

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
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Deacon of the Month
Peggy Rush
August 2025

CELEBRATING A MAJOR MILESTONE

Dear Church Family,

This month marks five years since I first stepped into the role of your pastor, and as I reflect on this milestone, two strong thoughts sweep over me. First, according to the history books, not many Sycamore Pastors have made it to the five-year mark. Second, I am not sure what that is all about, but for me, I am overwhelmed with gratitude—for each of you, for the ministry we’ve shared, and for the unmistakable faithfulness of God.

When I think back to those early days, none of us could have imagined the journey we’d take together. Just as we began our shared ministry, the world changed. The COVID-19 pandemic tested our resilience, our creativity, and our trust in God like never before. We navigated online worship, socially distanced gatherings, and an uncertain future with prayer, persistence, and a commitment to care for one another. Our ability to adapt and our unwavering faith during these challenging times was, and is a testament to our strength as a church community.

And yet, through it all, the Spirit was at work.

Over the past five years, we’ve witnessed God’s hand moving among us. Our mission efforts have served our community, we’ve embraced new ways of worship and connection, and we’ve experienced moments of joy, sorrow, and transformation. We’ve celebrated baptisms and welcomed new members, mourned losses, and held each other in prayer. We’ve updated our constitution, rebranded ministries, and deepened our roots in faith. It’s been a privilege to journey with you through each season.

Looking ahead, I believe God has a lot more in store for us; He isn’t finished with us yet.

I see a church family that is eager to grow—spiritually, relationally, and in service to the world. I see a community hungry for hope and meaning, and a congregation uniquely equipped to share Christ’s love. Together, we’ll continue to listen for God’s call, step forward in faith, and build on the foundation that has been laid. The best is yet to come!

To mark this special anniversary and to express my heartfelt thanks, I’d like to invite you to my annual **Pastor’s Appreciation Dinner on Monday, August 25**. It will be an evening of fellowship, storytelling, celebration, and shared vision for the future. I hope you’ll come—not just to honor these five years, but to rejoice in what God has done and is still doing through us.

With love and deep gratitude,

PTracey

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." —Ephesians 3:20–21

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Local, Global, & Everything In Between

AUGUST MISSION PROJECT



Do you hear sleigh bells? It's time to celebrate a mission

Christmas. Join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday, August 20, at 5:45 p.m. We will have a delicious Christmas meal prepared by the Brotherhood and WOM, followed by some holiday fun. School supplies will be collected for Capron Elementary School as our mission effort.

Listed are some school supply suggestions.

No. 2 Pencils	Hand Sanitizer
Crayons	Tissues
Markers	Clorox Wipes
Colored Pencils	Highlighters
Dry Erase Markers	Glue Sticks
Composition Books	Notebook Paper

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Summer is coming to an end, and school is about to start. Many children go "back to school clothes shopping" as they have outgrown many of their clothes. This month, we will be collecting **children's clothing**. This includes socks, underwear, shoes, and other similar items. Remember, boxes will go to children aged 2 to 14 years old, so clothing sizes can vary. Please do not include any clothing that may be considered scary or war-like. A collection container is located in front of the church library and will have a sign, Operation Christmas Child.

We will have a packing party at the end of the year. If you would like to pack a box yourself throughout the year, feel free to do so. Just let us know, and we will get a box to you as soon as they arrive. If you have any questions, please see one of us. Thank you in advance for all of your help and participation.

Janet Bulls & Erin Harcum



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sharing God's Love in Tangible Ways

The heart of *Community Connections*, our church's local outreach team, is to be the hands and feet of Christ in our local community—and your generosity continues to make that possible.

Last month, during VBS, we collected items for **Birthday Boxes**—a way to bring joy to children and families on their special day.

We'll soon gather to assemble the boxes and deliver them locally to families facing difficult times. What a gift it is to remind a child that they are loved and remembered!

As we look ahead, we're turning our focus to our Riverdale ES and Capron ES. As the new school year begins, we want to shower them with encouragement and goodies to let them know they are appreciated and supported.

Teaching is a calling, and it often comes with long hours and emotional investment. We want these dedicated educators to feel our prayers and partnership as they pour into the lives of children.

CAPRON ES – We are joining forces with WOM to collect school supplies.

RIVERDALE ES – We plan to provide the teachers with fuel and sustenance to carry them through the start of school

Stay tuned for how you can be part of this effort, whether through donations, handwritten notes, or helping with assembly and delivery. It's amazing what God can do with small acts of kindness offered in love.

Thank you for continuing to serve, give, and reach out. Your support and participation in our community outreach efforts are invaluable. Together, we're making meaningful connections in our community, and we are deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

In service and gratitude,
The Community Connections Team

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

CHURCH LIFE

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. Join me for a cup of coffee and some conversation on Tuesday mornings:



August 5	Daily Dose	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
August 12	Storehouse	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
August 19	Daily Dose	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
August 26	No Coffee & Conversation	

Pastor Tracey

FAMILY NIGHT SUMMER SUPPER SCHEDULE



Below is this month's supper schedule.

August 6	The Bulls
August 13	The Harcums
August 20	Christmas in August (WOM & Brotherhood)
August 27	OPEN

PASTOR SCHEDULE

This month is shaping up to be a busy one. I will be away on vacation from August 18 – 24 and tentatively will be out recovering from back surgery on August 31. Brian Williams of BGAV, and Mandy Smith will be preaching, respectively.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DINNER

Let's celebrate 5 years together over food and fellowship!



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held July 7, 2025. In that meeting, the deacons:

- Participated in a devotional time and heard prayer concerns.
- Received Deacon Team reports.
- VBS is scheduled for July 21-24.
- Discussed financial concerns.
- Learned of an air conditioning leak at the parsonage. B&G is collecting information on the best way to move forward in resolving the issue.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4.

Deacon of the month - Peggy Rush.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement – Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole- Holly Giles
- Hospital/Homebound – Joey Francis
- Prayer – Charlie Harcum
- Transportation – Terry McPherson

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council met on July 27. Discussions included the following.

- ❖ The average Sunday School attendance for July was 38.
- ❖ VBS was a success with 20 registered students. Thanks to the workers for their time and dedication. Birthday boxes were the offering, and items for making cakes, etc., will be given to Southampton Meadows and Oak Trail.
- ❖ Community Connections is planning to bring back to school treats to the teachers at Riverdale Elementary.
- ❖ Budget issues were discussed.
- ❖ Building and Grounds is receiving bids for work at the parsonage regarding a recent air conditioning water leak and will soon be scheduling the installation of safety cameras.
- ❖ There will be no Songfest this year.

<div>   </div> <h1>AUGUST</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Buildings & Grounds 11:15 a.m.	4 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm	5 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	6 Family Night	7	8	9 .
10 Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	11	12 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	13 Family Night	14	15	16
17 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m. WOM 11:15 a.m.	18	19 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	20 Family Night Christmas in August	21	22	23
24 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule	25 Pastor's Appreciation Dinner 5:30 p.m.	26 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	27 Family Night	28	29	30
31 Sunday Morning Schedule	1 Labor Day Holiday	2	3	4	5	6

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
Sunday School 9:00 am.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
Meal: 5:45
Adult Study II: 6:15
Men's Bible Study: 6:45
Youth, Mission Friends & CIA 6:45
Choir 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION
Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org
Church website: www.sycamorebaptist.org
Church phone: 757-562-6749
Rev. Pugh's email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 9537930
Office Hours: 9:00 – 4:00 Tues -Fri
and as needed by appointment

