

**February 26, 2023**  
**10:30 AM Service of Worship**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**Ordination and Installation**

**Gathering Around the Word**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Judy Melchore

Leader: We do not live by bread alone,

**People: So we gather to feast on God's sustaining Word.**

Leader: We come at the Spirit's leading

**People: To offer ourselves in service to Christ.**

Leader: Come, find strength for the journey.

**People: Let us worship the Lord our God!**

\*HYMN #418

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,**

**We confess that we have sinned against you**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done,**

**and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you**

**with our whole heart and mind and strength.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,**

**help us amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be,**

**that we may delight in your will**

**and walk in your ways**

**to the glory of your holy name.**

\*SILENT CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE #437

*You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!*

***You are the Lord, giver of mercy!***

***You are the Christ, giver of mercy!***

***You are the Lord, giver of mercy!***

\*THE PASSING OF GOD'S LOVE AND PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all ... **And also with you.**

**Proclaiming the Word**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rosie England

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 9:9-15

p. 963

This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Love Was When*

Choir

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 6:16-18

p. 960

This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Why Fast?"

Pastor Stephen Choi

**Responding to the Word**

\*DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

**The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in people as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. But God's love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took on judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.**

(Adapted from 9.12, 9.14)

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

\*HYMN #757

*Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples*

MOMENT FOR MISSION

County College of Morris

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Fred Gary

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Bearing and Following the Word**

\*HYMN #822

*When We Are Living*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE

*Jesus, Be with Us*

*Jesus, be with us. Help us each day  
To follow the gospel and live as we pray.  
Send us your Spirit and show us your way.  
Jesus, be with us today.*

\*POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if able

**Stewartsville Presbyterian Church**

**The Ministers: All the Members**

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor

Brian Ballentine, Music Director

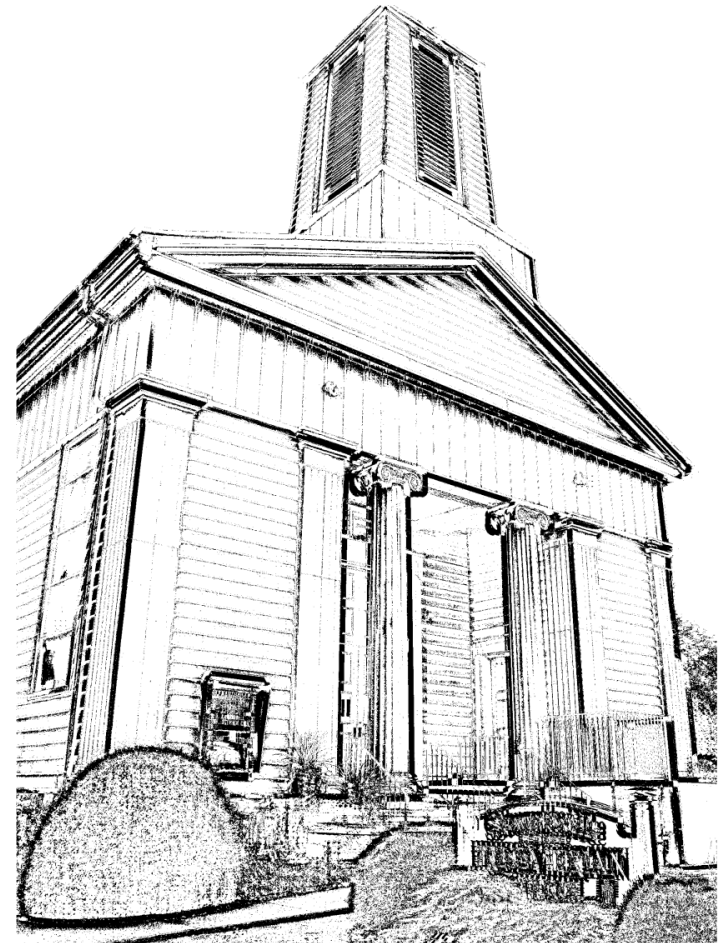
Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

Renée Herb, Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary, Treasurer

# STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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### **OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY**

<b>Assisting in Worship Today</b>	Judy Melchore
<b>Greeter Today</b>	Don and Louisa Miers
<b>Broadcast Team</b>	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
<b>Nursery Today</b>	Ella Choi and Janis Clark
<b>Hosting Time for Fellowship</b>	Bruce and Terry Wolfinger

### **Week Ahead at Stewartville Presbyterian Church**

**Today, 2/26:** Time for Fellowship after Worship Service, Roan Hall  
AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Monday, 2/27:** Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library

**Tuesday, 2/28:** Zumba Class, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Wednesday, 3/1:** Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library  
AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Thursday, 3/2:** Zumba Class, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Friday, 3/3:** Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library

**Sunday, 3/5:** Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.

Worship Service with Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m.

AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

### **This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Today, 2/26:** Peggy Smith

Garrett Loyle

**Monday, 2/27:** James Ballentine

Ken & Lora Piotrowsky – Anniversary

**Wednesday, 3/1:** Jessica Cantagallo-Rohm

Tim Loyle

### **Announcements**

**Welcome.** Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We invite you to sign the pew pad as they are being passed. Restrooms are located downstairs in Roan Hall. We hope that the service is a blessing to you, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

**Time for Fellowship.** Please join us for Time for Fellowship after our worship service today in Roan Hall. This is an informal time where we can share refreshments and conversations with one another.

### **Announcements (continued)**

**Adult Lunch Group.** “Grazing with Grace,” the Adult Lunch Group, will meet on Thursday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Williams Family Restaurant, 3630 William Penn Highway, Easton, PA.

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

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861, by Monday, March 6, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.

**Deacons’ Offering.** During the month of March, we will receive 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, go to the church website ([stewartsvillepc.org](http://stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Deacons.

**One Great Hour of Sharing.** The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering through Easter, April 9.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A special envelope is in your 2023 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting “OGHS” on the memo line.

For online giving, go to the church website ([stewartsvillepc.org](http://stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Special, and specify OGHS in Notes.

**Earthquake Relief Donation.** In the wake of the catastrophic impacts from the recent earthquakes in Syria and Turkey, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is providing emergency relief in the affected areas.

If you would like to make a donation to PDA to help those affected, from emergency needs through the long-term recovery phase, please give directly to the church, noting “PDA” on your check.

For online giving, go to the church website ([stewartsvillepc.org](http://stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Special, and specify PDA in Notes.

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

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.

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

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, snacks for children, side dishes, and canned stew, as well as grocery bags.

**Devotionals.** The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary:

- “Our Daily Bread,” March/April/May issue.
- “Today,” March/April issue.
- “Our Daily Bread,” large-print edition, Jan./Feb./March issue.

**Pray for This Week’s Mission Partner: 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.