

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

February 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, Feb. 5.**

Please see page 3 for information on Zoom link.



Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, Feb. 22.

The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
by Intinction.

We will also be offering **“Drive Thru” Imposition of Ashes** from
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, and from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Drive up to the blue office door on the side of the Christian Education Wing, and Pastor Stephen will
administer ashes.

If Pastor Stephen is not outside when you drive up, please call or text him at 717-599-6083.

Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting canned soup and cash donations
for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Since 1990, the offering has generated more than \$170 million in dollars and food
for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities in communities across the
country.

Monetary donations will go to the NORWESCAP Food Bank, and donations of canned soup will go to
the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Phillipsburg.

If you would like to donate online, please go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give
Now, Special, and specify “Souper Bowl” in Notes.



Simplifying vs. Fasting

Traditionally, Christian fasting has meant abstaining from food, either on a particular day of the week or for the whole season of Lent. Over time, Christians have expanded on the idea of fasting from food to include fasting in other ways, such as giving up sugar or screen time.

The Rev. Traci Smith in her book “Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, & Resurrection,” offers a slightly different approach by encouraging **simplifying over fasting**. Instead of focusing on what is being given up or taken away, the focus of these practices is on what is added or appreciated.

Here are some examples she gives:

Instead of: Giving up screens and reducing screen time

Try: Heading outside

Lenten challenge for heading outside: How many hours can you log outside this Lent?

Instead of: Giving up sugary drinks

Try: Drinking water

Lenten challenge for drinking water: How many days can you drink water with your meals instead of something different?

Instead of: Giving up meat

Try: Enjoying more fruits and vegetables

Lenten challenge for enjoying fruits and vegetables: How many different preparations or types of fruits and vegetables can you try this Lent?

Instead of: Giving up shopping or spending

Try: Making something you would normally buy

Lenten challenge for making something you would normally buy: Can you make 5 things you would normally buy this Lent?

Instead of: Giving up negative talk

Try: Focusing on complimenting others

Lenten challenge for focusing on complimenting others: Can you compliment 3 people per day during Lent?

Instead of: Giving up social media and internet scrolling or games

Try: Reading books or listening to audiobooks

Lenten challenge for reading more books: How many books can you read this Lent?

A Prayer for Simplifying

Lord, when many things compete for my attention,
help me to focus on one thing at a time.

When things are messy in my space or in my mind,
help me to be gentle with myself,
as I sift through and keep only what is needed.

Amen.

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, Feb. 5.** 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 Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," the Adult Lunch Group, will next 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.

We had 23 people attend our January luncheon, and we collected \$35 for the 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.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Friday, Feb. 24, at 6:00 p.m. at Acasia Thai Restaurant, St. Luke's Hillcrest Plaza, 755 Memorial Parkway, Phillipsburg.

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.

The Women's Circle Report was omitted from the 2022 Annual Report. Following is the full report:

2022 WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Our Women's Circle started back up after a break for the pandemic with a small group of ladies that needed and wanted to gather together.

We meet at different local restaurants for a good meal, conversation and fellowship. We have great discussions about our lives, and we encourage and support each other.

Our little group is growing, and we welcome all women to join us.

We meet on the fourth Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. The restaurant we choose differs from month to month. We always have an enjoyable time and would love to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Williams, Chairperson



TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

New Member. On Sunday, Jan. 22, we welcomed **Jacqueline File** as our newest member to the life and ministry of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.



Shirley Nann passed away Sunday, Jan. 8. Her funeral service was held Friday, Jan. 13. Please keep Shirley's 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

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 10 and Friday, Feb. 24, 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing. The "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering from Sunday, Feb. 26, 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. If you are giving online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and then OGHS.



FEBRUARY

- 3 Louisa Miers
- 4 Don & Louisa Miers – Anniversary
- 5 Crystal Schnell
- 7 Mary Lou Gary
Kenneth Piotrowsky
- 10 Robert & Barbara Hurte – Anniversary
- 13 Morgan Banghart
Alan & MaryLou Deak – Anniversary
- 18 Betty Patton
Jaelyne Rosario
Bob & Laura Morris – Anniversary
- 19 Alice Jessen
- 20 Rodney Rountree
- 21 Bessie Sinclair
- 24 Bill & Carol Nixon – Anniversary
- 26 Peggy Smith
Garrett Loyle
- 27 James Ballentine
Ken & Lora Piotrowsky – 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!

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 p.m. 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.

The deadline to purchase tickets is Feb. 12. For more information, call or text Bill Nixon at 908-213-2800.



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

In January, we donated 40 bags and 4 boxes of food and toiletries.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of jelly, condiments, snacks for children, canned fruit, and soup, as well as grocery bags.

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. The total cost is \$450. Scholarships are available for those who need assistance.

If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



Session Notes – January 23, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Jon Cantagallo-Rohm.
- In 2022, 118 “Praying for You Letters” were mailed to members and friends of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. In addition, 8 “Welcome Letters” were mailed to visitors.
- On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will offer “drive-thru” ashes during the day and an Ash Wednesday Service in the evening.
- The Session prayerfully agreed to match a \$2,000 gift a congregation member has made to support Ukrainian immigrants learn English through the County College of Morris.
- Due to a lack of Boy Scout enrollment, Boy Scout Troop 61 did not seek to be re-chartered and will no longer meet at the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.
- Beginning in February, Deacons meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month.
- The Synod of the Northeast’s Transitional Leader, the Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley, will be visiting the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church and preaching on Sunday, February 19.
- Kathy Montgomery was reelected as Moderator/President of the Corporation of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church for 2023.
- Cindy Bowman was reelected as Clerk of Session for 2023.
- Mary Lou Gary was reelected as Treasurer for 2023.
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2023.
- Treasurer’s Report:
We ended the 2022 year with a surplus of \$3.79 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.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
			1 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	2 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Applebee's 7 pm Zumba Class	3 8 am Friday Devotional Group	4
5 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	6	7 7 pm Zumba Class	8 7 pm AA	9	10 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	11 10 am Samplmakers
12 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Ordination and Installation of Officer 6 pm AA	13	14 7 pm Zumba Class	15 7 pm AA	16 7 pm Zumba Class	17 8 am Friday Devotional Group	18
19 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	20 Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day	21 7 pm Zumba Class	22 Ash Wednesday 10 am -12 Noon Drive-Thru Ashes 3-5 pm Drive Thru Ashes 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes and Communion by Intinction	23 7 pm Zumba Class	24 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 6 pm Women's Circle, Acasia Thai Restaurant	25
26 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	27 7 pm Session Meeting	28 7 pm Zumba Class				