

The Stewartsville Press

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

www.stewartsvillepc.org

Church e-mail – office@stewartsvillepc.org
Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

October 2022

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary – Treasurer

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

Worship Service is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

**Holy Communion will next be celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Nov. 6.**

Please see page 3 for information on Zoom link.



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

We had such great fun last year, and we are hoping even more participate in the event this year!

Children can dress up and go from car to car collecting treats and other goodies. Adults can participate by 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

Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Food. This year, 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.

We will be collecting these items throughout October and will bring them to the food pantry at the end of month.



You Are the Beloved: Daily Meditations for Spiritual Living

This month, I share with you a few meditations from Henri Nouwen's book, "You Are the Beloved," which I have been reading for my own personal daily devotions. If you like what you read here, I highly recommend getting the book or any of his other books. I have been blessed by the thoughts and writings of Henri Nouwen for some time, and I hope you will be blessed too. Henri Nouwen was a Dutch-born Catholic priest, professor, and author who passed away in 1996.

Your Inner Community

Those you have deeply loved become part of you. The longer you live, there will always be more people to be loved by you and to become part of your inner community. The wider your inner community becomes, the more easily you will recognize your own brothers and sisters in the strangers around you ... The wider the community of your heart, the wider the community around you.

Dying Leads to Love

Am I afraid to die? I am every time I let myself be seduced by the noisy voices of my world telling me that my "little life" is all I have and advising me to cling to it with all my might. But when I let these voices move to the background of my life and listen to that small soft voice calling me the Beloved, I know that there is nothing to fear and that dying is the greatest act of love, the act that leads me into the eternal embrace of my God whose love is everlasting.

The Pressure of Competition

One of the saddest aspects of the lives of many students is that they always feel pressured ... The word school, which comes from *schola* (meaning "free time"), reminds us that schools were originally meant to interrupt a busy existence and create some space to contemplate the mysteries of life. Today they have become the arena for a hectic race to accomplish as much as possible, and to acquire in a short period the necessary things to survive the great battle of human life. Books written to be savored slowly are read hastily to fulfill a requirement, paintings made to be seen with a contemplative eye are taken in as part of a necessary art appreciation course, and music composed to be enjoyed at leisure is listened to in order to identify a period or style. Thus, colleges and universities meant to be places for quiet learning have become places of fierce competition, in which the rewards go to those who produce the most and the best.

You Are Home

I have been meditating on the story of the prodigal son. It is a story about returning. I realize the importance of returning over and over again. My life drifts away from God. I have to return. My heart moves away from my first love. I have to return. My mind wanders to strange images. I have to return. Returning is a lifelong struggle ... I am moved by the fact that the father didn't require any higher motivation. His love was so total and unconditional that he simply welcomed his son home.



Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," the Adult Lunch Group, will meet on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 11:30 a.m. at The Lodge at Mountain Lake, 11 Lakeside Drive East, Belvidere.

We encourage everyone to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the lunch to donate to NORWESCAP Food Bank.

We had 20 people attend our luncheon in September, and we collected \$35 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861, by Monday, Oct. 10, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

The Zoom worship service is held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live from the sanctuary during the in-person worship service.

Holy Communion will next be celebrated on **Sunday, Nov. 6.** 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.

For the latest news and information, please also visit the church website, www.stewartsvillepc.org

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

Adult Sunday School. The Adult Sunday School class meets each Sunday at 9:20 a.m.

We are currently studying Exodus. We meet in person in the library and on Zoom.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Stephen, especially if you will be joining the class via Zoom.

Following is the Zoom information for the Adult Sunday School class:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93054597133?pwd=RGNwUGJ2Vk1rdFIBdU9zb0luaTILUT09>

Meeting ID: 930 5459 7133

Passcode: 08886

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Attention Parents and Guardians! We would like to stay in touch with our college students. The Deacons will either email gift cards or send care packages to our students in November, and we do not want to miss anyone.

Please e-mail the church office at office@stewartsvillepc.org with the mailing address and email address of your student by Wednesday, Oct. 26.



Savannah Willow Banghart, daughter of Jacob and Morgan Banghart, received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, Sept. 25. She was born June 27, 2022.

Savannah's siblings are Jadyynn, Gracelyn, and Colton.



Doris Piatt passed away Friday, Sept. 23. Her funeral service was held on Saturday, Oct. 1, in our sanctuary.

Please keep in prayer her daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Bud Evanoski, her son, Bob, and all their family.

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, Oct. 14 and 28, in the large classroom.

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.

2023 Puerto Rico Mission Trip. We are in the process of planning a mission trip to Puerto Rico for next summer. If you are interested or have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

Devotionals. The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or by contacting the church office.

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



OCTOBER

- 2 Jill Homa
Bob Nuss
Pastor Jack Roan
Derek Stecker
- 4 Ed & Susan Ham – Anniversary
- 6 Bob Piatt
- 7 Jacob Kimble
- 8 Walt & Betty Patton – Anniversary
- 9 Anna Stoddart
- 12 Dave & Susan Marek – Anniversary
- 14 Denice Morton
- 16 Daniel & Christine DeHaas –
Anniversary
- 19 Sheila Oberly
- 20 Ava Williams
- 22 Terry Wolfinger
- 23 Cindy Bowman
- 24 Renée Herb
- 25 Stephen & Amanda Hodge –
Anniversary
- 26 Bruce & Terry Wolfinger – Anniversary
- 27 Alyssa Oberly Protzman
- 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!

Little Free Public Library. The Little Free Public Library at the back of our parking lot is open again!

We are in need of books, especially children's books.

Catholic Charities Food Pantry. In September, we donated 32 bags of food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

Hurricane Relief Donation

If you would like to make a donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help those affected by Hurricane Ian, please give directly to the church, noting "PDA" on your check or online donation.

Session Notes – September 26, 2022



- We opened our Zoom meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Janis Clark.
- In response to the recent hurricanes, we made the prayerful decision to give \$1,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help support those who have been affected. (PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.)
- We also approved a \$246 donation to help the Perrone family raise money for Henry's Loving Team. Henry Adam Aulenbach was an 8-year-old who passed away from brain cancer in 2019. The mission of Henry's Loving Team is to spread kindness by assisting families of children with childhood cancer.
- We made the decision to continue to support the Presbyterian Depot. The Presbyterian Depot is a collaborative mission partnership of Old Greenwich, Pilgrim, Westminster, Alpha, and Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. Our mission is to provide new kitchen items to individuals and families who are transitioning to a new place to live; many have virtually nothing to start with. The area organizations we work with include Family Promise, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center, and Firth Youth Center.
- Laura Choi was examined and approved as a Candidate for ministry at the Highlands Presbytery meeting on September 10. Laura is in the Master of Divinity program at New Brunswick Theological Seminary; she hopes to graduate in May 2024.
- Pastor Stephen will be on vacation November 22-29.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply
October 23: The Rev. Mike Atzert
November 27: The Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje
- Our next scheduled Session meeting will be on Monday, October 24.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of August 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$620 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.

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be on Continuing Education leave from Oct. 17 to Oct. 23.

If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the following Elder on Call:

Fred Gary at 908-454-6311

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11 am Doris Piatt's Funeral Service
2 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Nominating Committee Meeting after Worship Service 6 pm AA	3 7 pm Deacons Meeting	4 7 pm Zumba Class	5 7 pm AA	6 6 pm BSA Troop 7 pm Zumba Class	7 8 am Friday Devotional Group	8 10 am Samplemakers
9 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with the Sacrament of Baptism Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	10	11 7 pm Zumba Class	12 7 pm AA	13 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group at Lodge at Mountain Lake 6 pm BSA Troop	14 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	15
16 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	17 Pastor Stephen on Continuing Ed Leave through 10/23	18 7 pm Zumba Class	19 7 pm AA	20 6 pm BSA Troop 7 pm Zumba Class 7 pm Grange (Library)	21	22
23 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	24 7 pm Session Meeting	25 7 pm Zumba Class	26 7 pm AA	27 6 pm BSA Troop 7 pm Zumba Class	28 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	29
30 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service "Trunk or Treat" after Worship Service 6 pm AA	31					