

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
John Jenkins

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LIFE COME DOWN

Christmas Greetings!

In my recent studies, I came across a beautiful quote that I wanted to share with you, which shares the sacrificial nature of the incarnation of Christ. We often only think of Christ's sacrifice on the cross, but His sacrificial giving started way before the cross.

“The Life came down, that He might be slain; the Bread came down, that He might hunger; the Way came down, that He might be wearied in the way; the Fountain came down, that He might thirst.” – Augustine of Hippo.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV), *14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

As you may know, the name Immanuel means “God with us.” While there are many names Jesus has, I think this one reflects the heart of God and the Son more than most. God wanted to show us His perfect love, so He sent His only begotten Son to be “with us.”

It's beautiful to know that not only is God “with us,” but God is also “for us.” The fact that Jesus came down to be with us in all our difficulties, burdens, trials, AND victories shows us that He is for us.

While He was here on this earth, Jesus would go through things that you and I also go through, but He did so in perfect harmony with the Father. He was tempted like we are. He was hungry and thirsty like we are from time to time. He was rejected like you and me, yet He stayed on track to the cross and, ultimately, the tomb and resurrection. Finally, He ascended to the throne in heaven, where He intercedes on our behalf.

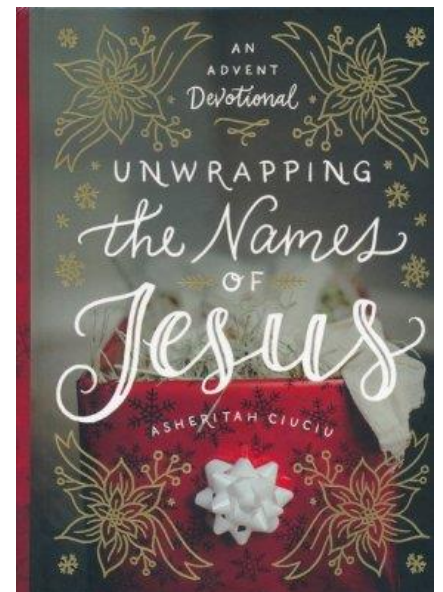
Hebrews 4:15-16 (NKJV) *15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us, therefore, come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

During this beautiful time of year called “Christmas,” I pray that we, as a church family, always remember that this season is all about Him! When we do that as a church, it will be no stretch to believe that you and your families will do the same.

Thinking about the names of Jesus, I invite each household to a gift copy of *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus: An Advent Devotional*. These beautiful books will be available during worship on Dec 3 and will guide our Advent Moments during worship. Join me in unwrapping the names of Jesus this Advent season.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Tracey



MISSIONS

MAILBOX



The Missions Mailbox is open for the season. Bring your Christmas cards for **ACTIVE** and **HOMEBOUND** members **ONLY**. Include the price of a stamp (66 cents) for each card. Proceeds will go to the Global Missions Offering.

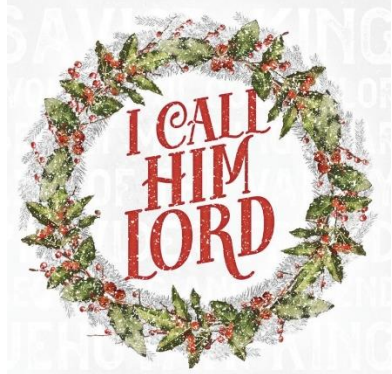


Family Night Supper is getting in the holiday spirit with a Christmas Appetizer Exchange party! Bring your favorite Christmas appetizer to share on Wednesday, December 6, at 5:45 p.m., along with recipe copies. We will enjoy a night of good food, fun, and fellowship while getting some new ideas for tasty holiday treats to help celebrate the joy of the Christmas season.



December 3-10, 2023, is our Week of Prayer and offering for CBF Global Missions. The Global Missions Offering supports international missions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Help support these mission efforts through your prayers and giving. Thank you in advance for your gifts.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



The choir will present “I Call Him Lord!” Sunday, December 17 at 10 a.m. With this musical, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who left His throne in heaven to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Come worship with us as we celebrate the King of kings!



PRAYER WREATH MEETING

During this Christmas season, there are many dealing with issues such as health concerns, grief, stress, and loss. Amidst this, celebrating the joy of the season can be challenging. One of the most effective ways to help others is through prayer.

The entire church is invited to join in a Prayer Wreath meeting on Wednesday, December 6, at 6:45 p.m. We will have a group devotion time, then fill premade evergreen wreaths with a prayer to be delivered with cards to others to bring comfort and joy this season.

COMMUNITY LIVING NATIVITY



The Living Nativity, a free drive-through event for the community, is back this year at Barrett’s Landing, and Sycamore is happy to be a part of it again for the fourth year. We need servant leaders to set up our scene on Wednesday, December 13, and to take our scene down on Friday, December 15. We also need folks to be in the scenes for 3 nights, Dec. 13-15, from 5:30-7:00 each night. Don’t wait; please sign up now outside the church office to be a part of this moving experience that reaches out to our community.

APPETIZER EXCHANGE PARTY



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

Have you started your Christmas shopping? Are you having trouble finding a meaningful gift for each person on your list? May we suggest the following gifts.

- **Seasoned with Love**, the Sycamore Baptist Church cookbook: It has 425 pages of tried-and-true recipes for all occasions and would be an excellent gift for someone on your Christmas list. There are only a few copies left for purchase for \$20. Contact Tricia Davis or any WOM member for a copy.
- **CBF Global Missions Gift Certificate:** Give a gift to Global Missions and give your loved one a gift certificate stating that a gift has been made in their honor. Gift certificates are available by the elevator or in the vestibule. What better way to celebrate Christmas than the gift of sharing the gospel!
- **Backpack Sponsorship:** For \$110, you can sponsor a child in someone’s honor, providing backpacks full of food for the entire school year. Gift certificates are available for a complete child sponsorship or donation to the backpack program.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

If the assigned dates are unsuitable for your class or group, please trade with another group and let Dianne Umphlett know about the change.

December 6	Appetizer Sharing
December 13	WOM
December 20	No Family Night
December 27	No Family Night



THREE Cs of CHRISTMAS EVENT CHILI – COOKIES - CAROLING

The three “Cs of Christmas” event will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 4:30 p.m.

The first C is for **chili**. If you have a favorite chili recipe, enter it into the chili cookoff at 4:30 p.m. for a chance to win the Golden Ladle award! The chilis will be our supper at 5:00 p.m.

The second C is for **cookies**. Bring your best batch of homemade cookies at 4:30 p.m. for the cookie bakeoff. Your prize, if you win, will be a golden spatula award! The cookies will be our dessert.

The third C is for **caroling**. After dinner and fellowship, we will head out for a night of Christmas caroling and bringing Christmas cheer to our shut-ins and homebound.

Invite a friend or family member and join the fun and fellowship.

CHRISTMAS AT SYCAMORE

Christmas Eve

Morning Worship 10 am

There will be no Sunday School on Dec 24.

Service of Candlelight & Communion

Will be held at 5 pm

No childcare will be available.

Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

With your help, Sycamore’s 2023 Thanksgiving Meal Ministry was a success. Meals were provided for 75 people in 22 families in our area. More importantly, God’s love was shared with 75 people in 22 families. May we continue to find more ways to reach out to our neighbors near and far and share Christ’s love with each of them.

Sycamore Sends:

The Christmas season is often a lonely time for many people. Cards are in the fellowship hall to send to those in our church and community who might need a special remembrance this time of year.

Parade

We hope to participate in the Franklin Parade on December 1 at 7:00 p.m. Join us to walk the route and hand out candy canes. See a committee member for more information.

Angel Tree

This year, we have angels for Senior adults and children. Please take an Angel and return the gifts by the due date on the sign-out sheet. Children’s angel gifts should be wrapped and must be returned by December 13. Senior Angel gifts should all be in one gift bag.

Together, we are the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!

Holly Giles, Joey Francis, Erin Harcum,
Sharon Moore, Jimmy & Lou Vann,
Tammy Woods

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thank you to everyone who helped donate items/money and/or pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Sycamore, we were able to send 44 boxes to children in need! Great job everyone. Thank you so much for all you have done.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council met on November 19. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned average Sunday School attendance for October was 38.
- Noted plans were being made to be in the Franklin Christmas Parade.
- Learned from Community Connections there will be 16 senior adults and 20 children on this year’s Angel Tree.
- Noted the church’s new copier will arrive on November 20.
- Made plans for a chili cook-off, cookie bake-off, and Christmas caroling event on Dec. 17 at 4:30 p.m.
- Decided to continue with a Seder Meal in 2024.

Tricia Davis

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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



December 7	Daily Dose	09-10:30
December 14	The Vine	10-11:30
December 21	Daily Dose	09-10:30
December 28	The Vine	10-11:30

Pastor Tracey

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on November 6, 2023. The following was discussed:

- New key requests were reviewed and approved.
- Connie Williams and Peggy Rush were appointed as Vaughan Memorial Fund Trustees.
- The deacons agreed to sponsor a child through the backpack program.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for December 4.

The Deacon of the month for December is John Jenkins.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement – Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole- Holly Giles
- Hospital/Homebound – Tracey Pugh
- Prayer – Tricia Davis
- Transportation – Johnny Holland

Tricia Davis



2023 Thanksgiving Meal Packing



2023 Shoebox Packing



DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion	4 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Family Night Schedule Appetizer Sharing and Prayer Wreath Service	7 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	8	9
10 Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	11	12	13 Family Night Schedule Community Living Nativity 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	14 Coffee and Conversation The Vine 10-11:30 Community Living Nativity 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	15 Community Living Nativity 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	16
17 Sunday Morning Schedule Cantata Church Council 11:15 am 3 Cs Event 4:30 p.m.	18	19	20 No Family Night	21 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	22	23
4 No Sunday School Worship at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 No Family Night	28 Coffee and Conversation The Vine 10-11:30 a.m.	29	30
31 New Year's Eve Sunday Morning Schedule	January 1 Happy New Year	2	3 Family Night Schedule	4 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	5	6

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
 Sunday School 9:00 am. | Worship 10:00 am.
***FAMILY NIGHT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**
 (unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
 Meal: 5:45
 Adult Study II: 6:15
 Men's Bible Study: 6:45
 World Changers 6:30
 Mission Friends and Children in Action: 6:45
 Adult 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: 8:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday and
 as needed by appointment