

The Stewartsville Press

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

www.stewartsvillepc.org

Church e-mail – office@stewartsvillepc.org

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

January 2024

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

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

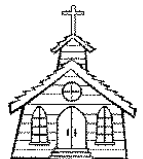
**Holy Communion will be celebrated during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 7.**

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 28**, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The 2023 Annual Report will be available at the meeting.

Please contact the church office if you will not be in church that day, and we can email a pdf of the Annual Report, or mail a paper copy to you.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING



We will join together for a **Pot Luck Luncheon** after the Congregational Meeting. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish or a dessert.

Please fill out the sign-up flyer in the Sunday bulletin, or contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104 or linwms50@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

We are also in need of people to help with set up and clean up. Please let Linda know if you are able to assist.

Retirement Recognition. Mary Lou Gary, our long-time Treasurer, will be retiring at the end of January. She will be recognized on Sunday, Jan. 28, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Mary Lou will also be celebrated during the Pot Luck Lunch following the worship service.

Please join us on Sunday, Jan. 28, to honor Mary Lou and all she has done for our church!



Christmastime at SPC



On Sunday, Dec. 10, we were blessed to have accomplished harpists Allison and Rebecca Simpson join us. They performed a special prelude before the worship service, and offered special music throughout the service.



After the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 17, we went Christmas caroling to 4 of our congregation members. We also brought them cookies from our Cookie Exchange held earlier that day. Every home we visited enjoyed the carolers, and especially the Christmas cookies!

Christmas Eve Worship Services at SPC



The Sunday School presented “An Intergenerational Christmas Play” during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Christmas Eve.

The play included Bible readings and Christmas hymns sung by the children and the congregation.

At the end of our 7:00 p.m. traditional Christmas Eve worship service, Pastor Stephen invited 99-year-old Bessie Sinclair, our oldest member, to come forward and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Congratulations!

On Sunday, Dec. 31, Pastor Stephen presented Carol Evanoski with a finisher medal for completing the 365-mile walking and hiking challenge during 2023! Congratulations, Carol!



It's a Boy! Gabby Poremba and Derek Bussaglia welcomed a son, Elliott Paul Bussaglia on Dec. 28, 2023. He weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 21.5" long.

Elliott's grandmother is Vanessa Poremba, and his great-grandparents are Paul and Linda Williams.

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 receive new members on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Undecorating Help Needed. We will be taking down the Christmas tree and decorations in our sanctuary on Saturday, Jan. 6, 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.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 12 and Friday, Jan. 26, in the Library. This is an opportunity to gather together and work on your own projects, while having lively conversations!

For more information, call Sue Gruver at 573-999-7014.



JANUARY

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Christine DeHaas |
| | Susan Ham |
| 3 | Jim Clark |
| | Ava Stecker |
| 6 | Darren Stoddart |
| 9 | Nicole Ham |
| 10 | Pastor Jack & Linda Roan – Anniversary |
| 11 | Gracelyn Banghart |
| 13 | Vanessa Poremba |
| 15 | Laura Morris |
| 16 | Dale Alpaugh |
| | Bill Nixon |
| 18 | John Evans |
| 23 | Savannah Loyle |
| | Brandon Stecker |
| 24 | Sue Higginson |
| 25 | Nicole Viscomi-Bove |
| 26 | Norman Smith |
| 27 | James Melchore |
| 28 | Heidi Hawk |
| | James and Judy Melchore – 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@stewartsvillepc.org We don't want to miss your special day!

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

Please contact the church office if you would like your envelopes mailed to you.

Inclement Weather. If you are unsure if we will be worshipping on a Sunday when there is severe inclement weather, please call the church at 908-859-1399. There will be a special outgoing message if church is cancelled. You can also check the church Facebook page. In addition, any closings or delays will be announced on wfmz.com and may be displayed on Channel 69 News.

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 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=WlQwMHB5ZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 11, 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.

We had 27 people attend our December luncheon and we collected \$24 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. In 2023, we donated a total of \$440 to the Food Bank.

We also took up a special Christmas collection at the December lunch, and received \$230 to donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Jan. 8 to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.



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 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 katelemont@gmail.com.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet for dinner on Friday, Jan. 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Williams Family Restaurant, 3630 William 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.



Session Notes – December 18, 2023

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Brad Fry.
- We reviewed the active membership roll of the church.
- An annual review for Pastor Stephen was completed.
- Staff reviews will be conducted in the beginning part of 2024.
- The 2024 Communion Dates were approved. We will continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of most months.
- Approval for given for a non-member wedding to be held at the church.
- Pastor Stephen will be attending a Synod of the Northeast Leadership Retreat in Connecticut, January 8-11. (Kathy Montgomery will be the Elder on Call.)
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - January 14, 2024: The Rev. Byron Leasure
- Our next session meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2024.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of November 30, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$1,826 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.



Per Capita Offering. Every Presbyterian church is apportioned a share of the expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly based on church membership.

The Per Capita apportionment for 2024 is \$42.50 per confirmed member.

Please prayerfully consider contributing your portion so that it does not come out of our General Fund Budget. Our church pays Per Capita for each of our members, regardless of whether or not you give.

There is an envelope for Per Capita in your 2024 offering envelope box.

To give Per Capita online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, General, and specify "Per Capita" in Notes.

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

In December, we donated 19 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

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.

Thank You from Pastor Stephen

"On behalf of me and my family, thank you once again for the very generous Christmas gift. Each year, we are truly blessed by the love and care and generosity of this congregation. Please know how appreciative we are."

Church Officers, Class of 2026 (2024-2026)
These officers will be ordained and installed during the
10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 28

Elders

Cynthia Bowman was raised in Stewartville. She was baptized at Stewartville Presbyterian Church and has been here ever since! Cindy lives in Phillipsburg with her husband, Jim. They have 2 children: Catie and her husband, Justin, and granddaughter, Ellisyn; and Jimmy and his wife, Colleen, and granddaughter, Jameson. Cindy is retired from the Phillipsburg School District. She currently serves as Clerk of Session for the church, is president of Stewartville Grange #121, and serves on 2 committees for the State Grange. Cindy is also treasurer of the Phillipsburg Garnet Boosterettes. She is enjoying retirement and in her spare time enjoys reading.

Kathy Montgomery has lived in Stewartville since 1988. She has been a member of Stewartville Presbyterian Church since the early 1990s, and this will be her 4th term as an Elder. Kathy participated in the 2023 mission trip to Puerto Rico, where she experienced God's work firsthand and hopes to participate in future mission trips. She will be retiring from Mansfield Elementary School in June of this year, and is looking forward to the future and all it has to offer. Kathy has 2 children and 5 grandchildren, who all mean the world to her.

Deacons

Mabel Cook currently lives in Phillipsburg, but grew up in Stewartville and in Stewartville Presbyterian Church since she was on the cradle roll. She is retired after a 27-year-career with Warren County Public Safety and the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Mabel has 2 adult children, Becky and Patrick, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson. She keeps busy sewing and quilting with friends.

Rosie England moved to Stewartville in 1998 after living in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Rosie joined the Stewartville Presbyterian Church in 2011. She completed her degree in Social Science after working for many years in the mental health field. Rosie and her husband were married for 35 years until his passing in 2021. They have a son, Anthony Jr, who works in law enforcement. After becoming a mother, Rosie's faith grew stronger as she witnessed the works of God in her son's life.

Noelle Steller has lived in Stewartville since 2016 and has been a member of Stewartville Presbyterian Church since 2022. She is a stay-at-home mother to her son, Romeo and step-daughter, McKenna. Noelle spends most of her time with her children, and in her spare time she creates illustrations, poems, and short songs/stories for all children.

Amateur Photographers Needed! We are looking for people to take photos of church events for our Newsletter. Anyone with a smart phone is qualified!

Upcoming events include taking photos of our new members on Sunday, Jan. 21, and the Pot Luck Lunch on Sunday, Jan. 28.

All you would need to do is take a few photos and email them to the office, or you can text the photos to Renée Herb, our Office Manager.

We would like to get a group of volunteers that can rotate taking photos throughout the year.

If you are able to help, please contact the church office.



Elder on Call. Pastor Stephen will be attending a Synod Retreat from Monday, Jan. 8 through Thursday, Jan. 11.

If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the Elder on Call:

Kathy Montgomery at 908-674-0654

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3 7 pm AA	4	5	6 9 am Undecorating the Sanctuary
7 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	8 Pastor Stephen at Synod Retreat through Jan. 11 Elder on Call: Kathy Montgomery 908-674-0654	9	10 7 pm AA	11 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Pizza Village Cafe 7 pm Grange 7 pm Deacons Meeting	12 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	13 10 am Samplemakers
14 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	15	16	17 7 pm AA	18	19 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts	20
21 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Reception of New Members 6 pm AA	22 7 pm Session Meeting	23	24 7 pm AA	25	26 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 6 pm Women's Circle, Williams Family Restaurant	27
28 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Ordination and Installation of Officers, Recognition of Retiring Treasurer Annual Congregational Meeting Pot Luck Lunch after Meeting 6 pm AA	29	30	31 7 pm AA			