



Topsail Presbyterian Church
HAMPSTEAD, NORTH CAROLINA

Epiphany
JANUARY 4, 2026 | 2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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:

EPIPHANY

by Valery Rybakow

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. Marie Cone, Guest Preacher

Diane Hughes, 8:15 Liturgist

Maddie Sutton, 10:30 Liturgist

Shelly Aebi, Organist

Dr. Rebecka Rose, Music Director



Meet Our Guest Preacher

The Rev. Marie Cone is an Honorably Retired member of Coastal Carolina Presbytery. She most recently served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian in Jacksonville and before that at Peace Presbyterian Church in Winterville. Prior to finding her way to North Carolina, she served four churches in the Presbytery of Philadelphia. She and her husband, Larry, fell in love with North Carolina and decided to retire to Surf City where they now live across from the beach. Marie and Larry are the parents of three grown daughters: Liz and her husband Ken live in Devon, PA; Meg and her two girls live in West Chester, PA; Ellie lives nearby in Surf City. Liz and Ken are the happy parents of Beatrice (11) and Albert (7). Meg is the busy mother of Margot (6) and Emilia (4).

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 "I Saw Three Ships"

arr. M. Hayes

Call to Worship (Call & *Response*)

Come! Let us seek
the upside-down kin-dom of God
***where there is no king—
except an infant child.***

How do we get to this
upside-down kin-dom of God?
***We follow a star to society's outskirts.
We dare to dream impossible dreams.
We worship a baby born to those deemed "least."***

What is it like, the upside-down kin-dom of God?
***There the oppressed are precious
and oppressed no more.
There outsiders are welcomed in
not as guests, but kin.***

When we worship together,
we practice what it will be like
to live in the upside-down kin-dom of God.

†Gathering Hymn #151 "We Three Kings" vs. 1 & 5

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

***Holy Refugee of Israel,
we would like to believe that we would be like the magi,
that we would protect the innocent child,
that we would stand up to power.
But too often we have turned away from those who need
us.
Too often we have bent to the powers that be,
resigning ourselves to the way it has always been.
Forgive our lack of action,
guide us back to your purposes,
and help us be brave enough to do your will.***

Silent Confession

Promise of Forgiveness

†Response Hymn #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1

†Please stand if able.

†**Passing the Peace**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings OT: Psalm 115 NT: John 1:11-14

Sermon | Rev. Marie Cone

"Where is Our God?"

†**Affirmation of Faith (Unison)**

*The one sufficient revelation of God
is Jesus Christ,
the Word of God incarnate,
to whom the Holy Spirit
bears unique and authoritative witness
through the Holy Scriptures,
which are received and obeyed
as the word of God written.*

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27

Call for Offering

Offertory Music "What Child is This?"

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

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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem "

Prayer of Commitment

†**Closing Hymn #150 "As With Gladness Men of Old" vs. 1 & 4**

†**Benediction**

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Recessional

Doxology # 606

*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.*

10:30am Worship

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Opening Prayer

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us.
Too often we have bent to the powers that be,
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Forgive our lack of action,
guide us back to your purposes,
and help us be brave enough to do your will.***

Silent Confession

Promise of Forgiveness

†Response Hymn #119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1

†**Passing the Peace**

Children's Sermon

Leslie Blair

Anthem

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings OT: Psalm 115 NT: John 1:11-14

Sermon | Rev. Marie Cone

"Where is Our God?"

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Call for Offering

Offertory Music "What Child is This?"

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

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 sing: {#552, vs. 1 & 2})

**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 #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Prayer of Commitment

†**Closing Hymn #150 "As With Gladness Men of Old"**

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And also with you.

Recessional

Doxology # 606

**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.**

Announcements

Year-End Giving to Topsail Presbyterian Church Benefits of Year-End Donations

Contributing to Topsail Presbyterian Church before December 31, 2025, offers important benefits for donors. Donations received prior to this date qualify for tax deductions on your federal income tax return. Even if you are planning to donate for 2026, giving before December 31, 2025, may help reduce your taxable income for the current year.

Contribution Deadline Please remember that all funds must be received by the church before December 31, 2025, to be eligible for these benefits.

Thank you for your continued support of Topsail Presbyterian Church.

Questions? Bob Simon - ilmbobpi@gmail.com

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.

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

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.



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, Adrianna Neely, Joey Scavone, Alexander Marechal, Taylor Barnes, Pete Brunsvold, Bonnie Carpenter, Carol Wilson, Gayle Lathom, Brenden Roberts, Lynn Anderson, Stephanie Moore, the family of Barbara Ruegner, Bryant Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Don Howard, the family of Ronnie Edens, Brenda Lee, Kathy McCusker, the family of Michael Warren.

Super Tuesdays Kids Club & Youth Group

Super Tuesdays Kids Club is now on Christmas/Winter Break and will not meet for the remainder of December. We will resume on January 13, 2026. Our Youth Group is also on break and will resume on January 11, 2026. Our STKC & Youth Group teams wish everyone a safe and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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.

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.





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

Mrs. Leslie Blair

Youth Director

Contact #: 910-612-6465
youth@topsailpres.org

Ms. Aly Moody

Administrative Assistant

Contact #: 910-270-2312
aly@topsailpres.org

Dr. Rebecca 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**
Stephen Polk - **Buildings & Grounds**

2027

Laurie Rucks - **Session Clerk & Preschool**
Nicole Demchock - **Worship**

2028

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

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.