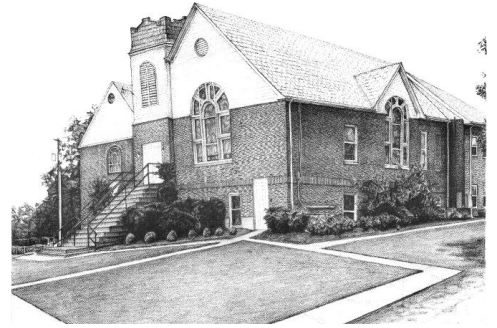


SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



Franklin, VA 23851-5132
31120 Sycamore Church Road
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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Sam Moon

Vol. XLVII, No. 3

February 2021

LENT: WALKING WITH JESUS

As we look to a new month, we look to the beginning of a new season in the church year, Lent. I used to think of Lent as little more than a joke as I gave it my all to give up things like homework, candy, and being nice to my brother. This was before I learned what Lent was, that it meant something, and that it had value and purpose. The season of Lent is when we turn our attention and focus on Jesus' journey toward the cross. The season calls us to reflect on the sober reality of the cost Jesus paid for setting us free from our sin. Fortunately, death is not the end of the story, thank God. Lent points past itself to Easter Sunday when we will celebrate the resurrection.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday when we will gather to receive the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality. We will then spend forty days, not including Sundays, in repentance and preparation as a means of renewing our faith and encountering the reality of God. This period of renewal and encounter impacts our daily walk with Jesus. The idea of walking with Jesus is a metaphor used to describe our relationship with God and it is found throughout the Scriptures.

During Lent, you will have the opportunity to personally reflect and renew your walk with Christ through a sermon series, book study, and discussion group. Together we will study Adam Hamilton's book *The Walk, Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*. In this book, Hamilton focuses on the New Testament foundation of worship, study, serving, giving, and sharing our faith. We will close out the study on Palm Sunday where we will see the five practices from the cross as we head into Holy Week. These essentials of the faith serve to not only deepen individual faith, but to strengthen us as a church. I hope that you will consider participating in the book study and discussion group.

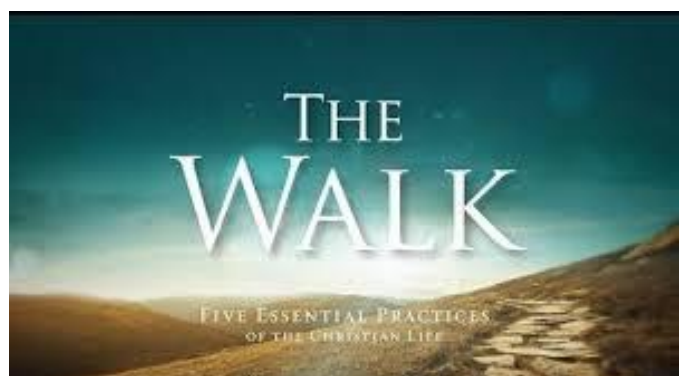
BOOKS: If you would like a copy of Hamilton's book, you can order your own on Amazon, or you can reserve your copy with the church office no later than February 10, the cost is \$15.

DISCUSSION GROUP: I will facilitate a group discussion on Sunday evenings in the fellowship hall from 6 pm to 7 (maybe 7:15) pm. The discussion group will be held each Sunday during the Lenten season, beginning on Feb 21. Bring your book and be ready for some good discussion.

I look forward to this Lenten journey with you.

Mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance,
-Jude 1:2

Tracey





**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary where we will gather to receive the imposition of ashes.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. Beginning in the new year, I will be visiting various coffee houses around town, and I hope some of you will stop by for a cup and conversation. I will set up shop on Thursday mornings from 9am to 11am as follows for January:



February 4 – Hubs Vine
February 11 – Store House
February 18 – Daily Dose
February 25 – Hubs Vine

Pastor Tracey

YOUTH NEWS

The youth continue to meet for Bible study in the sanctuary on Wednesday at 6:30 p. m. We are working through Kyle Idleman's video series "Not a Fan."

Bring your Bible and join us.
Holly Giles

The Youth will meet for Sunday School Bible study every Sunday in February except February 14th. Please bring your Bible and meet up with us at 9:00 a. m. in the fellowship hall. We have just started a study of the book of James.

Hope to see you all there,
Jennifer Harrell

OUTREACH NEWS



Outreach has a very important part in our church family through our backpack program. Twice a month we have the privilege of putting together 50 bags of food to give children to have over the weekend. This certainly is not the amount that you and I eat for 2-3 days but it does fill a need. Please give generously for this need by marking your envelope "backpack".

Thank you,
Outreach Committee

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



For the month of February, focus on purchasing personal care items for your child. Personal care items can be any of the following:

- Comb/hairbrush
- Toothbrush
- Bar of soap (packaged and/or in a container)
- Washcloth
- Blanket
- Adhesive bandages (kids like colorful kinds)
- Reusable plastic containers (fill these with other non-liquid items to save space)

Remember to include items that are appropriate for the age of the child you are packing for and may be liked by the gender you have chosen. If you have any questions, please see Janet Bulls of Erin Harcum.

Thanks!
Janet & Erin

FRANKLIN COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

For the month of February, the church is focusing on collecting canned meat items other than tuna for Franklin Cooperative Ministry. A box will be at the entrance of the elevator lobby. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

WOM, Tricia Davis

DEACON'S REPORT

The deacons met on January 4, 2021. In that meeting the deacons discussed the following:

- Still weighing options with ADT and Johnson Controls
- Church van has been moved to the Alfred Faison's house.
- Peggy is going to call again about the garage for the van.
- Discussed Media Shout – Church Presentation Software
- Coffee and Conversation with Tracey at different coffee houses in Franklin between 9-11 AM.
- Tracey asked about having a ramp built at her mother-in-law's house.

The next meeting is February 1, 2021.

Deacon for the month of February is Sam Moon.

Debbie Oliver

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2021. In that meeting the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports;
- Accepted the Audit Committee report;
- Heard a report from Building and Grounds that the van shed has been ordered but no date had been received regarding installation;
- Learned that training had been completed for the new audio/visual system;
- Set the date for the next conference for April 25, 2021.

Patsy Falls

March Newsletter Deadline

February 21, 2021
pcfalls@charter.net