



Newsletter

October 2025



Important Dates

October

- 5** Communion Sunday
Youth Sunday
Youth Group 5:30pm
- 7** No Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 10** Red Cross Blood Drive 1:00pm
- 13** Session Meeting 6:00pm
- 14** Super Tuesdays Kids Club
- 18** Meals on Wheels 8:30am
- 19** Youth Group 5:30pm
- 21** Christmas Tea Mtg 4:30pm
- 26** Rise Against Hunger 11:30am
- 28** Trunk or Treat 5:00pm
- 30** Preschool Halloween Parade

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE BY REV. STEUART LINK

Dear Church Family,

As we step into this beautiful season of fall, I am reminded of how God uses every season for His purpose – to bring change, to inspire growth, and to call us into community. October is shaping up to be a month full of opportunity to live out our faith through service, fellowship, and fun. I'd love to personally invite you to be part of the wonderful things happening in and through our church in the coming weeks.

On October 10th from 1:00 – 5:00 we're opening our doors – and our hearts – to the community by hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive. This is a simple but powerful way to give life to someone in need. If you're able, please consider donating.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..." – 1 Peter 4:10

On October 26th at 11:30 we will have the opportunity to help fight hunger on a global basis through our Rise Against Hunger event held in the fellowship hall. I'm especially excited about this opportunity to come together in mission as we pack meals in this hands-on event.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We'll be packing thousands of meals that will go directly to communities in need. Whether you're 8 or 80, you have a place at the table — or in this case, at the packing line!

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat..." – Matthew 25:35

Let's bring some light and laughter to our community with our annual Trunk or Treat on October 28th at 5:00! It's always such a joy to see kids in costume, cars creatively decorated, and families enjoying a safe, welcoming space. This is more than just candy — it's a way to show hospitality and share the love of Christ with our community.

We're collecting candy donations now, and we'd love to have more trunks and volunteers involved. Let us know if you can help!

"Let your light shine before others..." – Matthew 5:16

I am so thankful that you are a church who serves, gives, and loves generously. I'm grateful for the way you continue to be the hands and feet of Christ — both inside our church walls and far beyond them.

Let's embrace this season together with open hearts and willing hands. I look forward to seeing you this month!

In Christ's love,
Steuart



FORMS & DOCUMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS REQUEST FORM
CONTACT REQUEST FORM
FACILITIES USE PROCEDURE/PROCESS/RULES
FACILITIES USE FORM
MEALS ON WHEELS FORM
NEW MEMBER INFORMATION FORM
ONLINE DIRECTORY HELP FORM
PRAYER REQUEST
VOLUNTEER FORM

CHURCH FORMS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

BY TOM SIDBURY

One of the most helpful features of our church website is the wide range of forms now available online. Instead of needing to stop by the church office to pick up a paper form—and then remember to bring it back—you can complete many requests right from your computer or phone.

From facility use reservations and volunteer sign-ups to prayer requests, contact updates, and communication requests, these forms are designed to make church life more convenient and accessible. Once submitted, each form is automatically routed to the appropriate church officer, pastor, or administrator, ensuring your request gets to the right person quickly and efficiently. This not only helps you, but it also allows our staff and leaders to stay organized and be more responsive.

We invite you to take a few minutes to explore the forms section of our website: <https://www.topsailpresbyterian.org/forms>. You might be surprised at how many tasks can be handled online.

As always, if you have feedback or ideas for additional forms that would make things easier, please send your ideas to admin@topsailpres.org. Our goal is to keep communication clear, accessible, and convenient for everyone in our church family.

FALL 2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: FAITH FORWARD BY TOM SIDBURY

As we step into the vibrant season of fall, we are excited to announce our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign: **"Faith Forward."** This theme encourages us to look ahead with faith, as we embark on new journeys and expand our ministry to areas of need.

This year, we are actively seeking a new full-time minister and expanding our outreach. We aim to honor God and embrace His promises by focusing on the future rather than dwelling on the past.

Fall is a wonderful time of year, filled with celebrations like Harvest, Homecoming, and Octoberfest. It is a prelude to Thanksgiving and Christmas, a season of reflection and gratitude. At Topsail Presbyterian Church, we see it as a time to reflect on all that God has done for us throughout the year. As we count our blessings, we also consider how we can give back to Him through our Time, Talent, and Financial blessings.

Our Fall Stewardship Campaign kicks off on **October 19th**. You will receive a brochure in the mail, highlighting the good things we have accomplished through God's grace and the new initiatives we feel called to pursue in the coming year.

Key Dates:

- **October 19th:** Campaign Launch
- **October 26th:** Focus on Financial Giving
- **November 2nd:** Focus on Time and Talent Giving
- **November 16th:** Dedication Sunday - Turn in Commitment Cards

The commitment cards are your best estimate of giving for 2026. They are seen by only a couple of people who enter the anonymous data into a budget program, enabling the Elders to develop their ministry plan for next year. The cards are stored in a confidential database, used by one person to produce your annual giving report for tax preparation. No one else sees them.

Let's move forward in faith together, honoring God with our gifts and looking ahead to the wonderful things He has in store for us.

Russ Layman
Elder, Stewardship Team



Coming Soon: TPC's Annual Trunk or Treat and More!

Our TPC children have joyfully settled into the new season, and there is so much fun on the horizon to look forward to! Our Sunday School classes are thriving, and our Super Tuesdays Kids Club is filled with happy hearts, learning and fellowship. We are also busily preparing for two of the following Fall events:

Annual Trunk or Treat - Tuesday, October 28th, 5 - 7 pm.

One of our favorite TPC traditions is just around the corner! We are incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm and support already shown for this much anticipated event! Trunk sign-ups are rolling in, and donations in support of our STKC children and Youth's themed raffle baskets are also starting to come in. However, we still need your support!

We are planning for approximately 300 children and their families to attend, so we are in need of many helping hands and supplies to make our event a success! We need volunteers in all areas - hosting trunks, helping with set up, parking, clean up, and concessions. To register your trunk, a raffle basket, or to volunteer, please visit our website at www.topsailpresbyterian.org and click on our slide below the latest news to access our Signup Genius. You may also check out the sign-up sheet and clothesline in the Narthex. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Joyful Noise Children's Choir Fall Sing & Art Gallery - Sunday, November 16th, 10:30 am Service

You will want to mark your calendars for a very special Sunday celebrating the hearts and voices of the youngest members of our congregation! Our children are currently busy preparing for their musical performance, as well as creating their amazing artwork to showcase. After the worship service, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and to enjoy their incredible gifts and talents on display!

For more information about these events or our programs, or ways to become a part of this incredibly rewarding ministry, please contact Dawn Frazier, Children's Ministry Director at christianed@topsailpres.org or 910-270-2312.



SUPER TUESDAYS KIDS CLUB IS BACK!

Hooray for Tuesday nights! We were so happy to come back together for our fall session of Super Tuesdays Kids Club. The whole building is once again filled with laughter and excitement as familiar faces reconnect and new friendships begin. We look forward to another season of fun and faith.



FROM OUR COMMITTEES: UPDATES, INFORMATION, & INVITATIONS



Join us Sunday, October 26 immediately following the 10:30 worship service. We need 60 volunteers and a few hours of your time to help pack over 10,000 meals during our annual **Rise Against Hunger** packing event. This event is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and service, allowing us to come together as a congregation to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Please consider joining us in this meaningful endeavor; your participation will not only enrich the lives of those we serve but also strengthen the bonds within our own community. Together we can help feed people around the world.



Please join Building/Grounds/Transportation Committee and Troop 235 for a fall cleanup that will include our church grounds as well as our church home. Now is the time to remove any unused items currently housed in any of our closets. Our gardens are in dire need of some TLC, removing weeds and vines and preparing them for Fall and Winter. Donuts and refreshments will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Please bring rakes, hand tools, shovels, clippers, tarps, garden tools, and wheelbarrows. For any questions, please contact Stephen Polk Elder of BG&T Committee at 910-262-9038.

CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Pastor and Vision Survey. We received 69 submissions, and your engagement is helping shape the future mission and ministry of Topsail Presbyterian Church. The Transition Ministry Team is now busy analyzing the results and preparing an update for Session on October 13, followed by a presentation to the congregation in the near future. We are grateful for your input and look forward to sharing the results with you soon.

NEW FACILITIES REQUEST FORMS

Session has developed new Facility Request Forms. If you or an organization you belong to would like to request the use of our Fellowship Hall, Youth Building, Kitchen, etc., we are requesting you or your organization fill out these forms and put them in the Clerks mailbox or email them to the Clerk at clerk@topsailpres.org. For your convenience, the forms can be found on our website and in the office of our Administrative Assistant.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

As you are cleaning out your house to make room for Fall decorations and Christmas decorations, a reminder TPC DOES NOT NEED ANY ADDITIONAL DECORATIONS, FURNITURE, COMPUTERS, TELEVISIONS. Please donate these items to Hampstead Women's Club across from Food Lion, Salvation Army across from ACE Hardware, Women's Shelter in small strip mall where Brad Sizemore Insurance is located. We appreciate your assistance to keep our closets, kitchen, and shed clean and passable. Thank You.

BOY SCOUTS COURT OF HONOR

BY LAURIE RUCKS, CLERK OF SESSION

I recently had the privilege of attending Troop 235's Court of Honor, held in August 2025. Boy Scout Troop 235 is a member of the Cape Fear Council. During the Court of Honor, the scouts are awarded the badges and honors they have worked for throughout the year. Badges such as kayaking, small boating, citizenship, animal study, climbing, backpacking, and skating were awarded, to name a few. There are more than 135 badges that the scouts can earn.

Some were awarded their new ranks, such as First Class, Second Class, Life Scout, and the prestigious Eagle Scout. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, there are 21 required merit badges that the Scout must earn. The Eagle Scout rank/award takes perseverance, ambition, responsibility, leadership, and hard work. As many of you know, over the years, we have had Eagle Scout projects conducted here at the church. The playground, the flagpole, and the patio were all Eagle Scout projects performed by Scout members of this church. A project is a requirement to attain the Eagle Scout rank.

The awards are not limited to the youth. Adult leaders also earn awards and badges, which are also awarded at the Court of Honor.

The meeting starts with the arrival of the Scout flags and the American flag. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited, as well as the Boy Scout Oath and Scout Law to open the ceremony. The meeting is opened and closed with a prayer by the scout chaplain. The Court of Honor is attended by parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members and friends. The rankings, awards, and merit badges are handed out to youth as well as adult leaders. The assembly is entirely orchestrated by the scouts. Many stories are told to the enjoyment of everyone in attendance. The youth support each other and congratulate one another on their individual achievements. Family members are extremely involved in the lives of Scouts. They are recognized by standing with their youth during the awarding of their badge/award.

I learned about the Philmont experience, which is in New Mexico and is a 250,000-acre ranch provided by the Phillips 66 petroleum founder. All aspects of conservation are taught; a grueling hike up Mt. Phillips, repelling, camping, hiking. The Philmont trek is 12 days long, and the Scouts and Leaders carry all their supplies in their backpacks. You need to be in good physical shape to take on all these adventures, including the adult leaders! Remember, these leaders are taking off work to participate in this adventure with these youth; it is quite the commitment. Planning for this adventure starts about two years in advance of attending. Philmont Troop 235 will be returning to Philmont in 2027.

As the months advance, this Troop will be assembling in our parking lot to go camping, to hike in a park, and to work in community service. You can help by signing up on November 22 to give blood as they sponsor the Blood Connection Mobile donation center at our church. There will be other opportunities to support Troop 235 in the future. So, stay tuned.

I, for one, am very excited and honored to have our church host Troop 235. The Session looks forward to working with this fine group of individuals and youth as we grow together.





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, Marcia Caison, Tom & Sue Feller, Linda Blount, Marjorie Gulliksen, Wiley Lewis, Carol Campbell, Vicki Hufham, Ronnie Edens, June Crosby, Jeanne Rick, Jeffrey Smith, Mary Gist, Brian Padgett, the family of William Batchelor, Martin Padgett, John Flowers, Adrianna Neely, Kaki Wall.

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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Cody Chewing	October 2
Cam Crumpler	October 3
Nicole Demchok	October 5
Gianna Alber	October 6
David Garner	October 8
Jerry Adams	October 11
Victoria Elder	October 12
Marjorie Gulliksen	October 12
Divan Serfontein	October 12
Amy Garner	October 19
Eugene Noris	October 19
Sailor Thomas	October 19
Amy Coleman	October 20
Kitty Griffith	October 20
Harry Newton	October 20
Janet Fisher	October 28
Michelle Sanders	October 30
Donna Lewis	October 31
Gail Sabatura	October 31

OCT ANNIVERSARIES

Cam Crumpler	Oct 4
Jamie Tyson & Nicki Moss	Oct 6
Margie & Donald Alber	Oct 12
John & Joanne Foster	Oct 21
Dennis & Andee Woodcock	Oct 25
Ed & Mina Ostroski	Oct 28

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 Rohlfing	Nov 14
Nick & Sally Ferrante	Nov 16
Wesley & Sharon Thomas	Nov 19
Gwen Gulliksen & Randall	Nov 30
McNamara	



PRESCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE

9:00AM - MON -THUR

Please note that Preschool drop off and pick up have changed a bit this school year.

Drop off will be 9:00AM and pick up will be at 12:30PM.

Please plan accordingly.

