

The Stewartville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartville Presbyterian Church
550 North Main Street, Stewartville, NJ 08886
908-859-1399

www.stewartvillepc.org

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Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

December 2023

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

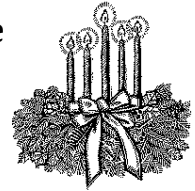
Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Mary Lou Gary – Treasurer

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer Elect



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.



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.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Special Music. Harpists Alison and Rebecca Simpson will offer special music throughout the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 10, with a prelude of Christmas music at 10:20 a.m.

Cookie Exchange will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, in Roan Hall. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, Dec. 10. For more information, contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

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 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.

Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 24.

Pajama Sunday. Please feel free to wear your pajamas and comfy clothing to the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 31. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 31.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Throughout my time at the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church, my family and I have given Alternative Gifts for Christmas in honor of our church.

This year, we have continued this tradition by giving the following gifts through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog:

Family of Chickens

Eggs for food, feathers for pillows, and fertilizer for crops. A family of chickens can help improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.

Kitchen Kit

Food requires preparation, and families who have lost everything in a disaster often lack the basic tools needed to cook a meal. A kitchen kit contains cooking pots, utensils, bowls, cups, and spoons.

Supplies for Displaced Students

This gift provides the opportunity of education to students who have lost everything. With a gift of school supplies, 3 students living in a Lebanese refugee camp can be empowered through learning.

Sewing Machine

A sewing machine isn't just for use at home. New sewing equipment can be just what someone needs to launch a business that mends, alters and sells clothing and linens. A sewing machine could help provide a stable source of income for a family in a developing part of the world.

Farming Tools

Growing and harvesting a fruitful crop is possible only with the proper tools, such as shovels and machetes. The necessary equipment can help bring a fruitful yield from the land.

Jerry Cans

UNICEF estimates that women and girls around the world collectively spend 200 million hours every day fetching water. A gift of \$25 provides up to 10 jerry cans to transport water more efficiently, freeing women and girls to spend more time on enriching activities, like attending school and contributing to their family's income.

If you are interested in learning more about Alternative Gifts through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, please let me know.

You can also visit and browse their website to see all the different kinds of Alternative Gifts that are offered at <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>

As we enter into the season of Christmas, may we discover how true the words of our Lord Jesus Christ are when he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

May you have a blessed and meaningful Advent and Merry Christmas!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,
Pastor Stephen and Family

Stewardship Sunday Pot Luck Lunch

The theme for Stewardship Sunday on November 19, was “Everyone has a role.” Each individual fulfills a role in our church family, to help our church grow and prosper. At the Potluck lunch after the worship service, we had a lot of delicious food, and we made sure everyone had a “roll.”





New Church Sign. We have a beautiful new sign in front of our church! Thank you to Bill Nixon, who led the project and also arranged for the landscaping to be updated.

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

In November, we donated 30 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags. 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.

The Giving Tree. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Tree.

Because of your kindness, we were able to provide gifts and \$100 in gift cards for 46 children and families through the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS).

College Student Gift Cards. In November, the Deacons emailed Amazon gift cards to 7 of our college and graduate school students.

This is our way of staying in touch with them, and letting them know we are thinking of them.

Thank You! Thank you to our office helpers: **Joan Hart**, who comes in each Friday to fold the bulletins, and **Mary Lou Gary** who helps with the monthly newsletter and special projects.

We are able to get a lot accomplished because of their assistance!



DECEMBER

- 4 Will Sampson
Bud & Carol Evanoski – Anniversary
- 5 Kathy Montgomery
- 7 Pastor Stephen Choi
- 8 Trent & Kelly (Morris) Roling –
Anniversary
- 9 Joe & Jackie Lubinski – Anniversary
- 10 Stella Bove
- 11 John Muentener III
- 12 Justin Jewell
- 13 Carly Alpaugh
- 15 Gabrielle Poremba
Chris Winans
- 16 Tammy Oberly
John & Heidi Hawk – Anniversary
- 17 Colton Banghart
- 20 Anthony DeMasi
- 21 Barry Oberly
- 22 Bob Morris
John & Terry Lefler – Anniversary
- 24 Jackie File
Ana Wagner
Linda Williams
- 25 Alan Deak
- 28 Linda Roan
Dave Bove & Nicole Viscomi-Bove –
Anniversary
- 29 Brodey Colucci Keller
- 31 Madelyn Duckworth
Vincenzo Viscomi

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
We don't want to miss your special day!

November Deacons Offering. We received \$505 for the special offering collected in November for the work and ministry of our Deacons.

Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Our Christmas Eve worship service, at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24, will also be broadcast on Zoom. 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 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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94418910396?pwd=WlQwMHBkYkZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886

Harpists on Sunday, Dec. 10. We are pleased to welcome accomplished harpists Alison Simpson and Rebecca Simpson to our 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 10.

In addition to playing during the worship service, they will also offer a prelude beginning at 10:20 a.m. Please join us for this special musical presentation.

Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School children and youth will present their Christmas Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 24.

There will be a rehearsal from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 23 in the sanctuary.

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.

We had 25 people attend our November luncheon and we collected \$39 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

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.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will hold their holiday dinner on 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.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you will help families of active and retired church workers, and support Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

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, 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, 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.

OFFERING

Christmas Eve Offering. Offering received during our Christmas Eve Worship Service will go toward the work and ministry of our church. You may use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.



2024 Offering Envelopes. The 2024 Offering Envelopes will be available on a table in the back of the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 10. Please remember to stop in the back and pick up your box of envelopes. If you would like envelopes but do not see your name, please contact the church office. Also contact the office if you need your box of envelopes mailed to you.

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.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed

Mondays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, 2024

The office will be open

Wednesday to Friday, Dec. 27 to 29, and Jan. 3 to 5, 2024

Regular office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Pastor Stephen's day off is Tuesday.

Session Notes – November 20, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Kathy Montgomery.
- We made the prayerful decision to give:
 - America's Grow-A-Row: \$300
 - Community FoodBank of NJ: \$300
 - Meals On Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley: \$300
 - Miller-Keystone Blood Center: \$300
 - Warren County Habitat for Humanity: \$300
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for Israel/Palestine: \$1,000
- The 2024 General Fund Budget was approved. More information will be given in the Annual Report and at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 28, 2024.
- Bill Fleming was approved to audit the 2022 financial records.
- Bill Nixon will be our new Elder for Personnel/Staff.
- Denise DeMasi was elected to be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, January 27. (The Presbytery of the Highlands has 5 stated presbytery meetings a year.)
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, December 18.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of October 31, we have a year-to-date abundance of \$80 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.

Thank You Note. We received the following Thank You note from Chip Paillex, President and Founder of America's Grow-A-Row, in response to our recent donation:

"I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for your generous contribution in support of work and mission here at America's Grow-a-Row.

"This season we are on track to donate over 3,200,000 pounds of free fresh produce for those faced with hunger and food insecurity.

"To put things into perspective, that's like providing a fresh serving of produce to over 100,000 people each and every day throughout our 16-week season. And your donation is helping us to make that happen.

"Please know how extremely appreciative we are for this gift as it will help us to continue to expand our efforts and impact here on the farm."



We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting
on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024,
after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	2 9 am Hanging of the Greens
3 1 st Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	4	5	6 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	7	8 8 am Friday Devotional Group, Panera 6 pm Women's Circle, Marblehead Chowder House	9 10 am Samplemakers
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 10:20 am Prelude 10:30 am Worship Service with Special Music Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	11	12	13 7 pm AA	14 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Palace Restaurant	15 9:30 am Fiber Arts	16
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 9:45 am Cookie Exchange 10:30 am Worship Service Congregational Meeting after Worship Service Christmas Caroling after Meeting 6 pm AA	18 7 pm Session Meeting	19	20 7 pm AA	21	22	23
24 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Sunday School Christmas Program 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27 7 pm AA	28	29	30
31 Pajama Sunday No Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA						

