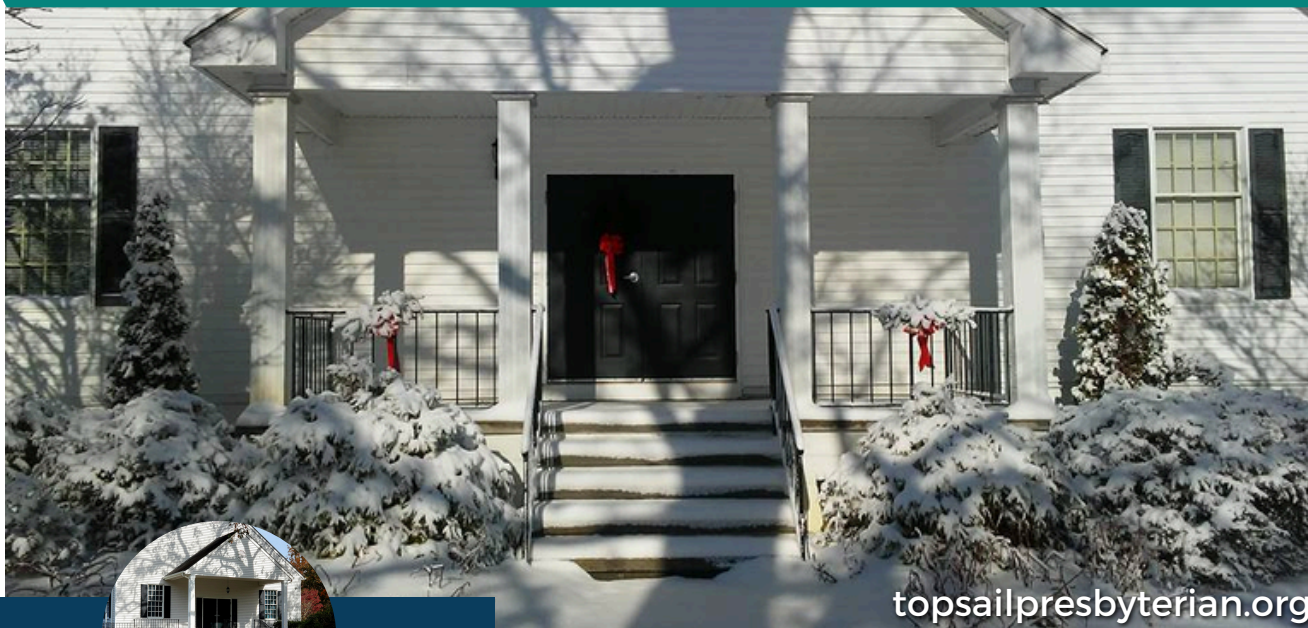




Newsletter

January 2026



Important Dates

January

- 1** TPC Admin Office Closed
- 4** Communion Sunday
Youth Sunday
- 6** NO Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 10** Barbara Ruegner Memorial Service
- 11** Installation of New Officers -
10:30am Worship
Youth Group 5:30pm
- 13** Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 17** Meals on Wheels 8:30am
- 19** Session Meeting 6:00pm
- 20** Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 26** PS Priority Registration
- 27** Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 29** PS Donuts for Dads

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE BY REV. STEUART LINK

Dear Church Family,

As we step into January and begin a new year together, I want to start by saying how deeply I have missed all of you over the past month. Being away while recuperating from my shoulder replacement was not easy, and I felt the absence of our shared worship, conversations, and community more than I can express. Returning—whether in person or in spirit—has reminded me just how meaningful this congregation is to me.

I am incredibly grateful for the outpouring of care I received during my recovery. Thank you for the prayers that carried me through difficult days, for the cards and notes that lifted my spirits, for the meals that nourished both body and soul, and for the many good thoughts and kind words offered on my behalf. Each act of love was a tangible reminder of God's grace at work through this church. I truly felt surrounded by Christ's love, expressed through you.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

January invites us to pause, reflect, and look ahead, and this year that feels especially important. As we enter 2026, we do so in a season of transition, prayerfully looking ahead to the call of a new pastor. Times of change can feel uncertain, but they are also rich with possibility. Scripture reminds us that God is always doing a new thing, often in ways we cannot yet fully see.

My hope for our congregation in this season is that we continue to be grounded in faith, united in love, and open to the Spirit's leading. May we be patient and prayerful in the search process, supportive of one another, and confident that God is already preparing the right person to walk alongside us in ministry. At the same time, may we continue the good work already happening here—caring for one another, serving our neighbors, and bearing witness to Christ in our community.

Thank you for being the church in all seasons—times of joy, times of healing, and times of hopeful anticipation. I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the year ahead.

Grace and peace to you all as we begin 2026 together.

Steuart

DEACONS NEWS BY LAURIE RUCKS

TPC Deacons were busy Santa Elves December 7 filling special gift bags for our Deacon's clients. The bags included goodies of yummy soup to make, Christmas ornaments, sweets and Christmas cards. These gifts will bring joy and comfort to our homebound members during the holidays. TPC celebrates our Deacons for all their compassionate care in 2025.



A JOYFUL NEW YEAR IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BY DAWN FRAZIER

HAPPY NEW YEAR, TPC Family! As we step into a brand-new year together, our hearts are full of gratitude and excitement for all that God has in store for our children, families, and our congregation. A new year brings fresh energy, new possibilities, and a renewed joy as we continue walking alongside our children as they grow in faith, friendship, and in their love for Jesus.

We're so excited to continue our engaging Sunday School and STKC curriculum, The Life of Jesus, where the children follow our Savior's footsteps learning and growing together in Christ. We are also counting down the days until our STKC children return on Tuesday, January 13th! Tuesday evenings are truly a highlight of our week - filled with music and praise, meaningful learning, lots of laughter, and sweet fellowship around a warm meal shared with their friends.

2026 offers many wonderful ways for families and our congregation to be a part of our ministry - both on and behind the scenes. Whether you feel called to teach Sunday School, join our STKC teaching team, help with our Tuesday evening kitchen crew, or support us in creative and practical ways like assembling bulletin boards or donating supplies, we would love to have you! Every gift of time and talent makes a difference and helps our ministry flourish!

Looking ahead, we'll also be inviting volunteers to help with VBS planning and Kirkwood Creation Camp. These much anticipated events are both incredible opportunities to share your time, talents, and love of Christ while making a lasting impact in the lives of our TPC children. More details will be coming later in the season - so stay tuned!

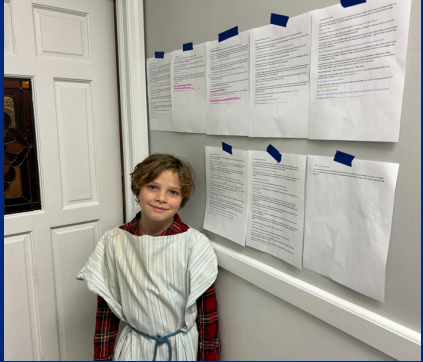
Our ministry is made possible because of the love, dedication, and generosity of our church family. Together, we are planting the seeds of faith that will grow in the lives of our children for all their years to come. If you would like to get involved or simply want to learn more about our programs, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to christianed@topsailpres.org or call 910-270-2312.

New Year Blessings,

Mrs. Dawn



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - DECEMBER 2025



Our Youth Ministry Students finished out the year with several Christmas events!

Students led the 10:30 worship service during Hanging of the Greens on November 30th. Together, they narrated the congregation through the significance of and scripture behind several pieces of Christmas décor used in the sanctuary each year during this season. Children's ministry students then brought each piece of décor forward to adorn the chancel and complete the vision for the congregation. It was great to see all the youth and children's gifts shine during this service!

We concluded our 2025 Youth Group gatherings on December 7th with a Christmas Celebration. Together, we enjoyed dinner and some fun, Christmas-themed games. We ended the evening by creating Christmas tree cookies for dessert. We are looking forward to reconvening in January to study scripture, enjoy meals, and play games together each week.

Finally, six youth students served as trail guides in our 2025 True North Christmas Program, and several others helped make the small details come together for a successful production! In collaboration with our children's ministry team, students led the audience on a journey through the Christmas story with scripture readings, songs, and a little humor. This program required many hours of practice for both our youth and children's ministry teams, and their hard work and dedication culminated in a truly memorable Christmas Program!

We will continue having Sunday School each week during the 10:30 worship service throughout winter break from school, and Youth Group will resume on Sunday, January 11th. 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 contact Leslie Blair at youth@topsailpres.org.



TPC'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA BY LAURIE RUCKS

TPC held its annual Christmas Tea on December 6 at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The gift baskets were beautiful and fantastic! Thank you to all who contributed.

We hosted approximately 100 ladies across multiple generations for two hours of celebration all to benefit the 4 C's food pantry in Hampstead. This year we hosted a selfie photo booth for the young ladies! Four types of sandwiches, broccoli salad, scones with Devonshire cream and jam and cookies were our three courses. We were angelically entertained with harp selections by our Accompanist Shelly. Shelly also led us in singing Christmas carols to end our afternoon. We raised \$2087.00.

Thank you to our Hampstead community and the ladies of TPC who made this annual event a huge success.



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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Chris Thomas	January 4
Jennifer Elder	January 7
Dianna Stancil	January 8
Kara Crumpler	January 10
Joanne Foster	January 11
Sharon Schwarz	January 11
Elizabeth Kalfin	January 12
Jeff Boyce	January 14
Bob Henry	January 15
Tanya Batts	January 17
Dan Eller	January 17
Ken Hemphill	January 17
Dickie Grace	January 19
Walker Brown	January 20
Ed Ostroski	January 20
Diane Hughes	January 22
Janice Thomas	January 25
Lilly Consey	January 27
Becky Steed	January 27
Jay Heidel	January 28
Rachel Carroll	January 31

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

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

BY LAURIE RUCKS

On November 13, the Personnel Committee hosted a breakfast buffet for the employees of TPC. Thank you for your dedication in serving our congregation and our Session. We appreciate you!



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Ryan & Lesslie Duncan	Jan 15
Chuck & Fleur McKnight	Jan 21

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Esther Stillgebauer	Feb 26
----------------------------	--------





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

preschoole@topsailpres.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. 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**

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