

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

October 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.

175th Anniversary Worship Service on Sunday, Nov. 2.

We will celebrate "Homecoming" during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 2**. Our special guest preacher will be the Rev. Jim Biller, who grew up attending our church. We will celebrate Holy Communion and there will be Time for Fellowship after the worship service.

Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, Oct. 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We still need 4 people to sign up to donate.

To sign up, contact Cindy Bowman at 908-619-8697 or cmbowman1023@gmail.com



Trunk or Treat! We will have Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 26 in the church parking lot after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

We have had such great fun the past few years, and we are hoping even more participate in the event this year!

Children can wear costumes and go from car to car collecting candy and other goodies. Adults can participate by dressing up, purchasing candy, etc., and handing it out at their cars. You can even decorate your vehicles to add to the fun!

For more information, or to reserve your parking spot, contact Janis Clark at JanisR500@gmail.com

Kiva Microfinance Loans: Loans that Change Lives

Kiva is a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. By using the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create better opportunities for people living around the world. By providing safe and affordable access to capital to those in need, the belief is that people can create better lives for themselves and for their families.

Microfinance is a general term used to describe financial services to low-income individuals or to those who do not have access to typical banking services, like we do here in the United States. Through microfinance, the hope is that low-income individuals would be able to lift themselves out of poverty if given access to financial services. By working with microfinance institutions on five continents, Kiva is one way you can lend directly to a person living in a different country and help that person make a better life for themselves and for their families.

Since Kiva was founded in 2005, more than 2 billion dollars in loans have been made to over 5 million people with a repayment rate of 96%!

In March 2012, our church made our first 5 loans to individuals living in Benin, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, and Senegal.

As of today, 13 years later, Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has made 607 loans totaling \$15,500 to people living in 87 different countries. We were able to do this with less than \$3,000. As we have been repaid, we have been able to make new loans.

To learn more about Kiva, I encourage you to visit their website, www.kiva.org, and perhaps consider making a loan for yourself. (Again, this is not a donation, for 96% of the time you will be repaid.)

By lending as little as \$25, you can help a borrower start or grow a business, go to school, access clean energy, or realize their potential. For some, it's a matter of survival. For others, it's the fuel for a life-long ambition.

Also, to read more about those who received the loans we have made as a church, you can either speak with me or go to this webpage: www.kiva.org/lender/stephen7259

Kiva reminds me that we live in an amazing time, where we can help a person or a family in need, as far away as Africa, Asia and even the Middle East with just \$25 and a few clicks on the internet.

Grace, Peace, and Happy Lending,
Pastor Stephen

***For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Galatians 5:14***

September at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church



On Rally Day, Sunday Sept. 7, in addition to a delicious luncheon of hamburgers, hot dogs, and side salads, we enjoyed treats from an old-fashioned ice cream truck!



Siblings Dakota Mae Hamlen and Henry Allan Hamlen received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, Sept. 14.

They are the children of Christopher Hamlen and Brittani Kopecki.

Dakota was born March 7, 2018, and Henry was born April 22, 2023.



Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Food. Catholic Charities Food Pantry will be collecting Thanksgiving food during the month of October. They will distribute the Thanksgiving food to their clients when they pick up their regular November groceries.

The following items are needed: Stuffing mix; instant mashed potatoes; canned sweet potatoes; rice, noodles, and pasta; canned fruit; cranberry sauce; canned vegetables; soup; juice; gravy mix or canned gravy; brownie mix, cake mix, and frosting; and pie crust mix and canned pie filling; and grocery bags.

All food must be non-perishable.

The deadline to bring in Thanksgiving food is Sunday, Oct. 26.

College Care Packages. We would like to stay in touch with our college students! The Deacons will email gift cards to college and graduate students in early November, and we don't want to miss anyone. Please email the church office with the email address of your student by Friday, Oct. 31.

Capital Campaign

As of Sept 30, we have received \$10,673.89 for our Capital Campaign.
Our goal is to raise \$30,000.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 6:00 p.m. at La Bella Via, 41 3rd St., Phillipsburg.

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

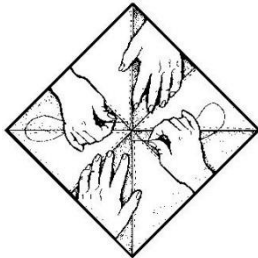
For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Needlecraft Group.

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



Aluminum Can Tabs. Reminder: We are still collecting aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. There is a container on the table in the back of the sanctuary where you may put them.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be away from Monday, Oct. 13 through Saturday, Oct. 25.

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



OCTOBER

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Jill Homa
Pastor Jack Roan |
| 4 | Ed & Susan Ham – Anniversary |
| 8 | Walter & Betty Patton – Anniversary |
| 9 | Sue Henshaw
Anna Stoddart |
| 12 | Dave & Susan Marek – Anniversary |
| 16 | Daniel & Christine DeHaas –
Anniversary |
| 20 | Ava Williams |
| 22 | Terry Wolfinger |
| 23 | Cindy Bowman
Alain Gonda |
| 24 | Renée Herb |
| 26 | Bruce & Terry Wolfinger –
Anniversary |
| 29 | Jane Lee |
| 30 | Laura Choi
Betsy Stecker |
| 31 | Jay Miers
Anthony & Laura Albert –
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!

Devotionals. The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the sanctuary, or by calling the church office:

- "Our Daily Bread," Sept./Oct./Nov. issue.
- "Today," Sept./Oct. issue.
- "Our Daily Bread," large-print edition, Oct./Nov./Dec. issue.

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

Session Notes – September 29, 2025

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Kathy Montgomery.
- We made the prayerful decision to donate:
 - Habitat for Humanity Northwest New Jersey: \$500
 - Make-A-Wish New Jersey: \$500
 - Stewartsville Fire Company: \$250
 - Warren County Police Chief's Association: \$200
- Denise DeMasi was elected to be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, November 11.
- This year's Stewardship Sunday will be on Sunday, November 23.
- We will have a Congregational Meeting to elect Elders and Deacons on Sunday, December 14.
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026.
- Pastor Stephen is no longer attending the Korea Peace Journey with the Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea, October 20-29, 2025.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - October 19: The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter
 - October 26: Elder Donna Rahmann
- Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of August 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$7,688 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.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	2	3 8 am Friday Devotional Group	4
5 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School with Holy Communion SPC Youth Choir after Worship Nominating Committee Meeting after Worship Service 6 pm AA	6 7 pm Anniversary Committee Meeting	7	8 7 pm AA	9 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Sports Scene Restaurant	10 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	11 10 am Samplemakers
12 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship 6 pm AA	13 Pastor Stephen away through Oct. 25	14	15 7 pm AA	16 6 pm Womens Circle, La Bella Via	17	18
19 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School SPC Youth Choir after Worship 6 pm AA	20	21	22 7 pm AA	23	24 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	25
26 Blood Drive 8 am to 12:30 pm 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Trunk or Treat after Worship 2 pm Deacons Chapel Service 6 pm AA	27	28	29 7 pm AA	30	31	