



Topsail Presbyterian Church  
HAMPSTEAD, NORTH CAROLINA

JANUARY 18, 2026 | 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

## 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.

**COVER ART:**  
**JESUS AS SHEPHERD**  
**WITH LAMB OVER**  
**SHOULDER**

by Melani Pyke

# 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 winter quarter will focus on the essential teachings of the Bible in relation to defining elements of our Christian faith. (Participant books are available in the Admin office.)

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

## Today's Worship Participants

**Rev. Stuart Link**, Interim Pastor  
**Patricia Barnes**, 8:15 Liturgist  
**Laurie Rucks**, 10:30 Liturgist  
**Shelly Aebi**, Organist  
**Dr. Rebecka Rose**, Music Director

**Laurie Rucks**,  
Elder of the Month

## Flowers for the Chancel

The flowers for the chancel today have been given in memory of George and Elizabeth Heisch by Jay Heidel.

## 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 "Pastorale"

D. Wagner

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

To those who want to follow him,  
Jesus asks, "What are you seeking?"

***Teacher, we do not seek worldly power,  
but a better way to live.***

"What are you seeking?"

***Teacher, we do not seek worldly wealth,  
nor the prizes of paradise,  
but simply to be with you.***

"What are you seeking?"

***Teacher, we do not seek worldly praise or fame,  
only that you call us by name. Amen.***

†Gathering Hymn #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" vs. 1 & 4

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

***God of the ages,  
We do not always wait with patience.  
We do not always sing your praises.  
We do not always recognize your work in our lives.  
We would rather take the credit for ourselves.  
We would rather take the easy way out.  
We would rather step on others  
if it means more for ourselves.  
Forgive us for all the ways we forget you.  
Help us to delight to do your will.  
Help us to trust in you  
and return us to the path of righteousness.***

### Silent Confession

### Promise of Forgiveness

†Response Hymn #582 "Glory to God"

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***  
***World without end, without end. Amen.***  
***World without end, without end. Amen.***  
***World without end, without end. Amen.***  
***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

†Passing the Peace

†Please stand if able.

## 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 for Illumination

**Scripture Readings** OT: Psalm 40:1-11 NT: John 1:29-42

**Sermon** | Rev. Steuart Link

**"A Hand Up"**

†**Affirmation of Faith**(*Unison*)

*God's sovereign love is a mystery  
beyond the reach of the human mind.  
Human thought ascribes to God  
superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.  
But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ  
by showing power in the form of a servant,  
wisdom in the folly of the cross,  
and goodness in receiving  
sinful men and women.  
The power of God's love in Christ  
to transform the world  
discloses that the Redeemer  
is the Lord and Creator  
who made all things  
to serve the purpose of God's love.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15

## Call for Offering

**Offertory Music** "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

†**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.*

## Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer**

†**Closing Hymn** #733 "We Are All One In Mission" vs. 1 & 3

Sung to the tune of: Aurelia

†**Benediction**

**Postlude**



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# 10:30am Worship

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## Announcements

## Opening Prayer

## Prelude "Pastorale"

D. Wagner

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## †Gathering Hymn #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise "

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***God of the ages,  
We do not always wait with patience.  
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We would rather take the credit for ourselves.  
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and return us to the path of righteousness.***

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***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***  
***World without end, without end. Amen.***  
***World without end, without end. Amen.***  
***World without end, without end. Amen.***  
***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

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†**Passing the Peace**

**Children's Sermon**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Readings** OT: Psalm 40:1-11 NT: John 1:29-42

**Sermon** | Rev. Steuart Link **"A Hand Up"**

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by showing power in the form of a servant,  
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to transform the world  
discloses that the Redeemer  
is the Lord and Creator  
who made all things  
to serve the purpose of God's love.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.15

**Call for Offering**

**Offertory Hymn #688 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"**

vs. 1, 3, 5

†**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.*

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

†**Closing Hymn #733 "We Are All One In Mission "**

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†**Benediction**

**Postlude**

# Announcements



**TPC SOUPER SUNDAY** FEATURING OUR  
ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 10:30 SERVICE

## Giving Statements Information

Giving statements have been sent out this week via email to all recipients. These statements provide important information regarding your contributions.

If you did not receive your giving statement by email, or if you prefer to have a hard copy, please reach out for assistance to Bob Simon at [ilmbobpi@gmail.com](mailto:ilmbobpi@gmail.com) or 910-367-1694.

## HOW ARE YOU SERVING JESUS?

Volunteers are needed to make up the Fellowship Committee. This Committee's Elder is Leah Hemphill. There are multiple ways to volunteer in this Committee. For more information, please contact Leah Hemphill [hempillleah@gmail.com](mailto:hempillleah@gmail.com)

## Join Our Children's Ministry Team!

It's a new year, and we are so excited about all that's in store for 2026! If you've ever been interested in getting involved with our Children's Ministry team, now is the perfect time. We are busily preparing for the season of Lent and will soon be full steam ahead with VBS planning. In addition, we are always growing our incredible team of Sunday School and Super Tuesday Kids Club teachers and volunteers.

You do not have to be in a classroom to make a difference! We are always grateful for help with preparing craft supplies, help with bulletin boards, donating supplies and so much more. If you'd like to learn more, please see Dawn Frazier, Children's Ministry Director or Cheri Haight, Christian Ed Elder, after the service or reach out to [christianed@topsailpres.org](mailto:christianed@topsailpres.org). We would love to talk to you!

## 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.



## 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, Taylor Barnes, Pete Brunsvold, Bonnie Carpenter, Carol Wilson, Gayle Lathom, Brenden Roberts, Lynn Anderson, Stephanie Moore, Bryant Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Don Howard, the family of Ronnie Edens, 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.

## Mission Trip Meeting

**Sunday, February 8**

**Immediately Following 10:30 Worship**

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 [tpcmision@topsailpres.org](mailto:tpcmision@topsailpres.org) if you have any questions or want to reserve your space at the meeting or the trip. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

## 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!

## 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.





**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)

#### **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

### **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) or Pastor Steuart Link.