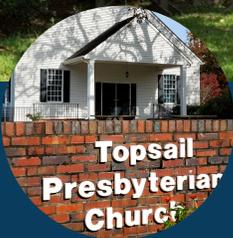




Newsletter

March 2026



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

1	Youth Sunday
3	No Super Tues Kids Club
11	Men's Fellowship Lunch
15	Chili Cook-off - 11:30AM
16	Session Mtg - 6PM
17	St. Patrick's Day
21	Clean-up Day
29	Palm Sunday

Youth Group 5:30-7:00PM 1 st , 8 th , 22 nd , 29 th	STKC 5:30-7:00PM 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st
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MARCH 29TH

Palm Sunday Parade & Joyful Noise Children's Choir Sing during 10:30am worship

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE BY REV. STEUART LINK

Dear Church Family,

As we step into March, we find ourselves in a season of holy transition. The days grow longer, the first hints of spring begin to appear, and we enter deeply into the sacred journey of Lent. Just as the earth shakes off the dead of winter with hopes of new life in the spring, Lent invites us to awaken our hearts to reflect, to repent, and to renew our commitment to Christ.

Lent is a forty-day season of prayer, reflection, and preparation leading us toward the joy of Easter. In the Presbyterian tradition, this is not a time of gloom, but a time of honest self-examination and hopeful expectation. We are reminded that God is always at work within us, gently shaping and restoring us. The prophet Isaiah proclaims, "Behold, I am doing a new thing!" I have this verse on my business card as a constant reminder that God is continually creating and there is always something new on the horizon in the kingdom of God.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Throughout this month, we encourage you to set aside intentional time for prayer and Scripture reading. Consider what you might release or take up during Lent to draw closer to God. Whether it is participating in a new Lenten discipline (btw, Dawn has plenty to choose from), practicing daily gratitude, or serving someone in need, may this season deepen your faith and widen your compassion.

We are also looking forward to a wonderful time of fellowship at our Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, March 15th! This fun and flavorful event will benefit our youth program, helping support upcoming mission opportunities and faith formation activities. Whether you plan to enter your award-winning recipe or simply come ready to taste and vote, this is a great opportunity to gather as a church family. Good food, friendly competition, and a shared commitment to investing in our young people; it doesn't get much better than that. Be sure to invite friends and neighbors!

As the month progresses, we will prepare our hearts for **Palm Sunday on March 29th**. On this special day, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, greeted with palm branches and shouts of "Hosanna!" It is a celebration filled with joy and anticipation, yet it also marks the beginning of Holy Week, a week that carries us from celebration to the cross, and ultimately to the empty tomb.

Palm Sunday reminds us that Christ is our humble King, entering not with power and might, but with peace and purpose. As we wave palm branches and sing praises, we are invited to consider how we will follow Him not only in moments of joy, but through the challenges and sacrifices of discipleship.

March is a month of movement; winter to spring, reflection to celebration, preparation to promise. May we walk this Lenten path together with open hearts, trusting that the God who brings new life to the earth is also bringing new life to us.

Grace and peace to you all.

Pastor Steuart

CLERK'S CORNER

BY LAURIE RUCKS

Welcome to the Clerk's Corner! In this portion of the newsletter I will outline the highlights of the last Session meeting and bring to light other information that might be of interest from the Session.

- Highlights of the Session meeting on February 16.
- Approved congregational meeting minutes of Feb. 1
- Approved statistical report submitted Jan. 26.
- Approved Continuing Ed. for Rev. Link April 6-11
- Approved vacation for Rev. Link April 27-May 3
- Approved vacation for Rev. Link June 8-14
- Approved discontinuation of Sheriff Deputy as of March 2026
- Approved \$25,000 be placed in PNC budget from Memorial Fund
- Approved March 1 congregational meeting for a report from Nominating Committee

Each year the clerk attends a training meeting held by the Presbytery. This year, the training was held at Wallace Presbyterian Church and led by Jay Bender, QRE. Rev. Jerrod Lowery was there, so glad to see him back after his cancer diagnosis. There were about 12 attendees from various churches in the East Community of the Presbytery. So, what did I learn? I'm glad you asked!

The Presbyterian Church no longer has an inactive membership category. The clerk is responsible for the rolls of the church. Previously we had an Active and Inactive category. We moved members who had not worshiped or had not financially contributed to TPC in at least 2 years to this inactive roll so that we no longer paid per capita on these members. Now we need to clean up the inactive roll, which the rolls committee is currently undertaking. More as we progress through this process.

Maintain a list of nonbaptized children of members of the congregation.

A copy of our budget needs to be present in the Session Minutes register.

When the training of an Elder or Deacon has been completed, this information should be reflected in the minutes of the next Session meeting.

An audit is required every year of the financial records of the church. This can be contracted by an outside agency or performed in-house by non-members of the Finance Committee.

The clerk does not have to report who made the motion and who made the second to the motion. We can just state "On a motion....." I currently strive to document who made the motion and who made the second, and I will continue to do so.

Our Manual of Operation needs some additions, which I am working on and must have completed by March 14 when TPC goes for its Minutes review, required by the Presbytery at Sneads Ferry Presbyterian Church.

TOPSAIL GATHERS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY BY LAURIE RUCKS

Topsail held its annual Pancake Dinner for Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, February 18. We had approximately 32 members join us for pancakes, sausage, and tangerines to kick off our season of Lent. It was a diverse group of littles, youths, young, and older members. The kitchen crew was made up of David Hughes, our Pancake Flipper, Diane Hughes and Leah Hemphill, our Pancake Batter Mixers, our Sausage Queen, Nicki Moss, Table Decorator Coordinators, Amy Coleman and Leah Hemphill. The pancakes were delicious; the recipe was a secret. Yes, there is a secret ingredient! Thank you for supporting this dinner, which sets the stage for the season of Lent for our church.

Fellowship Committee



The daffodils in our garden are a beautiful reminder of the renewal of Spring and that Easter is certainly drawing near! Children's Ministry joyfully welcomes March and the rhythm it brings to the life of our church for the children, their families, and our congregation. Our Super Tuesdays Kids Club is especially looking forward to longer days so the children can step outside and enjoy God's wonder this special time of the year!

We are happy to share that our Sunday School children (Preschool through 5th Grade) will be joining their families and our congregation during Communion beginning Sunday, March 1. Children will still be dismissed to Sunday School, but will return for Communion. We are taking these steps so that the children may experience and understand that they are such an important and integral part of worship in the life of our church. Participating with their families and our congregation will help them gain a deeper understanding and reverence for Communion, as well as an opportunity to strengthen family worship.

The children are also busily preparing for the Palm Sunday Processional and their "Joyful Noise Children's Choir Spring Sing" on Sunday, March 29, during our 10:30 am Worship Service. Then the following weekend, Sunday, April 5, we will celebrate Easter Sunday with their much anticipated Easter Egg Hunt immediately following our 10:30 Worship Service. Keep an eye out for our donations clothesline!

In addition, the details are in and we couldn't be more excited! Kirkwood Creation Camp 2026 promises to be another unforgettable, fun and faith filled year for our TPC Children and Youth. Please see the included flyer in this month's newsletter for full details.

We continue to build our VBS Team for "Rainforest Falls - Exploring the Nature of God", July 27th - 30th. If you have time and talents you would like to share, we would love to have you be a part of our team! We have so many ways you may help, on or behind the scenes!

March is going to be a wonderfully fun and faith filled month and we can't wait for the days and weeks ahead! For more information about our programs or how you may become involved, please reach out to christianed@pres.org. We would love to hear from you!



In February, our youth ministry students celebrated Super Bowl Sunday with competitive football games, gathered for a special Valentine-themed Youth Group, and elevated their faith and sense of adventure during an overnight retreat at Camp Kirkwood! Our Elevate retreat was certainly the highlight of the month. Students and leaders participated in archery, navigated the high ropes course, zipped across the zipline, and challenged themselves on the power pole and V-swing. We also read scripture together and discussed how we can make more room in our busy schedules for the most important thing – time with God.

Moving ahead to March, we're excited to host our annual Chili Cook Off fundraiser. Mark your calendars for March 15th and join us after service for great food, friendly competition, and community! If you would like to enter your favorite chili recipe or donate baked goods for our bake sale, a sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex or online. All proceeds will benefit TPC Youth.

This month in Youth Group, we will begin a new Easter series called I AM, which will explore the character of Jesus and the impact of His death and resurrection. Our Youth Group gatherings are scheduled for March 1st, March 8th, March 22nd, and March 29th 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!

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. Games and snacks are also enjoyed during our time together on Sunday mornings!

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

Many Blessings,
Leslie Blair



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES - FEBRUARY 2026



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BY LAURIE RUCKS

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on February 1, rescheduled due to weather on January 25. The Annual Meeting Booklet was distributed to attendees. We had approximately 65 attendees who enjoyed soup and dessert, hosted by the Fellowship Committee. The meeting started at 12:10 p.m. with a prayer by Rev. Steuart Link. Each of the Elders came forward to provide updates to the congregation. Building, Grounds and Transportation Elder Stephen Polk announced that we had a water leak by the cemetery door, and he would have to turn off all water supplied to the church so that this could be fixed. (Think it through - no bathrooms!)

After that exciting news, highlights included: the Cemetery Committee indicating their guidelines have been revised and are now available on the website. CE Elder Cheri Haight introducing herself, as she is new to the CE committee. Membership is no longer represented at Session but now includes all members of the congregation. Fellowship Elder Leah Hemphill was introduced, and she is recruiting for her Fellowship Committee. Digital Ministry is also recruiting a volunteer to post on our Facebook page. Personnel indicated they were searching for a Buildings, Grounds and Transportation Elder to replace Stephen Polk for his remaining two-year term. The PNC search is currently underway. Preschool Elder reported Preschool Director pulled out all the stops using social media and marketing tools to build enrollment for 2025-26. Worship has a dynamic committee, and the Elder was thankful for their service. They will continue to work to improve our worship experience. Deacons introduced their new Deacon and new Loving Hearts Ministry who will be responsible for sending cards to the congregation.

Finance was the star of the show as they presented the budget for 2026 that was approved at the January 19 Session meeting. Finance Elder introduced the new Treasurer, Tom Sidbury, with Bob Simon retiring his position.

The congregational meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m. with a prayer by Rev. Link. The corporation annual meeting was called to order directly thereafter and the congregation voted on President: Nicole Moss, Vice-President: Trent Talbert, Secretary Jeanine Smith. Unanimous vote ensued and the corporation meeting was adjourned.

Clean up was enjoyed by all! Water was successfully restored by the end of the day on Sunday! THANKS BE TO GOD!

If you were not able to attend this meeting and would like the Annual Meeting Booklet and/or the budget these can be mailed to you or sent via email or please check the website. A copy of the budget can also be made available by emailing dmhoward13@gmail.com.

Clerk of Session



WEBSITE CHANGES COMING! BY TOM SIDBURY

Our church website is an important tool for connection and communication at Topsail Presbyterian Church. It serves as a welcoming introduction for those seeking a church home and as a central source of information for our members. Through the site, you can learn about who we are and what we believe, find details about events and ministries, sign up to serve, access the member directory, and watch worship services live or anytime afterward. In today's digital world, our website helps us stay informed, engaged, and spiritually connected—wherever we may be.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the content, appearance, and ease of navigation of our website, a new version will launch on March 4. This updated version provides greater flexibility in organizing and presenting content, resulting in pages that are easier to read and navigate. While the overall structure of the site remains largely the same, we would like to make you aware of a few updates:

1. The live stream will now have its own page and can be accessed using the “Live Stream” button at the top of each page.
2. The Prayer Wall feature is no longer supported in the new version of the website and has been removed.
3. The “I’m a Member” page will continue to be password-protected. The password remains the same as on the current site. If you need the password, please contact Aly at the church office.
4. Several pages now include updated photo galleries—collections of images that can be viewed individually by clicking on each photo.

We hope you will take time to visit and explore the new site at www.topsailpresbyterian.org. As always, we welcome your feedback. If you have suggestions, ideas for new content, or general comments, please reach out to us at admin@topsailpres.org.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE FOOD!

On the second Wednesday of every month, men of the church come together at pre-selected local restaurant to share a meal. But it's not just about the food!

This long-standing tradition provides a time to unwind from the week's busyness, exchange life experiences, and support one another in faith and friendship. Each month, a different restaurant brings its own unique flavor to the gathering, offering a variety of culinary experiences to enjoy.

These luncheons are more than just meals; they are an embodiment of the church's spirit of togetherness and mutual support. They offer the opportunity to network, get to know fellow church members better, and even make new friends. Whether you're a long-time member or joining for the first time, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere filled with laughter and meaningful conversations. It's a chance to step away from daily routines and immerse yourself in a community that uplifts and inspires. The fellowship luncheon is not only a feast for the stomach but also a feast for the soul, nurturing the bonds that make our church family strong.



Pictured: Mitch Jenkins, Rev. Steuart Link, Nick Ferrante, Don Campbell, Rick Lamb, and Dan Eller

We encourage you to bring a friend or a neighbor who might be interested in discovering what makes our community special. As we share in these moments of camaraderie, we strengthen our collective faith and support each other's journeys. Remember, all men are welcome, and we look forward to sharing this enriching experience with you!



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, 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, Vickie Jackson, Carol Campbell, the family of David Askins, the family of Albert Micheli, the Noe family.

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Kristi Haas	April 8
Susan Newton	April 8
Teresa Capps	April 9
Mina Ostroski	April 13
Kristina Polk	April 15
Brian Austin	April 19
Sheila Eller	April 19
Kim Morton	April 19
Katelyn Talbert	April 19
Chris White	April 21
Patricia Barnes	April 23
Diane Rand	April 24
Erica Talbert	April 27
Jeanie Parkes	April 29
Nathan Polk	April 29

APR ANNIVERSARIES

Rachel & Jon Carroll	April 3
Rick & Kitty Lamb	April 3
Corbin & Leslie Blair	April 11
Karen & Rodney Stoops	April 13
Emily & Jonathan Heyler	April 16

TOPSAIL PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL NEWS & INFO

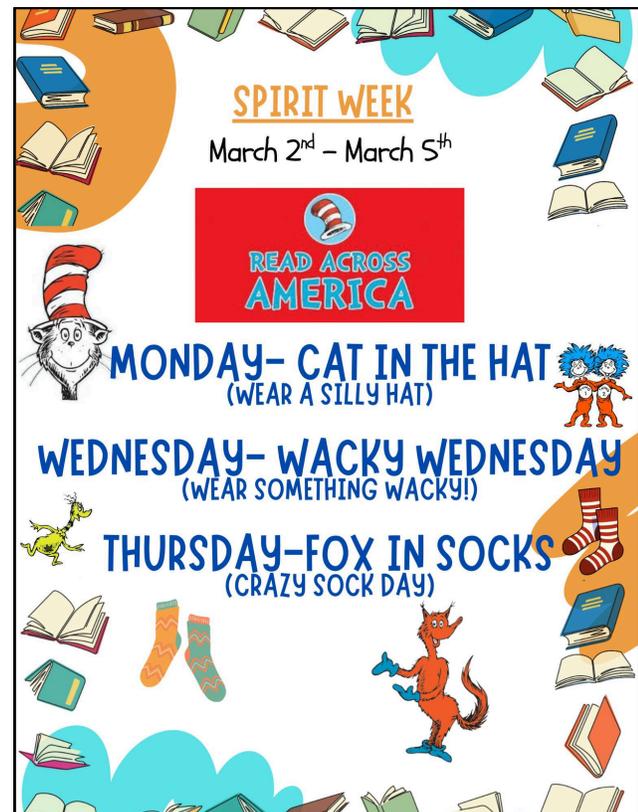


TPP SUMMER CAMP

\$125 /WEEK **TOPSAIL PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL** **\$25 REGISTRATION**

CAMPING WEEK	SCIENCE/STEM	PIRATE & PRINCESS
JULY 6- JULY 9	JULY 13 - JULY 16	JULY 20 - JULY 23
9AM - 12PM	9AM - 12PM	9AM - 12PM
\$15 SUPPLY FEE	\$15 SUPPLY FEE	\$15 SUPPLY FEE

RISING PRE-K - RISING 1ST GRADE. MUST BE POTTY TRAINED



SPIRIT WEEK
March 2nd - March 5th

READ ACROSS AMERICA

MONDAY- CAT IN THE HAT
(WEAR A SILLY HAT)

WEDNESDAY- WACKY WEDNESDAY
(WEAR SOMETHING WACKY!)

THURSDAY-FOX IN SOCKS
(CRAZY SOCK DAY)



PALM SUNDAY

Processional



MULTIGENERATIONAL

MARCH 29, 2026
10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

All are warmly invited to join in the multigenerational procession of waving our palm branches high welcoming Jesus the King!

We will assemble by the front porch immediately before the service for palm branches and to take our place in line.



Topsail Presbyterian Church's

EASTER EGG HUNT



Easter Sunday, April 5

Immediately following 10:30 am Worship
on the front lawn.

Don't forget your Easter baskets!

A very special visitor will be "hopping by"!

SEE CLOTHESLINE FOR WISH LIST



Contact
christianed@topsailpres.org
for more details or how you may
help!

TOPSAIL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
'26

Kirkwood CREATION CAMP

WATHA, NC

"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
AND THY WORD IS A LIGHT
INTO MY PATH"

JUNE 7 - 11

REGISTRATION OPENS

MARCH 8

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

APRIL 19

KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

(GRADE COMPLETED)

YOUTH LEADERS

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

\$35 REGISTRATION FEE/\$30 PER ADDITIONAL

FAMILY MEMBER

FOR CHILDREN & ADULT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION CONTACT:

DAWN FRAZIER, CHILDRENS MINISTRY DIRECTOR

AT CHRISTIANED@TOPSAILPRES.ORG 910-270-2312

FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION CONTACT:

LESLIE BIAIR, YOUTH MINISTRY DIRECTOR

AT YOUTH@TOPSAILPRES.ORG 910-612-6465

