

**December 15, 2024**  
**10:30 AM Service of Worship**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Gathering Around the Word**

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE Choir

RESPONSE *Light One Candle*

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Nancy Sampson

Leader: In this weary world,

**People: We sing of joy.**

Leader: In this fragile world,

**People: We lift each other up.**

Leader: In this beautiful world,

**People: We look for God.**

Leader: In this tender world,

**People: We hold onto hope.**

Leader: This is the invitation of faith.  
So in this time of worship,  
may we sing, lift up, look for,  
and hold onto our with-us God.

**All: With hope in our hearts,  
let us worship the Lord our God!**

\*HYMN #106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Liberating God,  
There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.  
There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.  
I ask myself,  
What could these two hands do?  
What could this one voice say?**

**Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.  
Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.  
I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.  
With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, 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 Bob Hurte

FIRST LESSON Romans 12:1-8 p. 1123  
This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Will We Know Him?* Choir

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:7-16 p. 1016  
This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Do the Good That Is Yours to Do" Pastor Stephen Choi

**Responding to the Word**

\*DECLARATION OF FAITH (Insert) The Nicene Creed

\*HYMN #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

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 #105

*People, Look East*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if able

**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

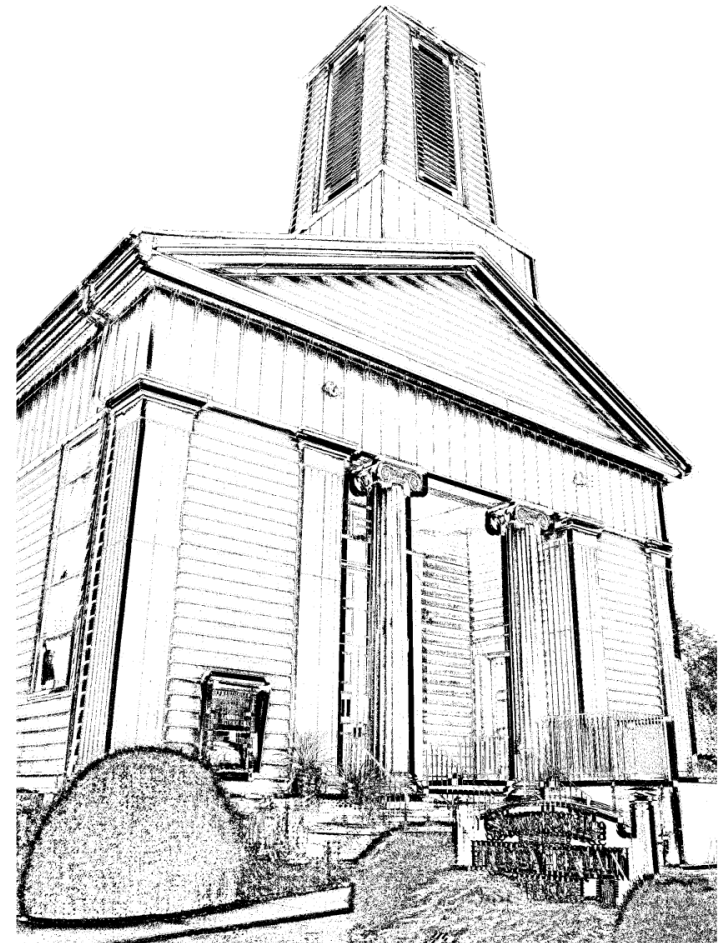
Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

Laura Choi, Christian Education Director

Renée Herb, Office Manager

Sarah Sampson, Treasurer

# STEWARTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



550 North Main Street  
Stewartsville, NJ 08886  
908-859-1399

[www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org)  
e-mail: [office@stewartsvillepc.org](mailto:office@stewartsvillepc.org)

**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 following daily devotionals are available on the table in 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.

**Pray for This Week’s Mission Partner: The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey.** The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey, formed in March 2021, is the regional expression of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Northwest New Jersey. It includes the counties of Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Somerset, Morris, upper Passaic and one congregation in Mercer. The community of the Presbytery of the Highlands includes 81 congregations. The Presbytery community supports and encourages the ministries and mission of all its congregations. Mission emphasis includes local ministries of feeding and sheltering the poor and homeless, responding to disaster, interfaith relationships, peacemaking, and international mission.

<b>OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY</b>	
<b>Assisting in Worship Today</b>	Nancy Sampson
<b>Greeters Today</b>	Marsha Colaluce and John Dobrowski
<b>Broadcast Team</b>	Alan Deak and Bill Fleming
<b>Sunday School and Nursery</b>	Laura Choi and Carol Nixon

### **Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church**

**Today, 12/15:** Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins after Worship Service  
AA, 6:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Monday, 12/16:** Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library

**Wednesday, 12/18:** AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Thursday, 12/19:** Women’s Circle, 6:00 p.m., Warrenside Tavern

**Friday, 12/20:** Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library  
Fiber Arts, 9:30 a.m., Roan Hall

Grief Support Group, 2:00 p.m., Library

**Saturday, 12/21:** Sunday School Christmas Program

Dress Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary

**Sunday, 12/22:** Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Worship Service, 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School

Christmas Program

Time for Fellowship after Worship Service

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

### **This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Today, 12/15:** Gabrielle Poremba  
Chris Winans

**Monday, 12/16:** Tammy Oberly  
John & Heidi Hawk – Anniversary

**Tuesday, 12/17:** Colton Banghart

**Friday, 12/20:** Anthony DeMasi

**Saturday, 12/21:** Barry Oberly

### **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.

## **Announcements (continued)**

**Christmas Caroling.** Please join us after the worship service today to go Christmas caroling. 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.

**Women's Circle.** The Women's Circle will meet this 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 Christmas Program, "Mary's Story" during the 10:30 a.m. worship service next Sunday, Dec. 22.

There will be a dress rehearsal at 9:30 a.m. this 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.

**Nursery Not Staffed.** The church nursery will be open, but not staffed on Sundays, Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

**Pajama Sunday.** On Sunday, Dec. 29, please feel free to wear pajamas or casual clothing to our 10:30 a.m. worship service. We will have a hymn sing during the service.

**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.

**Christmas Joy Offering.** We are 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](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org), Give Now, and note "Christmas Joy" under Special.

**Confirmation Class.** We will begin 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 Offering Envelopes.** The 2025 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

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.

**2024 Giving Statements.** Offering received by Sunday, Dec. 29, will be counted toward your 2024 Giving Statement.

Offering received after that date will count toward your 2025 statement.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Survey.** 2025 will mark our 175<sup>th</sup> 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.