



We light this
candle of *Peace*

Topsail Presbyterian Church
HAMPSTEAD, NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

The children's 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

The middle and high school Sunday school class is held every Sunday during the 10:30 am worship service in the Youth Building. Participants will be excused from worship service following the Children's Sermon and will reconnect with their parents at the conclusion of the service. Our current Bible Study is God, Heroes, and Everyday Dragons: Finding Your Story in God's Story. In addition to studying the Bible, we also enjoy snacks & refreshments, fellowship, and games during Youth Sunday School. **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.

The Present Word (Adult) Sunday School

This Adult Sunday School class regularly meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in the Parlor (across from the pastor's office).

The first Fall quarter will focus on the Kingdom of Judah- its' kings and the prophet- Isaiah. We look for relevance in the Word to our current lives and how it shapes our relationship with God.

Join us, bring your ideas and insights and become a part of the conversation.

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Phil Gladden,

Guest Preacher

Diane Hughes, 8:15 Liturgist

Laurie Rucks, Adult Liturgist

Peyton Link & Matthew Polk,

10:30 Youth Liturgists

Blair Family, Advent Lighting

Shelly Aebi, Organist

Dr. Rebecka Rose, Music Dir.

Laurie Rucks,

Elder of the Month

Flowers for the Chancel

Today's flowers for the chancel are dedicated with Glory to God in the highest by Jimmy & Beverly Smith.

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!

†Please stand if able.

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

Call to Worship (Call & *Response*)

A tree stump left to rot puts forth new shoots.

Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

A wolf slinks toward sheep and joins their fold.

Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

A child plays while serpents slumber.

Could it be that heaven is near at hand?

A prophet cries out from the wild places:

Prepare the way! For heaven is near at hand.

†Gathering Hymn #96 "On Jordan's Banks"

vs. 1 & 4

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,
and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

(Call & *Response*)

How does a weary world practice peace?

***By listening before we speak,
and saying sorry when we need to.***

By advocating for justice and caring for
our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and
forgiving seventy times seven.

***By choosing grace over hate and opening
the door for each other.***

There are a million ways to practice peace.
So today we light the candle of peace as a
reminder and a charge.

***With God's help, may we bring peace
into a weary world. Amen.***



Hymn #89 "My Soul in Stillness Waits" Refrain x2

***For you, O Lord,
my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.***

***For you, O Lord,
my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.***

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

*God of all creation,
your vision of peace is beyond our knowing.
We have been hurt
and we have seen destruction,
so we turn around and hurt others,
destroying what you have called good.
Forgive us,
and fill us with your knowledge,
so we may help bring forth your peaceful kin-dom.*

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.*

†Passing the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

OT: Isaiah 11:1-10

NT: Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon | Reverend Dr. Phil Gladden “Advent GPS”

†Affirmation of Faith (*Unison*)

*Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God’s promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

Call for Offering

Offertory Music “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

†Doxology #606 “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*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.*

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of the Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and our praise.

(The prayer continues until all are invited to recite:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Breaking the Bread & Sharing the Cup

Communion Music "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayer of Commitment

†Closing Hymn #87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" vs. 1 & 2

†Benediction

Recessional



10:30am Worship

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

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Opening Prayer

Prelude "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. W. Fritchie

English Carol - TPC Handbell Choir

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(Call & *Response*)

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†Passing the Peace

Children’s Sermon

Recognition of New Acolytes

Laurie Rucks

Anthem “Christmas Bells” Ukranian Folk Song

arr. W. Fritchie

TPC Handbells; Tyson Jones, Flute

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings OT: Isaiah 11:1-10

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of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment
of God’s promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

Call for Offering

Offertory Hymn #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

†Doxology #606 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*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.*

The Sacrament of Communion

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The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***
Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and our praise.

(The prayer continues until all are invited to sing (Hymn #552):

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

The Lord's Prayer (*Unison*)

Breaking the Bread & Sharing the Cup

Communion Hymn #129 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayer of Commitment

†Closing Hymn #87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

†Benediction

Recessional

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.



Announcements

Prayer Requests

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, Linda Blount, Marjorie Gulliksen, Wiley Lewis, Carol Campbell, Vicki Hufham, Ronnie Edens, June Crosby, Jeanne Rick, Jeffrey Smith, Mary Gist, Brian Padgett, Martin Padgett, John Flowers, Adrianna Neely, Graycin Goesswein, Joey Scavone, Alexander Marechal, Taylor Barnes, Pete Brunsvold, the family of Mark Fisher, Bonnie Carpenter, Carol Wilson, the family of Bruce Filer, Gayle Lathom, Gary Gulliksen, the family of Tom Feller, Brenden Roberts, Lynn Anderson, Stephanie Moore, the family of Barbara Ruegner.

A Message of Thanks

To My Adoptive Topsail Family,

For a year you have maintained a prayer vigil for Tom (Feller) and I. Your love and thoughtfulness has been so appreciated. I can't tell you how many times I felt God move as we journeyed this path. I thank you all so very much and I can't wait to meet all of you. My sister is very blessed to have you in her life.

*Blessings and Thank You,
Susan Feller (Sister of Shelly Aebi, Organist)*

No Youth Sunday School Today! This Sunday is Youth Sunday. Students will remain in service with their families this week and will have the opportunity to participate in communion. Youth Sunday School will resume next week

TPC Choir & Handbells

Rehearsals for choir and handbells are held every Monday evening. Handbells at 6:00pm and choir at 7:00pm. If you would like to participate, please contact Dr. Rebecka Rose & Shelly Aebi at music@topsailpres.org.

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.

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.



HOLIDAY SERVICE

SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

18

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

7:00PM

21

LESSONS & CAROLS ONE SERVICE ONLY

10:30AM

24

CHRISTMAS EVE ONE SERVICE ONLY

6:00PM (with Communion)

28

ONE SERVICE ONLY

10:30AM

Please Note: There will be no pastor during our Lessons & Carols service on December 21st.

Men's Fellowship Luncheon

This month, Men's Lunch will meet at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 10 at Paul's Place in Castle Hayne. Come join us for food and fellowship!

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 and click on "DONATE" in the dropdown menu at the top of the page.



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 or Pastor Steuart Link.

The time is nearly here for...



*Topsail Presbyterian's
Children & Youth
invite you all on an Alaskan
adventure for a
True North Christmas!*

Sunday, December 14 - 5 pm

Refreshments will be served with a very special visitor in the Fellowship Hall immediately following their performance.

For more information contact:

Dawn Frazier - christianed@topsailpres.org

Leslie Blair - Youth@topsailpres.org



Angel Tree Gifts Are Due Today!

Please be sure to leave
your unwrapped gifts with
their tags in the Admin
Office or Parlor.



**Sign ups
available
now!**



2026 dates are now available on our flower calendar, link through our website (topsailpresbyterian.org). Choose your special date, type in your **dedication**, and make sure to tell us if you would like to use the **florist** or **bring your own** flowers. Also, please share if you'd like to **take your flowers home** or if you'd like us to **donate them** to someone who could use a pick-me-up. Call the office if you need assistance (910)270-2312.

The Liturgist sign-up is also ready to be filled in for 2026. Sign-up calendar can be found on our website at topsailpresbyterian.org. Click on the **Liturgist Sign-up** button to choose your date and service time. We will offer liturgy training if needed. Any questions, you can reach out to Nicole Demchock at (910)262-6992 or via email at ndemchock@outlook.com.



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

www.topsailpresbyterian.org

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina - 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

Mrs. Marissa Watson

Preschool Director

Contact #: 910-270-2315

preschooletopsailpres.org

Mrs. Dawn Frazier

Childrens Ministry Director

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

christianed@topsailpres.org

Leslie Blair

Youth Director

Contact #: 910-612-6465

youth@topsailpres.org

Ms. Aly Moody

Administrative Assistant

Contact #: 910-270-2312

aly@topsailpres.org

Dr. Rebecka Rose

Music Director

music@topsailpres.org

Ms. Shelly Aebi

Organist/Pianist

music@topsailpres.org

Mr. Elmer Hewett

Custodian

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