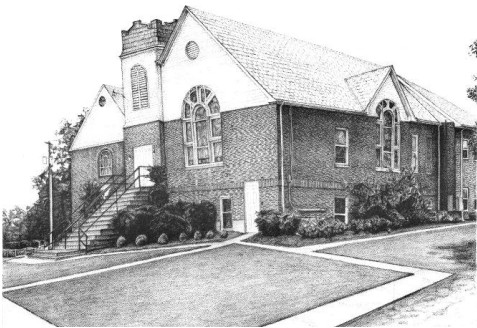


SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



Franklin, VA 23851-5132
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Pastor	Deacon of the Month
Rev. Tracey Pugh	John Jenkins
Vol. XLXI, No. 4	April 2026

BECAUSE HE LIVES!

[Because He Lives Bill & Gloria Gaither](#)

1. God sent His son, they called him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon. **An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.**
2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives. But greater still the calm assurance **This child can face uncertain day because He lives.**
3. And then one day I'll cross the river. I'll fight life's final war with pain. And then, as death gives way to vict'ry, **I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.**
- Chorus:
Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

This classic and beloved hymn was written in 1971 by Bill and Gloria Gaither during a time of personal struggles as well as a time when the country and the world were experiencing social unrest. The Gaithers had two daughters and a third child, a son, was on the way. They wondered how they could rejoice in bringing another child into such a chaotic world. A friend of the Gaithers, Sid Guillen, recognizing their turmoil, prayed over the couple, reinforcing their faith and reminding them that God was in control. These prayers became a spiritual turning point for the couple and the hymn, “Because He Lives”, was born. The first verse summarizes Jesus’s life and mission. And that empty tomb...it proves our Savior lives!

The second verse, referring to bringing a child into an uncertain world, reminds us that because He lives we can have calm assurance for that child.

And that third verse! Death gives way to victory and I’ll see the lights of glory! What more can we hope for?

The chorus brings it all together when we sing we can face tomorrow because God is in control, He holds the future, fear is gone. He Lives!

I’ve never thought of this hymn as an Easter hymn before, but it most certainly is! He’s alive! He’s alive indeed!

Easter blessings to all, Patsy Falls

HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

PALM SUNDAY EASTER CANTATA

The choir will present the Easter Cantata, “Jesus, Our Blessed Redeemer” on Palm Sunday, March 29, during worship. Join us as we remember the price Christ paid to redeem us and praise Him in song.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Seder Meal Service and Meal at 6:00 p.m.

A Passover meal, a worship service, and communion will be incorporated into this event. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to celebrate the Lord’s Last Supper and bring a friend—reservations are required.

GOOD FRIDAY Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday observes the Passion of Christ, crucifixion, and death. Worshippers will have the opportunity to bear the weight of the cross.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Easter sunrise service will be held at **6:30 a.m.** on Easter morning at the church.

EASTER FELLOWSHIP AND TREATS

Hosted by Chris Moon and Robin Davis, a Grab ‘N Go Breakfast will be available from 7:00 – 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION & FLOWERING THE CROSS



On Easter morning, we will come together to proclaim He is Risen. He is Risen, indeed! Worshippers are invited to bring fresh cut flowers to the 10:00 a.m. worship service to offer in honor of the risen Lord as we flower the cross together during worship.

CHRISTIAN PASSOVER SEDER



As Baptists, we do not typically observe Passover or the Seder Meal. However, in the Christian tradition, the Passover Seder is believed to be when Jesus instituted the Eucharist (Communion, Lord's Supper). We know the story from Luke 22; Jesus was gathered around the table with the disciples,

15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again"

Jesus then proceeded to give thanks, break bread, and serve the bread and cup. When we receive Communion, we celebrate the Last Supper and our Jewish heritage, which provides context for the meal.

We will offer a Seder meal and celebration on Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Make plans to join this most sacred meal and invite a friend by reserving your place at the table. **Reservations are required** and due by March 29. Fill out the reservation form insert in your bulletin and place in the offering plate or in the church office.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL MISSION FOCUS

Caring for Caregivers: Her Mission will be preparing care packages for caregivers of special needs children on May 1. Stay tuned for information on how you can contribute self-care and encouraging items in April for these packages.



Her Mission Sunday is April 12. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter, Executive Director/Treasurer of Her Mission, to the pulpit during worship.

Following worship, all women are invited to our Her Mission meeting/luncheon in the fellowship hall at 11:30 a.m. Bethany will join us and share updates on Her Mission. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and learning about and supporting local and global missions.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Thanks to all the hands and feet in our RAK, resurrection gardens for our less active members and treats for our friends in memory care at The Village. Those missions and our commitment to connections in the community are not possible without our church family.

We are working on a project for a local grief group that meets monthly. Watch for more information.

We continue to deliver meals on Wednesday evenings. Please let us know of needs whether ongoing or short term.

Remember: with your help, we can be the hands of feet of Jesus in our community. Janet Bulls, Joey Francis, Holly Giles, Sharon Moore, Tammy Woods

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. Come join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation. I will set up shop on Tuesday mornings as follows:



April 7 - Daily Dose	9:00-10:30 a.m.
April 14 - Storehouse	9:00-10:30 a.m.
April 21 - Daily Dose	9:00-10:30 a.m.
April 28 - Storehouse	9:00-10:30 a.m.

Tracey Pugh

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

Below is this month's supper schedule. If the assigned dates are not suitable for your class or group, please trade with another group and let Dianne Umphlett know the change.

April 1	Fellowship Hall SS Class
April 8	No Family Night
April 15	Staff
April 22	Men's Group
April 29	Children's Group



APRIL CONFERENCE

The date for the April conference is April 26, 2026 immediately after worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend and participate in the decision-making process for our church body.



DIRECTORY UPDATES

Tyler Gyoker
3601 Calvert St
Greensboro, NC 27405

James C. Rainey
543 Davis Rd
Conway, NC 27820
252-308-8767

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Church Council met after worship on March 15, 2026. The following was presented.

- The current average in Sunday School is 33 and the ordering of Sunday School materials is being adjusted accordingly.
- HerMission focus for March was the Global Missions Offering. Women's Sunday will be April 12 Bethany Warren Hunter will be the guest speaker in worship and during the HerMission lunch and meeting.
- The Food Service Committee will be preparing the Seder Meal on April 2.
- Building & Grounds reported that a quote for front steps will be in had for a called conference on March 22. One more camera will be added to the safety system to cover a blind spot that has been identified and plans are in the works for repairs to the back fire escape.
- The Deacons will be helping with the Seder meal.
- The Finance Committee is getting ready to start meeting on next year's budget. Jimmy Vann is working on written procedures for our committees that deal with church money.
- Community Connections will be working on Easter baskets and Resurrections gardens for people in the Memory unit at The Village as well as others in our church.
- The Brotherhood continues to meet once a month for breakfast and conversation.
- The choir will be presenting the Easter cantata on March 29.

DEACON REPORT



The deacons met on March 2, 2026. After devotions, the sharing of prayer concerns, prayer, and deacon team reports the deacons discussed the following:

- ❖ The van lift concerns;
- ❖ Ash Wednesday and Seder Meal activities;
- ❖ Bids being received for masonry repair on front steps and the need for a called conference;
- ❖ The process for selecting a new trustee for the church;
- ❖ Tracey's worship class as a requirement for her doctoral studies;
- ❖ Sunday morning duties and the need for volunteers.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 6.



RANDOM ACTS OF Kindness



APRIL 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Family Night Schedule	2 Seder Meal6:00 p.m.	3 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	4
5 EASTER! Sunrise Service 6:30 Easter Treats 7 – 7:30 Sunday Morning Schedule	6 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	7 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	8 No Family Night	9	10	11
12 Morning Schedule Women’s Sunday Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m. HerMission 11:15 a.m.	13	14 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	15 Family Night Schedule	16	17	18
19 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	20	21 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	22 Family Night Schedule	23	24	25
26 Sunday Morning Schedule Conference 11:15 a.m.	27	28 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.	29 Family Night Schedule	30		

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on calendar)
Sunday School 9:00 am.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on calendar)
Meal: 5:45
Adult Study II: 6:15
Men's Bible Study: 6:45
Youth 6:45
Mission Friends and Children in Action: 6:45
Adult Choir: 7:45
CONTACT INFORMATION
Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org
Church website: sycamorebaptist.org
Rev. Pugh's Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749
Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 953-7930