

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



31120 Sycamore Church Road
Franklin, VA 23851
(757) 562-6749

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Johnny Holland

Vol. XLIX, No. 2

February 2024

THE ALWAYS GOD AND LENT

Greetings Friends,

I hope you didn't put your skates too far back in the closet after Christmas because we are about to skate into Lent. We are on the cusp of a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the next several weeks.

The Lenten season differs in many ways from the Advent season: we don't have a hanging of the greens, we don't sing carols, and instead of anticipating the birth of the Christ child, we prepare ourselves for His death and subsequent resurrection. I admit that putting it that way may sound a bit gloomy in contrast, but we can rejoice because we know what's to come on Easter morning as we celebrate, He is risen; He is risen indeed!

"I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." -Romans 12:1-2

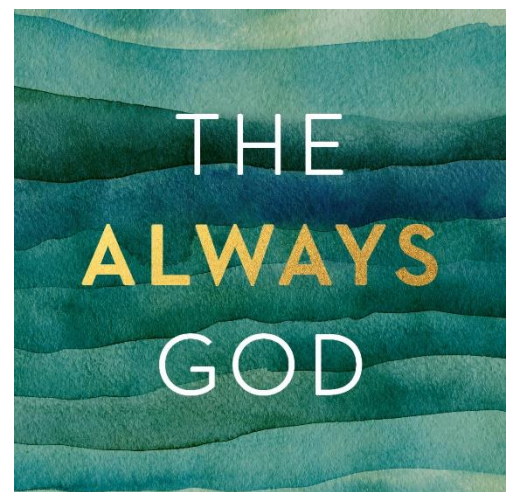
Paul writes to the Romans that we as believers are called to study, worship, and renew our minds; in so doing, we may know the perfect will of God. Just as we marvel over the circumstances of Christ's entrance into our world during Advent, we can also find ourselves amazed at God's ability, creativity, and love. During Lent, we ponder how Jesus left this world only to rise from the grave to sit at God's holy, heavenly hand.

After spending forty days tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus stayed busy. During His last week on earth, he cleared the temple, cursed the fig tree, and taught the Sermon on the Mount; that's just the first two days. Most of the Gospels focus on this latter part of Christ's life.

As believers, we look to this time of Lent as a way to go into our wilderness as we focus on *The Always God* — the God who always speaks, hears, sees, pursues, and restores. I invite you to open your heart and mind as we journey together this Lenten season.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Tracey



LENTEN SERVICES

At Sycamore:



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on February 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, where we will gather to receive the imposition of ashes.

In the Community:

Sycamore is a participant in the community Lenten services this year. We will be collaborating with High Street United Methodist Church on March 13.

Each Wednesday, beginning February 14, a worship service at noon will be followed by lunch at 12:30 pm.

NEW THIS YEAR – Rotating Locations:

February 14: Franklin Congregational Christian Church

February 21: Emmanuel Episcopal Church

February 28: Franklin Baptist Church

March 06: St. Jude Catholic Church

March 13: High Street United Methodist Church

March 20: Hunterdale Christian Church

**WOMEN ON MISSION
February Mission Focus**

We are continuing our collection of items for personal hygiene kits for Franklin Cooperative Ministry.

Please place items in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall by **Sunday, Feb. 11. We will assemble the kits on Wednesday, Feb.**

14, following the Family Night meal.

Requested items: body wash or bar soap, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, and toilet paper.

Join Women on Mission on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as we study missions, plan mission activities, and support those who go and tell through prayer and offerings. Bring your vision to the group.

Tricia Davis



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sycamore Spreads Love

February is the month for Random Acts of Kindness. It's a great time to let our community know we care. Please include a card to let them know we "Sycamore Baptist Church, are praying for them." There are great treats for Valentine's Day in the stores right now. Share granola bars, fruit, mints, or water flavor packets. The **RAK- Random Acts of Kindness** board will be in the sanctuary. Send some Love!

Sycamore Shares

We continue to sponsor the Backpack program through the Foodbank of SE Virginia. Prayerfully support this mission financially by marking your check or giving envelope "backpack" to help children with food insecurities.

Sycamore Sends

Sycamore sends cards to members, friends, and neighbors. Cards to sign can be found in the fellowship hall each week.

Sycamore sends meals to those in need on Wednesday night. Let us know if you know someone who could use a prepared meal delivered to their door.

Thank you!

A belated thank you to Joey Francis and Jimmy Vann for delivering our Angel Tree gifts to Southampton County Social Services and Courtland Health Care.

Together, we can be the hands and feet in our community,

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

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on January 15, 2024. At that meeting, the deacons:

- Discussed Sycamore's plans to participate in Community Lenten Services.
- Approved a request for use of the fellowship hall on February 24 by Jessica Pugh.
- Noted the Seder Meal will be March 28 with deacons serving.
- Reviewed the four new giving plans for BGAV and noted Sycamore needs to decide which plan we will participate in when more information is provided.
- Planned a pancake dinner for Family Night before Ash Wednesday services on Feb. 14.

The next meeting will be **February 5**.

The Deacon of the month for February is Johnny Holland.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on January 21. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned average Sunday School attendance for December was 43.
- Learned the sound mixer needs replacing. Charlie Harcum will get a ballpark estimate of the cost.
- Noted we are currently ahead in funds for the backpack program.
- Noted Women on Mission is collecting items for hygiene kits for Franklin Cooperative Ministry.
- Noted the Easter cantata will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 24.
- Learned Tracey will lead a Lenten book study, "Worship Like Jesus," on Sunday evenings during Lent. The sessions will include a soup supper.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024. In that meeting, the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports.
- Learned that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 41.
- Heard a report that the Global Missions offering received \$915.44 and that the Youth are assisting Tricia Davis in leading the Mission Friends.
- Received a report from the Church Council about the upcoming Ash Wednesday service and the Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday in March.
- Was made aware the roof repairs would begin soon as materials are set to arrive this week.
- Learned that the Trustees had sent a memorial contribution of \$500.00 to Hope Tree Family Services for Reggie Warren from the church, pastor, and trustees.
- Was informed that 44 Operation Christmas Child boxes were donated.
- Received a report from Charlie Harcum indicating problems with the soundboard and the possibility of purchasing a new one if repair costs are prohibitive.
- Set the date for the next conference for April 28, 2024

Patsy Falls, Clerk

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Coffee and Conversation have become a staple in my week. I enjoy connecting with church members casually and over a good cup of coffee. Invite a friend or neighbor and join the conversation.



February 01 Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.
February 08 Hubs Vine 10-11:30 a.m.
February 15 Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.
February 22 Hubs Vine 10-11:30 a.m.
February 29 TBA

Pastor Tracey

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

Below is this month's 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.

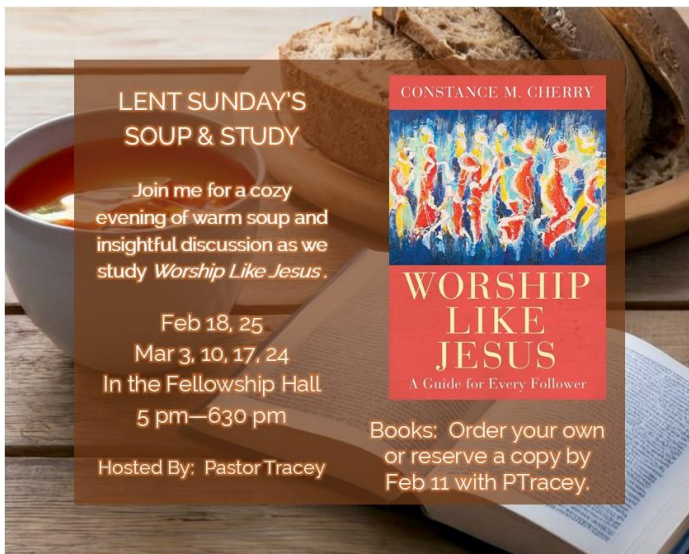


February 7	Up and Coming
February 14	Deacons
February 21	Staff
February 28	Men's Discipleship



**LOOKING AHEAD
SAVE THE DATES**

LENT SUNDAY'S SOUP & STUDY



JESSE F. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP TEMPERANCE V. VAUGHAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Jesse F. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship and the Temperance V. Vaughan Memorial Scholarship are available from the church office. Graduating high school seniors who are active church members are encouraged to apply. Contact Tricia Davis to get an application form. The deadline to apply for the two scholarships is April 26, 2024.

WILLIAM H. HOWELL, SR. AND CARRIE COBB HOWELL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the William Herman Howell, Sr., and Carrie Cobb Howell Educational Scholarships are available in the church office. Active church members enrolling or currently enrolled in college may apply. Contact Tricia Davis to get an application form. The deadline to apply is April 26, 2024.

LENT

Lent, the six weeks leading up to Easter, begins February 14 with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. A pancake supper, hosted by the Deacons, will precede the service for a delayed celebration of Shrove Tuesday. Learn more about this at the pancake supper.

Weekly community Lenten services will be held. See the article in the newsletter regarding places and times.

PALM SUNDAY

The Choir will present the Easter Cantata, "Redeeming Love Has Been My Theme," by Marty Parks, on March 24 at 10:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL

A Passover meal, a worship service, and communion will be incorporated into this event on March 28 at 6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday observes the Passion of Christ, crucifixion, and death. A service will be held on March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Remembering how the empty tomb was found. Join in worship on March 31. The time is to be determined.

EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE

He is risen! Celebrate our risen Savior at the 10:00 a.m. service on March 31.



FEBRUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00–10:30 a.m.	2	3
4 Sunday Morning Schedule	5 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	6	7 Family Night Schedule	8 Coffee & Conversation Hubs Vine 10:00-11:30 a.m.	9	10 Sycamore Summit 9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. at Serve
11 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	12	13 .	14 Family Night Schedule Pack Hygiene Kits Ash Wed. Service 7:00 p.m.	15 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9:00–10:30 a.m.	16	17
18 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m. Soup & Study 5:00 p.m.	19	20 WOM 6:15 p.m	21 Family Night Schedule	22 Coffee & Conversation Hubs Vine 10:00-11:30 a.m.	23	24
25 Brotherhood Breakfast 7:30 Sunday Morning Schedule Soup & Study 5:00 p.m.	26	27	28 Family Night Schedule	29 Coffee & Conversation		

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
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
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: sycamorebaptist.org
Rev. Pugh's Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749
Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 953-7930
Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30 Mon – Thurs, and as needed