

# The Stewartsville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartsville 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)

## December 2022

### **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

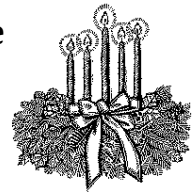
Mary Lou Gary – Treasurer

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service  
at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24.  
Holy Communion will be celebrated  
during this service of Lessons and Carols.



**Worship Service is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.**  
**Holy Communion will be celebrated during the**  
**10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 4.**  
**Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.**

### **DECEMBER EVENTS**

**Hanging of the Greens.** Help is needed to decorate the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3. Contact Ed Ham at [ehamjr99@gmail.com](mailto:ehamjr99@gmail.com) for more information.

**Congregational Meeting.** There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 11. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

**Giving Tree.** The deadline to return gifts for The Giving Tree is Sunday, Dec. 11. Gifts must be unwrapped and include the tag.

**Cookie Exchange** will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, in Roan Hall. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, Dec. 11. For more information, contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

**Sunday School Christmas Program.** The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 18.

**Pajama Sunday.** Please feel free to wear your pajamas and comfy clothing to the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25. There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1, 2023.

## **Alternative Gifts**

Throughout my time at the Stewartville Presbyterian Church, my family and I have always given Alternative Gifts for Christmas in honor of the church.

This year, we have continued this tradition by giving the following gifts through Heifer International and the Presbyterian Giving Catalog:

### **Alpaca**

Heifer provides alpacas to families living in high altitudes in the Andes Mountains of South America. Few other animals can withstand the harsh conditions. Alpacas provide invaluable sources of income and wool, which is prized for making blankets, ponchos, carpet, and rope. Plus, their soft feet and unique grazing methods mean they can live harmoniously in their fragile Andean environment and help families preserve their limited resources.

### **Family of Chickens**

Eggs for food, feathers for pillows, and fertilizer for crops. By giving a family of chickens, you can help improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.

### **Fishing Net**

Small-scale fishers rely on their catch for income and food. When damaged nets are too expensive to replace, some turn to using mosquito nets, which can introduce insecticides into waterways. Help protect livelihoods and the environment with the gift of a fishing net.

### **Jerry Cans**

UNICEF estimates that women and girls around the world collectively spend 200 million hours every day fetching water. A gift of \$25 provides up to 10 jerry cans to transport water more efficiently, freeing women and girls to spend more time on enriching activities, like attending school and contributing to their family's income.

### **Supplies for Displaced Students**

This gift provides the opportunity of education to students who have lost everything. With a gift of school supplies, three students living in a Lebanese refugee camp can be empowered through learning.

If you are interested in learning more about Alternative Gifts through Heifer International or the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, please let me know.

You can also visit and browse their websites to see all the different kinds of Alternative Gifts that are offered at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org) and [presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org](http://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org)

As we enter into the season of Christmas, may we discover how true the words of our Lord Jesus Christ are when he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

May we all have a blessed and meaningful Advent and Merry Christmas!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,  
Pastor Stephen and Family

**Adult Lunch Group.** “Grazing with Grace,” the Adult Lunch Group, will hold their Christmas luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 11:30 a.m. at Sports Scene Restaurant at Oakwood Lanes, 234 Route 31, Washington.

In celebration of Christmas, we will take up a collection which will be donated to a charity to be determined at the luncheon.

We had 19 people attend our November luncheon, and we collected \$31 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861, by Monday, Dec. 5, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.



**The Giving Tree.** All of the tags for The Giving Tree have been taken. Thank you! We are also collecting monetary donations to go toward gift cards for Walmart and ShopRite. You may donate by cash, check, (noting “Giving Tree” on the memo line) or online ([www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special and note Giving Tree), The gifts and gift cards will go to children and families through the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS). The deadline for returning unwrapped gifts with their tags, and monetary donations is Sunday, Dec. 11.

**Catholic Charities Food Pantry.** We continue to donate food and toiletries to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Donations may be dropped off anytime inside or outside the main sanctuary doors of the church. In November, we donated 18 bags of food and toiletries.

Our goal is to donate 365 bags this year. Thus far, we have donated 314 bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, soup, cold cereal, oatmeal, canned vegetables, and pasta sauce, as well as grocery bags.



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

**Christmas Joy Offering.** We are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the Advent season.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you will help families of active and retired church workers, and support Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Please use the special envelope in your box of envelopes, or write a check with “Christmas Joy” on the memo line. To give online at the church website, [www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), go to “Give Now” and note “Christmas Joy” under Special.

## **OFFERING**

**Christmas Eve Offering.** Offering received during our Christmas Eve Worship Service will go toward the work and ministry of our church. You may use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.



**2023 Offering Envelopes.** The 2023 Offering Envelopes will be available on a table in the back of the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 11. Please remember to stop in the back and pick up your box of envelopes. If you would like envelopes but do not see your name, please contact the church office. Also contact the office if you need your box of envelopes mailed to you.

**2022 Giving Statements.** Offering received by Saturday, Dec. 31, will be counted toward your 2022 Giving Statement. Offering received after that date will count toward your 2023 statement.

**2023 Pledge Cards.** If you have not already returned your 2023 Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheet, please put them in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office as soon as possible.

Extra Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office.



**2023 Puerto Rico Mission Trip.** We are planning a mission trip to Puerto Rico next summer. The dates are July 16-24, 2023.

If you are interested or have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

**Adult Sunday School.** The Adult Sunday School class will begin a new study on 1 Corinthians on Sunday, Dec. 4.

The Sunday School class meets at 9:20 a.m. in the library and on Zoom.

**Needlecraft Group.** The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 9, 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.

**College Student Gift Cards.** In November, the Deacons emailed Amazon gift cards to 8 of our college and graduate school students.

This is our way of staying in touch with them, and letting them know we are thinking of them.

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

- “Our Daily Bread,” Dec./Jan./Feb. issue.
- “Today,” Nov./Dec. issue.
- “Our Daily Bread,” large-print edition, Oct./Nov./Dec. issue.



DECEMBER

- 4 Will Sampson  
Bud & Carol Evanoski – Anniversary
- 5 Kathy Montgomery  
Bob & Kathryn Nuss – Anniversary
- 7 Pastor Stephen Choi
- 8 Trent & Kelly Roling – Anniversary
- 9 Joe & Jackie Lubinski – Anniversary
- 10 Stella Bove
- 12 Justin Jewell
- 13 Carly Alpaugh
- 15 Gabrielle Poremba
- 16 Tammy Oberly  
John & Heidi Hawk – Anniversary
- 17 Colton Banghart
- 20 Anthony DeMasi
- 21 Barry Oberly
- 22 Bob Morris  
Scott & Denise DeMasi – Anniversary
- 24 Jackie File  
Ana Wagner  
Linda Williams
- 25 Alan Deak
- 28 Linda Roan  
Dave Bove & Nicole Viscomi-Bove – Anniversary
- 29 Brodey Colucci Keller
- 31 Madelyn Duckworth  
Vincenzo Viscomi

**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!

**Thank You!** Thank you to our office helpers:

**Joan Hart**, who comes in each Friday to fold the bulletins, and **Mary Lou Gary** who helps with the monthly newsletter and special projects.

We are able to get a lot accomplished because of their help!

**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 be celebrated on **Sunday, Dec. 4**. 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.

For the latest news and information, please also visit the church website, [www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org)

**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**



**Poinsettia order form**



Please order \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias

\$5.00 per 6” potted plant

*(Cash or checks payable to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church with “Poinsettias” on the memo line)*

Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders must be received no later than Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

***(Please write your name as you wish it to appear in the dedication)***

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please deliver the plant to a shut-in of the congregation

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up the plant after the Christmas Eve worship service

## Session Notes – November 21, 2022



- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Denise DeMasi.
- The 2023 General Fund Budget was approved. More information will be given in the Annual Report and at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023.
- The 2023 Communion Dates were approved. We will continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of most months. On Sunday, January 1, Communion will be administered by intinction.
- Approval was given to host a Blood Drive at the church on Sunday, May 21, 2023. We will need to have a least 25 people sign up to donate.
- The dates for next summer's mission trip to Puerto Rico have been set for July 16-24, 2023.
- There will be no Sunday School on December 25 and January 1, 2023.
- An annual review for Pastor Stephen was completed by the session.
- Our next scheduled Session Meeting will be on Monday, December 19.
- Treasurer's Report:  
As of October 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$2,369 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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We received the following Thank You Notes in response to our recent donations.

From Elise Bates Russell, Executive Director of Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center:

"Thank you for your generosity to the "Marked for the Future Campaign," with your gift of \$1,300. You have listened to God's call and have taken action to ensure that this important ministry continues to mark generations of leaders. We are grateful for your commitment to ensuring the next 60 years of ministry at camp."

From Dina Kovats-Bernat, Director of Development & Communications at Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley:

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate your generous support of Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Thanks to donors like you, we are able to deliver over 800 nutritious, hot meals every weekday. We are proud to have provided service without interruption throughout the pandemic and we will continue to serve people in need for years to come with your continued partnership. Your thoughtful contribution of \$300 will go a long way to helping us make sure that happens. Thank you."

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We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting  
on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023,  
after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>  6 pm BSA Troop 7 pm Zumba Class	<b>2</b>  8 am Friday Devotional Group	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion  6 pm AA	<b>5</b>  7 pm Deacons Meeting	<b>6</b>  7 pm Zumba Class	<b>7</b>  7 pm AA	<b>8</b>  11:30 am Adult Lunch at Sports Scene Restaurant  6 pm BSA Troop	<b>9</b>  8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	<b>10</b>  10 am Samplemakers
<b>11</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Brief Congregational Meeting after Worship to Elect Church Officers  Time for Fellowship after Meeting 6 pm AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  7 pm Zumba Class	<b>14</b>  7 pm AA	<b>15</b>  6 pm BSA Troop 7 pm Zumba Class	<b>16</b>  8 am Friday Devotional Group at Panera	<b>17</b>  Rehearsal for Sunday School Christmas Program
<b>18</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 9:45 am Cookie Exchange 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Sunday School Christmas Program  6 pm AA	<b>19</b>  7 pm Session Meeting	<b>20</b>  7 pm Zumba Class	<b>21</b>  7 pm AA	<b>22</b>  6 pm BSA Troop 7 pm Zumba Class	<b>23</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve  7 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion
<b>25</b> Christmas No Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Pajama Sunday Worship Service  6 pm AA	<b>26</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>27</b>  Church Office Closed  7 pm Zumba Class	<b>28</b>  7 pm AA	<b>29</b>  7 pm Zumba Class	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>