

# The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church

550 North Main Street, Stewartville, NJ 08886

908-859-1399

[www.stewartvillepc.org](http://www.stewartvillepc.org)

Church e-mail – [office@stewartvillepc.org](mailto:office@stewartvillepc.org)

Pastor's e-mail – [rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com](mailto:rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com)

## October 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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**Worship Service is held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.**

**Holy Communion is celebrated during the**

**10:30 a.m. worship service on the first Sunday of each month.**

**Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.**

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

We had such great fun last year, and we are hoping even more participate in the event this year!

Children can dress up and go from car to car collecting treats and other goodies. Adults can participate by purchasing candy, etc., and handing it out at their cars. You can 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)

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**Catholic Charities Thanksgiving Food.** This year, Catholic Charities Food Pantry will be collecting Thanksgiving food during the month of October. They will distribute the Thanksgiving food to their clients when they pick up their regular November groceries.

The following items are needed: Stuffing mix; instant mashed potatoes; canned sweet potatoes; rice, noodles, and pasta; canned fruit; cranberry sauce; canned vegetables; soup; juice; gravy mix or canned gravy; brownie mix, cake mix, and frosting; and pie crust mix and canned pie filling; and grocery bags.

All food must be non-perishable.

We will be collecting these items throughout October and will bring them to the food pantry at the end of month.



## **Meet Our New Church Treasurer**

I am excited to share with you that Sarah Sampson has been called to be our next church treasurer. Sarah will transition into the position learning and working with Mary Lou Gary for the next 4 months. The plan is for Mary Lou to retire at the end of January 2024. Mary Lou has served our congregation as treasurer for more than 30 years.

Many of you may already know Sarah, but to help us learn a little more about her, I asked Sarah to answer the following questions:

### **Tell us about yourself.**

I grew up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with 3 siblings and my parents. I currently reside in Allentown with my 2-year-old son, Kenny, and my boyfriend, Chris.

### **How long have you been attending Stewartsville Presbyterian Church?**

I have been going to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church for 34 years.

### **Do you have a favorite person in the Bible, other than Jesus?**

That's a hard question. There are so many unique and different people in the Bible. Each with their own special story and meaning. But if I truly have to pick, I would say Moses' mother. She had to give up her only son to protect him, and that takes a lot of strength and understanding to do.

### **Do you have a favorite Bible verse?**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

### **Where did you go to high school and college?**

I graduated in 2007 from Freedom High School. In 2015, I graduated from Metro Beauty Academy. I studied make up artistry and esthetic.

### **What is your favorite and least favorite food?**

I love pretty much all food, so I don't have a favorite. I will always try something new or again, because you never know when your taste will change. However, the only thing that I have consistently not liked have been clams. I will eat clam sauce but not raw or steamed clams.

### **Do you have any pets?**

I have a 7-year-old Great Dane named Lilly, and an 8-year-old cat named Douglas.

### **Do you have any activities or hobbies that you like to do?**

I enjoy writing poetry. I also really enjoy hiking almost every day with Kenny. I'm teaching him how to bake. We also love singing and dancing.

### **What are you most excited about in being the church treasurer?**

I am looking forward to working for the church that I grew up attending. I am also looking forward to being able to use the skills that I have learned throughout the years that I have worked.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY AND COTTON CANDY! September 10, 2023



It was a joyful Rally Day, being back in Sunday School with these amazing children! After the worship service, the Fellowship Committee provided lunch, and we all enjoyed cotton candy courtesy of Brad Perrone, in support of Make a Wish of New Jersey.



On Sunday, Sept. 24, former members of the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomsbury and Pastor Stephen attended the Rev. Kathi Heath's installation as pastor of the Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chatham, NJ.

Pastor Kathi had been the minister at Bloomsbury and she was delighted to see so many former members of her congregation!





**New Members.** On Sunday, Sept. 24, we welcomed the following new members into the life and ministry of the Stewartville Presbyterian Church: **Scott Goff, Lisa Muentener, Laura Diacopoulos, and Terry Lefler.**

**It's a Boy!** Amanda (Morris) and Stephen Hodge welcomed a baby boy, Patrick Robert Hodge, on Aug. 6, 2023. Patrick's big sister is Cassidy, age 2½. His grandparents are Bob and Laura Morris.

**Attention Parents and Guardians!** We would like to stay in touch with our college and graduate students. The Deacons will email gift cards to our students in November, and we do not want to miss anyone.

Please e-mail the church office at [office@stewartvillepc.org](mailto:office@stewartvillepc.org) with the email address of your student by Wednesday, Oct. 25.

**Office Manager Vacation.** Our office manager, Renee Herb, will be on vacation from Monday, Oct. 9 through Tuesday, Oct. 17. During this time, Pastor Stephen will be checking the office email and voicemail.

#### **Elder on Call**

Pastor Stephen will be on Vacation from Tuesday, Oct. 17 through Tuesday, Oct. 25. If you need pastoral care while he is away, please contact the Elder on Call:  
**Kathy Montgomery at 908-674-0654**



#### **OCTOBER**

- 2 Jill Homa  
Pastor Jack Roan
- 4 Ed & Susan Ham – Anniversary
- 8 Walter & Betty Patton – Anniversary
- 9 Sue Henshaw  
Anna Stoddart
- 12 Dave & Susan Marek – Anniversary
- 14 Denice Morton
- 16 Daniel & Christine DeHaas –  
Anniversary
- 19 Sheila Oberly
- 20 Ava Williams
- 22 Terry Wolfinger
- 23 Cindy Bowman
- 24 Renée Herb
- 25 Stephen & Amanda Hodge –  
Anniversary
- 26 Bruce & Terry Wolfinger – Anniversary
- 27 Alyssa Oberly
- 29 Jane Lee
- 30 Laura Choi  
Betsy Stecker
- 31 Jay Miers  
Anthony & Laura Albert – 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@stewartvillepc.org](mailto:office@stewartvillepc.org). We don't want to miss your special day!

**Blood Drive.** We had 27 registered donors for our Blood Drive on Sunday, Sept. 17, and we were able to collect 21 units of blood.



Each donated unit can save up to 3 lives, so our blood drive will potentially save 63 lives!

On behalf of the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, thank you to everyone who took the time to register and donate. Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, March 17, 2024.

## **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 the first Sunday of each month. 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=WlQwMHByZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

### **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 meet on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden, 50 Kunkle Drive, Easton, PA.

We encourage everyone to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the lunch to donate to NORWESCAP Food Bank.

We had 21 people attend our luncheon in September, and we collected \$35 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861, by Monday, Oct. 9, 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, Oct. 20, at 6:00 p.m. at Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar, 3833 Freemansburg 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.



**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.campiburg.org/events/womens-fall-retreat/](http://www.campiburg.org/events/womens-fall-retreat/)

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

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

We will receive new members on Sunday, Oct. 29.

## Session Notes – September 25, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Judy Melchore.
- Our church celebrated our one-year anniversary of delivering meals for Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley!
- We made the prayerful decision to call Sarah Sampson as our next church treasurer. Sarah and Mary Lou Gary will work together for the next 4 months, and the plan is for Mary Lou to retire at the end of January 2024.
- Approval was given to explore a possible mission trip to Cuba in March 2024.
- This year's Stewardship Sunday will be on November 19.
- We will have a Congregational Meeting to elect Elders and Deacons on Sunday, December 17.
- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024.
- Pastor Stephen will be attending the Presbyterian Church Moderators' Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, November 9-12. (Judy Melchore will be the Elder on Call.)
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, October 16.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
  - October 22: The Rev. Dr. Steven Shussett
  - October 29: The Rev. Dr. Bruce Main
  - November 12: Laura Choi
- Treasurer's Report:  
As of August 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$778 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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**Aluminum Can Tab Collection.** We will be collecting aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia.

Ronald McDonald House receives about 75 cents per pound for the tabs. In the past 25 years, they have collected more than 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000!

There is a container in the back of the sanctuary where you can put the tabs.

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**Bottle Cap Collection.** We are collecting bottle caps (from water bottles, soda, etc.) for the Stewartsville Middle School Mural Club.

The students will be creating a school spirit mural using bottle caps and paint.

There is a container in the back of the sanctuary where you can put the bottle caps.



**Thank You Note.** We received the following thank you note from the Grace Presbyterian Church. We sent them a donation after their church was heavily damaged in a recent fire.

"On behalf of our church family, we want to thank you so much for donating to our rebuilding fund. We appreciate your generosity and also your prayers. We are grateful to God for all the expressions of love and support."

## Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – October 2023

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat                                 |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:20 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion<br><br>6 pm AA  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b><br><br>7 pm Deacons Meeting<br>7 pm AA | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b><br><br>8 am Friday Devotional Group                               | <b>7</b>                            |
| <b>8</b><br>9:20 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service<br>Nominating Committee Meeting after Worship Service<br>Time for Fellowship after Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA | <b>9</b><br><br>Office Manager on Vacation<br>Returns Oct. 18 | <b>10</b>  | <b>11</b><br><br>7 pm AA                        | <b>12</b><br><br>11:30 am Adult Lunch Group at Olive Garden<br><br>7 pm Grange | <b>13</b><br><br>8 am Friday Devotional Group<br>9:30 am Needlecraft Group | <b>14</b><br><br>10 am Samplemakers |
| <b>15</b><br>9:20 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA   | <b>16</b><br><br>7 pm Session Meeting                         | <b>17</b><br><br>Pastor Stephen on Vacation<br>Returns Oct. 25 | <b>18</b><br><br>7 pm AA                        | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br><br>9:30 am Fiber Arts  | <b>21</b>                           |
| <b>22</b><br>9:20 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA   | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b><br><br>7 pm AA                        | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b><br><br>8 am Friday Devotional Group<br>9:30 am Needlecraft Group | <b>28</b>                           |
| <b>29</b><br>9:20 am Sunday School<br>10:30 am Worship Service with Reception of New Members<br>Trunk or Treat after Worship Service<br><br>6 pm AA                             | <b>30</b><br><br>1 pm Finance Team Meeting                    | <b>31</b>  |   |  |  |                                     |