

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

April 2024

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

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer

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.

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.

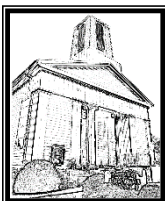
The IronPigs (the AAA affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies) are scheduled to play the Buffalo Bisons (affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays).

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



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.

Every Morning is Easter Morning

About fifteen years ago, I was introduced to a song called “Every Morning is Easter Morning” by Richard Avery and Donald Marsh.

Here is the refrain:

“Ev'ry morning is Easter morning
from now on!
Ev'ry day's resurrection day,
the past is over and gone!

Goodbye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance!
Hello Lord, Hello sun!
I am one of the Easter People!
My new life has begun!”

This song was written and composed in the 1970s, and if you ever get a chance to listen to it, it definitely has a 70s vibe to it.

But even more than the tune, the lyrics are meaningful because it speaks to how life is now forever different and forever changed in light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And it speaks to how Jesus is to be celebrated not just one or two Sundays a year, but Jesus is to be celebrated every single day of our lives.

Because the truth is:
“Every morning is Easter morning from now on!
Every day is resurrection day, the past is over and gone!”

So regardless of how you may be feeling right now. Regardless of what's been happening in your life or in the life of the world. The truth remains: Christ is Risen!

And because Christ is Risen ... We can and have reason to celebrate Easter!

And because Christ is Risen ... Indeed, every morning can be Easter morning from now on. And every day can be a new day ... A new day to celebrate and experience the resurrected life as Easter People.

Because that's who we are ... Easter People ... Not just one morning a year on Easter Sunday, but every morning of every day.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Stephen Park Choi

Palm Sunday Fun

We celebrated Palm Sunday with pony rides and a miniature donkey before the worship service on Sunday, March 24. After the worship service, we had an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.



Hosanna!



Texts and Emails from Pastor Stephen.

If you receive texts or emails from Pastor Stephen asking for money, these are scams.

Please do not reply to them, and let Pastor Stephen know.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 12 and Friday, April 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.



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

In March, we donated 20 bags of food and toiletries, along with reusable grocery bags.

At this time, the food pantry is in particular need of Hamburger Helper, peanut butter and jelly, condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc.) and side dishes (packaged rice, pasta, etc.), as well as grocery bags.

March Deacons Offering. We received \$468 for the special offering collected in March for the work and ministry of our Deacons.

Thank you for your generosity.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering that was received during Lent and on Easter.

We received \$445, which will be divided between 3 programs of The Presbyterian Church USA: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.



APRIL

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Bob Heinrich
Bo Johnson |
| 5 | Dawn Barretto
Adeline Clark
Charlie & Sue Henshaw – Anniversary |
| 6 | Bob Hurte |
| 10 | Bruce Stoddart |
| 13 | Giavanna Cantagallo-Rohm |
| 15 | Madison Wolfinger |
| 20 | Betty Corio
Paulie Williams |
| 26 | John Hawk |
| 27 | Savana Williams |
| 29 | Monet Gonda
Jeffrey Guidi |
| 30 | Scott Goff |

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!

Aluminum Can Tab Collection. We are continuing to collect aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia.

There is a container on the table in the back of the sanctuary where you can put the tabs.

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

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



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.

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 a.m. at the Brass Rail, 840 Belvidere Road, Phillipsburg.

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

We had 24 people attend our March luncheon, and we collected \$45 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, April 8 to make your reservation.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Friday, April 19, at 6:00 p.m. at Byron Place II (formerly Pizza Express), 821 Route 57, Stewartville.

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.

Women's Spring Retreat. The Women's Spring Retreat will be held from Friday, April 26 to Sunday, April 28 at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center. You may also attend the Saturday session only.

Reservations are still available.

Scholarships are available through our church.

If you are interested in attending, please speak with Linda Williams.

For information on scholarships, please speak with Pastor Stephen.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Session Notes – March 25, 2024

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Janis Clark.
- We made the prayerful decision to give \$1,500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in response to the continued conflict in Israel/Palestine and Ukraine.
- We also made a \$1,000 donation to the Firth Youth Center in honor of Mary Lou Gary, our treasurer emerita. A portion of our donation will be used to provide lunch during their summer camp.
- Our Summer Worship Schedule will begin on Sunday, June 2. Worship services will be at 10:00 a.m. through the first Sunday in September. The last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 26.
- Judy Melchore was elected to be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, May 14. (The Presbytery of the Highlands has 5 stated presbytery meetings a year.)
- Annual reviews for all of the church staff have been completed.
- Pastor Stephen and Carol Evanski will be on a church mission trip to Cuba, April 17-22. (Denise DeMasi will be the Elder on Call.)
- Pastor Stephen will be away at the Synod Mission and Ministries Commission Meeting in Syracuse, New York, April 25-27. (Denise DeMasi will be the Elder on Call.)
- Pastor Stephen will once again moderate the Annual Congregational Meeting for First Presbyterian Church of Oxford Hazen, April 28.
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - April 21: Laura Choi
 - April 28: The Rev. Tex Culton
 - May 19: The Rev. Tex Culton
- Our next Session Meeting will be on Monday, April 29.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of February 29, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$2,175 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.

Camp Johnsonburg. Camp Johnsonburg, a ministry of the 4 New Jersey Presbyteries, offers summer programs for children and youth entering 1st through 12th grade.

You can view the brochure and available camp sessions at www.campjburg.org

Camp Scholarships are available through our church. Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested in taking advantage of this great opportunity.



Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be away from Wednesday, April 17 through Sunday, April 28.

He will be 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

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	4	5 8 am Friday Devotional Group	6
7 Blood Drive 8 am to 12:30 pm 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion 6 pm AA	8	9	10 7 pm AA	11 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Brass Rail 7 pm Grange	12 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 Pastor Stephen Away through Sunday, April 28 7 pm AA	18	19 9:30 am Fiber Arts 6 pm Women's Circle, Byron Place II	20
21 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 6 pm AA	22	23	24 7 pm AA	25	26 9:30 am Needlecraft Group Women's Spring Retreat through Sunday, April 28	27 10 am Samplemakers
28 9:20 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	29 7 pm Session Meeting	30				