

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

January 2023

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

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, Jan. 1.**

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

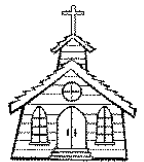
Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 29**, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The 2022 Annual Report will be available on Sunday, Jan. 22, one week prior to the meeting, so that it may be read in advance. Copies of the report will also be available at the meeting.

We can also email a pdf of the Annual Report, or mail a paper copy to you.

If you would like the report emailed or mailed to you, please contact the church office.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



We will join together for a **Soup, Stew & Chili Pot Luck Luncheon** after the Congregational Meeting. Those attending are asked to bring soup, stew, chili, or a dessert.

Please fill out the sign-up flyer in the Sunday bulletin, or contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104 or linwms50@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

We are also in need of people to help with set up and clean up. Please let Linda know if you are able to assist.

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

Prayers for the New Year

Eternal God,
A thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night.
As you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always,
that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.
(*From the Book of Common Worship*)

Now that the mad rush is over,
O center of stillness and peace;
Now that the needles are falling from the tree,
We thank you that you are still God-with-us.
As we face the year ahead,
help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives;
help us to make the changes we must make;
bring us to new places of openness and love toward you
and the people around us;
help us to overcome the fears which keep us from fullness of life.
As the frigid days of January and February draw near
Help us to keep warm places alive within us,
where in secret
in the bulbs of springtime, tulips are nurtured.
As we face the year ahead,
we thank you for one another
and for your grace in Jesus Christ.
Help us individually and as a congregation
to be signs of your compassion,
hope, joy, and unity
in this world you love in Jesus
our Christ, Amen.
(*A Prayer by Ruth C. Duck*)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.
(*A Poem by Howard Thurman*)

Christmas Day Worship Service “Pajama Sunday”



David Jochen has been in the hospital and care center since September. To cheer him up, Pastor Stephen, Michael Morton, and Bruce Wolfinger recreated the towel attire that David (right) wore on Pajama Sunday in 2019!



2023 Puerto Rico Mission Trip. We are planning a mission trip to Puerto Rico this summer. The dates are July 22-29, 2023.

There will be a Mission Trip Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 8 for those who may be interested in the trip. The meeting will be held in the library after the worship service.

There are 12 spots available on the mission trip. We are asking for a \$50 deposit to reserve your place.

If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

Adult Lunch Group. In January and February, “Grazing with Grace,” the Adult Lunch Group, will meet on the first Thursday of the month.

The lunch group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 11:30 a.m. at the Brass Rail, 840 Belvidere Rd., Phillipsburg.

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

In 2022, our Adult Lunch Group, “Grazing for Grace,” collected and donated \$413 to the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

At their Christmas luncheon on Dec. 8, they collected \$200 and donated \$100 each to St. Jude Children’s Hospital and Shriners Hospitals for Children.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861, by Monday, Jan. 2, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.



Friday Morning Devotional Group. The Friday Morning Devotional Group will meet each Friday at 8:00 a.m. beginning Jan. 13. The group will meet in person in the library and on Zoom.

For our next study, we will read “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life,” by Richard Rohr.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Stephen know as soon as possible.



Timothy Hamlen passed away Saturday, Dec. 17. His funeral service was held on Thursday, Dec. 22.

Please keep his wife, Dawn, and all their family in your prayers.

"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

Undecorating Help Needed. We will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations in our sanctuary on Saturday, Jan. 7, at 9:00 a.m. Help is needed to assist with the "undecorating."

Please see Ed Ham or contact him at ehamjr99@gmail.com for more information.

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

Inclement Weather

If you are unsure if we will be worshipping on a Sunday when there is severe inclement weather, please call the church at 908-859-1399. There will be a special outgoing message if church is cancelled. You can also check the church Facebook page.



In addition, any closings or delays will be announced on www.wfmz.com and may be displayed on Channel 69 News.

Thank You from Pastor Stephen

"On behalf of me and my family, thank you once again for the very generous Christmas gift. Each year, we are truly blessed by the love and care and generosity of this congregation. Please know how appreciative we are."



ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY

- 1 Christine DeHaas
Susan Ham
- 3 Jim Clark
Joanne Gary
Ava Stecker
- 6 Darren Stoddart
- 7 Adrianna Villano
- 9 Nicole Ham
- 10 Pastor Jack & Linda Roan – Anniversary
- 11 Gracelyn Banghart
- 13 Vanessa Poremba
- 15 Laura Morris
- 16 Dale Alpaugh
Bill Nixon
- 20 Mason Villano
- 23 Savannah Loyle
Brandon Stecker
- 24 Sue Higginson
Anthony Sbriscia III
- 25 Nicole Viscomi-Bove
- 26 Norman Smith
- 27 James Melchore
- 28 Heidi Hawk
James and Judy Melchore –
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!

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," Jan./Feb. issue.
- "Our Daily Bread," large-print edition, Jan./Feb./March issue.

2023 Offering Envelopes. The 2023 Offering Envelopes are on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please contact the church office if you would like your envelopes mailed to you.

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, Jan. 1**. 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=WlQwMHByZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886



Per Capita Offering. Every Presbyterian church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly based on church membership.

The Per Capita apportionment for 2023 is \$42.50 per confirmed member.

Please prayerfully consider contributing your portion so that it does not come out of our General Fund Budget. Our church pays Per Capita for each of our members, regardless of whether or not you give.

There is an envelope for Per Capita in your 2023 offering envelope box.

To give Per Capita online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, General, and specify "Per Capita" in Notes.

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

In December, we donated 40 bags of food and toiletries.

In 2022, we donated a total of 366 bags of food and toiletries to the food pantry.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit, canned soup and stew, and canned potatoes and vegetables, as well as grocery bags.



Volunteers Needed. Catholic Charities is in need of volunteers to work in their food pantry and thrift shop. They are asking people to volunteer for one, 3-hour shift per week.

For more information or to volunteer, please call 908-859-5447.

Lehigh Valley Phantoms Game. Bill Nixon, US Navy Veteran, will be honored during "Hometown Hero Night" at the Lehigh Valley Phantoms game on Sunday, March 12. The Phantoms will be playing the Utica Comets (NJ Devils). The game starts at 4:05 pm at the PPL Center, 701 Hamilton St., Allentown, PA.

Tickets cost \$25 per person. To reserve tickets, make payment to LV FRA Branch 115, and send to Larry Roth, 706 Pembroke Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18018.

For more information, call or text Bill Nixon at 908-213-2800.

Church Officers, Class of 2025 (2023-2025)

These officers will be ordained and installed during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 29

Elders

Denise DeMasi has spent her whole life at the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. She has been active since a young child with Cherub Choir, Junior Choir, Sunday School, VBS, Youth Group, Senior Choir and Soloist, Christian Education Director, Elder, and Choir Director. Denise lives in Bethlehem, PA, with her husband, Scott. She has a daughter, Katie, a teacher, and a son, Anthony, a college senior. Denise is a retired Early Education teacher and taught in the Washington Borough School District for 32 years. She hopes to be teaching preschool soon in Pennsylvania. Denise enjoys traveling, reading, theater, singing at choral music events, and spending time with her family and friends.

Judy Melchore joined the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church in 2017 after the closure of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury. She and her husband Jim have lived in Bloomsbury for over 41 years. They have a daughter Jennifer, a son Jason, and 3 grandsons – Anthony, Nicholas, and Michael – all in college. Judy is a retired Registered Nurse. She ran a home child care for over 40 years. Many of those “babies” are still part of her life. Judy enjoys traveling, needlework, reading, their dog Thor, and her family – not necessarily in that order!

Bill Nixon, who lives in Lopatcong Township, served in the US Navy from 1967-1971. After teaching and working in education administration for 33 years, he retired as a Principal at Phillipsburg High School. Bill founded the Phillipsburg Area Veterans (veterans and military families support organization), created and founded the Phillipsburg Veterans Tribute, and created and founded the Veterans Rally Point and Memorial in Lopatcong Municipal Park. He has been married to his wife, Carol, for 54 years. They have 2 children, Tracy and Brian, 4 grandchildren, Madison, Brady, Nathaniel, and Tyler, and 2 cats, Addie and Ivy. Bill enjoys ice hockey and has been a volunteer youth and college coach. He has previously served as an Elder. Bill loves to do acts of kindness. Go Cubs! Go Devils!

Deacons

Ella Choi was confirmed as a member of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church in November 2020 and has been serving as a Deacon for the past year. She is a firm believer in God. Ella has been attending our church for 12 years, and she helps in the Nursery and in Sunday School. Ella is a junior at Phillipsburg High School, and she wants to be a doctor in the future. She enjoys being a member of our church, doing volunteer work, gymnastics, and spending time with her friends and family. Ella will be serving another one-year term as a Deacon.

James "Jim" Daniel Clark Jr. grew up in Warren County and graduated from Belvidere High School in 2004. He then attended Camden County Correctional Academy where he graduated with the Honored Graduate Award, and started as a corrections officer at Warren County Correctional Center in 2007. In 2008, Jim transferred to the New Jersey Department of Corrections and graduated from the state academy with the Academic Achievement Award. He is a senior corrections officer for the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Jim lives in Holland Township with his wife of 9 years, Janis, and their two children James "Jimbo" Clark III (6), and Adeline Clark (7). In his free time, Jim likes to go hunting, fishing, camping and hiking. Jim's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 5:15, "No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."

Melanie Loyle was raised on a dairy farm in Bloomsbury. She was of the Catholic faith prior to her marriage to her husband, Tim, in 1990, when she became a member of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. Melanie resides in the Belvidere area with Tim and their children who won't leave, Garrett, Victoria, and Merrick. She sports a butterfly tattoo in memory of their daughter, Kiersten, who passed away in 1993. She is also a grandmother to Savannah and CJ, Brandon's children. Melanie is a Certified Nurse Aide for Ennoble Care Hospice. She is a member of Stewartsville Grange #121. In her spare time and good weather, she enjoys trips on the Harley with Tim, and surf fishing with family in Delaware.

(Continued on page 7)

Deacons (continued)

Carol Nixon was born and raised in Lopatcong Township. She and her husband, Bill, have been married for 54 years. They have 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and 2 cats. Carol is retired from the Warren County Courthouse, Criminal Division. She has served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Phillipsburg Area Veterans since 1997. Carol assisted with the construction of the Veterans Rally Point and Memorial in the Lopatcong Municipal Park. She has previously served as an Elder and a Deacon. Carol enjoys cooking, baking, sewing, gardening, and photography. She is a Chicago Cubs and a New Jersey Devils fan. Carol loves doing acts of kindness.

Session Notes – December 19, 2022

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Linda Williams.
 - The following donations were made through the generous gift of a congregation member:
 - County College of Morris (ESL classes for Ukrainian Immigrants): \$1,000
 - Foundation for Peace (Help undocumented Haitians living in the Dominican Republic): \$1,000
 - UrbanPromise International (Plant 2 acres of corn in Malawi): \$1,000
 - The dates for next summer's Mission Trip to Puerto Rico have been changed to July 22-29.
 - Annual Reviews have been completed for all the church staff.
 - Pastor Stephen will be away on a Synod Leadership Retreat, January 8-11.
 - Upcoming Pulpit Supply
January 15: The Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje
 - Our next scheduled Session Meeting will be on Monday, January 23, 2023.
 - Treasurer's Report:
As of November 30, we have a year-to-date abundance of \$1,739 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.
-

Giving Tree Thank You. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Tree. Because of your generosity, we were able to fulfill gifts for 35 children from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency of Warren County (formerly DYFS).

Thank you also to those who donated money toward gift cards. We collected \$250, and were able to donate ten \$25 ShopRite gift cards to the families of the DCPD.

We received the following thank you note from Stephanie Lopez of the DCPD in response to our donations:

"We wish to extend a sincere thank you for your generous donation of gifts and gift cards. We provided gifts to a records amount of families this holiday season. All of your help was greatly appreciated and we could not have done it without your support."



Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be away on a Synod Retreat from the afternoon of Jan. 8 through Jan. 11.

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

Kathy Montgomery at 908-674-0654

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship with Holy Communion by Intinction 6 pm AA	2	3 7 pm Zumba Class	4 7 pm AA	5 7 pm Zumba Class	6 8 am Friday Devotional Group, Panera	7 9 am Undecorating the Sanctuary
8 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Pastor Stephen away at Synod Retreat from this afternoon through 1/11 6 pm AA	9 7 pm Deacons Meeting via Zoom	10 7 pm Zumba Class	11 7 pm AA	12 7 pm Zumba Class	13 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	14 10 am Samplemakers
15 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	16	17 7 pm Zumba Class	18 7 pm AA	19 7 pm Zumba Class	20 8 am Friday Devotional Group	21
22 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	23 7 pm Session Meeting	24 7 pm Zumba Class	25 7 pm AA	26 7 pm Zumba Class	27 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	28
29 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Ordination and Installation of Church Officers Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship Service Soup, Stew & Chili Lunch after Annual Meeting 6 pm AA	30	31 7 pm Zumba Class				