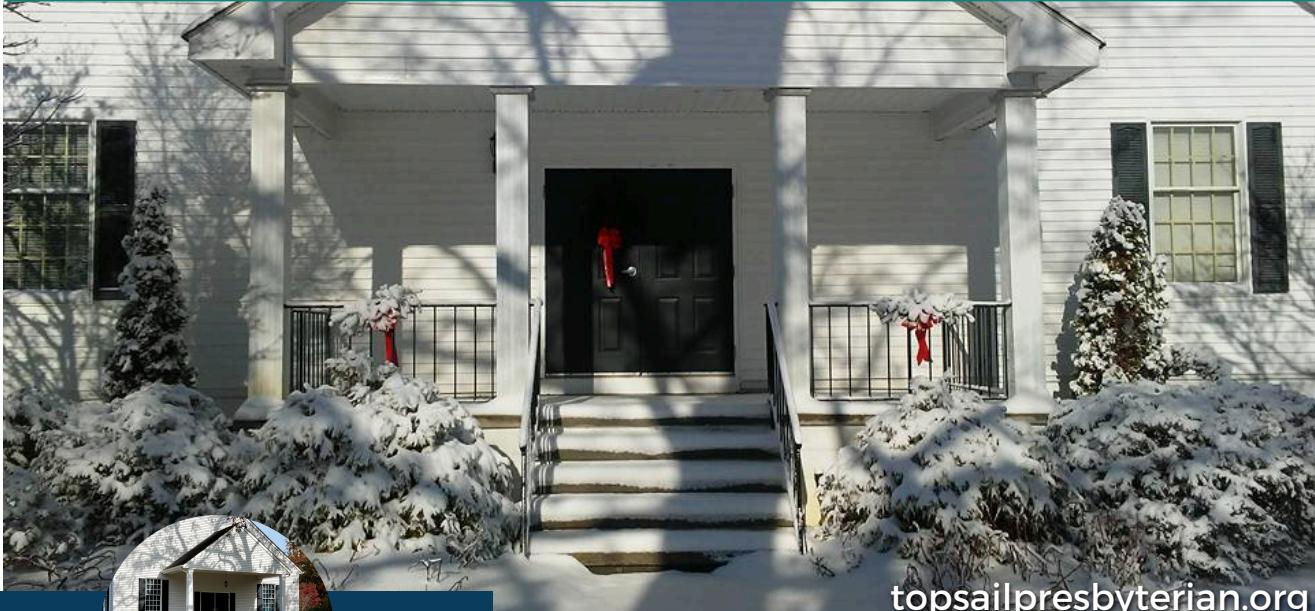


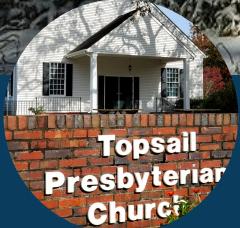


# Newsletter

February 2026



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



## Important Dates

### **February**

- 1** TPC Closed Due to Weather  
No Youth Group
- 3** No Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 6** Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00pm
- 8** Annual Meeting/Souper Sunday  
No Youth Group
- 10** Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 11** Men's Fellowship Lunch 1:00pm
- 15** Preschool Sunday  
Mission Trip Meeting 11:30am  
Youth Group 5:30pm
- 17** Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 18** Pancake Supper  
Ash Wed Service 7:00pm
- 21** Youth Camp Kirkwood Retreat
- 22** Boy Scout Sunday
- 24** Super Tuesdays Kids Club

## **THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE** BY REV. STEUART LINK

Dear Church Family,

February may be a shorter month, but it is filled with meaningful moments in the life of our church. As we move through winter and begin preparing our hearts for Lent, we are reminded of the importance of worship, fellowship, service, and shared ministry.

We begin the month with our **Annual Church Congregational Meeting on February 8th**. This annual gathering is a vital part of our life together as a congregation. During the meeting, we will reflect on the past year, celebrate how God has been at work among us, and look ahead to the plans and ministries of the coming year. This is also a time to review reports, discuss important matters, and participate in decisions that shape the future of our church. All members are encouraged to attend, listen, ask questions, and take part in this important expression of our shared responsibility and commitment.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On **Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, we are delighted to welcome a special highlight in worship as our **Preschool children sing**. This joyful service is always a favorite, as our youngest members share their faith through song. Their enthusiasm, smiles, and simple expressions of praise remind us of the gift of childlike faith and the importance of nurturing spiritual growth from an early age. Families, friends, and the entire congregation are invited to come and be blessed by this special Sunday.

Midway through the month, we enter the season of Lent with **Ash Wednesday on February 18<sup>th</sup>**. The evening will begin with a **pancake supper**, offering a time for fellowship and conversation before worship. Following the meal, we will gather for an **Ash Wednesday service**, a solemn and meaningful time of reflection, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. This service marks the beginning of our Lenten journey, a season of repentance, renewal, and drawing closer to God as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

Later in the month, we celebrate **Scout Sunday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. On this day, we recognize and give thanks for the scouts among us and the scouting ministries that emphasize values such as service, leadership, responsibility, and faith. We acknowledge their dedication and the positive impact scouting has on our congregation and community.

February offers many opportunities to come together as a church family whether in worship, meetings, meals, or celebrations. We hope you will join us often this month as we grow in faith, strengthen our relationships, and continue to serve God and one another.

Steuart

## DEACONS NEWS

BY JAY HEIDEL

As the new year begins, we need to share some changes in our membership. We would like to thank Patty Bowdoin and Dickie Grace for their dedication to the work of the Deacon Board. Their support has been critical in continuing the focus and goals of our ministry. We are happy to welcome new deacon, Jacqui Kirksey, a working mom, and we rejoice in her willingness to take on this very important role. Please be sure to thank these individuals for their service on behalf of the Topsail Presbyterian Church community.

In addition, we are excited to report on the development of a new subcommittee, The Loving Hearts Ministry. Members of this committee include Brenda Cutler, Bev Boyce, Kay Piver and Marcia Caison. The mission of this committee is to provide encouragement, comfort and connection through written messages and cards as our church's outreach to those in our community who are hurting, grieving, celebrating or unable to attend services in person. As caring members of our church community, YOU can play a vital role by sharing the names of individuals who you have discovered are grieving, are hospitalized or in rehabilitation, are ill or anticipating surgery or deployment or need encouragement. We want our church family to know that they are valued! If you have placed someone on our Prayer List or Prayer Wall who is not a member, we still want to provide support. Please share this information and addresses with Jay Heisch Heidel at 910-742-5198 or email her at [magdeenee@gail.com](mailto:magdeenee@gail.com).

## JOIN A COMMITTEE!

### Fellowship Committee

HOW ARE YOU SERVING JESUS? Committee Elder, Leah Hemphill is looking for volunteers to help make up the Fellowship Committee. There are multiple ways to volunteer in this Committee. For more info, please contact Leah at [hemphillleah@gmail.com](mailto:hemphillleah@gmail.com)

### Buildings & Grounds

Our church building is more than just brick, mortar and land; it is a sacred space where worship happens, friendships are formed, and the Gospel is shared. Just as we care for our spiritual lives, we are called to be good stewards of the physical property God has entrusted to us.

Our nominating committee is looking for someone with a passion for caring for our "house" to serve as the Buildings and Grounds Elder. If you feel called to this ministry or would like to learn more, please contact a member of the nominating committee, a member of session or Pastor Link.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FEBRUARY '26 BY DAWN FRAZIER

We welcome February with the beautiful reminder from Scripture: "We love each other because He loved us first." (1 John 4:19). This is such a gentle and meaningful message for children of all ages! Throughout this month, we will continue encouraging the children to share Jesus's love and light as we prepare our hearts to enter into the 40 Days of Lent where we PRAY, FAST, and GIVE.

During this special season, we are grateful for the ways our TPC community comes together to offer the children and their families meaningful opportunities to observe and participate in the life of the church. We are especially looking forward to TPC's upcoming pancake dinner, served just before our Ash Wednesday service on February 18th at 7 p.m. This beloved tradition is a joyful time of fellowship - giving families a break from the kitchen and a chance to gather, enjoy all the pancakes you can eat, and head into evening worship together.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our multigenerational Palm Sunday Processional & Joyful Noise Children's Choir Sing on Sunday, March 29th, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Then on Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will celebrate "He is Risen!" with our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

We are also delighted to share the much anticipated event dates for Kirkwood Creation Camp, June 7th - 11th, and "Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God VBS", July 27th -30th. Please stay tuned in the weeks ahead for exciting details, registration information, as well as how you may help on and behind the scenes for each of these events! In the meantime, if you have any questions or need more information about any of our Children's Ministry programs or events, please reach out to [christianed@topsailpres.org](mailto:christianed@topsailpres.org) or call 910-270-2312.

This is such a joyful and hope-filled time of year as our calendar begins to take off and children have so many opportunities to learn, grow, and celebrate their faith with their families and friends! We are truly grateful to walk alongside our TPC families and look forward to all this year has in store!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Dawn



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - JANUARY 2026



# YOUTH MINISTRY

BY LESLIE BLAIR

The New Year is off to a wonderful start for our Youth Ministry students! After breaking for several weeks over the holidays, we resumed our Sunday gatherings for Youth Group on January 11<sup>th</sup>. We've started a new series called Clean Slate, which emphasizes the fresh start with God that is always available to us. In addition to our weekly bible study, youth students are warming up for the Winter Olympics with fun games, like speed skating relay and pool noodle hockey. Our Youth Group gathering this month is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Youth Building. All middle and high school students are welcome to join for food, fellowship, and fun!

Also in February, youth students will have the opportunity to attend TPC Youth Ministry's Elevate: Faith & Adventure Retreat at Camp Kirkwood. This overnight retreat will feature elevated activities, such as the high ropes course, designed to challenge students and encourage them to push their limits. We will also dedicate time to reflecting on scripture and exploring ways to elevate our faith in 2026. Excited to see the blessings God has planned for this memorable retreat!

Youth Sunday School meets during the 10:30 worship service. Each week, we dive into scripture together, unpack the meaning, and discuss practical ways to apply it in our daily lives.

If you would like more information about upcoming Youth Ministry events or if you have a middle or high school student who wants to get involved, please reach out by email to [youth@topsailpres.org](mailto:youth@topsailpres.org) or by phone, (910) 612-6465.

Many Blessings,  
Leslie Blair



# MORE YEARS OF RINGING AHEAD

BY SHELLY AEBI & DR. REBECKA ROSE

Shortly after Easter, our handbells will be traveling to Pennsylvania to the Malmark factory for a complete refurbishment—a process that helps preserve the beauty and clarity of their sound for years to come. Our handbells were originally purchased in 1999 and last refurbished in 2014. Malmark recommends maintenance every 10–12 years. Malmark’s refurbishment process consists of 55 steps, but in general terms, it will include the following:

- Complete disassembly and inspection of each handbell, along with recommendations from the technicians
- Machine polishing of each casting, inside and out
- Cleaning, adjusting, and lubricating each clapper assembly
- Replacement of restraining springs and clapper heads as needed
- Free replacement of cracked handles and handguards for sets covered under Malmark’s Lifetime Warranty
- Reassembly and revoicing of each bell. After years of ringing, the metal naturally relaxes, and adjusting the strike point can reduce unwanted beats or vibrato, improving tonal quality
- Final hand polishing of each casting
- Inspection and cleaning of the cases

These bells have offered beauty, joy, and worshipful sound to our congregation for many years. With this careful maintenance, they will continue to enrich our services well into the future. We are grateful to the Session and the Finance Committee for supporting this important investment in the musical life of TPC. Their commitment helps ensure many more years of happy ringing.

## MISSION TRIP MEETING

**Sunday, February 15 at Noon**

Steve Fitzgerald, pastor of Sneads Ferry Presbyterian Church, will present information on a mission trip to Western North Carolina after the 10:30 service in the Fellowship Hall. The trip will be May 31-June 6. Lunch is provided, reservations required for lunch.

There are 6 spaces available for Topsail Presbyterian Church. Contact Marcia Kissire at [tpcmission@topsailpres.org](mailto:tpcmission@topsailpres.org) if you have any questions or want to reserve your space at the meeting or the trip.

## LOVE WEDDINGS?

TPC is looking for a Wedding Point Person. TPC has few weddings, but this year we have 2. One is in March and the other is in May.

This person would be present for the weddings and rehearsal to problem solve. The initial details have all been worked out already.

Please contact [laurie.rucks@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.rucks@gmail.com) of Rev. Link if you are interested in helping with TPC's upcoming weddings.

## TPC SURVEY

As the Session renews its focus on the Safety and Security Committee, we would value your input as we work to strengthen planning and enhance the safety and security of Topsail Presbyterian Church.

Please take a few moments to complete the following survey. Your responses will help guide our efforts. The survey is completely anonymous unless you choose to provide your contact information or express interest in serving on the Safety and Security Committee.

Thank you for your time and for supporting the well-being of our church community.

**TPC Safety & Security Survey:**  
<https://forms.gle/UisqoUXqi2CDJT MQ8>



# 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, June Crosby, Jeanne Rick, Jeffrey Smith, Mary Gist, Brian Padgett, Martin Padgett, John Flowers, Joey Scavone, Alexander Marechal, Bonnie Carpenter, Carol Wilson, Bryant Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Don Howard, Brenda Lee, Kathy McCusker, the family of Michael Warren, Blair Mitchell, the family of Hugh Howard, the family of Ethan Stone, Shannon Padgett, Selma Jones, Chuck Hardee, Jessie Logue, Lani Abraham, Joey Lamb, Eddie Brown, David Askins.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kenny Sessions	February 2
Sharon Thomas	February 3
Levi Schwarz	February 5
Bob Simon	February 6
Charity Redd	February 7
Addi Link	February 9
Susan Warren	February 9
Emily Heyler	February 10
Dottie Mosher	February 12
James Crumpler	February 13
David Howard	February 13
Lily Schwarz	February 13
Tamra Ellsworth	February 15
Peyton Link	February 15
David Rockwell	February 16
Mike Matherly	February 18
Laurie Rucks	February 18
Brooks Thomas	February 20
John Stillgebauer	February 22
Warren Carroll	February 23
Bill Rand	February 23
Russ Layman	February 24
Mary Lou Hurst	February 25
Weston Smith	February 26
Jeffrey Grogan	February 27
Irelyn Fair	February 29

## FEB ANNIVERSARIES

John & Esther Stillgebauer Feb 26

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Catherine Cotter	March 2
Townsend Link	March 2
Cydney Schwarz	March 2
Stewart Brown	March 5
Melissa Wilgis	March 6
Shawn Consey	March 8
Claire Kennedy	March 8
Fleur McKnight	March 8
Hattie Temple	March 8
LaRita Brown	March 11
Karen Stoops	March 12
Donna Murphy	March 13
Rebecca Duncan	March 14
Vicki Hufham	March 16
D Askins	March 19
Creighton Brown	March 19
Marcia Kissire	March 19
Lorraine Noris	March 19
Maggie Consey	March 20
Stephen Polk	March 20
Kay Piver	March 23
Ryder Temple	March 26
Sally Ferrante	March 31

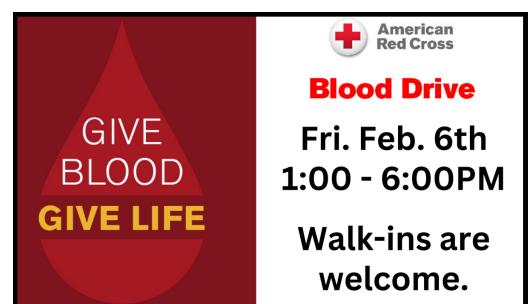
## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Stewart & LaRita Brown	Mar 15
Jack & Jean Talbert	Mar 15
Howard & Jeanie Parkes	Mar 25

## INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

BY LAURIE RUCKS

January 11 was a joyous event-filled day for TPC. Our interim pastor, Rev. Link rejoined us after his left shoulder replacement during Advent. It was wonderful to have him back in the pulpit and to have him present to install our new officers. We ordained Leah Hemphill as a ruling Elder who will serve on the Fellowship Committee. We installed Jacqui Kirksey as a Deacon. Jacqui will be a much needed addition to the Deacon board. It was an honor to welcome these two women who have volunteered to serve this church and Jesus by answering our Lord's call. Please pray for these two diligent servants as they learn and take on their new calling.





## **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

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

#### **Mrs. Marissa Watson**

#### **Preschool Director**

Contact #: 910-270-2315

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

#### **Mrs. Dawn Frazier**

#### **Childrens Ministry Director**

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

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

#### **Mrs. Leslie Blair**

#### **Youth Director**

Contact #: 910-612-6465

[youth@topsailpres.org](mailto:youth@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**

#### **2027**

Laurie Rucks - **Session Clerk & Preschool**

Nicole Demchock - **Worship**

#### **2028**

Stephen Polk - **Buildings & Grounds**

Cheri Haight - **Christian Education**

Tom Sidbury - **Digital Ministry**

David Howard - **Finance**

Marcia Kissire - **Missions**

#### **2029**

Shona Talbert - **Personnel**

Leah Hemphill - **Fellowship**

### **Deacons**

Jay Heidel - **Chair**

Bryna Fair - **Secretary**

Jimmy Smith

Beth Garland

Rick Lamb

Kitty Lamb

Jacqui Kirksey