

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



31120 Sycamore Church Road | Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 562-6749 | www.sycamorebaptist.org

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLXI, No. 12

Deacon of the Month
Joey Francis
December 2025

HOLY DISRUPTION

Season's Greetings,

As we step into this beautiful season of Advent, we enter a time of holy anticipation — a time of waiting, watching, and preparing for the arrival of our Savior. Advent means *coming* — and we remember that Christ has come, Christ is coming again, and Christ is present with us even now.

This year, our Advent sermon series is titled **Holy Disruption: God With Us — And Everything Changes**. That may sound a little edgy for Christmas, but that is why I love it, because it captures something essential about the gospel: when God enters the story, things do not stay the same. Light confronts darkness. Peace interrupts fear. Joy breaks through despair. Love moves into the neighborhood. Advent is not just a warm memory of a baby in a manger — it is the bold declaration that Jesus comes to transform our world and our hearts.

Each week, we will explore how Christ disrupts the way things are:

- Hope Defies the Dark
- Peace That Confronts Fear
- Joy That Leaps and Interrupts
- Love Moves In

My prayer is that this series will help each of us see how the presence of Christ continues to change our stories in unexpected and beautiful ways.

As we hang the greens, light the candles, sing beloved carols, and prepare our hearts for Christmas, may we remain open to God's movement among us. May Christ's light shine boldly into every shadow. May His hope take root deep within us. And may we recognize His transforming presence — not only in the glow of candlelight, but in the everyday places where He continues to show up.

I wish you and your loved ones a season filled with peace, joy, and all the wonder that comes when we celebrate the God who is truly with us.

Hope, peace, joy, and love,

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

MISSION MAILBOXES

The Missions Mailbox is open for the season. Bring your Christmas cards for ACTIVE members **ONLY**. Include the price of a stamp (78 cents) for each card. Proceeds will go to the Global Missions Offering.



CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING



December 7-14, 2025, is the Week of Prayer and Offering for CBF Global Missions. The Global Missions Offering supports international missions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Please help support these mission efforts through your prayers and giving. Thank you in advance for your gifts.

PRAYER WREATH MEETING



During this Christmas season, there are many dealing with issues such as health concerns, grief, stress, and loss. In the midst of this, celebrating the joy of the season can be challenging. One of the most effective ways to help others is through prayer. We ask the entire church to join in a Prayer Wreath meeting on Wednesday, December 10, at 6:45 pm. We will have a group devotion time, then fill premade evergreen wreaths with prayer to be delivered with cards to others to bring comfort and joy this season.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Angel Tree

This year, we had angels for senior adults and children. In record time, all the angels were taken. Thank you, Sycamore, for your love and compassion.

Due date reminders:

Senior Adults – December 7
Children – December 14

Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ in our community and beyond.

WOMEN ON MISSION



**Women of Sycamore,
Join us for HerMission!**

December's meeting is Sunday, December 7, at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall. Come ready to learn about CBF Field Personnel at home and abroad, plan and participate in local mission efforts, and grow your mission life. Lunch will be provided.

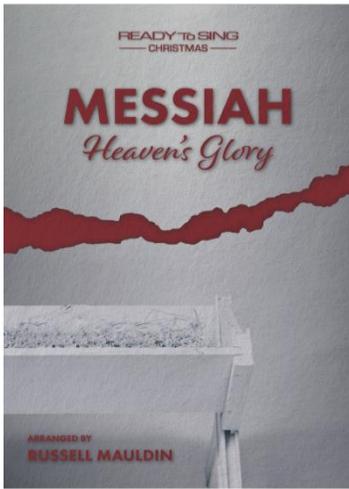
SPECIAL EVENTS

APPETIZER EXCHANGE PARTY



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 10, at 5:45 p.m., along with copies of the recipe. 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.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



Long ago, a Baby was born in Bethlehem that would change the world. He came as our Messiah to redeem and deliver us.

The choir will present “Messiah (Heaven’s Glory) on Sunday, December 14, at 10 am. Join us as we sing with joy and celebration and worship the newborn King, born to save us all.

MOVIE NIGHT



On Sunday, December 14, at 6 pm, all are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall to watch *The Chosen: Holy Night*. This beautiful Christmas episode invites us into the story of Jesus’ birth in a fresh and powerful way. Through the eyes of Mary and Joseph, shepherds, and ordinary people longing for hope, we’ll be reminded that the Light of the World stepped into our darkness with love and grace.

This will be a relaxed, family-friendly evening, (Note the movie is rated PG for those wondering about children viewing.)

We’ll have popcorn/snacks/drinks. There will be time for fellowship, a brief closing reflection, and a prayer after the movie.

Feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and extended family—this is an excellent opportunity to share the story of Christmas with others.

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 sixth year.

We need help setting up and taking down our scene on Wednesday, December 17, and Friday, December 19

We need people to play Joseph and an Angel for all three nights (Dec 17-19) from 5:30 to 7:00. Don’t wait to say yes and serve the community.

Sign up now in the fellowship hall to participate in this moving experience.

THREE Cs OF CHRISTMAS EVENT

CHILI – COOKIES - CAROLS



The three “Cs” event will be held on Wednesday, December 17, at 5:45 p.m.

C is for **Chili**. If you have a favorite chili recipe, enter it into the chili cookoff at 5:45 p.m. for a chance to win the Golden Ladle award! The chili pots will be our supper. (A pot of chicken noodle soup will be available for those who prefer it over chili.)

C is for **Cookies**. Bring your favorite homemade cookie for the cookie bake-off. If you win, you'll receive a golden spatula award! The cookies will be our dessert.

C for **Christmas Carols**. After eating and fellowship, we will gather around the piano and sing our favorite Christmas songs.

Bring a friend to join in the fun!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



Join us on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service. It is always a moving service, celebrating the birth of our King.

WELL DONE, SYCAMORE!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thank you to everyone who donated or brought in items/money, and/or packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year.

Sycamore, we were able to send **32** boxes to children around the world! Great job, everyone. Thank you so much for all you have done.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls

With your help, Sycamore's 2025 Thanksgiving Meal Ministry was a success. **18 bags** were prepared, which provided meals for over 41 people in **16 families** in our area.



More importantly, God's love was shared with our neighbors. 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.

Her Mission Team

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

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 3	Women's Study Group
December 10	Appetizer Sharing
December 17	Brotherhood
December 24	No Family Night
December 31	No Family Night

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



Join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation.

No agenda, come when you can and leave when you must.

December 2	Daily Dose 9-10:30
December 9	Storehouse 9-10:30
December 16	Daily Dose 9-10:30
December 23	StoreHouse 9-10:30
December 30	Storehouse 9-10:30

Pastor Tracey

DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on Monday, Nov 4. At that meeting, the following was heard or discussed.

- Devotion and Prayer concerns shared.
- Team reports were presented.
- Old Business: van lift/ramp still being researched, children's time has been positive, Aplos financial software training is in progress.
- New Business: Key updates, deacon family night supper, communion on the 9th, septic tank pump at church and parsonage, deacons will cover Good Friday service next year as P Tracey has a wedding to officiate.

Deacon of the month is Charlie Harcum.
Next Meeting: December 1 at 7 pm.



DECEMBER 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	2 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	3 Family NT Supper	4	5	6
7 Sunday AM Schedule Communion	8	9 Coffee and Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	10 Family NT Schedule Appetizer Sharing & Prayer Wreath Mtg	11	12	13
14 Sunday AM Schedule Cantata Community Connections 11:15 a.m. Movie Night 6 p.m.	15	16 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	17 Community Living Nativity 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Family NT Schedule Chili and Cookie Cookoff	18 Community Living Nativity 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	19 Community Living Nativity 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	20
21 Sunday AM Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	22	23 Coffee and Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m. No Family NT	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28 No Sunday School Worship at 10:00 a.m.	29	30 Coffee and Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	31 No Family NT			

SUNDAY AM 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

Youth/Mission Friends/Children in Action: 7:00

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: 434.953.7930

Office Hours: 9:00-4:00, Tues-Fri, and by appointment.

