

# Newsletter

November 2025



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



## Important Dates

### November

- 1 Clean-up Day 9:00am
- 2 Communion/Youth Sunday
- 4 Super Tuesdays Kids Club 5:30
- 8 Flu Shot Clinic 10am-1pm
- 9 Preschool Sunday 10:30am
- 11 Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 15 Meals on Wheels 8:30am
- 16 Joyful Noise Children's Choir  
Fall Sing & Art Gallery 10:30am
- 17 Session Meeting 6:00pm
- 25 NO Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 27 Happy Thanksgiving  
Admin Offices Closed(27 & 28)
- 30 Hanging of the Greens 10:30

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

Dear Church Family,

As we move into November, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of God's abundance — the beauty of the changing season, the warmth of fellowship, and the many ways God continues to bless our Topsail Presbyterian family. This month of Thanksgiving calls us to pause and reflect on all that God has done and continues to do in our midst.

We give thanks first and foremost to God, from whom all blessings flow. God's grace sustains us, guides us, and continually calls us forward as a congregation grounded in faith, hope, and love. Each day, we witness the Spirit at work in the generosity, compassion, and commitment of this church family.

We are especially grateful for the faithful participation of so many during our **Stewardship Campaign**. Your prayers, pledges, and gifts of time and talent are tangible expressions of gratitude and trust in God's provision. Together, we affirm that all we have belongs to God, and that we are called to use these gifts in service to Christ's mission through Topsail Presbyterian Church. Thank you for responding so generously and joyfully to that call!

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# THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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This is also a time to offer heartfelt thanks to our **Transition Team**, who are diligently working to complete the Mission Study through thoughtful and Spirit-led discernment. Their efforts to listen, discern, and reflect upon who we are and where God is leading us will provide a strong foundation and inform the work of the **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** as they begin their search for our next installed pastor. The Mission Study is not only a report—it is a testimony to God's faithfulness and to the vibrant life and witness of this congregation.

As we gather around Thanksgiving tables later this month, may we remember that gratitude is more than a feeling—it is a way of life. Let us give thanks for God's many blessings, for one another, and for the ways God continues to shape our shared future. May our hearts overflow with thanksgiving and our hands be ready to serve, as we look ahead with hope and trust in the One who calls us to be the body of Christ in this time and place.

With gratitude and peace,

Steuart



## PASTOR APPRECIATION

BY LAURIE RUCKS

On October 12, TPC celebrated our Interim Pastor, Rev. Steuart Link. This is a day when we are afforded the opportunity to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to our Pastor for his devotion to this congregation and his invaluable guidance as we embark on the search for a new pastoral leader.



Personnel expressed their appreciation for sermons grounded in Biblical teachings that resonate with our daily lives. They highlighted the joy that our children receive from the engaging Children's Sermons as well as from the congregation! Rev. Link has assumed the role of Head of Staff, providing a reassuring and constant presence for our staff. Rev. Link has guided our Session to be efficient and cohesive, always interjecting moments of laughter.

Speaking on behalf of the congregation, we are thankful to God for blessing TPC with Rev. Link as our interim. He is exactly what TPC needed. We acknowledge that we will have to let him go in the future; however, we look forward to God's additional blessings in providing a permanent pastor. We also know that behind every good pastor is a very patient wife! We are thankful for Sheila, too!



We celebrated all these accomplishments with Cake and Lemonade in the Gathering Room. We had an excellent turnout. Thank you to all who attended. Please feel free to continue to express your appreciation to Steuart and Sheila as we go throughout the month of October.

# WHO USES OUR FACILITY?

BY LAURIE RUCKS

That is a good question. Let's see if we can shed some light on how our facilities are being used!

Monday through Thursday, Topsail Preschool utilizes our Sunday School rooms, Fellowship Hall, sanctuary for chapel, and the playground in good weather. The children are dropped off at 9 a.m. and picked up at 12:30 p.m. Each child brings their own lunch. Preschool follows the Pender County School calendar for holidays and days off.

Every Monday and Thursday, we have an AA meeting in our Fellowship Hall. This is a wide variety of people and is extremely well attended. Every Monday and Thursday, we have an Al-Anon meeting in the Youth Building. Again this is a very well-attended meeting.

Mondays we also have Handbell practice at 6 p.m., followed by choir practice at 7 p.m. The exception is the third Monday of the month, when Session meets; there are no practices.

Tuesdays September through May, we have Tuesday Night Kids Club. The children are dropped off at 5:30 and the parents pick them up at 7. We feed them at 6:30 a variety of evening meals, including hot dogs, pancakes/waffles (breakfast for dinner), pizza, and chicken nuggets. Yes dessert too! The children utilize the Fellowship Hall, Sunday School rooms, and the sanctuary.

Wednesdays, we have Troop 235 meetings in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday School rooms, and the Youth Building. When they have their Court of Honor, they utilize our Fellowship Hall. Several times a year, they have a potluck for the families and the scouts, usually on a Saturday.

Sunday evenings we have our Youth meeting in the Youth Building.

The first Thursday of the month at noon, we have the Lions Club that meets in Fellowship Hall.

The third Saturday of the month at 8:30 we have Meals on Wheels. They prepare food and transport the items to members of our community who are shut in. This is a rewarding experience and is always in need of additional volunteers.

The third Thursday of the month, PEO meets in our Youth Building. PEO stands for Philanthropic Educational Organization. This is a sisterhood that promotes celebrating, empowering, and motivating women. Their mission is to advance women through education around the world.

The third Monday of the month, the Hampstead Garden Club meets in Fellowship Hall. This is a group of avid gardeners from Hampstead.

The third Monday of the month, Session meetings are at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Girl Scout Leadership meetings will be held every other month once a month in the Gathering Room, dates to be determined next month. This does not interfere with Boy Scouts.

Various committee meetings are held on different days of the week and evening.

You can take pride in the fact that TPC is actively engaged in our community and that our outreach efforts continue to flourish.

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As we turn the page from October to November, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for all those who helped make our Trunk or Treat so special this year! The weather didn't stand a chance at dampening our spirits!

With glad hearts, our trunkers quickly turned their trunks into spectacular tabletops and hallways! Volunteers jumped into action to set up our concessions and raffle stations downstairs, and our traffic was directed to premium parking! Our Fellowship Hall and hallways were completely transformed and filled with fun and fellowship for all ages! To everyone that helped make this evening possible, thank you! Your generosity of heart helped TPC shine Christ's light into the lives of all that were present! Be sure to check out our photo gallery for highlights and happy faces!

The holiday season is just around the corner and our calendar is bustling with activities! Please see our schedule below:

### **November:**

4th - Super Tuesdays Kids Club

11th - Super Tuesdays Kids Club

16th - Joyful Noise Children's Choir's "Fall Sing & Art Gallery" - 10:30 am Worship Service

18th - Super Tuesdays Kids Club's "Thanksgiving Celebration"

25th - NO SUPER TUESDAYS KIDS CLUB - Thanksgiving Break

30th - "Hanging of the Greens" - 10:30 am Worship - Children will participate in Worship Service

### **December:**

2nd - Super Tuesdays Kids Club

9th - Super Tuesdays Kids Club

13th - "True North Christmas" Play Rehearsal - 10 am - 12 pm

14th - "True North Christmas" Dress Rehearsal - 3 pm until Performance

"True North Christmas" - 5 pm, followed by Refreshments and Special Guest

16th - Super Tuesdays Kids Club's "Christmas Celebration" - Christmas/Winter Break Begins

21st - "Lessons and Carols" - 10:30 am Worship - Joyful Noise Children's Choir Invited to Sing

24th - "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service" - 6 pm (Kid Friendly) & 8 pm (Traditional)

We have so much to celebrate and look forward to in the weeks ahead! If you are looking for opportunities to support or volunteer with our programs during the holiday season, please contact Dawn at [christianed@topsailpres.org](mailto:christianed@topsailpres.org) for more information.

Wishing you all the peace of Christ as we prepare for this time of Thanksgiving and the anticipation of the Advent season!

Yours in Christ,

Dawn Frazier

Children's Ministry Director



# TRUNK OR TREAT 2025

A little blustery weather couldn't dampen the spirits of our Trunk or Treaters! We simply adjusted our sails and moved indoors! Thank you so much for coming out to share the evening with us! A very special thank you goes out to our hearty "trunkers" and volunteers that stayed the course and helped make this such a fun and memorable evening for all!





# FROM OUR MISSIONS COMMITTEE



**IT'S  
SHOEBOX  
TIME!**

**REMINDER:** Our Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection deadline is Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. If you're still working on filling a box, please feel free to grab a "gift ideas" sheet from the table in the narthex. Each shoebox represents hope and joy for a child in need, and your generous contributions make a world of difference.



**It's the Season of Giving!** 🌲 On Sunday, November 22nd the Angel Tree will be in the Narthex. This is a wonderful opportunity to spread holiday cheer and provide for those in our community who may be in need. Each angel ornament on the tree represents a child or family member, and by selecting one, you commit to bringing joy and warmth into their lives this holiday season. Please take a moment to choose an angel and share the spirit of giving.

Be sure to attach the angel ornament to your wrapped gift when you return it, ensuring each present reaches the right recipient. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated and truly make a difference. Thank you for being a light in our community!

All gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 7th.

## RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packing event held on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We packed 10,152 meals! Each meal will feed 6 people in Sudan, that means we provided a meal to 60,912 people. Wow! Your hard work and dedication are truly inspiring and demonstrate the incredible impact we can have when we come together as a community. We are so grateful for your time, energy, and commitment to serving those in need.





# PRESCHOOL GIVES BACK

BY LAURIE RUCKS

The Preschool is bestowing a generous gift of \$10,000 upon TPC as a token of gratitude for the mission of our Church. The Finance Committee has allocated this contribution to the Strategic Vision Fund within our budget.

The Preschool has given back to TPC in additional ways over the years. The playground is maintained by Preschool funds, providing mulch each year and additional playground equipment when required.

The Preschool has also allocated funds for the painting of each individual classroom. They have financed the installation of flooring in the hallway. Additionally, they are tasked with the daily maintenance of their classrooms, which includes the thorough cleaning of the rugs situated on their classroom floors.

TPC furnishes essential utilities for the Preschool and provides the necessary space for its operations. This partnership has flourished over the course of 15 years.

Our Director, Marissa Watson, is constantly improving our program. This year, she initiated Soccer Shots, which is a program that provides basic skill training for preschool children. This is taught on the church grounds immediately after dismissal at about 12:30. She also invited Ecological Marine Adventures to visit our Preschool monthly to educate the children about reptiles, fossils, and other marine life. Each year, the children are introduced to various career professionals and community helpers. This year they had a pilot, doctor, physical therapist, postman, and firemen, of course, with their fire truck! TPC teachers and aids are required to participate in teacher training, and this year it was all about STEM/STEAM. The children are very engaged in these new adventures and learning tools.

The most important learning tool of all is about Jesus. Our preschool plants the seeds of Christian faith in each of our students when they participate in weekly chapel.

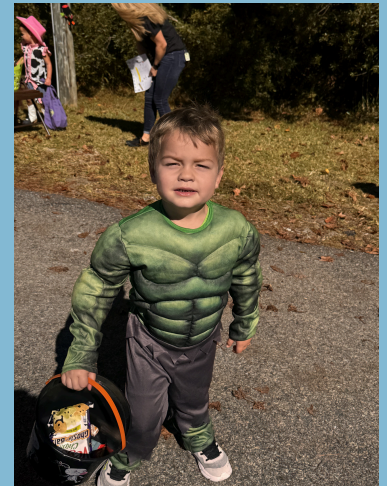
These are many of the reasons why TPC's Preschool ROCKS!!! THANK YOU TPC!





# PRESCHOOL TRICK OR TREATING

We had a spooktacular time on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> when we heldd our annual preschool Trick or Treating event at TPC. Parents, family, and staff came together to make extra special Halloween fun for all of our little pirates, minions, superheroes, and princesses! What fun!





# Prayer Requests

Bobbie Ruegner, Bruce Filer, 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, Tom & Sue Feller, Linda Blount, Marjorie Gulliksen, Jacqueline Kirksey, Wiley Lewis, Carol Campbell, Vicki Hufham, Ronnie Edens, June Crosby, Jeanne Rick, Jeffrey Smith, Mary Gist, Brian Padgett, Martin Padgett, John Flowers, Adrianna Neely, Kaki Wall, Graycin Goesswein, Joey Scavone, Alexander Marechal, Taylor Barnes, Pete Brunsvold, Walt Caison & family, the family of Mark Fisher, Bonnie Carpenter, the family of Cindy McKnight.

## BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS



HELD ON  
FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 10TH

Thank you all for your incredible support of the American Red Cross with your donations given on November 10th. Together, we collected **39 units** of lifesaving blood, including **10 Power Reds**—that's awesome! Blood donations save lives every day. Thank you for being a part of this important mission.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Frances Jane Wilgis | November 3  |
| Constance Lowell    | November 5  |
| Jonathan Schwarz    | November 8  |
| Mike Steed          | November 8  |
| John Stancil        | November 9  |
| Diane Campbell      | November 10 |
| Janet Jenkins       | November 13 |
| Wesley Thomas       | November 16 |
| Elmer Hewett        | November 20 |
| Anna Kate Chewing   | November 23 |
| Christine Sanders   | November 23 |
| Bonnie Carpenter    | November 24 |
| Tim Kissire         | November 26 |

## NOV ANNIVERSARIES

|                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Russell & Laurie Ruck             | Nov 4  |
| Mark & Kristin Rohlfig            | Nov 14 |
| Nick & Sally Ferrante             | Nov 16 |
| Wesley & Sharon Thomas            | Nov 19 |
| Gwen Gulliksen & Randall McNamara | Nov 30 |

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Shona Talbert     | December 1  |
| Candace Migliara  | December 2  |
| Dennis Woodcock   | December 2  |
| Rick Lamb         | December 3  |
| Dee Rose Kalfin   | December 7  |
| Piper Kalfin      | December 11 |
| David Batts       | December 12 |
| Elias Van Cleave  | December 12 |
| Lawson Consey     | December 14 |
| Lyla Consey       | December 14 |
| Joseph Strickland | December 16 |
| Jamie Tyson       | December 16 |
| Katina Kalfin     | December 17 |
| Heidi Sabatura    | December 18 |
| Laura Thomas      | December 22 |
| Jaco Serfontein   | December 23 |
| Lloyd Bowman      | December 27 |
| Michael Kalfin    | December 28 |
| Kitty Lamb        | December 28 |

## DEC ANNIVERSARIES

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Michael & Susan Warren       | Dec 6  |
| John & Dianna Stancil        | Dec 17 |
| Greg & Dottie Mosher         | Dec 22 |
| Dickie Grace & Erica Talbert | Dec 27 |
| Kristi & Bryn Haas           | Dec 27 |
| Denise & Bill Heinemann      | Dec 27 |
| Russ & Mary Layman           | Dec 30 |



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, November 16, immediately following the 10:30 am service Benediction and will include a catered luncheon. The meeting is to share a presentation of the Mission Study, Our Next Steps Toward a PNC.

**Reservations are required** for the catered lunch. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office at 910-270-2312.

**WE LOVE OUR NEWLY RENOVATED SANCTUARY!**

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM BRINGING BEVERAGES INTO THE SANCTUARY WITHOUT A SPILLPROOF TOP ON THE CONTAINER.

WE ALSO REMIND YOU TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES AS WE WORSHIP GOD.

## SAVE THE DATE

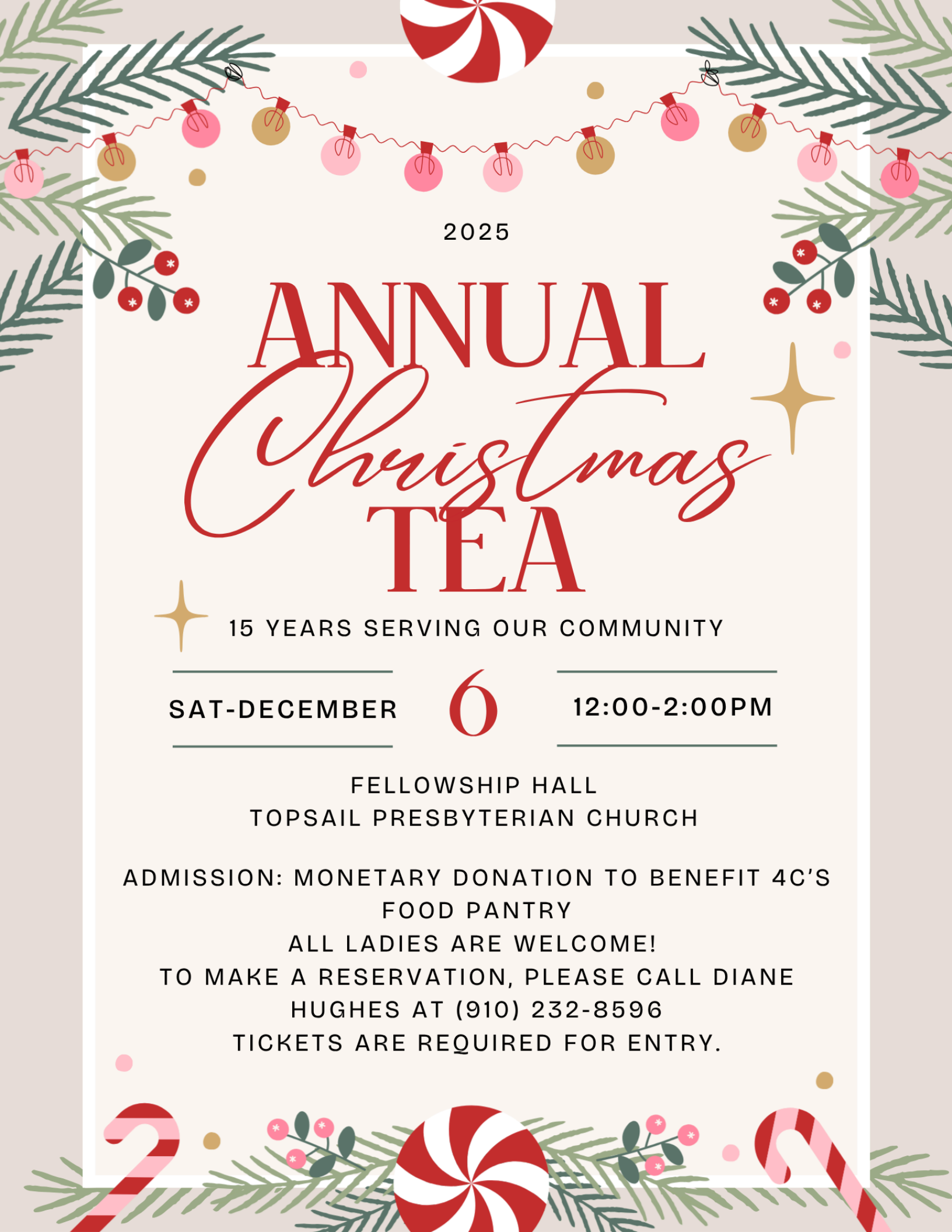
## Get A Flu Vaccine

Free Flu Shot Clinic  
Nov. 8 - 10am - 1pm



**In the TPC Fellowship Hall.  
Stay Healthy this flu season!**





2025

# ANNUAL *Christmas* TEA

15 YEARS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

SAT-DECEMBER

6

12:00-2:00PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL  
TOPSAIL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADMISSION: MONETARY DONATION TO BENEFIT 4C'S  
FOOD PANTRY

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!

TO MAKE A RESERVATION, PLEASE CALL DIANE  
HUGHES AT (910) 232-8596

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY.



# ***Troop 235 Holiday Wreath Fundraiser***



***Order Deadline  
November 14, 2025  
Delivery no later than 12/11***

Decorate your home for the holidays while supporting your local Boy Scout Troop 235 in Hampstead, NC. We are partnering up with Sherwood Forest Farms to offer you beautiful holiday wreaths and garlands!

Please help our scouts raise funds to support their individual goals while in the scouting program. The funds will also continue to allow Troop 235 with the necessary means in providing a quality program to prepare our Scouts to make ethical and moral choices!

**Step 1:** Visit <https://sherwoodfundraiser.com/HampsteadBSATroop235> or scan the QR code



**Step 2:** Shop your heart's desire, click the check out cart button at the top right of the webpage

**Step 3:** Enter your information through the check out screen and please select my name under "CREDIT MY ORDER TO"

**Step 4:** Select your address from the address list

**Step 5:** Review, click "Pay Group By Check/Other"

**Step 6:** Remember to include order number and pay amount due.

***Thank You and Happy Holidays!***





**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

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

**Mrs. Dawn Frazier**

**Childrens Ministry Director**

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

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

**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**

#### **2026**

Russ Layman - **Stewardship**

Jennifer Schwarz - **Christian Education**

Shona Talbert - **Personnel**

#### **2027**

Laurie Rucks - **Session Clerk & Preschool**

Nicole Demchock - **Worship**

#### **2028**

Stephen Polk - **Buildings & Grounds**

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