a representative from one of our Mission Partners will share the impact of our church's outreach efforts. Please join us on Sunday, Jan. 12 for our 10:30 a.m. worship service, when we will be joined by Kelly Post-Sheedy, the Executive Director of the Firth Youth Center. This will be a time to hear about the work we support and reaffirm our commitment to making a difference.

Come and join us as we honor this historic year and continue our journey in faith and service!

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 11:30 a.m. Pizza Village Café, 665 Columbus Ave., Phillipsburg. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Jan. 6 to make your reservation.



In December, we had 25 people attend our luncheon, and we collected \$50 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. In addition, as part of our Christmas celebration, we collected \$200 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:00 p.m. at Carrabba's Italian Grill, 2471 Park Ave., Easton, PA.

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

Session Notes – December 16, 2024

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Brad Fry.
- We made the prayerful decision to give \$250 to the Lopatcong Care Center for Christmas gifts.
- We also approved an additional \$250 donation for the Greenwich Emergency Squad. (The Emergency Squad led our AED Training on December 3, 2024.)
- Approval was given to make a Church Pictorial Directory as a part of our church's 175th anniversary. We are looking to have members and friends of the congregation have their pictures taken in March 2025. (Our last pictorial directory was made in 2013.)
- Capital Improvement Update: Work to renovate the church sanctuary is set to begin in early February 2025, and it will take about 6 weeks to complete. Our church renovation project will include installing new flooring and carpet, refurbishing the pews, ordering new pew cushions, and replacing the mesh behind the cross.
- Our Session was presented with a Church Anti-Harassment Policy, and it was approved.
- Staff reviews will be conducted in the beginning part of 2024.
- Pastor Stephen will be attending a Synod of the Northeast Leadership Retreat in New York, February 9-14, 2025.
- Our next Session Meeting will be on Monday, January 27.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of November 30, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$925 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.



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

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.

Per Capita Offering. Every Presbyterian church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly based on church membership. The Per Capita apportionment for 2025 is \$43.50 per confirmed member.

Please prayerfully consider contributing your portion so that it does not come out of our General Fund Budget. Our church pays Per Capita for each of our members, regardless of whether or not you give. There is an envelope for Per Capita in your 2025 offering envelope box. To give Per Capita online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, General, and specify "Per Capita" in Notes.

2025 Offering Envelopes. The 2025 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Please contact the office if you need your envelopes mailed to you.

Church Officers, Class of 2027 (2025-2027)
These officers will be ordained and installed during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26

Elders

Brad Fry lives in Lopatcong Township but was raised in the South, and moved numerous times, including a stint in the military. He was active in fellowship events at our church, has served as an Elder several times, and has assisted with church property issues. Brad has been married to Lisa for 31 years, and they have a son Evan, who married this past September. He is enjoying retirement with traveling and hobbies. Brad's faith has grown stronger since joining SPC in the year 2000.

Fred Gary grew up in Stewartsville and became a member of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church in 1966. He has previously served as a Deacon, Elder, and on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Fred can often be found in the back of the sanctuary, greeting people as they arrive. He is retired from the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. Fred is married to Mary Lou, and they live in Lopatcong Township. They have one son, Matthew.

Michael Morton joined our congregation in 2016 after the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury closed. He resides in Nazareth, PA. Michael retired from full-time work in 2013, and he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. Michael has previously served as a Deacon.

Laurie (English) Winans grew up in Stewartsville and became a member of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church in 1981. As a teenager, Laurie taught Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, and was a member of the choir and youth group. In 2023, she was welcomed back as an active member, and sings in the choir and serves on the 175th Anniversary Committee. Laurie holds a B.S. in Business and an A.A.S. in Paralegal Studies, and works in external communications at a global insurance company. She and her husband Chris have been married for 29 years and raised 5 children. In her spare time, Laurie enjoys cooking and crafting projects.

Deacons

Carol Evanoski grew up in Bloomsbury and went to the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury from Sunday School student to Sunday School teacher. Carol married her high school sweetheart, Bud, in 1976. Carol is now happily retired, after working for Dr. Durrani for 18 years. Before that, she worked in a daycare. Carol and Bud have two sons, Jared and Isaac; one daughter, Ashley; two daughters-in-law, Lauren and Evelyn; and one son-in-law, Michael. Doting on their 3-year-old grandson Julian is Carol's hobby, but she also loves gardening, quilting, and hiking. She has a collection of chickens decorating her kitchen. Carol believes that coming to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has been a blessing. She truly appreciates the mission work the church does, and enjoys being a Deacon!

William "Bud" Evanoski was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury for about 50 years, serving on various committees and boards. Bud has been coming to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church for 8 years and became a member with his wife, Carol, in 2021. Bud worked for the State of New Jersey, and since retiring has worked various other part-time jobs. He especially enjoyed working at the Architects Golf Club for 11 years. Bud and Carol have lived in Lower Mt. Bethel for 30 years, and he enjoys growing tomatoes, reading, and hanging out in his backyard. Bud and Carol's grandson, Julian, brings him unbounded joy.

Scott Goff moved to Stewartsville 2 years ago to be with Lisa Muentener and her boys. Together they all began attending the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church after trying many different churches. Scott and Lisa became members in 2023. Scott enjoys contributing to the church and is excited to further develop his faith in Christ as well as connections with his church family. His other interests include hiking, cooking, crockpotting, and visiting family.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Office Closed	2	3 8 am Friday Devotional Group, Panera	4 8:30 am Undecorating the Sanctuary,
5 9:20 am.Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion and Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	6	7	8 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	9 11:30 am Adult Lunch, Pizza Village Café 7 pm Grange	10 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 2 pm Grief Support Group	11 10 am Samplemakers
12 9:20 am.Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	13	14	15 7 pm 175 th Anniversary Committee Meeting 7 pm AA	16 6 pm Women's Circle, Carrabba's 7 pm Church Officer Training	17 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts	18
19 9:20 am.Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	20	21	22 7 pm AA	23	24 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 2 pm Grief Support Group	25
26 Annual Meeting 9:20 am.Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Anniversary Conversation with Rev. Jack Roan during Worship Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Service Baked Ham Pot Luck Lunch after Annual Meeting 6 pm AA	27 7 pm Session Meeting	28	29 7 pm AA	30	31 8 am Friday Devotional Group	

