

The Stewartsville Press

The Newsletter of Stewartsville Presbyterian Church
550 North Main Street, Stewartsville, NJ 08886
908-859-1399

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Pastor's e-mail – rev.stephenchoi@gmail.com

May 2026

The Ministers: All the Members

The Rev. Stephen Park Choi – Pastor

The Rev. Jack E. Roan – Pastor Emeritus

Renée Herb – Office Manager

Brian Ballentine – Music Director

Sarah Sampson – Treasurer

Denise DeMasi – Choir Director

Laura Choi – Christian Education Director

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.

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 still need 5 people to register to donate.

Anyone wishing to donate can call Cindy Bowman at 908-859-2823 or 908-619-8697 or email her at cbowman1023@gmail.com to set up an appointment.



Summer Mission Trip. For our Summer Mission Trip, we will participate in the WorkGroup program of UrbanPromise in Camden, NJ. The dates are Sunday, Aug. 2, through Friday, Aug. 7.

The WorkGroup program combines ministry and practical projects. Mornings involve engaging Camden-area youth in summer camps. Afternoons are for projects such as landscaping and painting. Enrichment activities include game night, a tour of Camden, and dinner discussions with our teens.

If interested, please speak with Pastor Stephen by Sunday, May 31. You can also contact the church office to have a brochure emailed to you.

Summer Mission: Serving in Gulu, Uganda

This summer, from May 18 to June 28, I will be traveling to Gulu, Uganda with Columbia University's Students for Global Health Equity & Medicine (GHEM). There, I will partner with Gulu Women's Economic Development & Globalization (GWED-G), a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to advancing gender equality, public health, economic empowerment, and peacebuilding in communities still recovering from the long-term effects of war.

GWED-G works to strengthen communities facing challenges such as displacement and limited access to education and healthcare. Their approach is holistic – supporting women and families through health education, economic opportunity, and advocacy rooted in human rights and social justice.

During my time in Gulu, I will assist with several ongoing initiatives, including community education on HIV prevention, reproductive health, and gender-based violence. I will also support programs that distribute “mama kits,” which provide essential supplies for safe childbirth. In addition, GWED-G empowers families economically through agricultural training and seed distribution, helping create sustainable sources of income.

I am excited to not only contribute but also to listen and learn – especially from the women and leaders of GWED-G – about how healthcare inequities affect their communities and how meaningful, sustainable solutions can be developed together.

While this work is not formally faith-based, it is deeply connected to the values I have learned through Stewartsville Presbyterian Church. The church's commitment to service, compassion, and justice have shaped me, and I hope to carry those values with me as I learn from and serve alongside the people of Gulu.

Previous mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico with our church have also prepared me for this opportunity, strengthening my cultural awareness and deepening my commitment to ethical, community-driven service.

How you might be able to help: I am collecting the following items to take with me: Suction Bulbs, Baby Towels, Newborn Baby Clothes, Baby Blankets, and Notebooks. Donations can be placed in the box in the back of the sanctuary by Sunday, May 17; I leave that evening.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please note “Uganda Mission” on your check or online. The deadline for monetary donations is Wednesday, May 13.

I am extremely grateful for the ways Stewartsville Presbyterian Church has nurtured my faith and commitment to service. I carry your prayers and encouragement with me as I seek to serve with humility, respect, and purpose.

Thank you for your support,
Ella Choi



On Easter Sunday, April 5, Pastor Stephen with the help of Elder Sue Gruver, delivered a rap sermon, "Resurrection Rap Remix." It was fun, but most of all, inspiring.



Kay Piperato's sister celebrated her 95th birthday on April 6.



We had the joy of delivering Krispy Kreme doughnuts to show our appreciation to the Greenwich Township Emergency Squad, The Stewartville Volunteer Fire Company, and of course, the Township Police Department!!

Our Deacons assembled and sent out 5 care packages to our college and graduate school students. Pictured below are (L to R): Jonathan Abraham, Carly Alpaugh, and Ella Choi.





Mabel Cook passed away on Thursday, April 23, from cancer. She was a long-time member of our congregation and had served as a Deacon. Mabel's funeral service was held in our sanctuary on Wednesday, April 29. Please keep Mabel's family in your prayers.

Rodney Rountree passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, April 26. He had served as a Deacon. Rodney's memorial service was held on Sunday, May 3. Please keep his wife Colleen and their family in your prayers.

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

In April, we donated 3 bags of food and toiletries, and a lot of reusable bags.

At this time, the Food Pantry is in need of feminine hygiene products, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni & cheese, pasta, and pasta sauce, as well as grocery bags.

Rummage and Bake Sale. Our Rummage and Bake Sale on April 10 and 11 was a success!

We made about \$2,600, which was split evenly (\$1,300 each) between our Capital Campaign Fund and The Village NJ, which supports local families in crisis.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items for our rummage sale, brought in yummy baked goods, helped to set up, volunteered to work during the sale, and helped clean up!

Elder on Call

Pastor Stephen will be taking one week of sabbatical from Monday, May 11 to Saturday, May 16. If you are in need of pastoral care while he is away, please contact the following Elder on Call: Cindy Bowman at 908-619-8697



MAY

- 1 Gloria Mondelli
- 5 Timothy & Maureen Sampson – Anniversary
- 11 Isaac & Evelyn Evanoski – Anniversary
- 12 Katie DeMasi
- 13 Phyllis Ballentine
Esther Schoeneberger
- 15 Jadyann Banghart
Ruth Ann Hoyt
Dave & Dawn Barretto – Anniversary
- 18 Lorlyn Heinrich
- 19 Giulianna Cantagallo-Rohm
- 23 Noah Culcasi
- 25 Jim Riley
- 26 Bradley Fry
- 27 Pastor Stephen & Laura Choi – Anniversary

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!

Office Manager Away. Renée Herb, our office manager, will be traveling to Arizona for her mother's memorial service from Wednesday, May 13 through Friday, May 15. Pastor Stephen will be checking the office email and voicemail during this time.

Aluminum Can Tabs. Reminder: We are still collecting aluminum can tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. There is a container on the table in the back of the sanctuary where you may put them.

Pentecost Sunday

On Pentecost, May 24, please wear red for "Red Out Sunday" during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Pastor Stephen has something special planned for the worship service.

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.

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



Attention Proud Parents and Guardians! We would like to include information about our high school, college, and trade school graduates in the June Newsletter.

Please e-mail the following information to the church office by Friday, May 15: Student's name, the school from which they are graduating, the date of graduation, the type of degree or certificate they earned, and what their future plans may be (college/trade school/work).

Adult Lunch Group. "Grazing with Grace," our Adult Lunch Group will meet on Thursday, May 14, at 11:30 a.m. at Tic-Toc Family Restaurant, 2510 Northampton St., Easton, PA.

We had 20 people attend the April luncheon, and we collected \$27 for the NORWESCAP Food Bank. Each month we encourage participants to bring a can of soup or \$1 to the luncheon to donate to the Food Bank.

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Louisa Miers at 908-763-3861 by Monday, May 11, to make your reservation.



Women's Circle. The Women's Circle will meet on Thursday, May 28, at 6:00 p.m. at Tacos Y Tequila, 20 Kunkle Drive, Easton, PA.

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.

Capital Campaign

As of May 1, we have received \$19,368 for our Capital Campaign.
Our goal is to raise \$30,000.

Session Notes – April 27, 2026

- We opened our meeting together with the lighting of the Christ candle and devotions led by Elder Linda Williams.
- For member weddings and funerals in the church sanctuary, we made the decision to have the church cover the honorarium for the organist.
- We prayerfully approved to increase our donation for the Stewartsville Fire Company from \$500 to \$1,000.
- Cindy Bowman was elected to be our Ruling Elder Commissioner for the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, May 12.
- Due to a variety of reasons, we will not celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of July and August, instead we will have the Lord's Supper on Sunday, July 26.
- In addition, Communion has been changed to the first Sunday in September. (We normally have Communion on Rally Day, the Sunday after Labor Day.)
- In August for our Annual Summer Singing, the men will be invited to sing "How Great Thou Art" on Sunday, August 16, and the women will sing "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" on Sunday, August 23.
- Pastor Stephen will be away May 11-16 and the month of July. (Pastor Stephen's Sabbatical is 12 weeks in 2026.)
- Upcoming Pulpit Supply Schedule:
 - May 17: The Rev. Dr. Jan Nolting Carter
 - June 14: Hudson Musuuza – This will be Hudson's last Sunday with us before he leaves for Uganda in July.
- Our next Session meeting will be on Monday, May 18, 2026.
- Treasurer's Report:
As of March 31, we have a year-to-date deficit of \$6,241 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Thanks to your generosity, we received \$379 for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

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. The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is received from the first Sunday in Lent through Easter Sunday.



Beginning Sunday, June 7, we will be on our Summer Worship Schedule, with worship service at 10:00 a.m.

The last day for Children's and Adult Sunday School is Sunday, May 31. Sunday School will resume in September.

Stewartsville Presbyterian Church – May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8 am Friday Devotional Group	2 8 am Grange – Kitchen Use
3 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Holy Communion 6 pm AA	4	5	6 7 pm Deacons Meeting 7 pm AA	7	8 8 am Friday Devotional Group	9 10 am Samplemakers
10 Mother's Day 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Youth Choir Sings during Worship Service 6 pm AA	11 Pastor Stephen on Sabbatical through May 16	12	13 Office Manager Away through May 15 7 pm AA	14 11:30 am Adult Lunch Group Tic-Toc Family Restaurant 7 pm Grange	15 8 am Friday Devotional Group	16
17 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA	18 7 pm Session Meeting	19	20 7 pm AA	21	22 8 am Friday Devotional Group	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School 2 pm Deacons Chapel Service 6 pm AA	25 Church Office Closed for Memorial Day	26	27 7 pm AA	28 6 pm Women's Circle, Tacos Y Tequila	29 8 am Friday Devotional Group	30
31 Blood Drive 9:20 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service with Children's Sunday School Time for Fellowship after Worship Service 6 pm AA						

