

The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church
550 North Main Street, Stewartville, NJ 08886
908-859-1399

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Church e-mail – office@stewartvillepc.org

Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

June 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

Summer Worship Schedule

Starting on Sunday, June 7, our Worship Service will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Our Summer Schedule will run through Sunday, Sept. 6.

We will celebrate Holy Communion during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 7.

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

Deacons' Offering. During the month of June, 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.



Play Ball! Come join us for an IronPigs baseball game on **Friday, Aug. 14** at Coca-Cola Park, 1050 IronPigs Way, Allentown, PA. The game starts at 6:45 p.m. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

We have had a great time the past few years! 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.

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

To reserve tickets, please contact Cindy Bowman at 908-619-8697.

The deadline for tickets is Sunday, July 19.

You can pay for your tickets with cash or a check, made out to "Stewartville Presbyterian Church."

A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Stewartsville Presbyterian Church Family,

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for all the love, prayers, concern and support that you have shown me and my family during this difficult season.

As many of you know, my mother recently learned that her cancer has returned after nine years of being cancer-free. This month, I will be traveling back to Chicago for two weeks to be with her as she undergoes her second chemotherapy treatment. During that time, my family will also meet with my mother's doctors and discuss important medical decisions regarding her future care, including whether she may need to move into a nursing home.

These are not easy conversations, and there are many uncertainties that lie ahead. Yet through it all, your prayers and kindness have reminded me that we do not face life's challenges alone.

I am especially grateful to the Session and congregation for granting me the opportunity to be with my mother during this time. Your understanding, compassion, and support have given me the freedom to focus on caring for my mother while knowing that the ministry of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church continues in faithful hands. The hardest part for me is living so far away, so this gift means more to me than I can express in words and one that I will never forget.

As pastors, we are often privileged to walk alongside others through seasons of illness, grief, and uncertainty. But during this season, I have experienced the blessing of being cared for by the church that I am honored to serve. All of your prayers, words of encouragement, and messages of care have been a source of comfort and strength.

I feel incredibly blessed and thankful to be the pastor of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. The grace you have extended to me and my family during this difficult time reflects the love of Christ and the caring spirit that makes this congregation so special.

Please continue to keep my mother, our family, and all who are battling illness and facing difficult decisions in your prayers. We trust in God's faithfulness and take comfort in the promise that Jesus walks with us through every challenge and every valley.

Thank you for your love and support. It is a privilege and a blessing to serve as your pastor.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Pastor Stephen Park Choi

“I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you.”
Philippians 1:3-4

“It is hard raising parents.”
Elder Cindy Bowman



On Mother's Day, May 10, the SPC Youth Choir sang "Deep and Wide."



On Sunday, May 31, Pastor Stephen and Hudson Musuza, our UrbanPromise fellow, shared a conversation with the congregation. Hudson received his Master's Degree in May and will be returning to his home country of Uganda in July.

We also prayed for Hudson and presented him a check for the building of a high school through his foundation, "Boundless Love Ministries Africa."



A lunch was held honoring Hudson after the worship service.





Angela Alpaugh and **Shane Reed** were united in marriage on Tuesday, May 5 in Stanhope, NJ. Angela is the daughter of Dale and Lynn Alpaugh.

The newlyweds reside in Vernon Rockville, CT.



Alice Jessen passed away on Friday, May 22. Alice was the wife of Pastor Charles "Rev" Jessen, who was the minister at SPC from 1965 to 1972.

Cards can be sent to the Rev. Charles Jessen, Massey Springs, 2945 Smallhouse Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

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

Special Congregational Meeting. We will hold a brief Congregational Meeting after the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 7. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Deacon to fill an unexpired term.

Aluminum Can Collection. Habitat for Humanity NWNJ is collecting aluminum cans and anything else aluminum.

There is a bin in the back of the sanctuary where you can deposit your cans, etc. Aluminum cans should be thoroughly rinsed and, if possible, crushed.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be in Chicago from June 9 to 20.

If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the following Elder on Call:
Judy Melchore at 908-892-3893

- 1 Pastor Charles Jessen
Victoria Loyle
- 2 Doris Hagerty
Carole Jochen
Luke Muentener
- 4 Dawn Hamlen
Mike & Christine Ferri – Anniversary
- 5 Marsha Colaluca
Christine Ferri
Catie Jewell
- 7 Jon Cantagallo-Rohm
- 8 Bud Evanoski
- 10 June Gallo
- 11 Henry Choi
Lillian Culcasi
- 12 Angela Alpaugh Reed
David Gesner
Bruce Wolfinger
Bradley & Lisa Fry – Anniversary
- 15 Justin & Catie Jewell – Anniversary
- 16 Matthew Gary
- 22 Bruce & Anna Stoddart – Anniversary
- 25 Fred Gary
Kenneth Sampson-Duch
- 26 MaryLou Deak
- 27 Savannah Banghart
- 28 Merrick Loyle
- 30 Debbie Cole
Cory Ham
Judy Melchore

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!

Blood Drive. Our Blood Drive on Sunday, May 31, held in conjunction with Miller-Keystone Blood Center, was a success. We had 27 registered donors, and collected 25 units of blood!
Our next Blood Drive will be Sunday, Nov. 1.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

Our Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Sunday, June 7 with worship service at 10:00 a.m. The Zoom service 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



Nancy Frey, the granddaughter of Pam Alercia-Horton, graduated from the Cosmetology program at the Career Institute of Technology (CIT) in Easton, PA on May 21. In addition to that, she will be graduating from Easton Area High School on June 9. Her goal is to secure a job in a salon after passing her state boards.

Evan Hade was one of 7 Phillipsburg High School Seniors this year to earn his Associate's Degree while still in high school. He is the son of Amy Riley Hade and the grandson of Debbie and Jim Riley. Evan received an Associate's Degree from Warren County Community College in May, and will be graduating with honors from Phillipsburg High School on June 12. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh Honors College in the fall.

Logan Grossman graduated from Wilson Area High School on May 29. He is the grandson of Pam Alercia-Horton. Logan will be attending Northampton Community College for general education classes prior to moving to a 4-year school to study music education, with a goal of becoming a music teacher.

John Muentener III, son of Lisa Muentener, will graduate from Phillipsburg High School on June 12. In the fall, he will be attending the Automotive program at Raritan Valley Community College.

Hudson Musuza, our UrbanPromise fellow, graduated in May from Cairn University in Pennsylvania with a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Management and Leadership. Hudson will be returning to his home in Uganda, where he plans to establish and provide leadership for the first Christian high school in his community.

Madison Wolfinger received her Masters of Public Health degree from Cornell University on May 22. She is the granddaughter of Bruce and Terry Wolfinger. Beginning in August, Maddy will be pursuing a PhD in Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware.

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

We had 15 people attend the May luncheon, and we collected \$30 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, June 8, to make your reservation.

Session Notes – May 26, 2026

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Laurie Winans.
- The Session will be flipping the pew cushions in the sanctuary following the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, June 7.
- We prayerfully approved a \$5,000 donation to help Hudson Musuuza, our UrbanPromise fellow, build a high school in Uganda through the organization he founded, Boundless Love Ministries Africa. (The \$5,000 donation is from individual designated gifts and from the church's restricted mission fund.)
- Hudson Musuuza will be visiting one last time before he leaves for Uganda on Sunday, June 14.
- We will have a "Christmas in July" worship service on Sunday, July 26.
- Annual staff reviews will be conducted in August.
- Pastor Stephen will be in Chicago caring for his mother, June 9-20. The Elder on Call will be Judy Melchore.
- When Pastor Stephen is away on Sabbatical during the month of July, Judy Melchore and Kathy Montgomery will be the Elders on Call.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - May 31: Hudson Musuuza
 - June 14: The Rev. Scott Decaro
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, June 29, 2026.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of April 30, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$7,063 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.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, June 25, at 6:00 p.m. at Byron Place II, 821 Route 57, Stewartsville.

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 May, we donated 12 bags of food and toiletries.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in need of snack-size servings of pretzels, raisins, and fruit snacks, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni & cheese, pasta, and pasta sauce, as well as grocery bags.

Capital Campaign

As of June 1, we have received \$20,022 for our Capital Campaign.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	4	5 8 am Friday Devotional Group	6
7 Summer Schedule Starts 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Congregational Meeting after Worship Service 6 pm AA	8	9 Pastor Stephen in Chicago through June 20	10 7 pm AA	11 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Brass Rail 7 pm Grange	12	13 10 am Samplmakers
14 10 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	15	16	17 7 pm AA	18	19	20
21 10 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	22	23	24 7 pm AA	25 6 pm Women's Circle, Byron Place II	26	27
28 10 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	29 7 pm Session Meeting	30				