

# The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church  
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908-859-1399

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## September 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 will return to our **Regular Worship Schedule on Sunday, Sept. 10:**

Sunday School at 9:20 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during the  
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 10

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link



### Welcome Back to Sunday School! We've missed you!

Join us for Rally Day on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 9:20 a.m. for Welcome Back fun and games. We'll all meet in the Pre-K/K classroom.

We will continue to use the Mini Revolutions Curriculum by Illustrated Ministries. They create a monthly curriculum that matches the lectionary that Pastor Stephen often preaches from, so children and grownups can hear from the same stories together.

We're excited to spend this year with you learning about God, God's Word, and having fun together!

This year, our Sunday School Team will be Ms. Carol, Ms. Janis, Ms. Laura, and Ms. Lisa.

Adult Sunday School will begin on Sunday, Sept. 17. We will begin a new study on 2 Corinthians.

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**Rally Day Lunch and Cotton Candy.** To celebrate Rally Day, we will have lunch and cotton candy after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sept. 10. The Fellowship Committee will provide lunch. For more information, call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

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

We will receive new members on Sunday, Sept. 24.

## **Trek Malawi**

The bus carefully navigates down a dusty road, riddled with potholes. Makeshift stores, open fires, running children, mud houses all contribute to a sensory overload.

This is Lunzu, a small town outside Blantyre, Malawi known for its extreme poverty and prostitution. Over time, the town morphed around the one asphalt road connecting northern Malawi to the south, like a spine down the center of the country.

Lunzu, a popular rest stop for truck drivers, feeds a sex industry dependent on impoverished girls desperate to earn a few dollars.

As our bus inches closer to a large metal gate, we hear something. Singing! Not a dirge or lament, reflecting the hopelessness we have sensed on our winding drive to our entrance. But instead... joy. Celebration. Laughter.

Behind the gate, behind the 6-foot-high brick wall, our group is greeted by a hundred or so children led by a handful of energetic local teens. Although we understand little of the local language, we sense that these songs are about God. Children dance and clap. Hope has an address in Lunzu. Young & Empowered Ministries has built a home and ministry here.

Headed by 2 UrbanPromise International Alumni, Dorothy Kamoto and Lucy Nkwinika, these committed women intentionally chose this community.

“This community is notorious throughout Malawi,” shared Lucy, “between teen pregnancies, catastrophic drop-out rates, and prostitution, there is a level of hopelessness unparalleled. We felt called to serve here.”

So it was for Lucy and Dorothy and the beautiful children of Lunzu that I joined 8 others to bike across Malawi this summer in July.

Our team peddled almost 200 miles over the course of 5 days and raised \$70,000 to support ministries like Young & Empowered and 15 other ministries throughout Malawi and Africa.

In total, we were able to provide summer camp for over 3,000 children. 71,500 meals were served. And 220 teens and young adults were employed to work at the camps.

I would like to think WE made a real difference this summer.

And I personally would like to thank the congregation for your prayers and support. I am also happy to share that I exceeded my goal of raising \$5,000 by \$200.

So thank you Stewartsville Presbyterian Church for your support of me and for making a real difference in the lives of so many children and youth in Africa!

Zikomo kwambiri! (Thank you very much!)  
– Pastor Stephen



Pastor Stephen was able to meet and spend time with 6-year-old Jovita, who found a safe home at Life Coaching Ministries in Malawi. Jovita is being sponsored by our Deacons.



## **2023 Mission Trip to Puerto Rico**

Our Mission Trip to Puerto Rico took place from Saturday, July 22 through Saturday, July 29.

We worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, staying in San Juan. Techos Pa' Mi Gente was the work partner organization that led our project.

Our mission trip participants: Pastor Stephen, Pam Alercia, Ella Choi, Marsha Colaluca, Carol Evanoski, Kathy Montgomery, Michael Morton, Nancy Sampson, Paul Williams, and Newal Duncan, a friend of the congregation.



## **SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP**

Sunday, Sept. 3 is the last Sunday of our Summer Worship Schedule, with the Zoom worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 10, we will return to our Regular Worship Schedule, with the Zoom worship service 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, Sept. 10**. 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.

For the latest news and information, please also visit the church website, [www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://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**



**Blood Drive.** We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We still have 4 appointments available. The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or 908-619-8697 or email her at [cmbowman1023@gmail.com](mailto:cmbowman1023@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.

**Adult Lunch Group.** "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Sept. 14, at 11:30 a.m. at Sports Scene Restaurant at Oakwood Lanes, 234 Route 31, Washington.

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

We had 25 people attend our July luncheon, and we collected \$35 for the Food Bank. In August, 21 people attended the luncheon, and we collected \$35.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Sept. 11 to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.



**Friday Morning Devotional Group.** The Friday Morning Devotional Group resumes meeting each Friday at 8:00 a.m. beginning on Friday, Sept. 8. The group meets in person in the library and on Zoom. This fall, we will be reading "Reorganized Religion: The Reshaping of the American Church and Why it Matters" by Bob Smietana.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Stephen know as soon as possible.

**Devotionals.** The September daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling or emailing the church office.



**Mary Jean "G.G." Schriever**, a long-time member of our church, passed away on Tuesday, July 18. G.G. had served as an Elder and a Deacon, assisted with VBS, and participated in the Friday Morning Devotional Group.

Her memorial service was held on Saturday, Aug. 5.

Please keep G.G.'s husband Kurt, daughter Leigh Anne, and their family in your prayers.

**Alford G. Johnson Jr.**, a long-time member of our congregation, passed away on Saturday, July 15.

Please keep his children, Bo and Deb, and their family 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

**Choir Voices Needed.** Our choir will start up again on Sunday, Sept. 10. Rehearsals are held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. by the piano in the sanctuary.

New voices are welcome!

For more information, please call or text Denise DeMasi at 610-691-1491.



**Needlecraft Group.** The Needlecraft Group will resume meeting on Friday, Sept. 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. The group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month.

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.



### SEPTEMBER

- |    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1  | Ken Piotrowsky                     |
| 3  | Tayliss Choi                       |
|    | Dale & Lynn Alpaugh – Anniversary  |
| 7  | Jim & Janis Clark – Anniversary    |
| 8  | Sarah Sampson                      |
| 10 | Brian Ballentine                   |
|    | Barry & Tammy Oberly – Anniversary |
| 11 | Jeff Schoeneberger                 |
|    | John Wagner                        |
| 15 | Dave Bove                          |
|    | Noelle Steller                     |
| 17 | Lindsey Culcasi                    |
| 19 | Jim & Cindy Bowman – Anniversary   |
| 21 | Jean Bradbury                      |
| 22 | Tim & Melanie Loyle – Anniversary  |
| 23 | Diane Olsen                        |
| 28 | Eileen Miers                       |
| 29 | Lisa Fry                           |

**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!

**Women's Circle.** The Women's Circle will meet on Friday, Sept. 22, at 6:00 p.m. at the Palace Restaurant, 3250 Easton Ave., Bethlehem, 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.

**Treasurer Position.** After more than 30 years serving our church as Treasurer, Mary Lou Gary will be retiring in early 2024.

We will be hiring a new Treasurer. This is a part-time position and requires time working in the church office during office hours.

For more information, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

## Session Notes – September 28, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Fred Gary.
- We made the prayerful decision to give:
  - Seeds of Promise, Malawi: \$1,000 for 4 Sewing Machines
  - Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County: \$200 for Backpacks
  - Make a Wish of New Jersey: \$500
  - Grace Presbyterian Church, Montclair, NJ: \$500 for Church Rebuild  
(Grace Presbyterian is part of our presbytery and was destroyed by a fire in August.)
  - Techos Pa' Mi Gente, Puerto Rico: \$100  
(Techos was the mission partner our mission trip team worked with in Puerto Rico.)
- Approval was given to host 2 blood drives in 2024 on Sunday, March 17 and Sunday, September 15.
- Approval was given to Henry Choi, who is 13-years-old, to volunteer in the nursery with an adult.
- The Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco will serve as pulpit supply on Sunday, September 17.
- We will receive new members on Sunday, September 24.
- Our church treasurer, Mary Lou Gary, will be retiring in early 2024, so we will begin looking for a new part-time treasurer.
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, September 25.
- Treasurer's Report:  
As of July 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$772 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.



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

In July, we donated 12 bags of food and toiletries, and in August we donated 13 bags, along with reusable grocery bags.

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

**Women's Fall Retreat.** "A Fruitful Life: Abiding in God's Grace Across the Seasons," the Women's Fall Retreat will be held from Friday, Oct. 27 to Sunday, Oct. 29, at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center. You may also attend the Saturday session only.

For more information, please go to the Johnsonburg website: [www.campjburg.org/events/womens-fall-retreat/](http://www.campjburg.org/events/womens-fall-retreat/)

Scholarships are available. For information about scholarships, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



**Trunk or Treat!** We will have Trunk or Treat on Sunday, Oct. 29 in the church parking lot after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Children can dress up and go from car to car collecting candy and other goodies. Adults can participate by purchasing candy, etc., and handing it out at their cars. You may even decorate your vehicles to add to the fun!

For more information, or to reserve your parking spot, contact Janis Clark at [JanisR500@gmail.com](mailto:JanisR500@gmail.com)

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>  8 am Friday Morning Devotional Group, Panera	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 10 am Worship Service  6 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>4</b>  Church Office Closed for Labor Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7 pm Deacons Meeting, Library 7 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  8 am Friday Morning Devotional Group, Library 9:30 am Needlecraft Group, Library	<b>9</b>  10 am Samplmakers, Roan Hall
<b>10</b> Rally Day 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Lunch after Worship Service  6 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  7 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>14</b>  11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Sports Scene Restaurant	<b>15</b>  8 am Friday Morning Devotional Group, Zoom Only 9:30 am Fiber Arts, Roan Hall	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Blood Drive 8:30 am to 12 Noon  9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service  6 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  7 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  8 am Friday Morning Devotional Group, Library 9:30 am Needlecraft Group, Library 6 pm Women's Circle, Palace Restaurant	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Reception of New Members Time for Fellowship after Worship Service  6 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>25</b>  7 pm Session, Library	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  7 pm AA, Roan Hall	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  8 am Friday Morning Devotional Group, Library	<b>30</b>