

Pastor Laura Thompson: PastorLaura@swansboroumc.org
Pastor Elias Ballew: PastorElias@swansboroumc.org
Music Director: Lindsay Williams: Music@swansboroumc.org
Piano and Organ: Terri Boykin



“Worship God, Love One Another, Serve the World”

Celebrating New Life

Have you welcomed a new child through **birth or adoption**? Please let the church office know so we can celebrate with you! A **rose will be placed on the altar** in honor of your newest blessing. 🌹



Strong women, banding together, leading the way
By Gregg Casper

August 23, 2026
13th Sunday after Pentecost
8:25 a.m. Worship



A Stephen Minister provides confidential support, encouragement, listening, and prayer to those going through a difficult time. Contact: SUMC office, website, or Laurie NardoKunst: 910-934-5457.

665 W Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, North Carolina 28584
910 326-4822
www.SwansboroUMC.org

8:30 Worship

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Deep Rivers”



*Call to Worship

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—
let Israel now say—

**If it had not been for the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,**

Then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;

Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

We have escaped as a bird from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

**Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.**

*Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

UMH #127

*Opening Prayer

**God who dwells on the Margins, where power does not dare to look,
we call upon You, the sacred who lives in whispers and shadows—in
the quiet, where words are not rushed, where power has no place to
hide. Let us be grounded in Your mystery, for You are more than
nation, more than law or hierarchy. You are the hidden strength in the
fragile and the small. We call upon You; help us to let go of all the
small tyrannies within: the worry, the fear, the need for control. Here,
we choose to resist the powers that would divide us, exploit us, or
convince us to believe in our own isolation. Amen.****

*Passing the Peace

*Welcome! Please take the next 60 seconds and find someone you did not come
to church with and greet them in Jesus' name!*

PRAISE AND PROCLAMATION

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:13-20

Patti Heller

SwanKids Worship

All kids are welcome to follow our staff for SwanKids Worship during the sermon.

Anthem

“There Is A Balm In Gilead”

Choir

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Sermon

“Among the Reeds: Rejecting Powerlessness, Embracing Courage”
Rev. Laura Thompson

RESPONSE

*Hymn of Response

“God Will Take Care of You”

UMH #130

*Affirmation of Faith

UMH #883

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Congregational Sharing: Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Giving of our Tithes, Offerings, and Connection Cards

Offertory Song

“Lord, Listen to Your Children”

Choir

*Doxology

UMH #94

Blessing of the Backpacks

SENDING

*Hymn

“I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

FWS #2153

Postlude

“Guide My Feet”

FWS #2208

**“Guide my feet while I run this race. (Yes, my Lord!) Guide my feet while I
run this race. (Yes, my Lord!) Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't
want to run this race in vain! (race in vain)”**

** Please stand as you are able.*

***Opening prayer by Kat Armas*

