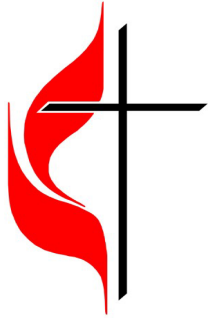


# 2026



## August Script Shores

### Hampstead United Methodist Church

#### From the Pastor

What a wonderful week!

Almost 200 children filled our campus during Vacation Bible School with laughter, music, games, crafts, Bible stories, and countless "God Sightings." Our building echoed with joyful noise all week long, and so did the hearts of the many of the 60+ volunteers who made it happen. Thank you to everyone who cooked, decorated, led stations, guided crews, registered families, cleaned up, prayed, donated supplies, and loved our children so well. Ministry like this truly takes the whole church.

This Sunday was a fitting celebration as many of our VBS children led us in worship. It was a joy to welcome several visiting families who joined us that morning. I hope they experienced the same warm welcome that makes Hampstead UMC feel like home.

A special thank you to Natalie and Wellesley, who confidently read Scripture and helped serve Holy Communion. It was a beautiful reminder that the church is strongest when every generation participates in God's work.

The music was another highlight. Greg, Mike, Fred, and Johnathan, dressed as hikers fresh from their VBS adventures, reminded us through both humor and heartfelt music that one of the best places to discover God is often out on the trail. Their moving rendition of *He Touched Me* beautifully tied together the week's theme of noticing God's presence all around us.

As we move into August, our worship series shifts into its final movement: **Seeds of the Kingdom: God Forms a People**. Throughout this month we'll explore how Jesus doesn't simply gather individuals—he forms a community that learns to trust, serve, and follow him together. Each week we'll discover another way God invites us not merely to believe, but to participate in the life of his kingdom.

- **August 9:** *Toward Jesus (Walking on the Water)*
- **August 16:** *Mercy Beyond the Boundary (The Canaanite Woman)*
- **August 23:** *Upon This Rock (Peter's Confession)*
- **August 30:** Fall Kickoff Sunday

I'm especially excited about **Fall Kickoff Sunday on August 30**. Brooks will be preaching, we'll enjoy our always-popular fifth Sunday hymn sing where the congregation chooses the hymns, we'll bless students, teachers, and backpacks as a new school year begins, and we'll gather afterward for a churchwide meal. It will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect after a busy summer and celebrate all that God has in store for this fall.

Vacation Bible School reminded us of something important: the kingdom of God grows when people of every age say "yes" to serving Christ together. My prayer is that the joy we experienced this week won't stay in one week of summer ministry but will continue to shape us as God forms us into the people he is calling us to become.

I look forward to worshipping with you this month.

Pastor Debbie

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## **“Stuff the Bus” : For Pender County Schools**

Communities In Schools of Cape Fear is calling on community members across the region to help “Stuff The Bus” and ensure every student has the necessary supplies to shine this school year!



For more than 25 years, this vital annual drive has been the region’s largest school supply collection effort. It supports tens of thousands of students in New Hanover and Pender County public schools by removing barriers like missing pencils, notebooks, or backpacks that can affect attendance, focus, and academic success.

HUMC is proud to serve as a collection site again this year. We will accept donations of new school supplies now through August 20th. All items collected will be sorted and divided among school social workers in New Hanover and Pender County public schools for distribution to students in need throughout the year.

### **How You Can Help**

Below is a supply list for high priority items. Items can be returned to the large, yellow collection bin in the narthex.

Every donation makes a real difference — especially for families facing financial challenges. By coming together as a community of faith, we live out our call to love and serve our neighbors. Questions? Contact the church office or check the narthex for more details and signage. Let’s fill that yellow barrel and help every local student start the year strong!

### **Student Wish List**

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 2”-3” Three Ring Binders  | Pencil pouches for |
| Crayons                   | 3 ring binders     |
| Colored Pencils           | Backpacks          |
| Magic Markers             | Lunch boxes        |
| Permanent Markers         | Planners           |
| Pens                      | Highlighters       |
| Pencils                   |                    |
| Pocket folders            |                    |
| Marbled Composition Books |                    |
| Clue/Glue Sticks          |                    |
| Scissors                  |                    |
| Erasers                   |                    |
| Dividers                  |                    |

### **Classroom Wish List**

- Construction Paper
- Dry erase markers
- Soap
- Hand Sanitizers
- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Post it Notes
- Manila Folders
- Scotch tape
- Computer Paper (color & white)
- Stickers
- Zip-loc bags

## A Heartfelt Thank You!

Dear Church Family:

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you who helped with the recent memorial reception for Bob Patrick. Your willingness to prepare food, serve guests, and assist with cleanup was a wonderful expression of Christian love and hospitality. As many of you know, planning a reception with appetizers and finger foods is quite different from planning a traditional meal and we passed the test.

Our goal was to provide a welcoming and abundant table, and thanks to your efforts, we did exactly that. The food was beautifully prepared, the tables were inviting, and the family was able to focus on visiting with loved ones because of the care you provided. Our open and welcoming Family Life Center allowed Bob's family space to visit and share family stories while looking at the wonderful photo display the family had prepared. Your service reflected Christ's love in a practical and meaningful way.

Thank you for your hard work, your flexibility, and your servant hearts. It is a blessing to work alongside such a dedicated congregation. May God bless each of you for the many ways you continue to serve our church family. With love appreciation,

—Shirleen Spencer

## AGAPE Christmas Box

### **AGAPE Project – Shoebox Ministry**

For 30 years, our church has partnered with the AGAPE Project to support children in the region around Armenia. Over a decade ago, we brought joy to these children through "Shoebox" gifts — and this year we are excited to offer this meaningful opportunity again!

#### **\*\*How You Can Participate:\*\***

Shopping lists will soon be available in the narthex. Simply choose a boy or girl, purchase new items according to the list, and pack them into a 6-quart plastic shoebox.

A \$5 donation per box is requested to help cover shipping costs.

**\*\*Deadline:\*\*** All boxes must be returned by **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**.

***We will continue promoting this special ministry over the coming weeks.*** Your generosity and willingness to bless these children is deeply appreciated and makes a lasting difference!

Thank you for your faithful support of this important outreach.

## United Women In Faith: Ice Cream Social

The UWIF will kick off their meetings with their annual Ice Cream Social on **Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM at **Pelican Reef Recreation Center**. All women of the church are invited to join us in fellowship. Questions? Contact Cheryle Shaffer at (910-620-5904).

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## Connect Club

Connect Club is all about our congregation interacting with the YMCA after-school program elementary students. It is a relationship building time for the Kindergarten through fifth graders from South Topsail Elementary and Topsail Annandale Elementary to get to know our faithful volunteers. It's not a mandatory year-long commitment but a "come when you can" time for the once a week Club meeting. Do you like to put puzzles together, play checkers, chess or wish to learn the latest "Uzzle" game?

Please be in prayer as we continue this ministry beginning in September, our meeting day has yet to be determined. The time is normally from 3:15 to 4:45 PM. Check out the photos of some of our volunteers as we share how the program is going with a representative from the NC Rural Center. If you are just curious and wish to learn more please contact Rev. Matthis or Peggy Harris (910-547-6581).







## *Annual Mother-Child Retreat*

# REGISTER!

[HTTPS://WWW.ULTRACAMP.COM/INFO/SESSIONDETAIL.ASPX?](https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?IDCAMP=623&CAMPCODE=DLC&IDSESSION=583286)

**IDCAMP=623&CAMPCODE=DLC&IDSESSION=583286**

SEPTEMBER  
11TH-13TH

THE NORTH CAROLINA UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS HOSTING A MOTHER/CHILD RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP DON LEE! THIS WEEKEND IS FULL OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! THERE WILL BE FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS GEARED TOWARD YOU AND YOUR CHILD. CAMP PROGRAMMING WILL INCLUDE SAILING, CANOEING, ARCHERY, CRAFTS, AND OF COURSE S'MORES!

DATE: SEPT 11-13

ARRIVAL - 5:30PM FRIDAY (PLEASE EAT DINNER BEFORE ARRIVAL)

DEPARTURE - 10AM SUNDAY (AFTER BREAKFAST AND WORSHIP)

FEES: \$132 FOR ADULTS OVER 18, \$100 FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH 6-17.



## Coastal Carolina Emmaus



Fall Walk Schedule Men and Women attend separate weekends.

**Women's Walk #128 October 8-11 , 2026**

**Men's Walk #129 October 22-25, 2026**

A sponsor is identified to host you for the weekend. He or she picks you up on Thursday afternoon and takes you out to dinner. You then go to the Salt and Light Retreat Center on North Topsail Island. There you meet the other "Pilgrims" who will be first-timers on the walk.

You spend 72 hours in a short course on Christianity. You listen to fifteen talks given by lay and clergy members on the team. These talks are themed on God's grace and disciplines of Christian discipleship. You enjoy three meals a day as well as multiple snacks. Musicians engage the conference room in song and your assigned table may develop life-time friendships.

Other Christians from eastern North Carolina who seek to renew their relationship with God, and grow spiritually will be in attendance. Your Sponsor returns you home on Sunday afternoon.

For more information contact:

Rev. Dr. Debbie Matthis John Harris (910-520-4042) or Peggy Harris (910-547-6581) to help identify a sponsor.



## Anniversaries...



|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Phillip & Diana Davis  | August 13 |
| Richard & Carolyn Sear | August 15 |
| John & Peggy Harris    | August 16 |
| Larry & Darlene David  | August 19 |
| Greg & Susan Leemhuis  | August 25 |



## Altar Flowers...



| Date      | Dedication                                                                                                        |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2  | Given by Dennis & Carolyn Southerland...<br><i>"In celebration of our 65th wedding anniversary on July 30th."</i> |
| August 9  | Given by Linda Rouleau...<br><i>"Happy heavenly birthday for my son, Jason."</i>                                  |
| August 16 | Given by John & Peggy Harris ...<br><i>"In celebration of our 56th wedding anniversary."</i>                      |
| August 23 | Given by Andrew & Laura Bibby...<br><i>"In celebration of our daughter Anne for her 5th birthday."</i>            |
| August 30 | Ann Todd...<br><i>"In celebration of Jack Loveless' birthday on August 25th."</i>                                 |

## Birthdays...

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Terry Snyder       | August 01 |
| Anna Jones         | August 02 |
| Reid Parker        | August 02 |
| Jack Cockrum       | August 03 |
| Blane Gibson       | August 03 |
| Sara Temple        | August 04 |
| Michaela Doyle     | August 05 |
| Ethan Moore        | August 06 |
| Jeff Swann         | August 06 |
| Kay Phelps         | August 07 |
| Christopher Scott  | August 07 |
| Jackson Hardee     | August 08 |
| Ellie Robinson     | August 09 |
| Joanne Pearson     | August 10 |
| Dominique Bates    | August 13 |
| Jared James        | August 13 |
| Judy Clemmons      | August 14 |
| Harper Daniel      | August 14 |
| Scott Miller       | August 14 |
| Reagan Rose        | August 14 |
| Edward Hampel      | August 17 |
| Caleb Doyle        | August 18 |
| Hudson Smith       | August 21 |
| Jim Wells          | August 21 |
| Sean Ziegler       | August 21 |
| Anne Bibby         | August 22 |
| Chaz Jones-Burner  | August 22 |
| Harrison Binko     | August 23 |
| Evan Wilson        | August 23 |
| Rachel Jones       | August 25 |
| Greg Leemhuis      | August 25 |
| Jack Loveless      | August 25 |
| Phillip Davis, Jr. | August 26 |
| Patsy Mathews      | August 26 |
| Fred Vitale        | August 26 |
| Savannah Smith     | August 27 |
| Dan Redinger       | August 29 |
| Christopher Martin | August 30 |
| Alease Register    | August 30 |

