

**March 22, 2026**  
**10:30 AM Service of Worship**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Gathering Around the Word**

WELCOME AND PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Denise DeMasi

Leader: God loves the field mouse.

**People: God loves the crows that take flight,  
when church bells ring.**

Leader: God loves the baby, cooing in the pew.

**People: God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

Leader: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**People: God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,  
standing strong over all of us.**

Leader: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**People: There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

Leader: So let us worship this Good-News God!

**All: Amen!**

\*HYMN #188

*Jesus Loves Me!*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

**People: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants  
in our land.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**People: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than  
we have pursued peace.**

Leader: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

**People: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to  
care for our neighbors.**

Leader: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

**People: We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair  
ways.**

\*SILENT CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Fortunately for all of us, God also said:  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine."

**People: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,  
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.  
May this good news change our lives!  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE #555

*O Lamb of God*

***O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;  
Have mercy on us, Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.***

\*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

Allison de Haas

HYMN #414 (Insert)

*Be Still and Know That I Am God*

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

p. 194-195

This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Why Should He Love Me So?*

Choir

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 19:13-15

p. 976

This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Let the Little Children Come"

Pastor Stephen Choi

**Responding to the Word**

\*DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*HYMN #487

*These Treasured Children*

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

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Bearing and Following the Word**

\*HYMN #852

*When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE #543 (Verse 4)

*O Christ, Surround Us*

***Walking behind to hem our journey,  
going ahead to light our way,  
and from beneath, above, and all ways:  
O Christ, surround us; O Christ, surround us.***

\*POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if able

**Stewartsville Presbyterian Church**

**The Ministers: All the Members**

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi, Pastor

Brian Ballentine, Music Director

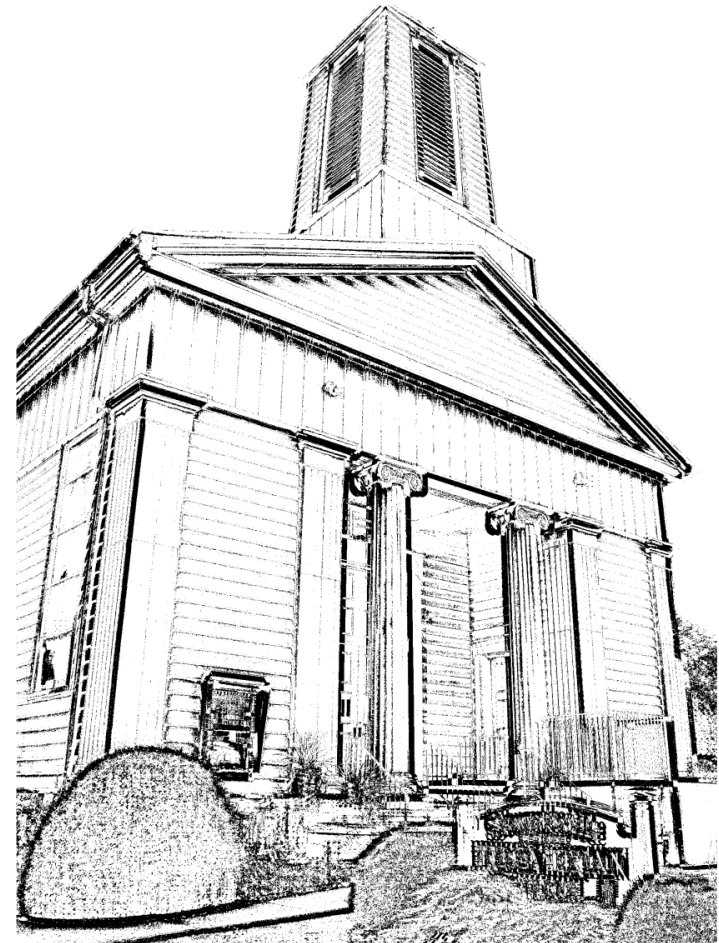
Denise DeMasi, Choir Director

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)

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Greenwich Township Recreation is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt today from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m. at Thomas Stewart Park, 112 Greenwich St., Stewartsville.

The egg hunt is for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be photos with the Easter Bunny and food will be available for purchase.

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

At this time, the Food Pantry is in need of peanut butter and jelly, individual fruit cups, individual boxes/bottles of juice, and toothpaste, as well as grocery bags.

**Devotionals.** The following daily devotionals are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or by calling the church office:

- “Our Daily Bread,” Mar./April/May issue.
- “Today,” Mar./April issue
- “Our Daily Bread,” large-print edition, April/May/June issue.

**Pray for This Week’s Mission Partner: Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center.** The mission of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County is to help, serve, and advocate for those impacted by interpersonal violence, to be proactive regarding its prevention, and to create positive change. For more information, visit their website: [dasacc.org](http://dasacc.org)

#### OUR CONGREGATION IN MINISTRY

**Assisting in Worship Today**

Denise DeMasi

**Greeters Today**

Ed and Sue Ham

**Broadcast Team**

Alan Deak and

Bill Fleming

#### Week Ahead at Stewartsville Presbyterian Church

**Today, 3/22:** Rummage Sale Drop Off, 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

**Monday, 3/23:** Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Library

**Wednesday, 3/25:** AA, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Thursday, 3/26:** Women’s Circle, 6:00 p.m., Fresh Tortillas

AA Men’s Group, 7:00 p.m., Roan Hall

**Friday, 3/27:** Friday Devotional Group, 8:00 a.m., Library

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

**Sunday, 3/29:** Palm Sunday

Pony Rides and Miniature Donkey, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service and Children’s Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., with the Distribution of Palms

Special Music during the Worship Service

Time for Fellowship and Easter Egg Hunt after Worship Service

Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off, 12:00 Noon-2:00 p.m.

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

#### This Week’s Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Wednesday, 3/25:** Shane Stecker

**Thursday, 3/26:** Brian & Shannon Ballentine – Anniversary

#### 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.

**Easter Flowers.** Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for information on ordering Easter flowers. We are offering 6” pots of daffodils, tulips, and pansies.

The deadline to order is TODAY, March 22.

**No Sunday School/Nursery.** There will be no Adult Sunday School on Palm Sunday, March 29, and Easter Sunday, April 5.

There will be no Children’s Sunday School on Easter.

On Easter, the Nursery will be open, but not staffed.

## Announcements (continued)

### Holy Week Services

**Palm Sunday, March 29.** We will have Pony Rides and a Miniature Donkey at 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday will be celebrated during the 10:30 a.m. worship service with the distribution of palms.

We will have special music offered by David Rimelis during the worship service. David was one of the musicians who played at our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in November.

There will be Time for Fellowship and an Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service. Children should bring their own baskets for goodies.

**Good Friday, April 3.** The Good Friday Service of Shadows will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Easter Sunday, April 5.** We will celebrate Easter with Holy Communion during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

**Bessie Magnets.** Bessie Sinclair celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Feb. 21. Pastor Stephen made “Bessie Magnets,” illustrated with Bessie in her postal truck or Bessie and Stephen in her truck! If you would like a magnet, please speak with Pastor Stephen.

**Women’s Circle.** The Women’s Circle will meet this Thursday, March 26, at 6:00 p.m. at Fresh Tortillas Bar & Grill, 837 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Alpha.

For more information or to make a reservation, please call Linda Williams at 908-454-8104.

**Adult Lunch Group.** “Grazing with Grace,” our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Byron Place II, 821 Route 57, Stewartsville.

Each month we encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheon to donate to the NORWESCAP Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, April 6, to make your reservation.

**Camp Johnsonburg Brochures.** Brochures for the upcoming season at Camp Johnsonburg are available in the back of the sanctuary or by calling the church office.

Our church offers scholarships to Camp Johnsonburg. Please speak with Pastor Stephen if you are interested.

**Capital Campaign.** As of Feb. 28, we have received \$16,492 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$30,000.

**Deacons’ Offering.** During the month of March, we are receiving a special offering to support the work and ministry of our Deacons. Please use the envelope in your offering box, or write a check and note “Deacons” on the memo line.

For online giving, please go to the church website ([www.stewartsvillepc.org](http://www.stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Deacons.

**One Great Hour of Sharing.** The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering will be received throughout Lent and Easter. We will receive this offering through Easter Sunday, April 5.

The Presbyterian Church USA divides the gifts received almost equally between three programs: Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

A special envelope is in your 2026 offering envelope box, or you may write a check noting “OGHS” on the memo line.

For online giving, go to the church website ([stewartsvillepc.org](http://stewartsvillepc.org)), Give Now, Special, and specify “OGHS” in Notes.

**Rummage and Bake Sale!** The church will hold an Old-Fashioned Rummage and Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11. Proceeds will be divided between our Capital Campaign Fund and The Village NJ, which supports local families in crisis.

Donations are needed! Clothing, household items, vintage items, linens, small furniture, handbags, costume jewelry, religious items, children’s toys, books, etc.

Please see the insert in today’s bulletin for more information on donations and volunteer opportunities.

You may drop off donations today, March 22, and next Sunday, March 29 from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. in the large classroom.

**Blood Drive.** We will be sponsoring a blood drive with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, on Sunday, May 31 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church.

We need to have 25 people registered to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-619-8697 or email her at [cmbowman1023@gmail.com](mailto:cmbowman1023@gmail.com) to set up an appointment.