

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Charlie Daughtrey

Vol. XLXI, No. 2

February 2026

♥ Love That Never Fails

It's February! The month known as the month of love with Valentine's Day smack dab in the middle on February 14. Retail stores have had hearts and flowers and cards and candy out since probably before Christmas in anticipation of this big, romantic day. Restaurants are focusing on special events and meals to celebrate with the love of your life.

And then there is the fairly new phenomenon of Galentine's Day, which is a joyful celebration of female friendships, encouraging women to come together and appreciate the bonds they share, making it a beloved alternative to Valentine's Day. Celebrated on February 13, this day is also sought after by retail stores and restaurants.

Celebrating romantic love and the love between friends is important, but let's look at the rest of the month...the other 26 days. How can we incorporate love into our lives and the lives of those we encounter as we travel through the shortest month of the year and yet in some ways the longest.

Let us share God's love. God's love is far deeper than anything we can wrap in a ribbon and write in a card. In **1 Corinthians 13:7-8**, we're reminded that love "always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." This isn't just a description of romantic love — it's the very nature of God's love toward us.

When we feel overlooked, God sees us.

When we feel unworthy, God calls us His own.

When we fall short, His grace lifts us up again.

This month, let's not only celebrate God's love but let's *live it out*. Look for ways to show Christ's love in action — a phone call to someone lonely, a meal for a neighbor, a prayer for a struggling friend. These small acts become powerful testimonies of the One whose love never ends.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for loving us with a love that never fails. Help us to reflect that love to others in our words, actions, and attitudes. May our lives point people to You. Amen

Patsy Falls

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

HerMission

Women of Sycamore, join us Sunday, February 8 at 11:30am for HerMission's Galentine's Day meeting. Come ready to learn about missions at home and abroad, celebrate and support your fellow sisters in Christ and grow in your missional life. A Galentine's lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Tricia Davis.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We will be providing Random Acts of Kindness for schools and daycares in the area for the month of February.

You will find a post it note in your bulletin on Sunday, February 1, with a number 1-5 which will be your group number. Each group will be coordinated by a Community Connection committee member, "Team Leader". Each group will meet for a few minutes right after worship on February 1 and provide updates to coordinate RAKs for February.

In March we will build and deliver baskets for our less active members and some others in our community.

Let us know if there are Wednesday night meal deliveries that need to be added. Those should be added by Monday, the week of delivery for planning purposes.

Together we are God's hands and feet in the community, Janet Bulls, Holly Giles, Joey Francis, Sharon Moore, Tammy Woods

CHURCH LIFE

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on February 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, where we will gather to receive the imposition of ashes.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Coffee and Conversation continues to be a highlight of the church week. Join other church members and friends for a casual chat over a good cup of coffee at the times and places listed below. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with your church family.



February 3	Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.
February 10	Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.
February 17	Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.
February 24	Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.

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 4	Mission Friends
February 11	Covered Dish
February 18	Up & Coming/Discussion
February 25	HerMission

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on January 18. In that meeting, the council:

The following reports were given:

- Sunday School -- The average attendance for December was 34.
- HerMission – The next meeting will be Sunday, February 8 due to conference date being moved.
- Music – The Choir has started practicing Cantata. It will be presented Sunday, March 29.
- Building & Grounds – The committee will be placing new signs outside to indicate where the elevator, office and sanctuary are. The Ring Cameras are up and working.
- Finance Committee – This group is updating the policy and procedures that affect any financial committee to coordinate with what will be needed for the new church software.
- Community Connections –Random Acts of Kindness is the focus for February. More details are in Community Connections article.
- Deacons – In the pastor’s absence the deacons will be doing the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services.
- Food Service, Treasurer, and Brotherhood had no reports to give at this time.
- Seder Meal – The group decided to continue with the Seder Meal this year. The Deacons and Food Service will be making preparations and it was noted that the pastor would be able to participate.
- Grab n Go Breakfast -- Robin Davis and Chris Moon had asked if they could provide a Grab n Go type breakfast after Sunrise service on Easter Sunday from 7:00-7:30 a.m. This was approved.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Due to inclement weather the Quarterly Church Conference was postponed until February 22.

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on January 5, 2026. The following was discussed.

- Prayer requests were heard followed by prayer and praise.
- TEAM REPORTS were given.
- Deacon Team Ministry reports were received.
- Deacons made plans for pulpit coverage and extra duties to be shared while the pastor is on sabbatical.
- Learned that the Ring cameras have been installed.

The next meeting is February 2

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement John Jenkins
- Casserole Debbie Oliver
- Hospital/Homebound Joey Francis
- Prayer Charlie Harcum
- Transportation Terry McPherson

PASTORAL SABBATICAL

As most of you know, but as a gentle reminder, our pastor, Tracey Pugh, is currently on sabbatical for the purpose of dedicating her time and energy on her doctoral studies. As members, and friends, let us all be aware and keep Tracey and her family in our prayers during this time. The deacons and other committees in the church continue with their responsibilities and then some. Be in prayer for them as well. Take note that if a problem arises, be it a function in the church, a health crisis or death in one’s family please contact Peggy Rush, deacon chair, or Charlie Harcum, vice chair. Your needs are important and will be met. All regular activities of the church continue.



February 2026 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Morning Schedule	2 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	3 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	4 Family Night	5	6	7
8 Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m. HerMission meeting and luncheon 11:30 a.m.	9	10 Coffee and Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	11 Family Night	12	13	14
15 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	16	17 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	18 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Family Night	19	20	21
22 Sunday Morning Schedule Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Quarterly Conference 11:15am	23	24 Coffee and Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	25 Family Night	26	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