



Topsail Presbyterian Church  
HAMPSTEAD, NORTH CAROLINA

Blessing of the Backpacks  
AUGUST 17, 2025 | TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



## OUR MISSION

The beautiful story of Topsail Presbyterian is comprised completely in the unique make-up of the individuals who call Topsail Presbyterian their home. Although vastly different in their journeys, there are 3 cords that bind each of us together.

### We Are...

We are real people infused with dynamic faith, committed to a common vision, joined together in the covenant love of our Creator.

### We Used to Be...

We used to be completely broken but are now grateful for undeserved redemption, astonished by amazing grace, healed by forgiveness and humbled by the divine invitation to be included in the greatest cause on earth.

### We Serve...

We serve a good and perfect God. The nations are His dwelling and our lives are His vessels. We have compassion for the poor, and our hearts are open to the rich.

# Welcome

May you truly sense God's Spirit at work in this place and in your life.

Greetings to everyone! We extend a warm welcome to those joining us in-person or for our live stream worship service this morning. As we celebrate together, we hope you will sense God's presence as we gather.

If you are a guest this morning, please fill out one of the visitor information cards located in the pew pockets so we can get to know each other better. Simply, hand your completed card to an usher or place it in the offering plate. In addition, we invite you to take a Guest Bag from the table in the narthex as you leave today. If you need assistance at any time, please feel free to ask someone seated next to you or one of the ushers.

Children are welcome to sit with their families during worship or attend Sunday School following the Children's Sermon. We have a nursery available for infants and our parlor is available for nursing mothers & parents in need of a quiet space with their children during worship. Restrooms are located through the door to the right of the chancel.

## Sunday School Opportunities

### Children's Sunday School

This child centered Sunday school (ages 3 years to 5th grade) is held every Sunday during the 10:30am worship service down our Preschool hallway. Participants will be excused from the worship service following the Children's Sermon and will reconnect with their parents at the conclusion of the service. **First time visitors are asked to walk their child to their first session for instruction & to complete registration.**

### Youth Sunday School

This middle/high school centered Sunday school class is held every Sunday during the 10:30am worship service in the Youth Building. Participants will be excused from the worship service following the Children's Sermon and will reconnect with their parents at the conclusion of the service. **The first Sunday of every month is Youth Sunday. There is no Youth Sunday School on these days.** Youth will assist in providing liturgy, ushering, & greeting guests and will remain seated with their families for worship. **This group is currently on hold for the summer season.**

### The Present Word (Adult) Sunday School

This Adult Sunday School class regularly meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Parlor or Fellowship Hall. However, **this group will be on hiatus for the summer quarter.** For those who would like to continue their studies independantly, we have summer quarter study guides available in the Admin office.

## Today's Worship Participants

**Rev. Dr. Bob Thompson,**

Guest Pastor

**Jeff Boyce,** 8:15 Liturgist

**Russ Layman,** 10:30 Liturgist

**Shelly Aebi,** Organist

**Dr. Rebecka Rose,** Music Director

**Russ Layman,**

Elder of the Month

## About Our Guest Pastor

**Rev. Dr. Bob Thompson** retired in November 2023 after 30 years as Senior Pastor of Corinth Reformed Church (United Church of Christ) in Hickory, North Carolina. He was approved for supply preaching in the Coastal Carolina Presbytery in December 2024. Bob and Linda Thompson had served UCC congregations together since they married in 1978 just after graduating from Columbia (SC) International University. They have three adult children, two near their home in Leland and one in Hawaii, and four grandchildren.

**Welcome to TPC Rev. Thompson!**

## 8:15am Worship

We hope you will sense our vision for Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community as you worship with us.

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Prelude "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"**

arr. A. Fedak

**Call to Worship (Call & *Response*)**

In a world where lies surround us,

**your word is like fire, God nearby!**

In a world full of false prophets

and empty promises,

**your word is like fire, God nearby!**

In a world where words don't have meaning,

**your word is like fire, God nearby!**

We are here, ready for our faith

to be kindled by your word.

**We are here to worship the God who is nearby!**

† **Gathering Hymn #307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"** vs. 1 & 4

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)**

***Loving Creator,***

***with a gardener's tender touch,***

***you planted your people to bear good fruit,***

***but we bear wild grapes.***

***With a welder's fierce fire,***

***you fashioned your people to glorify you,***

***but we are riddled with impurities.***

***In your generous mercy, O God,***

***regard the vine you planted: save and restore us.***

***Reform the vessel you crafted:***

***cleanse and refine us.***

***Give us life, O God,***

***that with our whole being,***

***we may worship you rightly.***

**Silent Confession**

**Promise of Forgiveness**

† **Response Hymn #447 "We Are Forgiven"**

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God.***

***Thanks be to God.***

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven.***

***Thanks be to God.***

***Thanks be to God.***

† Please stand if able.



## 2025 Flower Calendar

The 2025 TPC Flowers for the Chancel is available on our website. Please sign up and donate flowers for our chancel each Sunday during worship.

Please call or email Aly with your dedications: (910)270-2312 or [aly@topsailpres.org](mailto:aly@topsailpres.org).

Sign-up calendar can also be found on our website at: [topsailpresbyterian.org](http://topsailpresbyterian.org).

Click on the Flower Donations Sign up button to choose your date & be sure to add your dedication in the comments.

**IMPORTANT! YOU MUST NOTE** if you will be bringing your own flowers or if you will be purchasing from our florist.



## Online Giving Platform

If you would like to donate to TPC, please scan the QR code to use our online giving platform.

You can also visit our website at [topsailpresbyterian.org](http://topsailpresbyterian.org) and click on "DONATE" in the dropdown menu at the top of the page.



## †Passing the Peace

### Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture Readings** OT: Isaiah 5:1-7 NT: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

**Sermon** I Rev. Dr. Bob Thompson

### "Running with Baggage"

## †Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

*The life, death, resurrection,  
and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church's mission.  
His human life involves the church  
in the common life of all people.  
His service to men and women commits the church  
to work for every form of human well-being.  
His suffering makes the church sensitive  
to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ  
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.  
His crucifixion discloses to the church  
God's judgment on the inhumanity  
that marks human relations,  
and the awful consequences  
of the church's own complicity in injustice.  
In the power of the risen Christ  
and the hope of his coming,  
the church sees the promise  
of God's renewal of human life in society  
and of God's victory over all wrong.  
The church follows this pattern  
in the form of its life  
and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve  
is to confess Christ as Lord.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33

## Call for Offering

**Offertory Music** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

## †Doxology #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.*

## Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

## †Closing Hymn #740 "Lead Me, Guide Me"

## †Benediction

## Recessional





## 2025 Liturgist Calendar

We are in need of Liturgists to sign-up and fill the calendar for 2025.

Not sure if this is something you want to do?

Any questions, you can reach out to Nicole Demchuck at (910)262-6992 or via email at [ndemchuck@outlook.com](mailto:ndemchuck@outlook.com).

We will offer liturgy training if needed.

Sign-up calendar can be found on our website at:

[topsailpresbyterian.org](http://topsailpresbyterian.org)

Click on the Liturgist Sign-up button to choose your date and service time.



## 10:30am Worship

We hope you will sense our vision for Greater Faith, Deeper Relationships, and Stronger Community as you worship with us.

### Words of Welcome

### Announcements

### Opening Prayer

### Prelude "Blessed Assurance"

Crosby/Fritchie

### Call to Worship (Call & *Response*)

In a world where lies surround us,

**your word is like fire, God nearby!**

In a world full of false prophets  
and empty promises,

**your word is like fire, God nearby!**

In a world where words don't have meaning,  
**your word is like fire, God nearby!**

We are here, ready for our faith  
to be kindled by your word.

**We are here to worship the God who is nearby!**

### †Gathering Hymn #307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

*Loving Creator,*

*with a gardener's tender touch,*  
*you planted your people to bear good fruit,*  
*but we bear wild grapes.*

*With a welder's fierce fire,*  
*you fashioned your people to glorify you,*  
*but we are riddled with impurities.*

*In your generous mercy, O God,*  
*regard the vine you planted: save and restore us.*  
*Reform the vessel you crafted: cleanse and refine us.*  
*Give us life, O God,*  
*that with our whole being,*  
*we may worship you rightly.*

### Silent Confession

### Promise of Forgiveness

### †Response Hymn #447 "We Are Forgiven"

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.*

*Thanks be to God.*

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*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.*

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*Thanks be to God.*

### †Passing the Peace

## Stay in Touch

Staying connected to faith is more important than ever. At Topsail Presbyterian Church, we strive to make sharing, and worshipping with us easy. We gather to encourage each other, connect with friends, & learn From God's Word through our website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, email, newsletter and of course in-person. Connect with us, we're here for you!

## Can't Worship in Person?

That's okay! We live stream our 10:30am worship service every Sunday. You can find us streaming on Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, and of course, our website. So whether you're out of town or otherwise unable to be here in person, you can be with us in spirit while watching from the comfort of wherever you are.

### TPC Directory: Photos Needed

Have you ever visited our digital directory? Tried to match a name with the face? We need a photo of everyone to make this a reality! If you are a member and your photo is not in the directory, please choose a photo of yourself or your family and email it to Tom Sidbury,

Digital Ministry Elder, at:  
[admin@topsailpres.org](mailto:admin@topsailpres.org).

Access the TPC Directory by scanning this QR code with your phone. If prompted for the password, please call the church office at 910-270-2312.



## Blessing of the Backpacks

### Children's Sermon

Anthem "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Runyen/Fritchie

### Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings OT: Isaiah 5:1-7 NT: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Sermon I Rev. Dr. Bob Thompson "Running with Baggage"

### †Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

*The life, death, resurrection,  
and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church's mission.  
His human life involves the church  
in the common life of all people.  
His service to men and women commits the church  
to work for every form of human well-being.  
His suffering makes the church sensitive  
to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ  
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.  
His crucifixion discloses to the church  
God's judgment on the inhumanity  
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In the power of the risen Christ  
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the church sees the promise  
of God's renewal of human life in society  
and of God's victory over all wrong.  
The church follows this pattern  
in the form of its life  
and in the method of its action.  
So to live and serve  
is to confess Christ as Lord.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32-33

### Call for Offering

Offertory Hymn #377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

### †Doxology #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.*

### Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### †Closing Hymn #740 "Lead Me, Guide Me"

### †Benediction

### Recessional



# Announcements

## **Super Tuesdays Kids Club (STKC) – Fall Registration Now Open!**

We're excited to announce that Super Tuesdays Kids Club's Fall registration is currently open to TPC church families and returning participants. STKC kicks off Tuesday, September 16 for ages Pre-K through 5th Grade, meeting Tuesday evenings from 5:30 – 7 pm. Each week includes a yummy, kid- friendly meal, weekly Bible lessons, crafts, games and automatic participation in the Joyful Noise Children's Choir.

We also have a variety of volunteer opportunities for adults and youth who want to be part of this exciting ministry! You may get involved by: leading or supporting in a classroom, helping in the kitchen or with special events, donating supplies and more!

To sign your child up or to become a part of our amazing STKC team, reach out to Dawn Frazier at [christianed@topsailpres.org](mailto:christianed@topsailpres.org) or 910-270-2312. Let's work together to make this year's STKC an incredibly fun and faith-filled experience for our STKC children!

## **HOME COMING SUNDAY**

### **SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2025**

One Service at 10:30 with our guest speaker Jay Bender. Pot Luck Side Dish, Salad and/or Dessert. FRIED CHICKEN is our main entree compliments of the Fellowship Committee and Lowes Foods.

**PLAN TO ATTEND!!**

## **Prayer Requests**

Do you have a special prayer request that you would like the pastor to lift up during worship?

You can complete a prayer request card located in the pew pockets and give to the pastor prior to service or hand to an usher.

You can also add your prayer requests or praises to the prayer wall on our website at: [topsailpresbyterian.org](http://topsailpresbyterian.org)

**Prayer List:** Bobbie Ruegner, Bruce Filer, Bonnie Miller, Nancy Lockamy, Janice Thomas, Donna Kraynick, Ann Henry, Charlotte Kelly, Mary Anne Matherly, Sally Ferrante, Ken Rice, John Stillgebauer, Brian Jones, Mary Rogers-Ellsworth, Carolyn Rice, Sharon Egan, Theresa Allen, Deliah Sitorus, Marcia Caison, Tom & Sue Feller, Linda Blount, Marjorie Gulliksen, the family of Charlie & Ginger Hardee, Jacqueline Kirksey, the family of Luke Hanson, the family of Marie Hufham, Wiley Lewis, Carol Campbell, Lee Porrazzo, Jerrod Lowry, Reynolds Johnson, Martin Padgett, the family of Michael Daniel.

**Deployed member, Mark Rohlfing, has come home. Welcome back, Mark! Thank you for your continued service.**

## **4C's Food Pantry Needs Your Help**

4-C's Food Pantry is in need of these items:

condiments  
diced tomatoes  
plain potato chips  
13 gallon trash bags  
all purpose cleaner  
toiletries  
and pet food.

Donations may be placed in the Shepherd Boxes in the Narthex and Gathering Room.

## **Mark Your Calendars - You Don't Want to Miss This!**

### **Sunday School Move Up & Kickoff**

**Sunday, August 31st, 10:30 am Worship.** Join us as our TPC kids move up and welcome each other to their new Sunday School classrooms. We will celebrate the kick off of a new year of growing together in their walk with Christ.

## **Choir & Handbells**

Rehearsals for choir and handbells have come to a conclusion for the season. They will regroup in late summer. If you would like to be a part of our choir or handbells, send a message to our Music Director, Dr. Rebecka Rose, at [music@topsailpres.org](mailto:music@topsailpres.org).

## **Interested in Joining Our Church Family?**

If you are not a member and would like more information or are ready to join, please contact Cheri Haight at (203)394-8304 or [membership@topsailpres.org](mailto:membership@topsailpres.org), Amy Coleman at 910 520-0446, or Pastor Steuart Link.



**Topsail Presbyterian Church - 16249 Highway 17 North, Hampstead, NC 28443**

[www.topsailpresbyterian.org](http://www.topsailpresbyterian.org)

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina - [www.presbycc.org](http://www.presbycc.org)

Church Office (910) 270-2312    Preschool Office (910) 270-2315

### **Contacts**

**Rev. Steuart Link**

**Interim Pastor**

Contact # 910-685-2076

[pastore@topsailpres.org](mailto:pastore@topsailpres.org)

**Mrs. Marissa Watson**

**Preschool Director**

Contact #: 910-270-2315

[preschooletopsailpres.org](mailto:preschooletopsailpres.org)

**Mrs. Dawn Frazier**

**Childrens Ministry Director**

Contact #: 910-270-2312 (option 3)

[christianed@topsailpres.org](mailto:christianed@topsailpres.org)

**Ms. Aly Moody**

**Administrative Assistant**

Contact #: 910-270-2312

[aly@topsailpres.org](mailto:aly@topsailpres.org)

**Dr. Rebecka Rose**

**Music Director**

[music@topsailpres.org](mailto:music@topsailpres.org)

**Ms. Shelly Aebi**

**Organist/Pianist**

[music@topsailpres.org](mailto:music@topsailpres.org)

**Mr. Elmer Hewett**

**Custodian**

[elmerhewett@gmail.com](mailto:elmerhewett@gmail.com)

### **Members of Session**

#### **2026**

Russ Layman - **Stewardship**

Jennifer Schwarz - **Christian Education**

Shona Talbert - **Personnel**

#### **2027**

Laurie Rucks - **Session Clerk & Preschool**

Nicole Demchock - **Worship**

#### **2028**

Stephen Polk - **Buildings & Grounds**

Cheri Haight - **Membership**

Tom Sidbury - **Digital Ministry-IT**

David Howard - **Finance**

Marcia Kissire - **Missions**

#### **Deacons**

Jay Heidel - **Chair**

Bryna Fair - **Secretary**

Jimmy Smith

Patty Bowdoin

Beth Garland

Dickie Grace

Rick Lamb

Kitty Lamb