

December 8, 2024
10:30 AM Service of Worship
2nd Sunday of Advent

Gathering Around the Word

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE Elders

RESPONSE *Light One Candle*

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP Laurie Winans

Leader: In a world that is lonely,

People: We will save a seat for you.

Leader: In a world that is anxious,

People: We will light candles against the gloom.

Leader: In a world that is weary,

People: We will sing songs of joy and truth.

Leader: I am not alone.

People: We are not alone.

Leader: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

People: Light the candles! Sing with joy! Rejoice!

Leader: Let us worship the Lord our God!

*HYMN #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
(Verses 1-2, 6-7)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy God,

You call us to love you with all our heart,
and with all our soul, and with all our mind.

People: Forgive us:

**when selfishness takes up too much of our heart,
when worry seems to crowd wonder out of our soul,
when fear causes us to close our minds to anything new.**

Leader: Holy God,

You call us to bear with one another in love.

People: Forgive us when we cannot love our neighbors.

Forgive us when we cannot love ourselves.

*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 Noelle Steller

FIRST LESSON Ruth 1:1-10 p. 258
This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *The Reason for the Season* Choir

SECOND LESSON Ruth 1:11-22 p. 258-259
This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "We Can't Go Alone" Pastor Stephen Choi

Responding to the Word

*DECLARATION OF FAITH (Insert) The Nicene Creed

*HYMN #727 *The Servant Song*

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

Bearing and Following the Word

*HYMN #767

Together We Serve

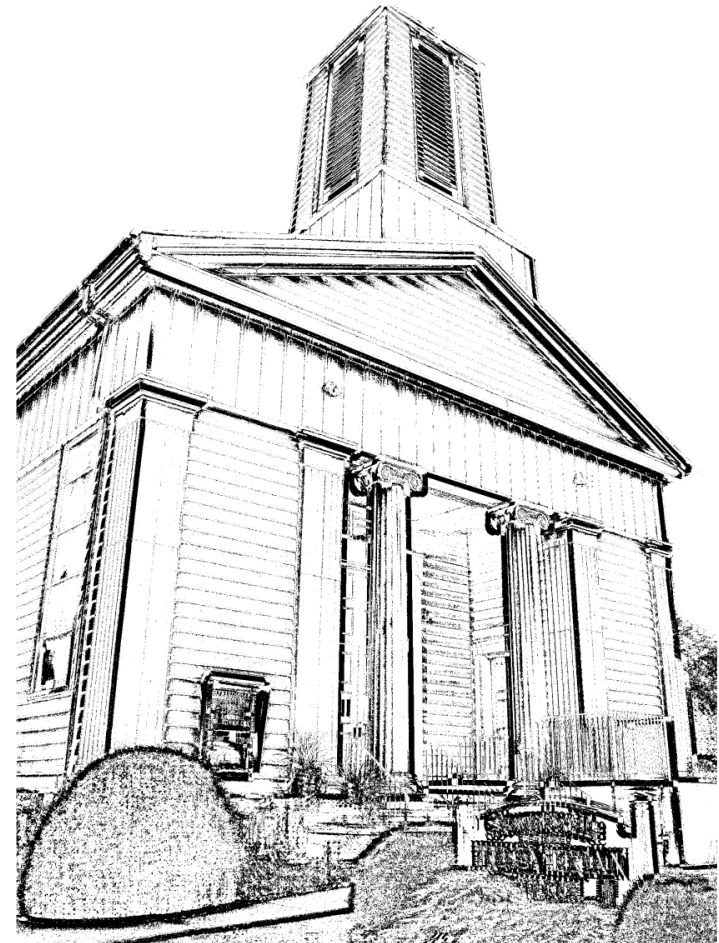
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand if able

STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

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

Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

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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.

Aluminum Can Tab Collection. We continue 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.

Catholic Charities Food Pantry. At this time, the Catholic Charities 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: Miller-Keystone Blood Center. Miller-Keystone Blood Center's mission is to save lives by partnering with the community to provide a continuous supply of blood products and services. Founded in 1971, Miller-Keystone serves as the sole blood provider for 29 hospitals in eastern PA and western NJ. The Blood Donation Ministry of our church partners with Miller-Keystone to sponsor 2 blood drives each year. In 2025, our blood drives will be held on Sunday, May 18 and Sunday, Oct. 26.

OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

Assisting in Worship Today

Laurie Winans

Greeters Today

Fred Gary and

Sue Gruver

Broadcast Team

Alan Deak and

Bill Fleming

Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

Today, 12/8: Congregational Meeting after Worship Service

Time for Fellowship after Meeting

AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Wednesday, 12/11: AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

Thursday, 12/12: Adult Lunch Group, 11:30 a.m., Sports Scene

Friday, 12/13: Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library

Needlecraft Group, 9:30 a.m., Library

Saturday, 12/14: Samplemakers, 10:00 a.m., Roan Hall

Sunday, 12/15: Third Sunday of Advent

Adult Sunday School, 9:20 a.m., Library

Cookie Exchange, 9:45 a.m., Roan Hall

Worship Service and Children's Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins after Worship Service

AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

This Week's Birthdays and Anniversaries

Monday, 12/9: Joe & Jackie Lubinski – Anniversary

Tuesday, 12/10: Stella Bove

Wednesday, 12/11: John Muentener III

Thursday, 12/12: Justin Jewell

Friday, 12/13: Carly Alpaugh

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 today. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

Sanctuary Decorations. Thank you to everyone who came to the church yesterday to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas!

Announcements (continued)

Poinsettias. Today is the last day to order Poinsettias for our Christmas Eve worship service. Please see the insert in today's bulletin for information on ordering.

Giving Tree. All 45 of the "Giving Tree" tags have been taken. Thank you to everyone who picked a tag!

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

Cookie Exchange. We will hold our annual Cookie Exchange next 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 today, Dec. 8.

Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to go caroling after the worship next 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 this 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 tomorrow, Dec. 9 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 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.

Christmas Joy Offering. We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering throughout the Advent season.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you will help families of active and retired church workers, and support Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

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.

Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School will present their Christmas 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.

2025 Offering Envelopes. The 2025 Offering Envelopes will be available on the table in the back of the sanctuary next Sunday. Please contact the office if you need your envelopes mailed to you.

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.

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.