

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 2026

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.



Palm Sunday, March 29. We will observe Palm Sunday with the distribution of palms during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Good Friday, April 3. 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 5. We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service with Holy Communion. There will be no Sunday School on Easter.



Palm Sunday Activities. As we have done for many years, we will have a miniature donkey and pony rides at the church at 9:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29.

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



An Invitation to Lent Fasting and Feasting

Fast from judging others;
Feast on the Christ indwelling them.

Fast from emphasis on differences;
Feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from apparent darkness;
Feast on the reality of light.

Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism;
Feast on optimism.

Fast from worry;
Feast on divine order.

Fast from complaining;
Feast on appreciation.

Fast from negatives;
Feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures;
Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility;
Feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion for others.

Fast from discouragement;
Feast on hope.

Fast from facts that depress;
Feast on truths that uplift.

Fast from lethargy;
Feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.

Fast from thoughts that weaken;
Feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow;
Feast on the sunlight of serenity.

Fast from idle gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that undergirds.

– William Arthur Ward
(American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994)

Gentle God,
During this season of fasting and feasting,
gift us with your presence,
so we can be a gift to others
in carrying out your work.

Amen.



To celebrate Bessie Sinclair's 102nd birthday on Feb. 21, Pastor Stephen displayed his artistic flair and created these illustrations. He also made them into magnets.

If you are interested in having one or both of these magnets, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



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, April 10, and from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 11.

Proceeds will be divided between our Capital Campaign Fund and The Village NJ, which supports local families in crisis.

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 NOT accept Tube/Box TVs, VHS players and tapes, cribs, car seats, strollers, and holiday decorations (Christmas, etc.).

Donations may be dropped off after the worship service on Sundays, March 22 & March 29: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.; Monday & Tuesday, March 30 & March 31: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon; and Monday & Tuesday, April 6 & April 7: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon & 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We need help to sort donations, and work at the Rummage Sale on April 10 and 11. We will be setting up for the sale from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6.

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

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



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.



One Great Hour of Sharing. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received throughout Lent. We will receive this offering through Easter, April 5.

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 2026 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.

Easter Flowers. This Easter, we are offering 6” pots of daffodils, tulips, and pansies at \$5 per pot. Please contact the church office to order flowers.

The deadline to order is Sunday, March 22.



Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We continue to donate food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. In February, we donated 18 bags of food and toiletries.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in need of peanut butter and jelly, individual fruit cups, individual bottles of juice, and toothpaste, as well as grocery bags.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 13 and Friday, March 27 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.

MARCH



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

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 89 cans of soup, which were donated to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. We also received \$180, which will be donated to the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

Daylight Saving Time.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8.

Don’t forget to set your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night, March 7, so that you are not late for church!



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, March 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Applebee's, 1323 Route 22 West, Phillipsburg.

We had 23 people attend the February luncheon, and we collected \$41 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. Each month we encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheon to donate to the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, March 9, to make your reservation.



Friday Devotional Group. The Friday Devotional Group is starting a new study by Barbara Brown Taylor, "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others."

The new study begins on Friday, March 13. The group meets each Friday at 8:00 a.m. in the library and on Zoom.

Pastor Stephen has the new books. Please speak with him if you are interested in participating.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Fresh Tortillas Bar & Grill, 837 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.



Women's Spring Retreat. The Women's Spring Retreat will be held from Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26 at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center. You may also attend the Saturday session only.

The theme is "Forgiveness: Exploring One of Christ's Most Pivotal Challenges."

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.

Capital Campaign

As of Feb. 28, we have received \$16,492.45 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$30,000.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion & Children's Sunday School 6 pm AA	2	3	4 7 pm AA	5 7 pm AA Men's Group	6 8 am Friday Devotional Group, Panera	7
8 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School Ordination & Installation of Deacon Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	9	10	11 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	12 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Applebee's 7 pm Grange	13 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	14 10 am Samplemakers
15 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School. Youth Choir Sings during Worship Service 6 pm AA	16	17	18 7 pm AA	19 7 pm AA Men's Group	20 8 am Friday Devotional Group	21
22 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	23 7 pm Session Meeting	24	25 7 pm AA	26 6 pm Women's Circle, Fresh Tortillas 7 pm AA Men's Group	27 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Pony Rides & Miniature Donkey 10:30 am Worship Service & Children's Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt after Worship Service 6 pm AA	30	31				