

March 26, 2023
10:30 AM Service of Worship
5th Sunday in Lent

Gathering Around the Word

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Montgomery

Leader: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

People: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Leader: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

People: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

Leader: If you have, then you are in the right place,
for this is God's house. Hope lives here.

People: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

*HYMN #393

O Day of Rest and Gladness

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy God,

We have set our minds on wrong things –

**People: on selfish gain, not generous service;
on pursuits that distract, not inspire;
on tasks that diminish, rather than give life.**

Leader: We long to set our minds on eternal things –

**People: on your way of mercy and compassion;
on paths that lead to justice and peace;
on living as people of hope.**

Leader: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

**People: Give us grace when we fall short,
transform our hearts and renew our minds,
and set us free to follow you faithfully.**

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE #555

O Lamb of God

***O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.***

*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

HYMN #414 (Insert)

Be Still and Know That I Am God

FIRST LESSON

John 11:1-27

p. 1063-1064

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

ANTHEM

I Know He's Mine

Choir

SECOND LESSON

John 11:28-45

p. 1064

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Life Matters"

Pastor Stephen Choi

Responding to the Word

*DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Confession of 1967

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work. (Adapted from 9.09)

*HYMN #53

O God, Who Gives Us Life

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

Bruce Wolfinger

*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 #286

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #543

O Christ, Surround Me

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand if able

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan, Pastor Emeritus

Brian Ballentine, Music Director

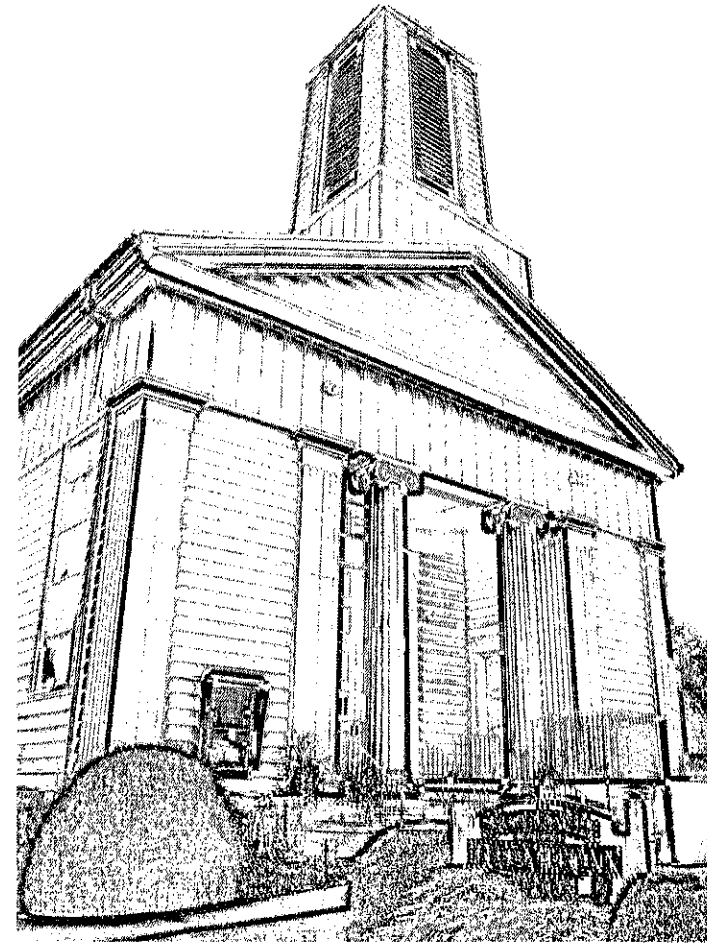
Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

Renée Herb, Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary, Treasurer

STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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908-859-1399

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PRAYER LIST OF THE CONGREGATION

(as of March 23, 2023)

Piatt/Evanoski Family	Mimi John G.	Lindsey C. Nicholas C.
Jackie F.	Baby Violet	Romeo B.
Bob M.	Jeanne M.	Brandon L.
Gonda Family	Vicki N.	Ann S.
Rich B.	Maurice	Don & Roberta F.
Nuss Family	Loren	Vanessa P.
Zarnowski Family	Ron	Rodney R.
Nikki A.	Esther S.	John W.
Ray & Jo G.	Bradbury Family	David & Carole J.
Helen & Family	Laura C.	Ben W.
People of Haiti	Ryder H.	Steven M.
Sue H.	Barbara Y.	Joanne G.
Jayne J.	Angela A.	Jeffrey G.
Warner/Gary Family	Heinrich Family	Randy W.
Elsie F.	Gina R.	Michaela W.
Tom M.	Griffin Family	Bobbi P.
Suzanne S.	MacKintosh B.	Betty N.
Dan W.	Darren S.	Kevin O.
	Michael M.	Renée's Parents

**Pray for Those Most Affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic
Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters
Justice and Peace**

This Week's Mission Partner: Catholic Charities Food Pantry

To submit a prayer request, please contact the church office at
908-859-1399 or office@stewartsvillepc.org

OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

Assisting in Worship Today	Kathy Montgomery
Greeter Today	Beverly Ferguson
Broadcast Team	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
Nursery Today	Janis Clark and Nancy Sampson
Hosting Time for Fellowship	Bill and Carol Nixon

Week Ahead at Stewartville Presbyterian Church

Today, 3/26: Time for Fellowship after Worship Service, Roan Hall
Deacons Chapel Service, 2:00 p.m., Lopatcong Care Center
AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Monday, 3/27: Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library

Wednesday, 3/29: AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Friday, 3/31: Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library
Women's Circle, 5:00 p.m., Washington Diner

Sunday, 4/2: Palm Sunday

Pony Rides, Miniature Donkey, Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 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, 3/26: Brian & Shannon Ballentine – Anniversary

Monday, 3/27: Susan Marek

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 2. We will have pony rides and a miniature donkey at 9:30 a.m. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt. Children should bring their own baskets.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated with Holy Communion during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Good Friday, April 7. We will gather for a soup dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Roan Hall. The meal will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. If you plan to attend, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, April 9. We will celebrate Easter during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be no Sunday School. The Nursery will be open, but not staffed.

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.

With Sympathy. Robert “Bob” Piatt passed away Saturday, March 18. Bob was Carol Evanoski’s brother.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Please keep Carol, Bud, and their family and friends 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

Easter Flowers. Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for information on ordering Easter flowers. We are offering daffodils and tulips. The deadline to order flowers is TODAY, March 26.

Women’s Circle. The Women’s Circle will meet this Friday, March 31, at 5:00 p.m. at the Washington Diner in Washington. After dinner, we will go to Warren Hills Regional High School to see their production of the musical “Anastasia.”

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.

Adult Lunch Group. “Grazing with Grace,” the Adult Lunch Group, will meet on Thursday, April 13, at 11:30 a.m. at Annabel’s Italian Restaurant (formerly Marianna’s), 224 Stockton St., Phillipsburg. 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, April 10, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.

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 canned mixed vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, microwave cake mixes, and juice boxes, as well as grocery bags.

Deacons’ Offering. During the month of March, we are receiving 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), Give Now, Deacons.

One Great Hour of Sharing. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering is being received throughout Lent and Easter. We are receiving this offering through Easter Sunday, April 9.

Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for more information.

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), Give Now, Special, and specify “OGHS” 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 total spots available on the mission trip. We are asking for a \$50 deposit to reserve your place. Spots are filling up quickly. If you have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

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, April/May/June issue.

Pray for This Week’s Mission Partner: Catholic Charities Food Pantry. The Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Phillipsburg is a safety net to individuals and families with limited resources who search for the everyday means of sustenance – food. The food pantry is the largest in Warren County, servicing more than 1,000 households. The food pantry maintains an inventory of the recommended dietary nutrients of grains, vegetables, fruits, dairy and protein products. We donate food and toiletries to Catholic Charities through our collection each month.