

December 31, 2023
10:30 AM Service of Worship
1st Sunday of Christmas

Gathering Around the Word

WELCOME

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jim Clark

Leader: This little light of mine,

People: I'm going to let it shine.

Leader: This little light of ours,

People: We're going to let it shine.

Leader: You are the light of the world.

People: Let us shine our light, giving glory to God.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

HYMN SING

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lover of justice, Giver of mercy,

You call us to share our bread with the hungry, to open our homes to the homeless, to care for the poor, and to satisfy the needs of those who suffer. Some of your commandments are easy to follow; others require so much of us!

When we consider the brokenness of our world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.

Forgive us when we use our sense of helplessness as an excuse. Remind us, we pray, that you are at work in and through us to bring about your reign. Free us from fear, and stir our hearts toward a greater generosity, that we might be the light you have called us to be.

***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

Allison de Haas

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 5:14-16

p. 958

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

SECOND LESSON

John 1:1-14

p. 1049

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Receive and Spread the Light"

Pastor Stephen Choi

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.

***HYMN #314**

Christ, Be Our Light

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 #108

*Of the Father's Love Begotten
(Verses 1, 3, 4 & 6)*

*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

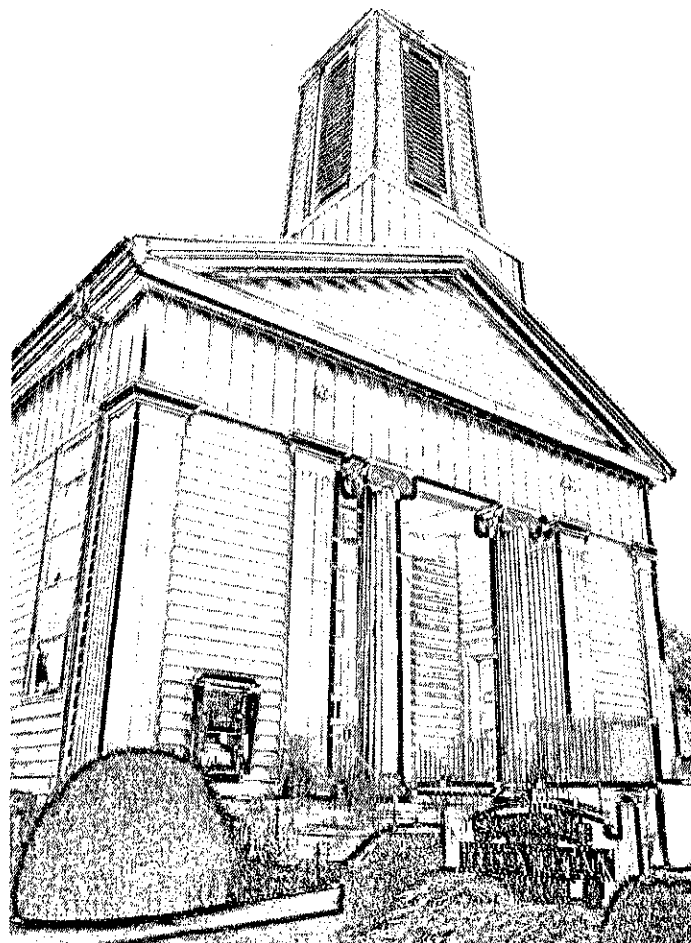
Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

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

e-mail: office@stewartsvillepc.org

PRAYER LIST OF THE CONGREGATION

(as of Dec. 27, 2023)

Carole & David J.	Nan F.	Jonathan D.
Diane O.	Firefighters	Yvonne H.
Jackie F.	Helen H.	Debbie S.
Denice M.	Rodney R.	Sister Michaelita
Rhonda S.	Carole M.	Walker Family
Merilyn R.	Antoinette G.	Colton M.
Tim S.	Jakobe M.	Frank I.
Hendricks Family	Don F.'s Family	Jackie L.
Savannah B.	Bessie S.	Rachel S.
Heather S.	Victor W.	Jane R.
Huff Family	Rev. Jack & Linda	Greg R.
George M.	Roan	Ryder H.
Angelina W.	Allshouse Family	Nicholas C.
Cheryl S.	Carly A.	Steven M.
Michael M.	Kirk J.	Jeffrey G.
Mimi E.	Jeannette M. &	Ero C.
Gary G.	Family	Betty N.
John S.	Jim F.	Kevin O.
Vicki N.	Nikolas J.	Renée's Parents

Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters
Justice and Peace

**This Week's Mission Partner: Covenant Network
of Presbyterians**

To submit a prayer request, please contact the church office at
908-859-1399 or office@stewartsvillepc.org

OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

Assisting in Worship Today	Jim Clark
Greeter Today	Bill and Carol Nixon
Broadcast Team	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
Nursery Today	Open, but Not Staffed

Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

Today, 12/31: AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall
Monday, 1/1: Happy New Year! Church Office Closed
Wednesday, 1/3: AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall
Sunday, 1/7: Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., with Holy Communion
 AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

Today, 12/31: Madelyn Duckworth
 Vincenzo Viscomi
Monday, 1/1: Christine DeHaas
 Susan Ham
Wednesday, 1/3: Jim Clark
 Ava Stecker
Saturday, 1/6: Darren Stoddart

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.

Undecorating Help Needed. We will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations in our sanctuary this 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.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Pizza Village Café, 665 Columbus Ave., Phillipsburg..

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

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Jan. 8 to make your reservation.

Announcements (continued)

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.

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.

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, Give Now, Special, and note "PDA."

Women's Circle Theater Event. The Women's Circle will be going to see "Menopause: The Musical" at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, 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 Monday, Jan. 8 at 908-674-0654 or katleemont@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 through today, Dec. 31, will be counted toward your 2023 Giving Statement. Offering received after today will count toward your 2024 statement.

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 peanut butter and jelly, Knorr's side dishes, canned stews, hearty soups, pasta and pasta sauce, and canned fruit, as well as grocery bags.

Devotionals. The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary:

- "Our Daily Bread," Dec./Jan./Feb. issue.
- "Today," Jan./Feb. issue.
- "Our Daily Bread," large-print edition, Jan./Feb./March issue.

Pray for This Week's Mission Partner: Covenant Network of Presbyterians. The Covenant Network of Presbyterians is a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders that calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice. We seek an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society by: Engaging the church to invite all of God's children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces; educating the church to expand our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people; and equipping the church to bear witness to justice through advocacy and activism.