

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

April 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 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 3 for information on Zoom link.



Palm Sunday, April 13. We will observe Palm Sunday with the distribution of palms during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

There will be a miniature donkey and pony rides at the church at 9:30 a.m.

We will have Time for Fellowship and an Easter egg hunt after the worship service. Children should bring their own baskets to collect goodies.

Good Friday, April 18. The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will also be broadcast via Zoom, using the Sunday Zoom link.

Easter Sunday, April 20. We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

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 cbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.



Stewartsville Presbyterian Church History: Did You Know?

In celebration of our church's 175 anniversary, I would like to share some of the history of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. Hopefully, you will find this both interesting and informative.

Did you know that the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church was officially organized and founded on May 29, 1850 with 76 members?

Did you know that the church was built for about \$4,300 with a seating capacity of 500 people? (The lot for the building was given by John Fulmer who was not a Presbyterian and was considered the wealthiest citizen of Stewartsville.)

Did you know that the first pastor of our church was a person by the name of George Bush?

Did you know that Rev. George C. Bush's salary was \$300 a year?

Did you know that Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has had 13 ministers?

Did you know that of the 13 called ministers, 2 have been honored as emeritus pastors? (The pastor's study/office is named in memory of the Rev. Mehram Looloian, and fellowship hall is named in honor of the Rev. Jack Roan.)

Did you know that Rev. Looloian, who was pastor from 1919-1948, received 2 cars from the congregation? (First, a 1920 Touring Ford, and then a Chevrolet Coach)

Did you know that the church has had 2 manses in its history? (The current manse was given by Elder John C. Boyer as a gift in 1925.)

Did you know that electricity came to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church in 1923? (The wiring of the church was the gift of a long-time member, Annie Cline.)

Did you know that the Christian Education wing of the church was built and completed in 1970? (The Rev. Charles Jessen was pastor during that time, and it's been said that no minister could have been more zealous in seeking the spiritual growth of the youth of the parish than Charles Jessen. He was fondly referred to simply as "Rev.")

Did you know that the Bible in the front of the sanctuary was published in 1846 and may have been the very first pulpit Bible of our church? (I've read that the Bible is supposed to have the signature of Rev. Bush, but I have not been able to locate his signature.)

Did you know that the church has 10 stained glass memorial windows? (As you enter the sanctuary, looking to the left wall, behind the organ is the "Guardian Angel". This memorial was given by the Armor Bearers in 1903 at a cost of \$112.50. The Armor Bearers were a church group who had a heart for missions.)

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

Rummage and Bake Sale. The church will hold an Old-Fashioned Rummage and Bake Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, May 2, and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, May 3, in Roan Hall.

Proceeds will be divided between our Summer Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic and the Capital Campaign Fund.

Donations are needed! Clothing must be in good condition (no stains or rips); and small appliances and electronics must be in working condition. We are also in need of household items, vintage items, linens, small furniture, handbags, costume jewelry, religious items, children's toys, and books. Everything should be in good condition.

We will accept everything EXCEPT large furniture, TVs, VHS players and tapes, cribs, car seats, strollers, and holiday decorations (Christmas, etc.).

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Wednesday, April 21 to 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon; Sunday, April 27 from after the worship service until 2:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, April 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We need help to sort donations, and work at the Rummage Sale on May 2 and 3. We will be setting up for the sale from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1.

We also need people to help with the Bake Sale, and to help clean up.

For more information or sign up to help, please contact Laura Choi at 717-599-9875.

To help with the bake sale, contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Rummage and Bake Sale. Please stop by during the sale to say hello and find a treasure of your own!



Community FoodBank of New Jersey. The Confirmants will be volunteering at the NJ Community FoodBank in Hillside on Saturday, May 10. We have openings for a few more volunteers to participate. We will meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. and we should be back by 12:00 Noon. Everyone should wear gym shoes and warm clothes.

The deadline for registering is Wednesday, April 23. Please contact Pastor Stephen before then if you are interested in going.



Joyce Shauger, our long-time choir director, passed away on Tuesday, March 11.

Joyce served as an Elder. She was a Sunday School teacher, and a mentor to many young people.

Her funeral service was held in our church on Monday, March 17.

Constance "Connie" Collins passed away on Thursday, March 27. Connie was a member of the former First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury before joining our church.

Her funeral service was held Friday, April 4 in the Doyle-Devlin Funeral Home.

Please keep Joyce's and Connie's families and friends in your prayers.

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26



Merilyn Roseberry was received as a new member by Session on Monday, March 31.

Merilyn regularly attends our worship services on Zoom. She is Kay Piperato's sister.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be away from Tuesday, April 22 through Saturday, April 26.

If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the following Elder on Call:
Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823



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|----|---|
| 3 | Nathaniel Bove
Bob Heinrich
Bo Johnson |
| 5 | Dawn Barretto
Adeline Clark
Charlie & Sue Henshaw – Anniversary |
| 6 | Bob Hurte
Merilyn Roseberry |
| 10 | Bruce Stoddart |
| 13 | Giavanna Cantagallo-Rohm |
| 15 | Madison Wolfinger |
| 20 | Betty Corio
Paulie Williams |
| 26 | John Hawk |
| 27 | Savana Williams |
| 29 | Monet Gonda
Jeffrey Guidi |
| 30 | Scott Goff |

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!

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, April 11 and April 25 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.

Lost and Found. 2 pieces of ladies' jewelry have been found recently in the sanctuary after the worship service.

There is a gold-tone bracelet with a red stone, and a gold-tone ring with a pearl-like stone.

If you are missing something, please contact the church office.

Play Ball! Come join us for an IronPigs baseball game outing on **Friday, June 20** at Coca-Cola Park, 1050 IronPigs Way, Allentown, PA. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. Gates open at 5:45 p.m.

We have had a great time the past few years at the game! Weather permitting, there will be fireworks after the ball game.

Tickets cost \$10 per person with a \$2 credit embedded in that ticket to go toward food or merchandise purchases. You can pay for your tickets with cash or a check, made out to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

Coca-Cola Park is cashless. Parking is \$5 per car.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please see Bill Nixon, call or text him at 908-319-2800, or email him at bnixon708@gmail.com



Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m. at Byron Place II, 821 Route 57, Stewartsville. We had 27 people attend the March luncheon, and we collected \$49 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, April 7 to make your reservation.

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

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you would like to serve on this committee.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m. at Alpha Family Restaurant, 1554 3rd Ave., Alpha.

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.

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

In March, we donated 13 bags of food and toiletries to the food bank.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in particular need of all toiletries: shampoo and conditioner, bath soap, dish detergent, and laundry soap and fabric softener, etc., as well as grocery bags.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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

Capital Campaign

As of March 31, we have received \$5,747.94 for our Capital Campaign.
Our goal is to raise \$30,000.

Session Notes – March 31, 2025

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Brad Fry.
- Marilyn Roseberry was received as a new member by transfer of membership. Marilyn regularly attends our worship services on Zoom by calling on her phone. She is Kay Piperato's sister.
- Our Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day). Worship services will be at 10:00 a.m. through Sunday, August 31. The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, June 1.
- Because Pastor Stephen will be away the first Sunday in July, we will celebrate Communion on Sunday, June 29 instead of July 6.
- Pastor Stephen will be at the Synod Mission and Ministries Commission Meeting in Syracuse, New York, April 24-26. (Cindy Bowman will be the Elder on Call.)
- Pastor Stephen will be returning to Malawi, Africa with UrbanPromise in July 2025. While biking through Malawi, he will have the opportunity to visit with our sponsorship child, Jovita, a 7-year-old who lives in an orphanage.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - April 27: Wendy Patchin, Foundation for Peace's Director of Global Missions
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, April 28.
- Treasurer's Report:

As of February 28, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$7,607 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. Our Summer Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic is June 14-20.

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

Please let Pastor Stephen know if you are interested in participating.

One Great Hour of Sharing. The "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering through Easter Sunday, 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.

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



March Deacons Offering. We received \$778 for the special offering collected in March for the work and ministry of our Deacons. Thank you for your generosity!

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Deacons 7 pm AA	3	4	5
6 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion, and Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	7	8	9 5 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm AA	10 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Byron Place II 7 pm Grange	11 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	12 10 am Samplemakers
13 Palm Sunday 9:20 Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Pony Rides and Miniature Donkey 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt 6 pm AA	14	15	16 7 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting 7 pm AA	17	18 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts 7 pm Good Friday Worship Service	19
20 Easter 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	21 Rummage Sale Donation Drop-Off 9 am to 12 Noon	22 Pastor Stephen away through Saturday, April 26 Rummage Sale Donation Drop-Off 9 am to 12 Noon	23 Rummage Sale Donation Drop-Off 9 am to 12 Noon 7 pm AA	24 6 pm Women's Circle, Alpha Family Restaurant	25 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	26
27 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service After Worship Rummage Sale Drop-Off until 2 pm 2 pm Deacons Chapel Service 6 pm AA	28 7 pm Session Meeting	29 Rummage Sale Donation Drop-Off 6 to 8 pm	30 5 pm Confirmation Class No AA Meeting			