

The Stewartsville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church
550 North Main Street, Stewartsville, NJ 08886
908-859-1399

www.stewartsvillepc.org

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Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

March 2023

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

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary – Treasurer

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, March 5.**

Please see page 3 for information on Zoom link.

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.

We had 26 people attend our February luncheon, and we collected \$40 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.



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 after the worship service on Sunday, March 19.

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.

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, please go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Deacons.

Moment for Mission: County College of Morris ESL Classes

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Khrystyna Sloan, a student at County College of Morris (CCM), found herself frightened, horrified and depressed over what was happening to the people in her home country.

Meanwhile in Ukraine, Viktoriia Zolotarova found her region the site of massive missile attacks that destroyed the area's electrical, gas, water and communications systems, along with hospitals, schools, banks, bridges, and her home.

"Rockets, bombs from planes, including banned phosphorus bombs . . . all this rained down from the sky nonstop," Viktoriia recalled, communicating with the assistance of a translator.

Hearing of such atrocities, Khrystyna, who had left Ukraine at age 22, made a decision. "I could either remain depressed or focus on positivity," she says. Her answer was to serve as a volunteer at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) in Whippany. There she has helped organize fundraisers and collections to send an ambulance, bus, clothes, toys, diapers, and other essential items to the people of Ukraine, an ongoing effort. To help those who had fled the country as refugees, she became part of a group that approached CCM about providing free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at UACCNJ, so parents can learn while their children participate in other activities.

Irena Kaler, director of Workforce Development and Community Partnerships at CCM, initially expected about 20 students would enroll for the classes – beginners and intermediate – that began in November. They ended up with more than double that amount, requiring opening another session of each class.

"The classes offered by CCM are a huge help for me and others," says Viktoriia, who while in Ukraine was the director of Europe's largest insurance group and is now a part-time cashier at Dollar General. "This is a huge help to Ukrainian refugees who were left without a home and whose lives were shattered to pieces."

She adds, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to study for free because at the moment I earn no more than \$700 a month and cannot pay for my studies, and I need English like air."

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has been able to help. Thus far, as a church, we have donated \$4,000 to cover the cost of instructors and textbooks. (A single textbook costs \$30 to purchase.)

Irena Kaler visited Stewartsville Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 26 to thank the congregation for our support and to share an update. She remarked that as more Ukrainian refugees come into the area, the demand will grow, and those in the beginner-level classes will also need to continue to advance.

Viktoriia, who holds degrees in chemical engineering and banking from Ukraine, has no plans to return to her home country. Her hope now is to rebuild her life in the U.S. "My home and region are completely destroyed. Only ruins remain. Now I am building my life in the USA from scratch."

Let us continue to keep all the people of Ukraine in our hearts and prayers. And if you are moved to make a donation, please give to the church noting "ESL Classes" on your check or online gift.

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, March 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



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

In February, we donated 21 bags of food and toiletries.

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.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Friday, March 31, at 6:00 p.m. at Annabel's Italian Restaurant (formerly Marianna's), 224 Stockton St., 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.

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 Sunday, 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 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 (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and specify "PDA" in Notes.



College Care Packages.

We would like to stay in touch with our college students! The Deacons will send care packages to college and graduate students in April, and we do not want to miss anyone.

Please e-mail the church office at with the mailing address of your student by Friday, March 31.



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

Souper Bowl of Caring. On Sunday, Feb. 12, we received \$115 and 59 cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring offering. Thank you for your generosity!

The money was donated to the NORWESCAP Food Bank, and the soup was donated to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

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

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

Girl Scout Cookies. The Brownie Troop will be selling Girl Scout Cookies during Time for Fellowship on Sunday, March 12.

They will have a variety of cookies, which sell for \$5-\$6 per box.



MARCH

- 1 Jessica Cantagallo-Rohm
Tim Loyle
- 5 Braden Ham
- 6 Deborah Johnson
- 7 Colleen Colucci
John & Ana Wagner – Anniversary
- 10 Jacob DeHaas
- 11 Carol Nixon
- 12 Don Fohr
- 13 Kathryn "Sis" Nuss
- 14 Barbara Hurte
- 15 Melanie Loyle
- 25 Shane Stecker
- 26 Brian & Shannon Ballentine –
Anniversary
- 27 Susan Marek

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!

Daylight Saving Time.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12.

Don't forget to set your clocks one hour AHEAD or you will be late for church!



Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be on vacation from Monday, March 6 through Sunday, March 12.

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

Bill Nixon at 908-319-2800



Pastor Stephen was featured on a recent episode of the PC(USA) Podcast “Along the Road,” a podcast on faith and leadership.

Pastor Stephen was interviewed for the episode "Nourish: Spiritual Practice of Hiking." He speaks on his hiking adventures, the photos he takes, and the spiritual nourishment he gains on the trail.

Here's the link to the website:

<https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/mid-council-ministries/podcast-along-the-road/>



Art Show

Art Exhibition. Rosie England will be having an Art Exhibition on Friday, March 10, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Pappion & Company, 418 Main St., Metuchen, NJ.

The show is a collection of Rosie’s pieces illustrating how she sees the world with vision in just one eye (monovision).

Some of her work can also be found on Instagram at “monovision art2023.”

Everyone is welcome to come to the exhibition. For more information, contact Rosie at 908-892-0184.

Easter Flower Order Form

We are offering a choice of assorted colors of Daffodils or Tulips.

Please specify which flower you are ordering.

Please order _____ Daffodils.

Please order _____ Tulips.

All flowers are \$5.00 per 6” potted plant.

(Cash or checks payable to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church, with “Easter Flowers” on the memo line.)

Total due \$_____

The deadline for orders is Sunday, MARCH 26th

Name _____

Please write your name as you wish it to appear in the dedication in the bulletin.

Phone Number _____

In Memory Of: _____

OR

In Honor Of: _____

___ Please deliver the plant to a member or friend of the congregation.

___ I will pick up the plant after the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Session Notes – February 27, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Janis Clark.
- We welcomed new elders: Judy Melchore and Bill Nixon.
- The session granted permission to pursue a partnership with a church in Cuba that has reached out to Pastor Stephen.
- We will be conducting an open search for the church treasurer position. Mary Lou Gary, our long-time treasurer, has notified the session that she would like to retire sometime in the near future.
- Jon Cantagallo-Rohm and Brad Fry will serve as the session representatives on the Nominating Committee; Nancy Sampson will serve as the deacon representative on the Nominating Committee.
- Approval was given for the baptism of Wyatt Em, grandson of Michael and Denice Morton.
- Approval was given to the Brownie Troop that used to meet at our church to sell Girl Scout Cookies in Roan Hall during Time for Fellowship on Sunday, March 12.
- We will have a soup dinner on Good Friday, April 7 beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Our Good Friday Service is at 7:30 p.m.)
- We will once again have a donkey and pony rides on Palm Sunday, April 2.
- The Zumba Class, which has been meeting at our church, has found a new location. They will stop holding classes in Roan Hall by the end of March.
- Pastor Stephen will be on vacation March 6-12.
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, March 27.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of January 31, we have a year-to-date surplus of \$472 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.



Palm Sunday, April 2: There will be pony rides for children and a donkey at 9:30 a.m. We will celebrate Holy Communion during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Good Friday, April 7: We will have a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. in Roan Hall. The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Easter, April 9: Worship Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. There is no Sunday School on Easter.

Gettysburg Bus Trip. The Lehigh Valley Fleet Reserve Association Black Diamond Branch 115 will be sponsoring a one-day bus trip to Gettysburg, PA, on Monday, June 5.

The trip includes a 2-hour guided battlefield tour, lunch, and museums.

The cost is \$90 plus a tip for the bus driver. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, April 26.

For more information, please contact Bill Nixon at 908-319-2800 or bnixon708@gmail.com.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	2 7 pm Zumba Class	3 8 am Friday Devotional Group	
5 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	6 Pastor Stephen on Vacation through Sunday, 3/12	7 7 pm Zumba Class	8 7 pm AA	9 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Williams Family Restaurant 7 pm Grange	10 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	11 10 am Samplmakers
12 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship and Girl Scout Cookie Sale after Worship Service 6 pm AA	13	14 7 pm Zumba Class	15 7 pm AA	16 7 pm Zumba Class	17 8 am Friday Devotional Group	
19 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Mission Trip Meeting after Worship Service 6 pm AA	20	21 7 pm Zumba Class	22 7 pm AA	23 7 pm Zumba Class	24 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	25
26 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 2 pm Deacons Chapel Service, Lopatcong Care Center 6 pm AA	27 7 pm Session Meeting	28	29 7 pm AA	30	31 8 am Friday Devotional Group 6 pm Women's Circle, Annabel's Italian Restaurant	