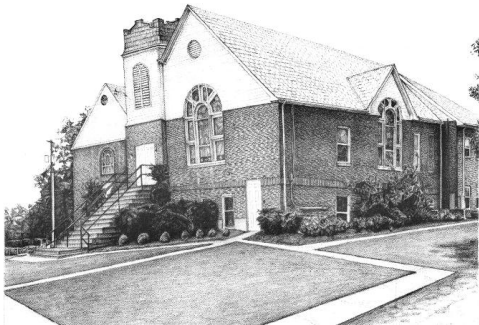


SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLX, No. 2

Deacon of the Month
Holly Giles
February 2025

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,
and to give His life as a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45*

Hello Sycamore Family & Friends,

Months like this often strike me oddly. People and businesses all around are making big plans for the “holiday” that, to me, isn’t really a holiday. Retailers have made Valentine's Day displays of décor, gift ideas, and an abundance of candy and treats, restaurants have crafted their best menus for date night, and florists are doing their thing in overdrive. I got to thinking: everyone around us is doing something in the name of love this month; what should the church do?

As we step into February, a month commercially saturated with love, let us remember the greatest love of all—**the love of Jesus Christ, demonstrated through humble service**. Jesus didn’t come to be honored but to serve others with compassion and sacrifice. His life reminds us that true love is not just words but action.

Ask yourself these questions this month:

- How can I serve someone in need this week?
- Am I willing to serve with humility, expecting nothing in return?
- What gifts has God given me that I can use to bless others?

As His followers, we are called to **serve one another in love** (Galatians 5:13). This could mean helping a neighbor, volunteering at church, encouraging a friend, or simply offering a smile to someone in need of kindness. No act of service is too small when done with love.

Community Connections is rolling out **Random Acts of Kindness** this month. The last few times this mission opportunity was offered to our church family, participation was sparse. I hope that in the spirit of love, **EVERYONE** will participate this month. The mission is simple, share some love and kindness in February with people and places you may already be visiting or going past to get where you are going. Your act of kindness does not need to be grandiose. God’s love is why we are doing this; it is grandiose enough for all. See the article on the next page to get more information and get involved in making Jesus THE Valentine for all.

One last thing: God loves you, too! So, let’s celebrate that truth together. Dig out your favorite faith-based t-shirt or your God Loves Me t-shirt, and everyone wear them on Sun, February 16!

Let’s commit to serving others in **love and humility** this month! May we be the hands and feet of Christ wherever we go, experiencing the joy that comes from random acts of kindness and service.

Blessings and love in Christ,

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN ON MISSION
February Mission Focus

We are collecting items for personal hygiene kits for Franklin Cooperative Ministry during February. Items should be placed in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall. A packing event will be held in March. Kits will be for both men and women. Thank you for your help in providing much needed items for individuals in need in our community.



The requested items are body wash or bar soap, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, lip balm, and purse-size hand sanitizer.

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

RANDOM
ACTS OF
KINDNESS

February, a month dedicated to Random Acts of Kindness, presents a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate our care for the community. Let's make our presence felt and spread love in our community.

How To Participate:

- 1. Pick an entity in the community to share some love with. Ideas on the RAK Board: Dr. ofc, post ofc, social services, daycare, sheriffs ofc, police department, non-profits, banks, vet ofc, emergency services, etc.

- 2. Decide on a treat or gift item you want to share. Ideas include festive cookies and sweets, candy, mints, gum, granola bars, other snacks, and peanuts.
- 3. Pick up a card from the sanctuary or foyer near the elevator to put with your gift.
- 4. Deliver your gift sometime during the month of February. (Snap a picture during delivery if possible.)
- 5. Update the RAK board where you went so the church can see the people and places where love was spread in our community.

CHURCH LIFE

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Coffee and Conversation has become a cherished part of my week. I invite you to join me and other church members and friends for a casual chat over a good cup of coffee. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with your church family.



February 4	No Coffee & Convo
February 11	Daily Dose 10-11:30 a.m.
February 18	Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.
February 25	Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.

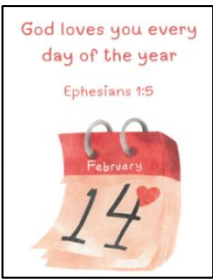
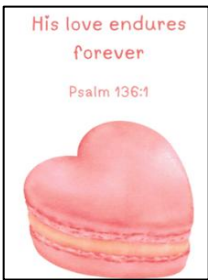
Pastor Tracey

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 5	Men's Discipleship
February 12	Staff
February 19	Youth
February 26	Covered Dish



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

CHURCH COUNCIL

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

- ❖ Evaluated the events held during the Holiday season.
- ❖ Commended the Kitchen Committee for Sam Moon's reception.
- ❖ WOM will select a date for Women's Sunday in March.
- ❖ Community Connections will have RAK Month in Feb.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2025. In that meeting, the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports.
- Learned that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 37.
- Heard a report from the WOM that the Thanksgiving Meal Ministry was a success and that Prayer Wreaths and plants were delivered to shut-ins.
- Was informed that the Angel Tree resulted in 15 Children and 15 Seniors received gifts from the church.
- Received a written report from Building and Grounds of works in progress and those completed.
- Learned that the Flood Buckets had been delivered to a receiving warehouse.
- Was made aware that contracts had been signed for Window World to replace parsonage windows and for Air Mechanix to install a new HVAC System for the Fellowship Hall.
- Decided to have Community Connections investigate the best use of the money in the BackPack designated fund that was given for children's food insecurity.
- Set the date for the next conference for April 27, 2025.

Patsy Falls, Clerk

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.

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.

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on January 6, 2025. The following was discussed.

- The flood buckets have been delivered.
- Bids are being received for cameras.
- Tracey shared a letter that will be sent to the congregation regarding safety issues and recent vehicle break-ins on church properties in the area.
- A question was raised regarding the Heat/AC unit payment in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Seder Meal preparations were discussed.

The next meeting is Feb 3, 2025.

The Deacon of the Month, Holly Giles.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole Holly Giles
- Hospital/Homebound Joey Francis
- Prayer Charlie Harcum
- Transportation Terry McPherson
Charlie Daughtrey

Peggy Rush



February 2025 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Bldg. & Grds. 11:15 a.m.	3 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Family Night	6	7	8
9 Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	10	11 Coffee and Conversation The Vine 10-11:30 a.m.	12 Family Night	13	14	15
16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	17	18 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. Women on Mission 6:30 p.m.	19 Family Night	20	21	22
23 Sunday Morning Schedule Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m.	24	25 Coffee and Conversation 9-10:30 a.m.	26 Family Night	27	28	

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

Youth, Mission Friends, CIA: 6:30

Choir 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church website: sycamorebaptist.org

Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org

Rev. Tracey Pugh, Pastor

Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org

Church phone: 1 (757) 562-6749

Cell phone: 1 (434) 953-7930

Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30 Mon – Fri, and as needed