

December 1, 2024
10:30 AM Service of Worship
1st Sunday of Advent
The Lord's Supper

Gathering Around the Word

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE Deacons

RESPONSE *Light One Candle*

*Light one candle for hope,
One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart,
He comes, He comes! (Repeat)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP Janis Clark

Leader: God says, "Do not be afraid."
People: God says, "I have called you by name."
Leader: God says, "I will be with you."
People: God says, "You are precious and honored in my sight."
Leader: At the beginning of this Advent season,
at the start of this week,
People: May we wrap ourselves in God's words and begin again.
Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

*HYMN #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Affirming God,
Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by
society's measuring stick instead of yours.
Help us to believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name, we pray.

*SILENT CONFESSION

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE #581 *Glory Be to the Father*

***Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.***

*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 Nancy Sampson

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 43:1-3a p. 718
This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *A Tiny Child Will Come* Choir

SECOND LESSON Luke 1:26-38 p. 1012-1013
This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "You Are a Blessing" Pastor Stephen Choi

Responding to the Word

*DECLARATION OF FAITH (Insert) The Nicene Creed

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

*DOXOLOGY #609

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

The Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

COMMUNION PRAYER

God, our Provider, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs.

By your presence in this meal, you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby.

In this waiting season, fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word

*HYMN #100

Canticle of the Turning

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

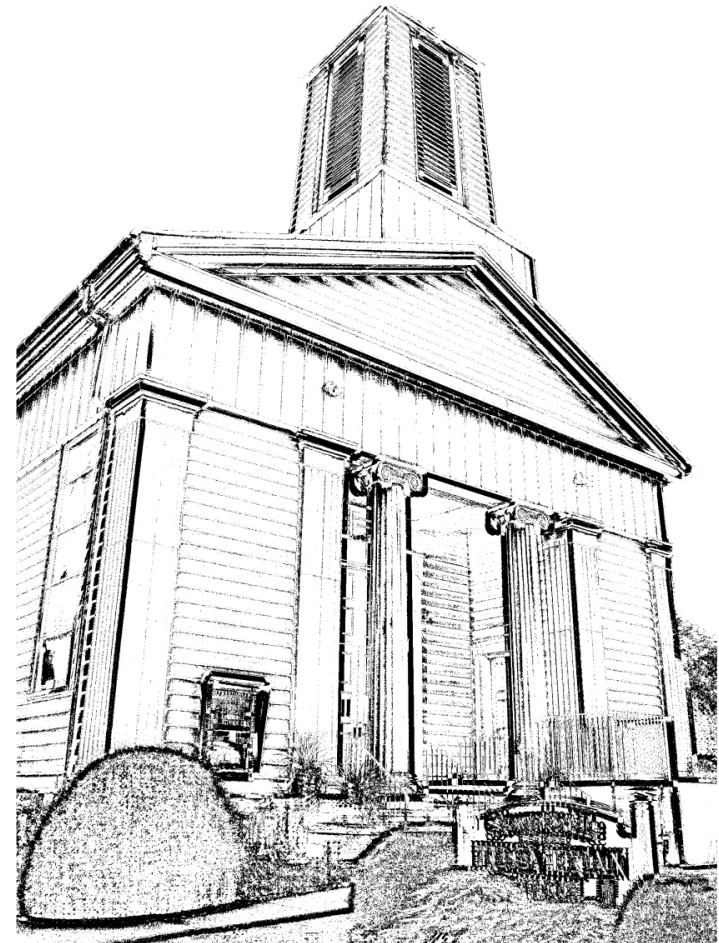
*Please stand if able

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor

STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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Confirmation Class. We are beginning a new Confirmation Class in January 2025.

Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you have questions and if you would like to have your child attend.

2025 Mission Trip. We are planning a Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic from June 27 to July 4, 2025.

We will again work with Foundation for Peace, and will continue our work with the same church we were helping to build this past summer.

Please let Pastor Stephen know if you are interested in participating. A \$50 deposit is needed to reserve your spot.

175th Anniversary Survey. 2025 will mark our 175th anniversary as the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church.

As part of our anniversary celebration, we ask that you share some of your fondest memories.

There are surveys on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Place your completed surveys in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office.

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 juice, jelly, coffee, hot chocolate mix, cake mix and frosting, and condiments (ketchup, mustard, etc.), as well as grocery bags.

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

Pray for This Week's Mission Partner: Firth Youth Center.

The Joseph H. Firth Youth Center is a private, charitable organization devoted to serving the youth of Phillipsburg since 1954, through a wide variety of dynamic programming, and educational and athletic opportunities. The Firth Youth Center is committed to building the resiliency of our most underserved populations while continuously promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for the betterment of our children and community.

OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

Assisting in Worship Today	Janis Clark
Greeters Today	Bill and Carol Nixon
Broadcast Team	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
Sunday School and Nursery	Laura Choi and Sarah Sampson

Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

Today, 12/1: AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Tuesday, 12/3: AED Training, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Wednesday, 12/4: Deacons Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library
AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Friday, 12/6: Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library
Grief Support, 2:00 p.m., Library

Sunday, 12/8: Second Sunday of Advent
Adult Sunday School, 9:20 a.m., Library
Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
Congregational Meeting after Worship Service
Time for Fellowship after Congregational Meeting
AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wednesday, 12/4: Will Sampson

Bud & Carol Evanoski – Anniversary

Thursday, 12/5: Kathy Montgomery

Saturday, 12/7: Pastor Stephen Choi

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.

Congregational Meeting. There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after the worship service next Sunday, Dec. 8. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

Poinsettias. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for information on ordering Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service. Poinsettias are \$5 each and dedications can be made in memory or in honor of a loved one. The deadline to order is next Sunday, Dec. 8.

Announcements (continued)

AED Training. We now have AED units in our sanctuary and Roan Hall. We will be having a training session on how to properly use the AED, and also CPR Training this Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Roan Hall.

We have 5 spaces left in the class. Please RSVP to Renée in the church office if you would like to attend.

Hanging of the Greens. Help is needed for the annual “Hanging of the Greens” this Saturday, Dec. 7 at 9:00 a.m. We will be decorating the sanctuary, and putting up the Christmas tree.

The Fellowship Committee will provide a light breakfast.

For more information or to sign up, contact Ed Ham at ehamjr99@gmail.com

Giving Tree. All of the “Giving Tree” tags have been taken. Thank you to everyone who picked a tag!

If you would still like to help a child in need, the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency has also asked for gift cards to Target or Walmart.

The deadline to return unwrapped gifts and gift cards is next Sunday, Dec. 8.

Cookie Exchange. We will hold our annual Cookie Exchange on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 9:45 a.m. in Roan Hall. Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for more information.

The deadline to sign up is next Sunday, Dec. 8.

Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to go caroling after worship on Sunday, Dec. 15. We will sing Christmas carols to our homebound members, and we will also deliver cookies to them.

If you plan on attending, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

Adult Lunch Group. “Grazing with Grace,” our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 11:30 a.m. at Sports Scene Restaurant at Oakwood Lanes, 234 Route 31, Washington, NJ.

In celebration of Christmas, we will take up a monetary collection which will be donated to a charity to be determined at the luncheon.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Dec. 9 to make your reservation. Also, contact Louisa if you need a ride or directions to the restaurant.

Christmas Joy Offering. We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the Advent season. Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for more information on this offering.

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, and note “Christmas Joy” under Special.

2025 Pledge Cards. If you have not already returned your 2025 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.

2025 Offering Envelopes. The 2025 Offering Envelopes will be available on the table in the back of the sanctuary next Sunday, Dec. 8.

Please contact the office if you need your envelopes mailed to you.

Women’s Circle. The Women’s Circle will meet on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6:00 p.m. at Warrenside Tavern, 511 Route 173, Stewartsville.

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.

Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School will present their Children Program during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 22.

There will be a dress rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21 in the sanctuary.

If you would like your child to participate in the program, please speak with Laura Choi or text her at 717-599-9875.

Christmas Eve Worship Service. Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during this service of Lessons and Carols.