

# The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church  
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908-859-1399

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Pastor's e-mail – [rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com)

## February 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

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**Due to renovation work being done in the sanctuary,  
we are worshipping in the large Sunday School classroom  
in the Christian Education wing.**

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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.

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**Church Pictorial Directory.** In celebration of our church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are creating a new Church Pictorial Directory. Our last pictorial directory was published in 2013.

Photographs for the pictorial will be taken at the church on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15.

More information about how to make an appointment for photographs will be available over the next few weeks.

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**Souper Bowl of Caring.** We will be collecting canned soup and cash donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 9.

Since 1990, the offering has generated more than \$193 million in dollars and food for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities in communities across the country.



All donations we receive stay in our local community. Monetary donations will go to the NORWESCAP Food Bank, and donations of canned soup will go to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Phillipsburg.

If you would like to donate online, please go to the church website ([www.stewartvillepc.org](http://www.stewartvillepc.org)), Give Now, Special, and specify "Souper Bowl" in Notes.

## 2024 PASTOR'S REPORT

**“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.  
Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,  
but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”  
Hebrews 10:24-25**

As I reflect back on 2024, it is with joy and thanksgiving. There were so many wonderful memories and blessed events that took place in which God's love and presence was felt, as we shared the grace and peace of Christ with one another and with our neighbors both near and far. Stewartsville Presbyterian Church continues to be a place where God is worshipped and glorified and where the love of Christ is known, experienced, and extended to those both within and outside the walls of our congregation.

For me, some of the highlights of the past year include:

- Being in worship and ministry together!
- Receiving 3 New Members.
- We received our first non-local member, John Evans, who lives in Florida and faithfully joins us each Sunday morning on Zoom.
- Officiating 3 Weddings.
- One Baptism.
- Thanking and celebrating Mary Lou Gary on her retirement as treasurer after over 30 years of service to the church.
- We also recognized and thanked Renée Herb for being our office manager for 15 years.
- In February 2024, we celebrated Bessie Sinclair's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- Mission Trips to Cuba and the Dominican Republic.
- Retreats and Fellowship Gatherings.
- Sunday School and Friday Morning Devotional Group.
- Hosted 2 Blood Drives. (In 2024, 73 donations were made in the church's name.)
- Through the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering, we donated 71 cans of soup and \$200.
- In 2024, we donated 198 bags and 3 boxes of food and toiletries to Catholic Charities.
- Care packages were sent to college and graduate students in the spring and fall.
- All 45 tags were taken on the first Sunday of the Giving Tree!
- Stewardship Sunday and the theme of “Stick Your Neck Out.” (We still have a few turtles left.)
- We offered another Grief Support Group, where we do as much laughing as we do crying.
- Forming the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. (We will be celebrating our church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.)
- Supporting over 35 local, national, and international missions and ministries!

May you be encouraged to see how much the Lord has done and is doing through our congregation. And may we be encouraged and spurred on even more toward love and good deeds, as we give joyful thanks and praise to God for our past, our present, and our future together.

To God be the glory now and forevermore!  
Pastor Stephen Park Choi

**Ordination and Installation of Church Officers,  
a Conversation with the Rev. Jack Roan, our Pastor Emeritus,  
and a Baked Ham Pot Luck Lunch on Sunday, Jan. 26.**



Our Church Officers, Class of 2027 (from L to R) Elders: Michael Morton, Fred Gary, Brad Fry and Laurie Winans; Deacons: Scott Goff, Bud Evanoski, and Carol Evanoski.

Laying on of Hands for the new officers.



As part of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the Rev. Jack Roan had a conversation with Pastor Stephen during the worship service about our church's past.



The Pot Luck Lunch was delicious!





**Mission Partner.** On Sunday, Jan. 12, we were joined by Kelly Post-Sheedy, the Executive Director of the Firth Youth Center. Kelly had a conversation with Pastor Stephen about the work done by the youth center. The pastor then presented Kelly with a check for \$1,000 for the youth center.

As part of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, throughout the year a representative from one of our Mission Partners will share the impact of our church's outreach efforts.

**Adult Sunday School Class.** The Adult Sunday School class will begin a new study of the Book of James on Sunday, Feb. 23.

The Adult Sunday School class meets each Sunday at 9:20 a.m. in the library. You can also attend on Zoom.

There will be no Adult Sunday School class on Sunday, Feb. 16.

If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

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

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

### Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be attending a Synod Leadership Retreat from Monday, Feb. 10 through Friday, Feb. 14.

If you are in need of pastoral care while Pastor Stephen is away, please contact the following Elder on Call: Kathy Montgomery at 908-674-0654



- 3 Louisa Miers
- 4 Don & Louisa Miers – Anniversary
- 5 Laura Diacopoulos
- 7 Mary Lou Gary
- 9 Joe Lubinski
- 10 Robert & Barbara Hurte – Anniversary
- 13 Morgan Banghart  
Jake Muentener  
Alan & MaryLou Deak – Anniversary
- 18 Betty Patton  
Bob & Laura Morris – Anniversary
- 19 Alice Jessen
- 20 Rodney Rountree
- 21 Bessie Sinclair
- 24 Bill & Carol Nixon – Anniversary
- 26 Peggy Smith  
Garrett Loyle
- 27 James Ballentine

**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](mailto:office@stewartsvillepc.org). We don't want to miss your special day!

**Capital Campaign.** As of Feb. 3, we have received \$3,324.10 for our Capital Campaign.

**Prospective New Members.** If you are interested in learning more about the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church or in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Stephen.

**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. You can also check the church Facebook page.



## **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](mailto: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**

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**Rummage Sale.** Start saving all of your gently used kitchen items, knick-knacks, clothing, etc.!

The church will hold a rummage sale on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, in Roan Hall.

Volunteers will be needed to receive donations at the church, sort items, set up, and clean up.

For more information, please contact Laura Choi or Linda Williams.



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**Adult Lunch Group.** "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Tic-Toc Family Restaurant, 2510 Northampton St., Easton.

We had 20 people attend our January luncheon, and we collected \$30 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.

In 2024, we donated \$559 to the NORWESCAP Food Bank. At our Christmas lunch, we collected \$200 and donated it to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Feb. 10 to make your reservation.



**2025 Mission Trip.** We are planning a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic from June 26 to July 3. (Please note the change in dates.)

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.

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

In January, we donated 9 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and grape jelly, sugar, tea bags, toothpaste, and shampoo, as well as grocery bags.

## Session Notes – January 27, 2025

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Denise DeMasi.
- In 2024, 117 “Praying for You Letters” were mailed to members and friends of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. In addition, 15 “Welcome Letters” were mailed to visitors.
- Our Deacons have made the prayerful decision to support Hudson Musuza, an UrbanPromise International Fellow from Uganda, \$35 a month for the next 2 years. (As a part of the UrbanPromise Fellowship Program, Hudson is currently working towards a master’s degree in Organizational Leadership and Development at Cairn University.)
- Kathy Montgomery was re-elected as Moderator/President of the Corporation of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church for 2025.
- Cindy Bowman was re-elected as Clerk of Session for 2025.
- Sarah Sampson was re-elected as Treasurer for 2025.
- Pastor Stephen will be attending a Synod of the Northeast Leadership Retreat in New York, February 9-14, 2025.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
  - February 16: The Rev. Dr. Steven Shussett
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, February 24, 2025.
- Treasurer’s Report:  
We ended the 2024 year with a surplus of \$1,793 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.

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**Women’s Circle.** The Women’s Circle will meet on Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6:00 p.m. at La Bella Via, 41 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phillipsburg.

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.



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**Women’s Spring Retreat.** The Women’s Spring Retreat will be held from Friday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27 at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center. You may also attend the Saturday session only.

Registration is now open and is predicted to fill up quickly.

Scholarships are available through our church.

If you are interested in attending, please speak with Linda Williams.

For information on scholarships, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



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**Ash Wednesday** Worship Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4.

The service will include the Imposition of Ashes.

We will also be offering “Drive Thru” Imposition of Ashes from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, and from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – February 2025

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mon                                                                                  | Tue       | Wed                                                                                       | Thu                                                                    | Fri                                                                                             | Sat                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                      |           |                                                                                           |                                                                        |                                                                                                 | <b>1</b>                           |
| <b>2</b><br>9:20 am Adult Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion and Children's Sunday School<br><br>6 pm AA                                                          | <b>3</b>                                                                             | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br><br>5 pm Confirmation Class<br>7 pm Deacons Meeting<br>7 pm AA                | <b>6</b>                                                               | <b>7</b><br><br>8 am Friday Devotional Group<br><br>2 pm Grief Support Group                    | <b>8</b><br><br>10 am Samplemakers |
| <b>9</b> Souper Bowl Sunday<br>9:20 am Adult Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA              | <b>10</b><br><br>Pastor Stephen attending a Synod Leadership Retreat through Feb. 14 | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br><br><br>7 pm AA                                                              | <b>13</b><br><br>11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Tic-Toc Family Restaurant | <b>14</b><br><br>9:30 am Needlecraft Group                                                      | <b>15</b>                          |
| <b>16</b><br>No Adult Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School<br><br>6 pm AA                                                                                  | <b>17</b><br><br>Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day                            | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br><br>5 pm Confirmation Class<br>7 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting<br>7 pm AA | <b>20</b>                                                              | <b>21</b><br><br>8 am Friday Devotional Group<br>9:30 am Fiber Arts<br>2 pm Grief Support Group | <b>22</b>                          |
| <b>23</b><br>9:20 am Adult Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship Service<br><br>2 pm Deacons Chapel Service<br>6 pm AA | <b>24</b><br><br>7 pm Session Meeting                                                | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br><br>5 pm Confirmation Class<br>7 pm AA                                       | <b>27</b><br><br>6 pm Women's Circle, La Bella Via                     | <b>28</b><br><br>8 am Friday Devotional Group<br>9:30 am Needlecraft Group                      |                                    |

