

The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church

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November 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 are 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.

Stewardship Sunday. Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 23. You will receive your 2026 Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheets in the mail. Please bring them to church on Stewardship Sunday.

You may also mail your Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets to the church office by the end of November, or put them in the offering plate on another Sunday if you will not be here on Nov. 23.

Additional Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



There will be Time for Fellowship after the worship service.

The Giving Tree. Our "Giving Tree" tags will be available in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday, Nov. 16.

There will be tags on the table indicating information about a child in need (age, size, and interests) from the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS).

By choosing a tag, you will have the opportunity to purchase a gift or two to help make that child's Christmas a little brighter!

The absolute deadline for returning unwrapped gifts is **Sunday, Dec. 7.**



175th Anniversary Weekend November 1 & 2, 2025

**On Saturday, Nov. 1, we held our 175th Anniversary Celebration
at Mainline Catering in Phillipsburg.**



Pastor Stephen and Jimbo Clark pose in front of the backdrop we had specially made for our anniversary celebration.



Janae Sinclair, Bessie Sinclair, and Pastor Stephen. Bessie has been a member of our church for 84 years!!



We were presented with a lovely new quilt made by the Crafty Ladies, a group that meets at First Lutheran Church. Members from our church (Mabel Cook, Betty Corio, Sue Gruver, Louisa Miers, and Carol Nixon) are part of the quilting group.



Pastor Stephen and our Pastor Emeritus Jack Roan received new stoles made and presented by Sue Gruver.



We recognized those who have been members for 50 or more years (left), and those who have been members for 25 or more years (below). They were each given lapel pins marking their anniversary.



We were treated to music by Todd Collins & Friends.



Homecoming Worship Service Nov. 2, 2025



Ministers participating in the Homecoming service were (L to R): the Rev. Jeanne Radak, Presbytery Leader; Pastor Stephen; the Rev. Mary L. Marcus; our Pastor Emeritus Jack Roan; and the Rev. Jim Biller, who delivered the sermon. Jim was born and raised in Stewartville.

To my friends at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church:

Congratulations and blessings on 175 years of ministry. Having been connected to SPC for nearly 75 of those years, I have a lot of memories. I'll share one that meant a lot to me and, in a way, set me on my own course of ministry.

For me and my childhood friends, things really got interesting when the new "Rev" came to our little town – that would be the Rev. Charles Jessen, "da Rev." He started a youth group, took us on retreats to Krumsville, and basically kindled the Spirit at our little church.

One night after youth group, and after Rev had retired to the manse next door, my sister, Freddie and Dave Gary, and I went into the sanctuary. We flipped on the lights and the microphones, my sister Pat turned on the organ, and we lined up like the Temptations and started singing "My Girl." We were singing our hearts out and dancing like the Temptations.

What we didn't know was that Pat accidentally switched on the steeple chimes and the whole town could hear "My Girl" playing down past Seiple's store. Rev came running in, and I thought he'd be mad, but he wasn't. In fact, he said if we wanted to sing, we could any time other than at 10:00 p.m. on a Sunday night, when most of Stewartsville was getting ready for bed.

We began singing during worship services, and even at other churches. I learned then that faith is not some restrictive thing, as we so often see, but fun and full of joy! That lesson has been with me over the years, and even though I officially retired 5 years ago, I still carry that joy.

And whenever I hear the Temptations singing "My Girl," I smile and think of Rev and the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

Blessings & Love,
The Rev. Mike and Joanna Duda

Deacons' Offering. During the month of November, we will receive 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.stewartsvillepc.org Give Now, Deacons.

Blood Drive. We had another successful Blood Drive on Sunday, Oct. 26!
We had 24 people sign up to donate and 20 units were collected – enough to potentially save 60 lives!
Our next Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Texts and Emails from Pastor Stephen. If you receive texts or emails from Pastor Stephen asking for money, these are scams.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3	Tim Sampson
4	Pamela Alercia-Horton
	Mike Ferri
6	Wayne Hart
8	Janis Clark
	Ellisyn "Ellie" Jewell
9	Ella Choi
12	Barbara Lovelace
	Nancy Sampson
	Wayne & Joan Hart – Anniversary
13	Denise DeMasi
15	Tegan Hurte
18	Allison de Haas
19	Hailey Lurig
21	Raymond Poremba
23	Dawyne Stone
24	Carol Evanoski
26	Jim & Debbie Riley – Anniversary
27	Jay & Eileen Miers – Anniversary
28	David Gary
30	Anthony Albert

Trunk or Treat! Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025



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



Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 11:30 a.m. at the Brass Rail, 840 Belvidere Road, Phillipsburg.

We had 12 people attend the October luncheon, and we collected \$17 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, Nov. 10 to make your reservation.

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

In October, we donated 19 bags of Thanksgiving food, as well as reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in particular need of laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, bath soap, dishwashing detergent, and toothpaste, as well as grocery bags.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6:00 p.m. at Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar, 3833 Freemansburg Ave., Bethlehem, PA.

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.

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.

Capital Campaign. As of Oct. 31, we have received \$11,188.89 for our Capital Campaign.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000.



Some events and activities to look forward to in December:

Hanging of the Greens. Help is needed for the "Hanging of the Greens," at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee, tea, juice, and bagels. This is a time where we prepare our sanctuary for the upcoming Christmas season. For more information, please email Ed Ham at ehamjr99@gmail.com

Congregational Meeting. There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 14. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to go caroling after worship on Sunday, Dec. 21. We will sing Christmas carols to our homebound members.

Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols. Our Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Holy Communion will be celebrated during the service.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 4 pm 175 th Anniversary Celebration, Mainline Catering
2 "Homecoming" Sunday 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School with Holy Communion Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	3	4	5 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	6	7 8 am Friday Devotional Group	8 10 am Samplemakers
9 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SPC Youth Choir Rehearsal after Worship Service 6 pm AA	10	11	12 7 pm AA	13 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Brass Rail 6 pm Women's Circle, Kingfish American Grill 7 pm Grange	14 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	15
16 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School SPC Youth Choir Rehearsal after Worship Service 6 pm AA	17 7 pm Session Meeting	18	19 7 pm AA	20	21 8 am Friday Devotional Group	22
23 Stewardship Sunday 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	24	25	26 7 pm AA	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28 Church Office Closed	29
30 1 st Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA						

