



SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2026 | VOL. XX NO. 8

PASTOR

REV. DR. TRACEY PUGH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

TERRY MCPHERSON

SIX YEARS OF MINISTRY TOGETHER

"I thank my God every time I remember you." - Philippians 1:3

WOW! Six years ago this month, you welcomed me as your pastor, and we began a new season of ministry together. Anniversaries invite us to pause. They give us an opportunity to remember where we began, notice how far God has brought us, and look toward the future with renewed hope. As I reflect on these six years, the word that rises most clearly is gratitude.

I am grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the many ways that trust has deepened over time. Ministry is built not only in the pulpit or around a conference table, but in ordinary moments shared together: conversations in hallways, cups of coffee, hospital rooms, fellowship meals, baptisms, weddings, funerals, mission projects, Bible studies, and prayers offered when words were hard to find. In all of those places, we have learned one another's stories and discovered again that the church is at its best when we walk alongside one another.

One of the gifts of serving Sycamore is seeing how ministry reaches far beyond Sunday morning. It happens when someone prepares a meal, visits a homebound member, teaches a child, sings in the choir, repairs something around the church, gives quietly to meet a need, or shows up simply to listen. It happens through HerMission, Community Connections, the Brotherhood, deacons, teachers, musicians, and every person who uses what God has given them for the good of others. Some acts of service are visible; many are not. All of them matter.

I am also grateful for the ways you have allowed me to grow. No pastor enters ministry with every answer, and no congregation remains exactly the same. We have learned together, adjusted together, and sometimes stretched beyond what felt comfortable. Thank you for your patience, your honesty, your encouragement, and your prayers. Thank you for celebrating with me in happy seasons and caring for me in difficult ones. The relationship between pastor and congregation is a sacred partnership, and I do not take it lightly or for granted.

As meaningful as it is to look back, an anniversary is not only about what has been. It is also an invitation to ask what God may be calling us to next. Our community continues to change. There are people around us who long for belonging, hope, purpose, and the assurance that they are loved by God. We have good news to share and faithful work still to do. Our church has changed, and we must look to the future together with God as our guide.

My prayer for the coming year is that we will remain rooted in Christ and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. May we listen carefully to God and to one another. May we make room for new people, new ideas, and new opportunities to serve. May we hold tightly to what is essential while having the courage to release what no longer helps us fulfill our calling. And may everything we do be shaped by the love of Jesus.

Thank you, Sycamore, for six years of ministry together. Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor and for sharing your lives with me. I look forward to continuing the journey - not because we know every turn the road will take, but because we know the One who walks it with us.

With joy, gratitude and hope,

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

*Extending Christ's love through service and generosity
to those in need around the world.*



HerMission and Community Connections are joining forces again this month.

FLEECE BLANKETS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

HerMission will meet on Sunday, August 2, for lunch and a mission activity. Partnering with Community Connections, we will make fleece blankets to include in kits for foster children when they are displaced.

If you can tie a knot, you can do this! Scissors may also be involved, but only minimally.

Come join us for fellowship, learning, and a hands-on mission project.



Do you hear sleigh bells? It is time to celebrate a mission Christmas!

Join us Wednesday, August 19, at 5:45 p.m. for fun and fellowship. A delicious Christmas meal prepared by the Brotherhood and HerMission will be followed by holiday games and activities.

Bring a donation of school supplies from the list below as the cost of your meal. Any money given will be used to purchase school supplies for a local school.



- Composition books
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Crayola crayons
- Pencil boxes or zippered pouches
- Expo markers
- Folders with or without pockets
- Erasers
- Zippered sandwich bags
- Hand sanitizer
- Boxes of tissues

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Summer is coming to an end, and school is about to start for many children. Many students go back-to-school clothes shopping as they have outgrown much of what they wore last year.

This month, we are collecting **children's clothing**, including socks, underwear, shoes, and other clothing items. Remember that boxes go to children ages 2 through 14, so sizes may vary. Please do not include clothing that could be considered scary or war-like.

A collection container is located in front of the church library and marked for Operation Christmas Child.

We plan to have a packing party at the end of the year. If you would like to pack your own box at home, you are welcome to do so. Let us know, and we will get a box to you as soon as they arrive.

If you have questions, please see one of us. Thank you in advance for your help and participation.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls



CHURCH LIFE & INFORMATION

HERMISSION FAMILY NIGHT



The fellowship we share during Family Night Supper is one of the highlights of the week.

We appreciate all the work that goes into preparing meals. Here are this month's cooks:

Aug 5	PTracey & Gail McPherson
Aug 12	OPEN
Aug 19	Christmas in August (WOM & Brotherhood)
Aug 26	Covered Dish

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Officially Has a New Home!

With Daily Dose now closed, our weekly Coffee and Conversation gatherings will be held at StoreHouse Coffee each Tuesday from 9:00–10:30 a.m.

StoreHouse offers us an opportunity to gather in a warm, local setting while supporting a small business in our community.



I hope you'll join me each week for good coffee, meaningful conversation, and wonderful fellowship!

Pastor Tracey

DEACON REPORT

The Deacons met on June 1, 2026. Debbie Oliver opened the meeting with a devotion. Prayer requests were presented, followed by prayer.

The meeting included the following:

- Deacon Team Reports were given.
- Pastor Tracey will be on vacation from June 19–23 for her graduation and vacation time.
- Rev. Brian Williams will speak while PTracey is away and Jon Smith will deliver the message on June 28 for Men's Sunday.
- Aplos church software installation is ongoing.
- Building and Ground matters were discussed.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders:

Bereavement – John Jenkins
Casserole– Debbie Oliver
Hospital/Homebound – Joey Francis
Prayer – Charlie Harcum
Transportation – Terry McPherson

Contact these Team Leaders if you, or someone you know, has a need for any of these services.

HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Folks are needed to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings during worship. Your helping hands will provide a safe, welcoming space for our youngest children while their families worship.

Please stop by and sign up outside the nursery!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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VBS RECAP

Our church was filled with energy, laughter, and excitement during this year's Vacation Bible School, Rainforest Falls!



Throughout the week, children enjoyed Bible stories, music, experiments, games, and plenty of rainforest-themed fun while learning more about God's love and faithfulness.

We welcomed 19 children to VBS and were blessed by an incredible team of 28 adults ready to serve. We were especially grateful for a couple of guest helpers from our community who generously shared their time and love for children with us.

While our group may have been small in number, it was certainly mighty in spirit—and full of energy.

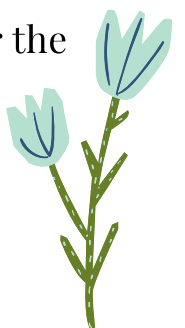
Thank you to every person serving and family who came and made Rainforest Falls such a memorable experience.

Most of all, we give thanks to God for the seeds of faith planted in the hearts of the children.

CONFERENCE REPORT

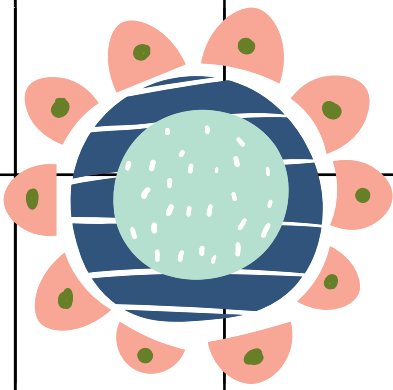
The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2026. During the meeting, the church:

- Received written financial reports. The treasurer noted that the church's banking accounts had been moved to Bronco Federal Credit Union.
- Approved cashing out funds in the Vaughan Memorial Fund to cover the cost of the replaced HVAC system and masonry repair.
- Was informed that average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 34.
- Learned that HerMission organized a church-wide collection for caregiver care packages and donated \$200 to the Ruth Project, a weeklong camp in Romania for orphans where Nichole Bulls Prillaman and two of her children served in June.
- Learned that four children are meeting on Wednesday nights for Children in Action.
- Was informed that Community Connections will participate in a community Trunk or Treat this fall.
- Heard that the Fellowship Hall carpet was cleaned; the Fellowship Hall HVAC system was replaced; masonry work on the front steps was completed; and the fire alarm system was repaired and returned to service. Projects in progress include replacing glass at the Fellowship Hall entrance, repairing a basement water leak, and repairing steps from the second floor.
- Tabled adding handicap access to the van; approved replacing the battery; and requested a review of van use before deciding its future relevance.
- Approved the purchase of a new soundboard and choir microphone.
- Approved the 2026-2027 church-year budget.
- Approved the Nominating Committee report for 2026-2027, noting that some vacancies remain.
- Received the Audit Committee report for the 2024-2025 church year.
- Held the deacon election.





AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Sunday Morning Schedule HerMission 11:15 a.m.	3 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	5 Family Night	6	7	8
9 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	10	11 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	12 Family Night	13	14	15
16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	17	18 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	19 Family Night Christmas in August	20	21	
23 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule	24	25 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00-10:30 a.m.	26 Family Night	27	28	29
30 Sunday Morning Schedule	31					

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
Meal: 5:45
Adult Study II: 6:15
Men's Bible Study:& Youth 6:45
Mission Friends & Children in Action: 6:45
Adult Choir: 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION

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And by appointment.