

# The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church  
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## July/August 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

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**We are on our Summer Worship Schedule with Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Communion will be celebrated during the**  
**Worship Service on Sunday, July 2, and Sunday, Aug. 6.**  
**Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.**

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**Mission Trip.** Our Mission Trip to Puerto Rico will take place from Saturday, July 22 through Saturday, July 29.

We will be working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, staying in San Juan. Techos Pa' Mi Gente is the work partner organization that will lead our project.

Please keep in prayer our mission trip participants: Pastor Stephen, Pam Alercia, Ella Choi, Marsha Colaluce, Carol Evanowski, Kathy Montgomery, Michael Morton, Nancy Sampson, Paul Williams, and Newal Duncan, a friend of the congregation.

Please join us for Mission Trip Sunday on Sunday, July 30. The mission trip participants will share their experiences from their week working in Puerto Rico at the 10:00 a.m. worship service.



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**Elders on Call.** Pastor Stephen will be participating in Trek Malawi, a 300-mile bicycle ride through Malawi, from July 5 through July 19.

He will also be going on the church mission trip to Puerto Rico from July 22 to July 29.

Pastor Stephen will be on vacation from Aug. 15 to Aug. 22.

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

July 5-19: Cindy Bowman at 908-619-8697

July 22-29: Bill Nixon at 908-319-2800

Aug. 15-22: Fred Gary at 908-454-6311

## **Kiva Microfinance Loans: Loans that Change Lives**

Kiva is a non-profit organization with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. By using the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create better opportunities for people living around the world. By providing safe and affordable access to capital to those in need, the belief is that people can create better lives for themselves and for their families.

Microfinance is a general term used to describe financial services to low-income individuals or to those who do not have access to typical banking services, like we do here in the United States. Through microfinance, the hope is that low-income individuals would be able to lift themselves out of poverty if given access to financial services. By working with microfinance institutions on five continents, Kiva is one way you can lend directly to a person living in a different country and help that person make a better life for themselves and for their families.

Since Kiva was founded in 2005, more than \$1.9 billion in loans have been made by 2.2 million lenders with a repayment rate of 96.4%!

In March 2012, our church made our first 5 loans to individuals living in Benin, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, and Senegal.

As of today, 11 years later, Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has made 470 loans totaling \$12,075 to people living in 85 different countries. We were able to do this with less than \$2,500. As we have been repaid, we have been able to make new loans.

To learn more about Kiva, I encourage you to visit their website, [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org), and perhaps consider making a loan for yourself. (Again, this is not a donation, because 96% of the time you will be repaid.)

By lending as little as \$25, you can help a borrower start or grow a business, go to school, access clean energy, or realize their potential. For some, it's a matter of survival. For others, it's the fuel for a life-long ambition.

Also, to read more about those who received the loans we have made as a church, you can either speak with me or go to this webpage: [www.kiva.org/lender/stephen7259](http://www.kiva.org/lender/stephen7259)

Kiva reminds me that we live in an amazing time, where we can help a person or a family in need, as far away as Africa, Asia and even the Middle East with just \$25 and a few clicks on the internet.

Grace, Peace, and Happy Lending,  
Pastor Stephen

*For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,  
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
Galatians 5:14*

## **LUNCH FOR THE FIRTH YOUTH CENTER**

The Firth Youth Center in Phillipsburg requested donations for their summer camp program, due to a 6-day gap in funding for lunches.

Not only did our church make a \$1,000 donation, our Deacons went to the Firth Youth Center 2 times during those 6 days and prepared lunches!



Pastor Stephen, Ella Choi, and Bud and Carol Evanoski prepared lunches at the Firth Youth Center.



Ella and all of the lunches they prepared.

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## **IRON PIGS GAME**

On Friday, June 16, many members and friends of our congregation attended the IronPigs baseball game at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. Although the IronPigs ultimately lost, we had excellent seats and everyone had a wonderful time!



Bill and Carol Nixon. Many thanks to Bill for organizing this event!



Dorene Kopesky, Cindy Bowman, and Catie, Ellie and Justin Jewell.

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

In June, we donated 10 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of peanut butter and jelly, pasta sauce, condiments, Hamburger Helper, and canned fruit, as well as grocery bags.

## JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

### JULY

1	John Dobrowski
	Debbie Riley
	Mary Jean "G.G." Schriever
3	Mabel Cook
4	Roseann Rohm
5	Jackie Lubinski
6	Scott Piotrowsky
14	Edward Ham
	Michael Morton
	Michael & Denise Morton – Anniversary
15	Rodney & Colleen Rountree – Anniversary
16	Bill Fleming
17	Richard & Sue Higginson – Anniversary
	Jeff & Esther Schoeneberger – Anniversary
18	Anthony Sbriscia IV
20	Bob & Nancy Sampson – Anniversary
21	Kurt Schriever
23	David Jochen
28	Roberta Fohr
29	Debbie Smith
30	Jacob Banghart
	James & Phyllis Ballentine – Anniversary



**Darryn Nuss** passed away suddenly on Wednesday, June 14. His funeral service was held on Thursday, June 22.

Please keep his wife Barbara, their children, and his mother, Sis Nuss, in your prayers.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our sorrows, so that we can comfort others in their sorrow, with the consolation we have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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

We will receive new members in September.

### AUGUST

2	Lynn Alpaugh
3	Sue Gruver
5	James Bowman Sr.
8	Paul Williams
10	Evan Fry
12	Norman & Peggy Smith – Anniversary
14	Laura Albert
	Romeo Baker
	Dave Marek
	Justin Marek
	Fred & Mary Lou Gary – Anniversary
15	Walt Patton
	Mary Sampson
	Jacob & Morgan Banghart – Anniversary
16	Jon & Jessica Cantagallo-Rohm – Anniversary
17	Kay Piperato
21	Dave Barretto
	Don Miers
	Gerry & Karen Crouse – Anniversary
23	Brandon Loyle
24	Bella Colucci Keller
	Bob Sampson
	David & Carole Jochen – Anniversary
	Paul & Linda Williams – Anniversary
25	Rosie England
	Samuel Hurte
26	James "Jimbo" Clark III
29	Matias Wagner
	Bob & Lorlyn Heinrich – Anniversary
30	Rich Higginson
	Amanda Hodge
	Colleen Rountree
31	Joan Hart

**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](mailto:office@stewartsvillepc.org)  
We don't want to miss your special day!

**Time for Fellowship.** Time for Fellowship will be taking a break for the month of July. Fellowship will return for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of August, Aug. 13 and Aug. 27. Time for Fellowship is an informal time after the worship service where we can share refreshments and conversations with one another.



## **SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP**

We are on our Summer Worship Schedule. The Zoom worship service is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live from the sanctuary during the in-person worship service.

The Summer Worship Schedule will run through Sunday, Sept. 3.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, July 2** and **Sunday, Aug. 6**. 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](mailto: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.

### **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**

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**Adult Lunch Group.** Following is the July/August schedule for “Grazing with Grace,” the Adult Lunch Group:

On Thursday, July 13, we will meet at 11:30 a.m. at Tic-Toc Family Restaurant, 2510 Northampton St., Easton, PA.

In August, our luncheon will be held on Thursday, Aug. 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the Palace Restaurant, 3250 Easton Ave., Bethlehem, PA.

We are encouraging participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheons to donate to NORWESCAP Food Bank.

We had 20 people attend our June luncheon, and we collected \$31 for the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheons, please call Louisa Miers

at 908-763-3861, by Monday, July 10 for the July lunch, and by Monday, Aug. 7 for the August lunch, to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.



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**Summer Singing.** All men of the church are asked to join us during the 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Aug. 13, for the annual singing of “How Great Thou Art.” This is a summer tradition, and we look forward to the men’s enthusiastic participation.

On Sunday, Aug. 27, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, all women of the church will be invited to come forward and join in singing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” No experience or rehearsal is necessary – please join us in lifting our voices to the Lord!

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**Women’s Circle.** The Women’s Circle will meet on Friday, July 28, at 6:00 p.m. at the Cherry Hill Hotel, 442 Bushkill Center Road, Nazareth, PA.

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.

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**Summer Offering.** Please remember the church during the summer months.

If you are on vacation, please consider mailing your offering to the church office, or contributing online while you are away ([www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now).

**Deacons' Offering.** During the month of August, 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](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Deacons.



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**Thank You Note.** The Adult Lunch Group received the following thank you note from the NORWESCAP Food Bank, in response to their collection at their monthly luncheons from January to June 2023:

"On behalf of everyone at NORWESCAP, thank you for your kind contribution of \$218 to support our mission and work. Your generosity allows us to do so much for our neighbors. Thank you so much for your generous support."

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**Collection for Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley.** Thank you to everyone who generously donated toiletry items for the clients of Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Carol and Bud Evanoski delivered the items on Monday, June 26.

Here are the totals of what we donated: 31 tubes of toothpaste; 43 toothbrushes; 62 packages of wet wipes; 177 bars of soap; 6 bottles of hand sanitizer; and 2 bottles of shampoo.

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### Session Notes – June 19, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Linda Williams.
- Summer Pulpit Supply Schedule:
  - July 9: Lisa Gray
  - July 16: Bisi Shofu
  - July 23: Laura Choi
  - August 20: The Rev. Byron Leasure
- The session prayerfully approved a \$1,500 donation to a local family in need.
- Our Deacons volunteered at the Firth Youth Center by preparing lunches for summer campers on June 14 and 19.
- Our next Blood Drive has been scheduled for Sunday, September 17 at the church.
- The church parking lot will be repaired the first 2 weeks in August. (We will still have use of the parking lot on Sunday mornings. Parking for Sunday worship will not be affected.)
- Pastor Stephen will be on vacation August 15-22 and October 17-24.
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, August 28.
- Treasurer's Report:  
As of May 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$223 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.



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**Blood Drive.** We will be sponsoring a Blood Drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, Sept. 17 at the church.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or e-mail her at [cmbowman1023@gmail.com](mailto:cmbowman1023@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion  6 pm AA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  Pastor Stephen on Trek Malawi through July 19  7 pm AA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  10 am Samplemakers
<b>9</b> 10 am Worship Service  6 pm AA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  7 pm AA	<b>13</b>  11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Tic-Toc Family Restaurant	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10 am Worship Service  6 pm AA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  7 pm AA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  9:30 am Fiber Arts	<b>22</b>  Church Mission Trip to Puerto Rico through 7/29
<b>23</b> 10 am Worship Service  6 pm AA	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  7 pm AA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6 pm Women's Circle, Cherry Hill Hotel	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Mission Trip Sunday 10 am Worship Service  6 pm AA	<b>31</b>					

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2  7 pm, Deacons Meeting  7 pm AA	3	4	5
6 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion  6 pm AA	7	8	9  7 pm AA	10  11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Palace Restaurant	11	12  10 am Samplemakers
13 10 am Worship Service Men of the Church Sing Time for Fellowship after Worship Service  6 pm AA	14	15  Pastor Stephen on Vacation through 8/22	16  7 pm AA	17	18  9:30 am Fiber Arts	19
20 10 am Worship Service  6 pm AA	21	22	23  7 pm AA	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship Service Women of the Church Sing Time for Fellowship after Worship Service  6 pm AA	28  7 pm Session Meeting	29	30  7 pm AA	31		