

**December 24, 2023**  
**10:30 AM Service of Worship**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Gathering Around the Word**

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE      Sunday School

RESPONSE      *Light One Candle*

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      Henry Choi

Leader: Come, holy people, called by God,  
let us follow the way prepared for us.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace  
among those with whom God is pleased.**

Leader: Once again, the world is surprised at a manger,  
as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

**People: Let us go to Bethlehem to see  
what God has made known to us.**

Leader: There in Bethlehem and here today  
at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church,  
we are reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

**People: Let us glorify and praise God  
for all that we have seen and heard!**

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

\*HYMN #133      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
(Verses 1 & 4)

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving Christ,  
Scripture tells us that you were born in a stable  
because there was no room in the inn.  
There was no room in the inn for a woman in need,  
no room in the inn for an innocent baby.**

**Forgive us.  
We should have learned our lesson by now,  
but just as others turned their backs on you,  
we continue to turn our backs on one another.  
Teach us how to make room for one another.  
Teach us how to make room for you.  
Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,  
for we do not want to build hostility here.  
We want to build your promised day.  
Guide us forward.  
With hope and honesty, we pray.**

\*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**

INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PLAY      (See Insert)

**Responding to the Word**

\*DECLARATION OF FAITH      The Apostles' Creed  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and  
earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was  
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he  
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy  
catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of  
sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

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

**Bearing and Following the Word**

\*HYMN #134      *Joy to the World*  
(Verses 2 & 4)

\*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

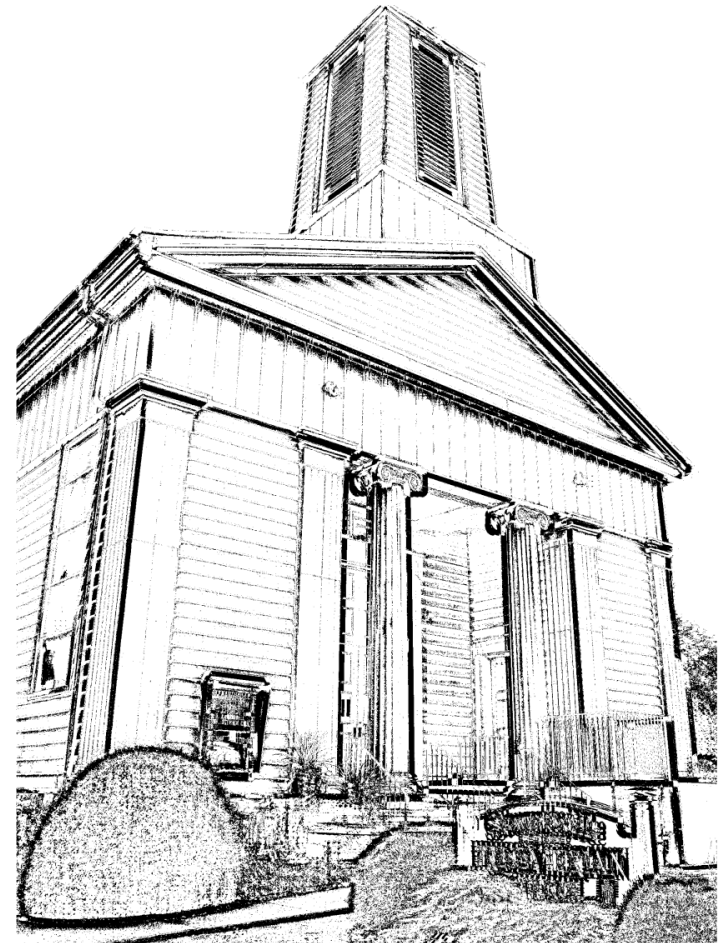
The Rev. Jack E. Roan, Pastor Emeritus

Brian Ballentine, Music Director

Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

# STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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### OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

<b>Assisting in Worship Today</b>	Sunday School
<b>Greeter Today</b>	Elder Sue Gruver
<b>Broadcast Team</b>	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
<b>Nursery</b>	Open but Not Staffed

### Week Ahead at Stewartville Presbyterian Church

**Today, 12/24:** Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion and Candlelighting, 7:00 p.m.

**Monday, 12/25:** Merry Christmas!

**Wednesday, 12/27:** AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Sunday, 12/31:** No Sunday School

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., Pajama Sunday

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

### This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Today, 12/24:** Jackie File

Ana Wagner

Linda Williams

**Monday, 12/25:** Alan Deak

**Thursday, 12/28:** Linda Roan

Dave Bove & Nicole Viscomi-Bove – Anniversary

**Friday, 12/29:** Brodey Colucci Keller

### 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.

**Christmas Eve Worship Service.** Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

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

**Pajama Sunday.** Next Sunday, Dec. 31, please feel free to wear pajamas or casual clothing to our 10:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a hymn sing during the service.

## **Announcements (continued)**

**Nursery Not Staffed.** The church nursery will be open, but not staffed today and next Sunday, Dec. 31.

**No Sunday School.** There will be no Sunday School next Sunday, Dec. 31.

Sunday School classes will resume on Jan. 7, 2024 at 9:20 a.m.

**Undecorating Help Needed.** We will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations in our sanctuary on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Help is needed to assist with the “undecorating.”

Please see Ed Ham or contact him at ehamjr99@gmail.com for more information.

**Friday Morning Devotional Group.** The Friday Morning Devotional Group will resume meeting each Friday at 8:00 a.m. beginning on Jan. 12, 2024. The group will meet in person in the church library and on Zoom.

For our next study, we will read "When God Interrupts: Finding New Life Through Unwanted Change" by Craig Barnes.

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

**Women’s Circle Theater Event.** The Women’s Circle will be going to see “Menopause: The Musical” at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2024, at the State Theatre in Easton.

Tickets are \$45. If there is a group of more than 10, there will be a discount.

Tickets are open to anyone. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Montgomery by Thursday, Dec. 28 at 908-674-0654 or katilemont@gmail.com.

**2024 Offering Envelopes.** The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

If you would like envelopes but don’t see your name, please contact the church office. Also contact the office if you need your envelopes mailed to you.

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

**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 be receiving new members on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024.

**Cuba Mission Trip.** Pastor Stephen will be visiting a partner church in Cuba in early April 2024.

If you are interested in going or have questions, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

**Christmas Joy Offering.** We are receiving the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the Advent season.

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."

**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.

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

**Pray for This Week’s Mission Partner: Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center.** The mission of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County is to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change. For more information, visit their website: [dasacc.org](http://dasacc.org)