

**December 3, 2023**  
**10:30 AM Service of Worship**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**The Lord's Supper**

**Gathering Around the Word**

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Elders

RESPONSE

*Light One Candle*

*Light one candle for hope,  
One bright candle for hope,  
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,  
He comes, He comes! (Repeat)*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Denise DeMasi

Leader: We are waiting for the dawn of God's incarnation.

**People: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.**

Leader: We are like clay awaiting the potter.

**People: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.**

Leader: Teach us to keep alert as we wait.

**People: Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.**

Leader: Sustain us this day as we worship you.

**All: Amen. Let us worship the Lord our God!**

\*HYMN #82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Restore us, O God.**

**Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**Save us, O Lord, from the traps of our own creating:**

**from fear that blocks the way of love,**

**from worry that blocks the way of joy,**

**from isolation that blocks the way of relationship,**

**from injustices that keep the world bound.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**until the stars fall from heaven,**

**and we live as people transformed.**

\*SILENT CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE #654

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!***

***Look to God; do not be afraid.***

***Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.***

***Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.***

\*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

Nancy Sampson

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

p. 1128

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

ANTHEM

*Emmanuel Soon Will Appear*

Choir

SECOND LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

p. 1006-1007

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Keep Watch"

Pastor Stephen Choi

**Responding to the Word**

\*DECLARATION OF FAITH (Insert)

The Nicene Creed

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

\*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

\*HYMN #92

*While We Are Waiting, Come*

## The Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

**God, our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. By your presence in this meal, you have fed us and strengthened us. In this waiting season, fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.**

## Bearing and Following the Word

\*HYMN #366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #541

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

**God be with you till we meet again;  
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.**

\*POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if able

### **Stewartsville Presbyterian Church**

**The Ministers: All the Members**

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor

Brian Ballentine, Music Director

Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

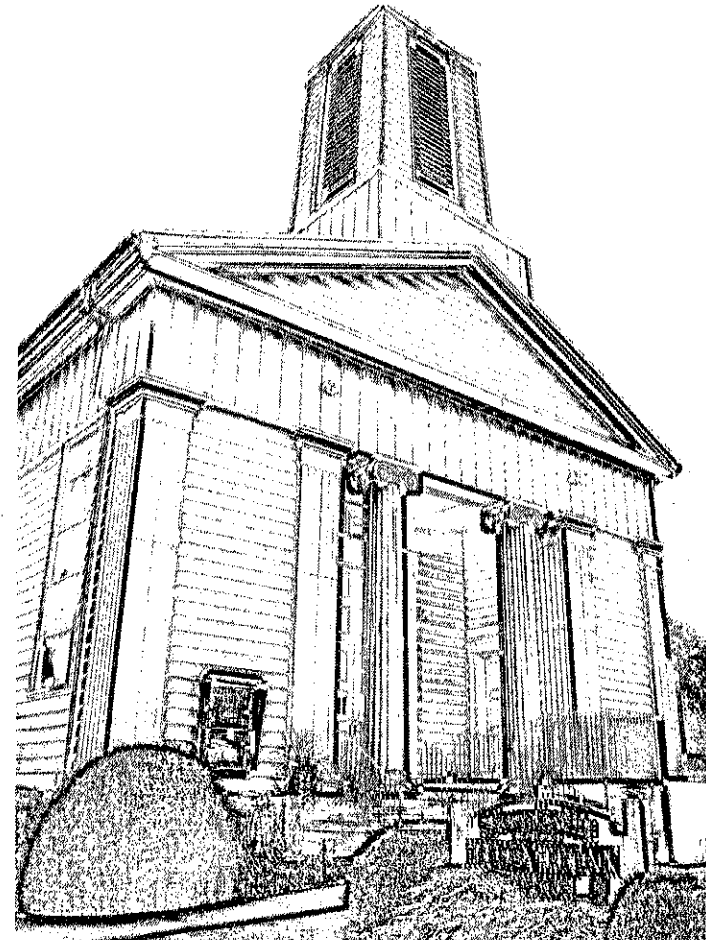
Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

Renée Herb, Office Manager

Mary Lou Gary, Treasurer

Sarah Sampson, Treasurer Elect

# STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



550 North Main Street

Stewartsville, NJ 08886

908-859-1399

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

e-mail: [office@stewartsvillepc.org](mailto:office@stewartsvillepc.org)

**Christmas Eve Worship Service.** Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during this service of Lessons and Carols.

We will also have our regular worship service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

Offering received during our 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service will go toward the mission and ministry of our church. You may use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

**Devotionals.** The December daily devotionals are available in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office.

**Pray for This Week's Mission Partner: Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley.** Volunteers are the driving force behind Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Nearly 2,000 seniors and people with disabilities depend on volunteers every day to deliver meals directly to their homes and senior centers. Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley offers other services, including grocery shopping. As a church, we have been delivering meals one week every month.

#### **OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY**

<b>Assisting in Worship Today</b>	Denise DeMasi
<b>Greeter Today</b>	Mabel Cook
<b>Broadcast Team</b>	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
<b>Nursery Today</b>	Janis Clark and Carol Nixon

#### **Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church**

**Today, 12/3:** AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Wednesday, 12/6:** Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library  
AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Friday, 12/8:** Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Panera  
Women's Circle, 6:00 p.m., Marblehead Chowder House

**Saturday, 12/9:** Samplemakers, 10:00 a.m., Roan Hall

**Sunday, 12/10:** Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., with Special Music

Time for Fellowship after Worship Service

AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

#### **This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Monday, 12/4:** Will Sampson

Bud & Carol Evanoski – Anniversary

**Tuesday, 12/5:** Kathy Montgomery

**Thursday, 12/7:** Pastor Stephen Choi

**Friday, 12/8:** Trent & Kelly (Morris) Roling – Anniversary

**Saturday, 12/9:** Joe & Jackie Lubinski – Anniversary

#### **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.

**Sanctuary Decorations.** Thank you to everyone who came to the church yesterday to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas!

**Poinsettias.** Today is the last day to order Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for information on ordering.

### **Announcements (continued)**

**The Giving Tree.** Today is the deadline for returning unwrapped gifts with their tags, and gift cards and monetary donations. If you have not brought in your gift, please see Carol Evanoski.

You can make a monetary donation to go toward gift cards through the end of the day today, Dec. 3. You may donate by cash, check, or online at [www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special and note "Giving Tree."

**Women's Circle.** The Women's Circle will hold their holiday dinner this Friday, Dec. 8, at 6:00 p.m. at Marblehead Chowder House, 4101 Williams Penn Highway, Easton, 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.

**Harpists on Sunday, Dec. 10.** Alison Simpson and her daughter Rebecca Simpson, both accomplished harpists, will offer special music during the 10:30 a.m. worship service next Sunday, Dec. 10. They will perform a prelude before the worship service, beginning at 10:20 a.m. Please make plans to join us for this special musical presentation.

**Adult Lunch Group.** "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 11:30 a.m. at the Palace Restaurant, 3250 Easton Ave., Bethlehem, PA.

In celebration of Christmas, we will take up a collection which will be donated to a charity to be determined at the luncheon.

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

**Cookie Exchange.** We will hold our annual Cookie Exchange on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 9:45 a.m. in Roan Hall. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more information.

The deadline to sign up is next Sunday, Dec. 10.

**Christmas Caroling.** Everyone is invited to go caroling after worship on Sunday, Dec. 17. We will sing Christmas carols to our homebound members, and we will also deliver cookies to them. If you plan on attending, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

**Congregational Meeting.** There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 17. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

**Christmas Joy Offering.** We are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the Advent season. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for more information about this offering.

Please use the special envelope in your box of envelopes, or write a check with "Christmas Joy" on the memo line.

To give online at the church website go to [www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special and note "Christmas Joy."

**Israel/Palestine Response.** In response to the violence in and around Israel/Palestine, **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance.

Response efforts encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items, and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals.

If you would like to give to the relief efforts, please write a check and note "PDA" on the memo line.

For online giving, go to the church website at [www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and note "PDA."

**2024 Pledge Cards.** If you have not already returned your 2024 Pledge Card and Time & Talent Sheet, please put them in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office as soon as possible. Extra Pledge Cards and Time & Talent Sheets are available in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office.

**2023 Giving Statements.** Offering received by Sunday, Dec. 31, will be counted toward your 2023 Giving Statement. Offering received after that date will count toward your 2024 statement.

**November Deacons Offering.** We received \$505 for the special offering collected in November for the work and ministries of our Deacons. Thank you for your generosity!

**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 cereal, soup, canned vegetables and fruit, and tuna fish, as well as grocery bags.

# **PRAYER LIST OF THE CONGREGATION**

**(as of Nov. 29, 2023)**

Helen H.	Jonathan D.	Colton M.
Rodney R.	Yvonne H.	Frank I.
Carole M.	Debbie S.	Jackie L.
Antoinette G.	Sister Michaelita	Deb J.
Jakobe	Deanna M. &	Rachel S.
Don F.'s Family	Family	Jane R.
Bessie S.	Walker Family	Greg R.
Sam S.	Denise D.	Ryder H.
Victor W.	Diana H.	Nicholas C.
Phyllis B.	Ron W.	Vanessa P.
Rev. Jack & Linda	Lynn M.	John W.
Roan	Barb N.	Ben W.
Allshouse Family	Beverly G.	Steven M.
Carly A.	Wyatt E.	Jeffrey G.
Kirk J.	Jen B.	Randy W.
Jim F.	Melissa U.	Ero C.
Jeannette M. &	Abby B.	Betty N.
Family	Pastor Bill S.	Kevin O.
Nikolas J.	Pam A.	Renée's Parents

**Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters**  
**Justice and Peace**

**This Week's Mission Partner: Meals on Wheels of the**  
**Greater Lehigh Valley**

To submit a prayer request, please contact the church office at  
908-859-1399 or [office@stewartsvillepc.org](mailto:office@stewartsvillepc.org)