

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

March 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

**Due to renovation work being done in the sanctuary,
we are worshipping in the large Sunday School classroom
in the Christian Education wing.
We hope to be back in the sanctuary by Sunday, March 16.**

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 3 for information on Zoom link.



Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, March 5.

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.

Drive up to the blue office door on the side of the Christian Education Building, ring the doorbell, and Pastor Stephen will administer ashes.

Deacons' Offering. During the month of March, we are receiving a special offering to support the work and ministry of our Deacons.

Please use the envelope in your offering box, or write a check and note "Deacons" on the memo line.

For online giving, please go to the church website (www.stewartvillepc.org) Give Now, Deacons.

Information on making photo appointments for the Pictorial on page 3.

Simplifying vs. Fasting

Traditionally, Christian fasting has meant abstaining from food, either on a particular day of the week or for the whole season of Lent. Over time, Christians have expanded on the idea of fasting from food to include fasting in other ways, such as giving up sugar or screen time.

The Rev. Traci Smith in her book “Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, & Resurrection,” offers a slightly different approach by encouraging **simplifying over fasting**. Instead of focusing on what is being given up or taken away, the focus of these practices is on what is added or appreciated.

Here are some examples she gives:

Instead of: Giving up screens and reducing screen time

Try: Heading outside

Lenten challenge for heading outside: How many hours can you log outside this Lent?

Instead of: Giving up sugary drinks

Try: Drinking water

Lenten challenge for drinking water: How many days can you drink water with your meals instead of something different?

Instead of: Giving up meat

Try: Enjoying more fruits and vegetables

Lenten challenge for enjoying fruits and vegetables: How many different preparations or types of fruits and vegetables can you try this Lent?

Instead of: Giving up shopping or spending

Try: Making something you would normally buy

Lenten challenge for making something you would normally buy: Can you make 5 things you would normally buy this Lent?

Instead of: Giving up negative talk

Try: Focusing on complimenting others

Lenten challenge for focusing on complimenting others: Can you compliment 3 people per day during Lent?

Instead of: Giving up social media and internet scrolling or games

Try: Reading books or listening to audiobooks

Lenten challenge for reading more books: How many books can you read this Lent?

A Prayer for Simplifying

God, when many things compete for my attention,
help me to focus on one thing at a time.

When things are messy in my space or in my mind,
help me to be gentle with myself,
as I sift through and keep only what is needed.

Amen.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

The Zoom worship service is held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live 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

Church Pictorial Directory. In celebration of our church's 175th anniversary, we are creating a new Church Pictorial Directory. Our last pictorial was done in 2013.

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

Everyone who is photographed will receive a complimentary 8 x 10" portrait and a pictorial directory.

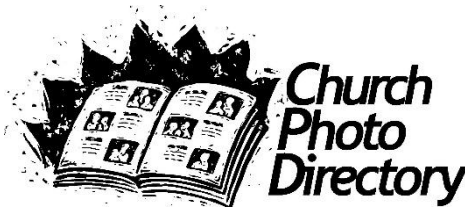
Laurie Winans will be in the library before and after the worship service to make appointments.

To make an appointment online:

- Go to the Universal Church Directories website: www.ucdir.com
- Click on the box on the right side of the homepage titled "photography appointment scheduling login"
- Enter our church code: nj180
- Enter our church password: photos
- Click the Enter button
- Click on the desired photography date
- Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
- Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
- Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family's name
- If you have more than 6 family members being photographed, please reserve 2 consecutive appointments (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
- Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family's photography appointment
- Contact Laurie Winans at Lwinans65@gmail.com to change or cancel your appointment

Volunteers are needed during the photography sessions on Saturday, March 15. We need 1 volunteer from 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1 volunteer from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

If you are able to volunteer, or if you have questions, please contact Laurie.



Anniversary Committee. This year marks the 175th anniversary of the Stewartville Presbyterian Church! We have formed an Anniversary Committee to plan activities, celebrations, etc.

We will meet on Monday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

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

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, March 14 and March 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.



Souper Bowl of Caring Offering. During the month of February we collected cans of soup and monetary donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. All donations received stay in our local community.

We collected 83 cans of soup, which were donated to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We also received \$144, which will be donated to the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

Aluminum Can Tab Collection. We continue to collect aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. There is a container on the table in the back of the sanctuary where you can put the tabs.

Daylight Saving Time. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night, March 8, so that you are not late for church!

Office Manager Out of Office. Renée Herb, our office manager, will be away from Monday, March 24 through Friday, March 28. Pastor Stephen will be checking the office email and voicemail while Renée is away.

MARCH



- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Jessica Cantagallo-Rohm |
| | Charlie Henshaw |
| | Tim Loyle |
| 5 | Braden Ham |
| 6 | Deborah Johnson |
| 7 | Colleen Colucci |
| | John & Ana Wagner – Anniversary |
| 9 | Beverly Ferguson |
| 10 | Jacob DeHaas |
| | John Lefler |
| 11 | Carol Nixon |
| 13 | Kathryn “Sis” Nuss |
| 14 | Barbara Hurte |
| 15 | Melanie Loyle |
| 25 | Shane Stecker |
| 26 | Brian & Shannon Ballentine – |
| | Anniversary |
| 27 | Susan Marek |

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@stewartvillepc.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 February, we donated 15 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags. At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, bath soap, and toilet paper, as well as grocery bags.

Capital Campaign

As of March 3, we have received \$3,604.10 for our Capital Campaign.
Our goal is to raise \$30,000.



One Great Hour of Sharing. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering from Sunday, March 9, through Easter, April 20.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A special envelope is in your 2025 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting “OGHS” on the memo line. If you are giving online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and then OGHS.

Adult Lunch Group. “Grazing with Grace,” our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Applebee’s, 1323 Route 22, Phillipsburg. We celebrated Bessie Sinclair’s 101st birthday at our February luncheon. We had 22 people attend in February, and we collected \$47 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, March 10 to make your reservation.



Women’s Circle. The Women’s Circle will meet on Thursday, March 27, at 6:00 p.m. at Acasia Thai, Hillcrest Plaza, 755 Memorial Pkwy, 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.

2025 Mission Trip. We are planning a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic from June 26 to July 3.

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.



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.

The theme is “The Gospel of Resistance & Resilience: Choosing Love in a Challenging World.”

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.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be on vacation from Monday, March 17 through Sunday, March 23.
If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the following Elder on Call:
Denise DeMasi at 908-455-2344

Session Notes – February 25, 2025

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Cindy Bowman.
- Our session once again made the commitment to pray for every member and regular visitor of our church by name throughout the year.
- Cindy Bowman and Denise DeMasi will serve as the session representatives on the Nominating Committee; Rosie England will serve as the deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.
- Denise DeMasi was elected to be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, March 11.
- Approval was given to Stewartsville Grange #121 for the use of Roan Hall on Saturday, May 10 and Saturday, May 17.
- Pastor Stephen will be on vacation March 17-23. (Denise DeMasi will be the Elder on Call.)
- As a church, we will once again attend a Lehigh Valley Ironpigs baseball game on Friday, June 20.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - March 23: The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, March 31.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of January 31, we have a year-to-date surplus of \$43 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.



Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, May 18 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We need to have 25 people registered to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or 908-619-8697 or email her at cmbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

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.



Palm Sunday, April 13: There will be pony rides for children and a donkey at 9:30 a.m. We will have an Easter egg hunt for the children after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Good Friday, April 18: The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Easter, April 20: Worship Service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday "Drive Thru" Ashes 10 am – 12 Noon 3 pm – 5 pm 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7 pm AA	6	7 8 am Friday Devotional Group	8 10 am Samplemakers
9 Daylight Saving Begins 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship 6 pm AA	10 7 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting	11	12 5 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	13 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Applebee's 7 pm Grange	14 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 2-8 pm Pictorial Photos	15 10 am – 4 pm Pictorial Photos
16 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	17 Pastor Stephen on vacation through March 23	18	19 7 pm AA	20	21 9:30 am Fiber Arts	22
23 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship 6 pm AA	24	25	26 5 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm AA	27 6 pm Women's Circle, Acasia Thai	28 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	29
30 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	31 7 pm Session Meeting					

