

The Stewartsville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church
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December 2025

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



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship Service
at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24.
Holy Communion will be celebrated
during this service of Lessons and Carols.



Worship Service and Children's Sunday School are held at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.
Adult Sunday School is held at 9:20 a.m.
Holy Communion is 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.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Hanging of the Greens. Help is needed for the annual "Hanging of the Greens" this Saturday, Dec. 6 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

Congregational Meeting. There will be a brief Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 14. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a new class of Elders and Deacons.

Poinsettias. The deadline to submit an order form for Poinsettias is Sunday, Dec. 14. The Poinsettias cost \$5 per plant. Please contact the church office by Friday, Dec. 12, if you would like to order Poinsettias.

(December Events continued on page 3)

Alternative Christmas Gifts

During our time at the Stewartsville Presbyterian Church, my family and I have given Alternative Gifts for Christmas in honor of our church. This year, we continue this tradition by giving the following gifts through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>):

Family of Chickens (\$25)

Eggs for food, feathers for pillows, and fertilizer for crops. A family of chickens can help improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.

Cow (\$50 for a share)

A dairy cow can provide a family in need with a reliable source of income and nourishment. This gift also supports training in caretaking and sustainable breeding of livestock, improving food and income security for families and villages for years to come.

Hygiene Kit (\$30)

Hygiene kits help support relief efforts that provide supplies critical in controlling the spread of infection and disease. Included are emergency food items, mosquito nets, blankets, and soap.

Supplies for Displaced Students (\$30)

This gift provides the opportunity of education to students who have lost everything. With a gift of school supplies, 3 students living in a refugee camp can be empowered through learning.

Sewing Machine (\$50)

A sewing machine isn't just for use at home. New sewing equipment can be just what someone needs to launch a business that mends, alters and sells clothing and linens. A sewing machine could help provide a stable source of income for a family in a developing part of the world.

Farming Tools (\$10)

Growing and harvesting a fruitful crop is possible only with the proper tools, such as shovels and machetes. The necessary equipment can help bring a fruitful yield from the land.

Jerry Cans (\$25)

UNICEF estimates that women and girls around the world collectively spend 200 million hours every day fetching water. A gift of \$25 provides up to 10 jerry cans to transport water more efficiently, freeing women and girls to have more time on enriching activities, like attending school.

It is my prayer that these gifts would be a source of “good news of great joy” to those who receive them. What better way to celebrate Christmas than to be a blessing! To give so that others may simply live. To give the gift of life and to have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

As a church, may we always be a blessing and strive to be “good news of great joy” in our love for God and in our love for our neighbors, both near and far.

May you have a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas!

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,
Pastor Stephen and Family

DECEMBER EVENTS (continued)

Cookie Exchange will be held at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, in Roan Hall. The deadline to sign up is Sunday, Dec. 14. You will receive a phone call on Monday, Dec. 15, saying how many cookies you should bake. For more information or to sign up, contact Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

Christmas Caroling. Everyone is invited to go caroling after Time for Fellowship on Sunday, Dec. 21. We will sing Christmas carols to our homebound members, and we will also deliver cookies to them.

Sunday School Christmas Program. The Sunday School will present their Christmas Program, "Twas the Evening of Christmas" during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 21. The SPC Youth Choir will perform as part of the play.

Nursery. The Nursery will be open, but not staffed on Sunday, Dec. 21, Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Sunday, Dec. 28.

Pajama Sunday. Please feel free to wear your pajamas and comfy clothing to the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Dec. 28. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 28.

175th Anniversary Poem

Rosie England wrote a poem in celebration of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church's 175th anniversary:

The Promise
by Rosie England

When your soul reaches a crossroad
and it knows not where to turn,
but you have a strong desire
to understand and learn,
All the things the son of God
was sent to earth to teach,
that is when fulfillment
of your soul will be reached.
When you feel your Faith is fading
hold on for one more day,
"The promise" is that Jesus
will come without delay.
Each tragedy you go through
each time your heart goes numb,
when you least expect it
a new Blessing will come.
These words that I have written
they come to me at night,
with "The Promise" of Eternity
to live in Love and Light.

Giving Tree. All 40 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 this Sunday, Dec. 7.





On Sunday, Nov. 16, we were blessed to have **Ishmael Rahim Adam** as our guest preacher.

He is the founder of Love Driven Ministries located in Juma Village, a Muslim-dominated community in Salima, Malawi.

Elsie Freeh passed away on Sunday, Nov. 30. She was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church in Bloomsbury before it closed, and she then joined SPC in 2016.



Elsie's memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. this Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Doyle-Devlin Funeral Home, 695 Corliss Ave., Phillipsburg. Visitation is from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the funeral home.

Please keep Elsie's family in your prayers.

Needlecraft Group. The Needlecraft Group will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 12 in the library.

For more information, call Sue Gruver at 573-999-7014.



DECEMBER

- 4 Will Sampson
Bud & Carol Evanoski – Anniversary
- 5 Kathy Montgomery
- 7 Pastor Stephen Choi
- 9 Joe & Jackie Lubinski – Anniversary
- 10 Stella Bove
- 11 John Muentener III
- 12 Justin Jewell
- 13 Carly Alpaugh
- 15 Gabrielle Poremba
Chris Winans
- 16 Tammy Oberly
John & Heidi Hawk – Anniversary
- 17 Colton Banghart
- 20 Anthony DeMasi
- 21 Barry Oberly
- 22 Bob Morris
John & Terry Lefler – Anniversary
- 24 Linda Williams
- 25 Alan Deak
- 28 Linda Roan
Dave Bove & Nicole Viscomi-Bove – Anniversary
- 29 Brodey Colucci Keller
- 31 Madelyn Duckworth
Vincenzo Viscomi

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!

November Deacons Offering. Thanks to your generosity, we received \$481.33 in the November Deacons Offering. This offering goes toward the work and ministry of our Deacons.

SUNDAY ZOOM WORSHIP

The Zoom worship service is held at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. It is broadcast live during the in-person worship service.

The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be broadcast at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24. Please use the same Zoom link below that you use on Sunday mornings.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and on Christmas Eve. 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94418910396?pwd=WlQwMHByZHZUMy9sTFpQaThEMkRvdz09>

Dial by your location

1-646-558-8656 (New York)

Meeting ID: 944 1891 0396

Passcode: 08886



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

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

We had 19 people attend the November luncheon, and we collected \$34 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. Each month we encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheons to donate to the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, Dec. 8 to make your reservation.

Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 6:00 p.m. at Uniontown Bar & Grill at Harker's Hollow, 950 Uniontown Rd., Phillipsburg.

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.



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

In November, we donated 16 bags of food and toiletries.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in particular need of canned soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, toilet paper, laundry detergent (pods), and dishwashing detergent, as well as grocery bags.

Capital Campaign. As of Nov. 30, we have received \$12,263.09 for our Capital Campaign.
(Our goal is to raise \$30,000)

Session Notes – November 17, 2025

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Judy Melchore.
- We made the prayerful decision to donate \$500 to help MercyCare High School in Malawi rebuild and keep girls in school after a fire destroyed their girl’s dorm, displacing over 130 residential students.
- Alcoholics Anonymous has started a Men’s Group and is meeting in Roan Hall most Thursday nights. (In addition, AA continues to meet every Sunday and Wednesday evening at the church.)
- Deacons will be sending gift cards to our college and graduate students this semester.
- Staff reviews will be conducted in the beginning part of 2025.
- Pastor Stephen will be on a month-long sabbatical in February 2026.
- Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 22.
- Treasurer’s Report:
As of October 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$7,691 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.

Christmas Joy Offering. We are 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, Special, and note “Christmas Joy.”

2026 Pledge Cards. If you have not already returned your 2026 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.

OFFERING



2026 Offering Envelopes. The 2026 Offering Envelopes will be available on a table in the back of the sanctuary beginning Sunday, Dec. 14. Please remember to stop in the back and pick up your box of envelopes. If you would like envelopes but do not see your name, please contact the church office. Also contact the office if you need your box of envelopes mailed to you.

Christmas Eve Offering. Offering received during our Christmas Eve Worship Service will go toward the work and ministry of our church. You may use the special envelope in your offering envelope box.

2025 Giving Statements. Offering received by Sunday, Dec. 28, will be counted toward your 2025 Giving Statement. Offering received after that date will count toward your 2026 statement.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7 pm AA	4 7 pm AA Men's Group	5 8 am Friday Devotional Group	6
7 Second Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School with Holy Communion Time for Fellowship after Worship SPC Youth Choir Rehearsal after Worship 6 pm AA	8	9	10 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	11 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group, Sports Scene 6 pm Women's Circle, Uniontown Bar & Grill 7 pm AA Men's Group	12 8 am Friday Devotional Group 9:30 am Needlecraft Group	13 10 am Samplmakers
14 Third Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School Election of Church Officers after Worship Service SPC Youth Choir Rehearsal 6 pm AA	15	16	17 7 pm AA	18 7 pm AA Men's Group	19 8 am Friday Devotional Group	20
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 9:45 am Cookie Exchange 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Christmas Program Time for Fellowship after Worship Christmas Caroling after Time for Fellowship 6 pm AA	22 7 pm Session Meeting	23	24 Church Office Closed 7 pm Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Pajama Sunday 10:30 am Worship Service No Sunday School 6 pm AA	29	30	31 Church Office Closed 7 pm AA	Coming next month: The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.		