

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

February 2024

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

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 the first Sunday of each month.**

Please see page 5 for information on Zoom link.



Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held at 7:00 p.m.
on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
by Intinction.

We will also be offering **“Drive Thru” Imposition of Ashes** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, and
from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Drive up to the blue office door on the side of the Christian Education Building, ring the doorbell, and
Pastor Stephen will administer ashes.

Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be collecting canned soup and cash donations
for the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Since 1990, the offering has generated more than \$193 million in dollars and food
for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities in communities across the
country.



All donations we receive stay in our local community. Monetary donations will go to the NORWESCAP
Food Bank, and donations of canned soup will go to the Catholic Charities Food Pantry in Phillipsburg.

If you would like to donate online, please go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org),
Give Now, Special, and specify “Souper Bowl” in Notes.

Lenten Word-A-Day

Lenten word-a-day calendars have become popular in recent years as a way to add focus during Lent. This particular version is from the Rev. Traci Smith.

Simply, start with the first word on Ash Wednesday, February 14. The last word is on Easter Sunday, March 31.

In her book, “Faithful Families for Lent, Easter, & Resurrection,” Rev. Smith suggests the following ways to use your word-a-day each day of Lent:

- Draw a picture or take a picture of something the word brings to mind.
- Write a journal entry using the word as a prompt.
- Use the word as a conversation starter for your family or household.
- Find a way to “do” the word: drink a cool glass of water for “water,” or roll around in the yard for “tumble.”
- Any combination of the above!
- It doesn’t matter what you do; the key is to do something.

Feb. 14: Dust	March 1: Earth	March 17: Wonder
Feb. 15: Grow	March 2: Towel	March 18: Jesus
Feb. 16: Tumble	March 3: Sunshine	March 19: Travel
Feb. 17: Friend	March 4: Rest	March 20: Listen
Feb. 18: Peace	March 5: Neighbor	March 21: Still
Feb. 19: Soil	March 6: Candle	March 22: Root
Feb. 20: Water	March 7: Thrive	March 23: Quiet
Feb. 21: Air	March 8: Rain	March 24: Spirit
Feb. 22: Transform	March 9: Wait	March 25: Beauty
Feb. 23: Pray	March 10: Human	March 26: Tree
Feb. 24: Rock	March 11: Cloud	March 27: Thankful
Feb. 25: Rainbow	March 12: Family	March 28: Angel
Feb. 26: Create	March 13: Free	March 29: Shadow
Feb. 27: Release	March 14: Light	March 30: Silence
Feb. 28: Fly	March 15: Journey	March 31: Resurrection
Feb. 29: Butterfly	March 16: Flower	

New Members



On Sunday, Jan. 21 we were excited to welcome Robert and Lorlyn Heinrich as new members in the life and ministry of the Stewartville Presbyterian Church!

Our Session also received John L. Evans into the membership of the Stewartville Presbyterian Church on Monday, Jan. 22. John, who lives in Florida, is the first non-local person to be received as a member.



We recognized Renée Herb for her 15 years of service (and counting!) as our Office Manager on Sunday, Jan. 21.



On Sunday, Jan. 28, we honored and gave thanks for Mary Lou Gary, who retired as our Treasurer after more than 30 years of service to our church.



With Sympathy. Helen Hawk, a long-time member of our congregation, passed away on Friday, Jan. 5.

Her funeral service was held on Monday, Jan. 15, in our church.

Please keep Helen’s family in your prayers.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our sorrows, so that we can comfort others in their sorrow, with the consolation we have received from God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 9 and Friday, Feb. 23, 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.

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.

Christmas Joy Offering. We received \$340 in the Christmas Joy Offering in December. This offering benefits families of active and retired church workers, and supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. Thank you for your generosity!

Church Office Closed
The church office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 19 for Presidents’ Day.



FEBRUARY

- 3 Louisa Miers
- 4 Don & Louisa Miers – Anniversary
- 5 Laura Diacopoulos
- 7 Mary Lou Gary
- 9 Joe Lubinski
- 10 Robert & Barbara Hurte – Anniversary
- 13 Morgan Banghart
Jake Muentener
Alan & MaryLou Deak – Anniversary
- 18 Betty Patton
Bob & Laura Morris – Anniversary
- 19 Alice Jessen
- 20 Rodney Rountree
- 21 Bessie Sinclair
- 24 Bill & Carol Nixon – Anniversary
- 26 Peggy Smith
Garrett Loyle
- 27 James Ballentine

Birthdays/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!

Thank You Notes. On Sunday, Jan. 28 we honored our retiring Treasurer, Mary Lou Gary. She sent the following note:



“Thank you for your kindness and for trusting me with the finances of the church. It has been a blessing to serve as Treasurer. With gratitude, Mary Lou Gary”

We recognized Renée Herb, our Office Manager, for her 15 years of service to SPC on Sunday, Jan. 21. She sent the following: “Dear Pastor Stephen, Session, and the congregation, Thank you very much for the lovely silver bracelet you gave me for my 15th anniversary of working at SPC. Most of all, thank you for making me part of your church family. It is truly a blessing to work here.”

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



Birthday Celebration! Our congregation will celebrate Bessie Sinclair's 100th birthday during a special Time for Fellowship after the worship service on Sunday, Feb. 18.

Please join us for this joyous occasion!

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 11:30 a.m. at the Palace Restaurant, 3250 Easton Ave., Bethlehem, PA.

The lunch group will celebrate Bessie Sinclair's 100th birthday!

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

We had 25 people attend our January luncheon and we collected \$42 for the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Feb. 12 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 meet on Friday, Feb. 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Annabel's Italian Restaurant, 224 Stockton St., Phillipsburg.

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.



One Great Hour of Sharing. The "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering from Sunday, Feb. 18, through Easter, March 31.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A special envelope is in your 2024 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting "OGHS" on the memo line. If you are giving online, go to the church website (www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, Special, and then OGHS.

Session Notes – January 22, 2024

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by `Elder Denise DeMasi.
- John Evans was received as a new member by reaffirmation of faith. John regularly attends our worship services from Florida via Zoom, and he is the first non-local person to be received as a new member.
- In 2023, 116 “Praying for You Letters” were mailed to members and friends of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. In addition, 26 “Welcome Letters” were mailed to visitors.
- On Ash Wednesday, February 14, we will once again offer “drive-thru” ashes during the day (10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon and 3:00-5:00 p.m.) and an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. in the evening.
- Renée Herb was honored and recognized during the worship service on Sunday, January 21 for her 15 years as the church office manager.
- Kathy Montgomery was reelected as Moderator/President of the Corporation of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church for 2024.
- Cindy Bowman was reelected as Clerk of Session for 2024.
- Sarah Sampson was elected as Treasurer for 2024.
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, February 26.
- Treasurer’s Report:
We ended the 2023 year with a surplus of \$1,096 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.



Blood Drive. We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, March 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We need to have 25 people registered to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or 908-619-8697 or email her at cmbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

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

In January, we donated 13 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of canned soup, jelly, Hamburger Helper, canned fruit, and canned chili and beef stew, as well as grocery bags.



Devotionals. The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office:

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

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8 am Friday Devotional Group	3
4 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	5	6	7 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	8	9 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	10 10 am Samplemakers
11 Souper Bowl of Caring 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 10 am-12 Noon Drive-Thru Ashes 3-5 pm Drive Thru Ashes 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes and Communion by Intinction	15 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Palace Restaurant	16 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Fiber Arts	17
18 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Special Time for Fellowship after Worship Service – Bessie Sinclair's 100 th Birthday! 6 pm AA	19 Church Office Closed for Presidents' Day	20	21 7 pm AA	22	23 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group 6 pm Women's Circle, Annabel's Italian Restaurant	24
25 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 2 pm Deacons Chapel Service 6 pm AA	26 7 pm Session Meeting	27	28 7 pm AA	29		