

# The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church  
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908-859-1399

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Pastor's e-mail – [rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com)

## July/August 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**

**We are on our Summer Worship Schedule with Worship Service 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, July 26.

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

**Christmas in July!** Please join us on Sunday, July 26, as we celebrate "Christmas in July" during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The worship service will include Holy Communion.

The sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas, and there will be a special appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus! We will also have Time for Fellowship with Christmas cookies after the worship service.

As part of the celebration, we are asking for donations of paper products, laundry detergent, and toiletries for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Donations can be placed in the back of the sanctuary throughout July.

Help is needed to decorate the sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, July 19.



**Church Sing.** All men of the church are asked to join us during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Aug. 16, for the annual singing of "How Great Thou Art."

On Sunday, Aug. 23, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, all women of the church will be invited to come forward and join in singing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

No experience or rehearsal is necessary – please join us in lifting our voices to the Lord. This has become a summer tradition, and we look forward to everyone's enthusiastic participation!

## Hope in God

Over the past few months, many of you have been praying for my mother as she continues her battle with cancer. What began with a hospital stay led to rehab, followed by setback after setback. More than once, my family felt like we were taking one step forward and two steps back.

In moments like these, difficult questions often arise: Why is this happening? Why isn't she getting better? And where is God in all of this?

I suspect many of you have faced similar questions in your own lives. Perhaps not because of cancer, but because of grief, illness, family struggles, uncertainty, or circumstances beyond your control. There are seasons when life simply feels overwhelming.

In these past months, I have found myself returning again and again to the Psalms. The Psalms are noteworthy, because they give us permission to be honest with God. They do not pretend that faith means having all the answers. Instead, they teach us how to pray when our hearts are hurting.

Psalm 13 begins with a cry that many of us have prayed at one time or another: "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?"

The psalmist does not hide his frustration or confusion. He names the problem, cries out for help, and then, almost surprisingly, concludes with trust in God's steadfast love.

Likewise, Psalm 42 asks: "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? ... Hope in God."

I find great comfort in these words. The psalmist acknowledges the pain but refuses to let despair have the last word. Instead, he speaks to his own soul, reminding and encouraging himself to place his hope and trust in God.

This hope is not based on having all the answers. It is not confidence that life will unfold exactly as we wish. Rather, it is confidence that God remains faithful even when life is difficult and uncertain.

As I reflect over these past months, I am grateful for the many ways God has revealed his presence through caring doctors and nurses, supportive family members and friends, and through the prayers, cards, text messages, and encouragement of this congregation. While I still do not understand every setback, I am reminded that we do not walk through seasons of difficulty alone.

The Psalms teach us that faith is not the absence of questions. Faith is bringing those questions to God and still continuing to trust in him. It is praying, "How long, O Lord?" while still believing the promise, "Hope in God."

Thank you for your continued prayers for my mother, my family, and me. They have been a source of great strength and comfort during a very difficult time.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Stephen Park Choi



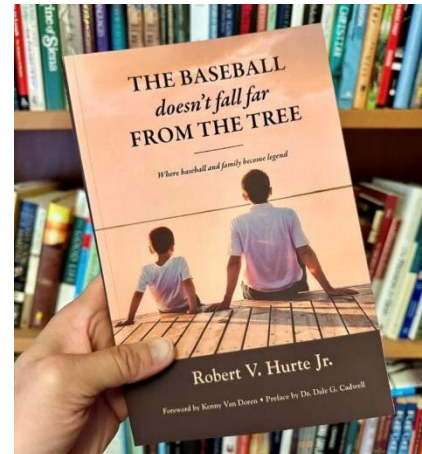
Bill Fleming was honored by the Penn Rose Quilt Guild on Wednesday, June 3, for his service in the US Navy during the Vietnam War.  
Pictured L to R: Sue Gruver, Carol Nixon, Alan Deak, Bill Nixon, Bill Fleming (hiding behind the quilt the guild presented him), and Pastor Stephen.



Adeline and Jimbo Clark being dropped off for a fun week at Camp Johnsonburg on Sunday, June 21.



On June 27, the Greenwich Historical Commission dedicated a bench in honor of the late Helen Hawk. She was the township clerk for 17 years and served on the historical commission. The bench is in front of the township municipal building. Helen's son John and her daughter Shirley cut the ribbon on the bench after a brief ceremony.



Congratulations to Bob Hurte, who recently published his 2<sup>nd</sup> baseball book, "The Baseball Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree."



**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. 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 12.**

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

## JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### JULY

- |    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1  | John Dobrowski                        |
|    | Debbie Riley                          |
| 4  | Roseann Rohm                          |
| 5  | Jackie Lubinski                       |
| 14 | Ed Ham                                |
|    | Brittani Kopecki                      |
|    | Michael Morton                        |
| 15 | Kim Stone                             |
|    | Laura & Michael Diacopoulos –         |
|    | Anniversary                           |
| 16 | Bill Fleming                          |
| 17 | Isaac Evanoski                        |
|    | Richard & Sue Higginson – Anniversary |
|    | Jeff & Esther Schoeneberger –         |
|    | Anniversary                           |
| 20 | Bob & Nancy Sampson – Anniversary     |
| 21 | Kurt Schriever                        |
| 25 | Lisa Muentener                        |
| 28 | Roberta Fohr                          |
|    | Laurie Winans                         |
| 29 | Debbie Smith                          |
| 30 | Jacob Banghart                        |
|    | James & Phyllis Ballentine –          |
|    | Anniversary                           |



**David Jochen** passed away Wednesday, June 17. Please keep his wife Carole and their family in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to Carole Jochen,  
590 Newry Lane, Apt. 224, Duncansville,  
PA 16635

**Prospective New Members.** If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of our church, please contact Pastor Stephen or the church office.

### **Elder on Call**

Pastor Stephen will be away on sabbatical for the month of July. He will then be on the Mission Trip from Aug. 2-7.

If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact either one of the following

Elders on Call:

Judy Melchore at 908-892-3893

Kathy Montgomery at 908-674-0654

### AUGUST

- |    |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2  | Lynn Alpaugh                        |
| 3  | Sue Gruver                          |
|    | Pam Alercia-Horton & Terry Horton – |
|    | Anniversary                         |
| 5  | James Bowman Sr.                    |
| 8  | Paul Williams                       |
| 10 | Evan Fry                            |
| 14 | Laura Albert                        |
|    | Romeo Baker                         |
|    | Fred & Mary Lou Gary – Anniversary  |
| 15 | Walt Patton                         |
|    | Mary Sampson                        |
|    | Jacob & Morgan Banghart –           |
|    | Anniversary                         |
| 16 | Jon & Jessica Cantagallo-Rohm –     |
|    | Anniversary                         |
| 17 | Kay Piperato                        |
| 21 | Dave Barretto                       |
|    | Don Miers                           |
| 22 | Terry Lefler                        |
| 23 | Brandon Loyle                       |
| 24 | Bella Colucci Keller                |
|    | Bob Sampson                         |
|    | Paul & Linda Williams – Anniversary |
| 25 | Rosie England                       |
|    | Sam Hurte                           |
| 26 | James “Jimbo” Clark III             |
| 29 | Bob & Lorlyn Heinrich – Anniversary |
| 30 | Rich Higginson                      |
|    | Colleen Rountree                    |
| 31 | Joan Hart                           |

**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](mailto:office@stewartsvillepc.org)  
We don't want to miss your special day!

**June Deacons Offering.** Thanks to your generosity, we received \$350 for the June Deacons Offering.

This offering supports the work and ministry of our Deacons.

**Texts and Emails from Pastor Stephen.** If you receive texts or emails from Pastor Stephen asking for money, these are scams. Please do not reply to them.

## **SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP**

We are on our Summer Worship Schedule, with worship service at 10:00 a.m.

The Zoom service is broadcast live during the in-person worship service.

This Summer, Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto: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=WlQwMHB5ZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

### **Dial by your location**

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

**Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396**

**Passcode: 08886**

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**Mission Trip Sunday.** Please join us for Mission Trip Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 9.

Our mission trip participants will talk about their experiences and God sightings as part of the WorkGroup program of UrbanPromise in Camden, NJ. The WorkGroup program combines ministry and practical projects.

The mission trip participants will be commissioned on Sunday, Aug. 2, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

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**Adult Lunch Group.** "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, July 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Applebee's, 1323 Route 22, Phillipsburg.

In August, the Lunch Group will meet at Byron Place II, 821 Route 57, Stewartsville, on Thursday, Aug. 13 at 11:30 a.m.

We had 22 people attend the June luncheon, and we collected \$35 and 3 cans of soup 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 July luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, July 6, to make your reservation. To reserve a place at the August luncheon, please call Louisa by Monday, Aug. 10.



**Women's Circle.** The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, July 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Lutzi's Restaurant, 1250 Butler St., Easton.

In August, the women's group will meet at Spain II, 1045 Route 173, Asbury, on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 6:00 p.m.

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.

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

In June, we donated 9 bags of food and toiletries.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in need of paper products, laundry detergent, and toiletries, as well as grocery bags.

## Session Notes – June 29, 2026

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Fred Gary.
- Approval was given to host 2 Blood Drives in 2027: Sunday, May 2 and Sunday, September 19. (Our next Blood Drive this year is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 2026.)
- The UrbanPromise Camden Mission Trip Team will be commissioned during the worship service on Sunday, August 2. (The dates of the mission trip are August 2-7, 2026.)
- Judy Melchore and Kathy Montgomery will be the Elders on Call during the month of July while Pastor Stephen is on Sabbatical.
- We will not celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of July and August, instead we will have the Lord's Supper on Sunday, July 26.
- Annual Staff Reviews will be conducted in August.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
  - July 5: The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter
  - July 12: The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter
  - July 19: The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter
  - July 26: The Rev. Scott DeCaro
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, August 24, 2026.
- Treasurer's Report:  
As of May 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$11,034 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.

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**Deacons' Offering.** During the month of August, 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.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Deacons.



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**Summer Offering.** Please remember the church during the summer!

If you will be on vacation, please consider mailing your offering to the church office, or contributing online while you are away: Go to the church website ([www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now

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

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

We are also 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 July 1, we have received \$21,077 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$30,000

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – July 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon       | Tue       | Wed                                                                          | Thu                                                     | Fri                                                              | Sat                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                       |           |           | <b>1</b><br>Pastor Stephen on Sabbatical<br>for the month of July<br>7 pm AA | <b>2</b>                                                | <b>3</b><br>Church Office Closed for<br>Independence Day Holiday | <b>4</b>                        |
| <b>5</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br>6 pm AA                                                                                                                          | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>7 pm AA                                                          | <b>9</b><br>11:50 am Adult Lunch Group,<br>Applebee's   | <b>10</b>                                                        | <b>11</b><br>10 am Samplemakers |
| <b>12</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship<br>Service<br>6 pm AA                                                                         | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>7 pm AA                                                         | <b>16</b>                                               | <b>17</b>                                                        | <b>18</b>                       |
| <b>19</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br>Help Needed to Decorate<br>Sanctuary after Worship Service<br>6 pm AA                                                           | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>7 pm AA                                                         | <b>23</b><br>6 pm Women's Circle,<br>Lutzi's Restaurant | <b>24</b>                                                        | <b>25</b>                       |
| <b>26</b> Christmas in July<br>10 am Worship Service with Holy<br>Communion<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship<br>Service<br>2 pm Deacons Chapel Service<br>6 pm AA | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>7 pm AA                                                         | <b>30</b>                                               | <b>31</b>                                                        |                                 |

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – August 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                     | Mon                                   | Tue                                   | Wed                         | Thu                                                            | Fri       | Sat                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                       |                                       |                             |                                                                |           | <b>1</b>                           |
| <b>2</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br>Mission Trip Commissioning<br><br>Summer Mission Trip thru 8/7<br><br>6 pm AA                                                      | <b>3</b>                              | <b>4</b>                              | <b>5</b><br><br><br>7 pm AA | <b>6</b>                                                       | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br><br>10 am Samplemakers |
| <b>9</b> Mission Trip Sunday<br>10 am Worship Service<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA                                                       | <b>10</b>                             | <b>11</b><br><br>7 pm Deacons Meeting | <b>12</b><br><br>7 pm AA    | <b>13</b><br><br>11:30 am Adult Lunch Group,<br>Byron Place II | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>                          |
| <b>16</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br>Men Sing "How Great Thou Art"<br><br>6 pm AA                                                                                      | <b>17</b>                             | <b>18</b>                             | <b>19</b><br><br>7 pm AA    | <b>20</b>                                                      | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>                          |
| <b>23</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br>Women Sing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship Service<br>2 pm Deacons Chapel Service<br><br>6 pm AA | <b>24</b><br><br>7 pm Session Meeting | <b>25</b>                             | <b>26</b><br><br>7 pm AA    | <b>27</b><br><br>6 pm Womens Circle,<br>Spain II               | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>                          |
| <b>30</b><br>10 am Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA                                                                                                                       | <b>31</b>                             |                                       |                             |                                                                |           |                                    |