

April 21, 2024
10:30 AM Service of Worship
4th Sunday of Easter

Gathering Around the Word

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Clark

Leader: Children of God: Welcome!

People: Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Leader: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

People: God invites all of us

to be a part of the beloved community,

Leader: God invites all of us to share in the good news:

People: We are welcome, just as we are.

We are loved, just as we are.

Leader: In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God!

*HYMN #300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,

You have called us to love,

not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

You have laid down your life for us and commanded us
to lay down our lives for one another.

Still, O Lord, we offer empty thoughts and prayers
when the world needs our hands and our feet.

Still, O Lord, we fail to share our lives with the world,
hiding behind a myth of independence.

Forgive us, we pray, and by your forgiveness,
raise us to new life in you.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE #591 (Refrain)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*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

Bob Hurte

FIRST LESSON

John 15:9-12

p. 1069

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

ANTHEM

Love Was When

Choir

SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:16-24

p. 1209

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Belonging and Abiding"

Laura Zhang 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 #346

For the Healing of the Nations

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

Bruce Wolfinger

*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 #306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE #543

O Christ, Surround Me (Verse 4)

*Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*POSTLUDE

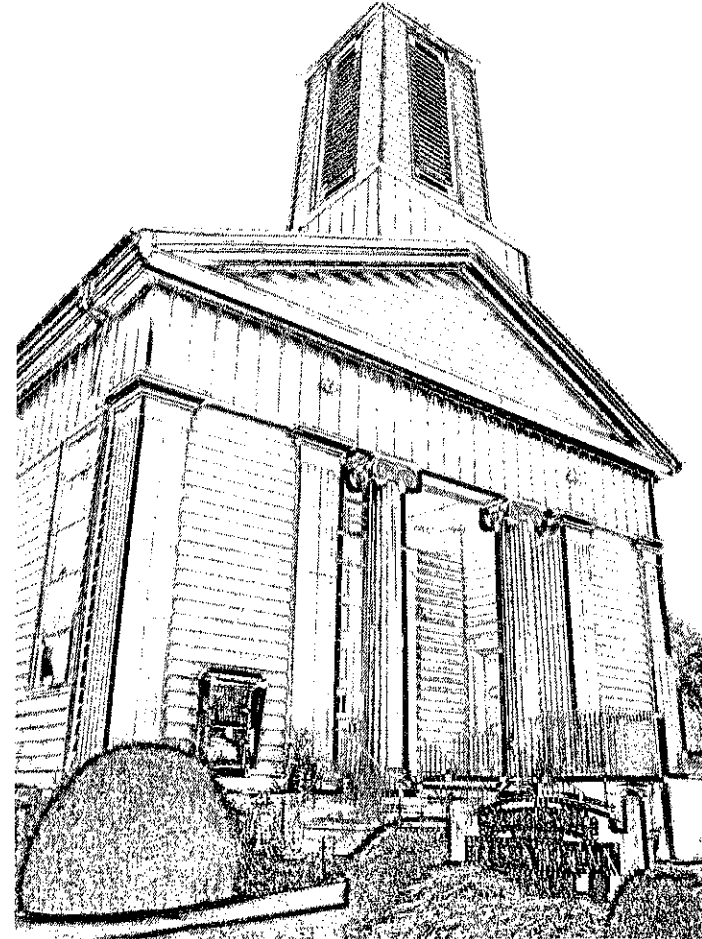
*Please stand if able

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor
Brian Ballentine, Music Director
Denise DeMasi, Choir Director
Laura Choi, Christian Education Director
Renée Herb, Office Manager
Sarah Sampson, Treasurer

STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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908-859-1399

www.stewartsvillepc.org
e-mail: office@stewartsvillepc.org

PRAYER LIST OF THE CONGREGATION

(as of April 17, 2024)

Bud E.	Bob J.	June G.
Pastor Stephen & Carol E.	Viscomi-Bove Family	Lisa C.-H. Jackie F.
Albert B.	Burdette Family	Denice M.
Mary Ann D.	Norman S.	Antoinette G.
Jon O. & Family	Noah C.	Yvonne H.
Scott & Merissa B.	Lori B.	Colton M.
Hurte Family	Elaine E.'s Family	Frank I.
Cherease L.	Cosover Family	Jackie L.
Deanna M. & Family	Lilly B.	Rachel S.
Terry & John L.	Fishbourne & Culcasi Families	Jane R.
Charlie H.	Gallie Family	Greg R.
Sandy S.'s Family	Paff Family	Nicholas C.
Pamela & Gregory H.	Alain G.	Steven M.
Pastor Stephen's Family	Chris W.	Jeffrey G.
	Charlie S.	Betty N.
	Peter S.	Kevin O.
		Renée's Parents

**Victims of Violence and Natural Disasters
Justice and Peace**

**This Week's Mission Partner: Meals on Wheels of the
Greater Lehigh Valley**

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
Greeters Today	Laura Diacopoulos and Terry Lefler
Broadcast Team	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
Nursery Today	Carol Nixon and Nancy Sampson

Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

Today, 4/21: AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall
Wednesday, 4/24: AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall
Friday, 4/26: Needlecraft Group, 9:30 a.m., Library
Sunday, 4/28: Sunday School, 9:20 a.m.
 Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.
 Time for Fellowship after Worship Service
 AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

Friday, 4/26: John Hawk
Saturday, 4/27: Savana Williams

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.

Elder on Call. Pastor Stephen will be away from through Sunday, April 28. He is on a mission trip to Cuba, and when he returns he will be attending a Synod Meeting in Syracuse, NY.

If you are in need of pastoral care while Pastor Stephen is away, please contact the Elder on Call:
Denise DeMasi at 908-455-2344

SPC 175th Anniversary. 2025 will mark the 175th anniversary of the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church!

We are forming a 175th Anniversary Committee to plan activities, celebrations, etc.

Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Announcements (continued)

Guest Preacher. Today we welcome **Laura Zhang Choi** (she/her) to our pulpit. Laura is married to Pastor Stephen and mother to Tay, Ella, and Henry. She is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary in Christian Education. Laura is completing her M.Div studies at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and is under care for ordination in the PC(USA). She is passionate about building community wherever she goes and about the work at the intersections of faith, justice, and educational equity. Laura is a Greenwich Township School Board member, steering committee member of API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC/NJ, active member of The E Pluribus Unum Project, and works to expand safe and inclusive spaces for all God's children. She lives for rich conversations, good coffee, books, and walks in the woods.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, May 9 at 11:30 a.m. at the Olive Garden, 50 Kunkle Dr., Easton, PA.

We encourage 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, May 6 to make your reservation.

Play Ball! Come join us for an IronPigs baseball game outing on **Friday, June 7** at Coca-Cola Park, 1050 IronPigs Way, Allentown, PA. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. Gates open at 5:45 p.m.

The deadline to order tickets is Sunday, May 5.

Tickets cost \$10 per person with a \$2 credit embedded in that ticket to go toward food or merchandise purchases. You can pay for your tickets with cash or a check, made out to Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

Coca-Cola Park is cashless. Parking is \$5 per car.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please see Bill Nixon, call or text him at 908-319-2800, or email him at bnixon708@gmail.com

College Care Packages. Last Sunday, April 14, the Deacons assembled and mailed out 6 College Care Packages to our college and graduate school students.

Summer Mission Trip. We are planning a mission trip to the Dominican Republic from Friday, July 12 to Saturday, July 20. We will be working again with Foundation for Peace to help build a church.

If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Stephen as soon as possible. A \$50 deposit is needed to reserve your spot.

Attention Proud Parents and Guardians! We would like to include information about our high school, college, graduate school, and trade school graduates in the June Newsletter.

Please e-mail the following information to the church office by Friday, May 17: Student's name, the school from which they are graduating, the date of graduation, the type of degree or certificate they earned, and what their future plans may be (college/trade school/work/etc.).

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, Hamburger Helper, condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc.) and side dishes (packaged rice, pasta, etc.), as well as grocery bags.

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

- "Our Daily Bread," March/April/May issue.
- "Today," May/June issue.
- "Our Daily Bread," large-print edition, April/May/June issue.

Pray for This Week's Mission Partner: Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Volunteers are the driving force behind Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. More than 2,000 seniors and people with disabilities depend on volunteers every day to deliver meals directly to their homes and senior centers. Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley offers other services, including grocery shopping. As a church, we deliver meals one week every month.