

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month
Tricia Davis

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January 2024

A NEW BEGINNING

Greetings, Sycamore Family and Friends,

It's just about a New Year, which means a New Beginning!

New beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown.

As Christians, we can find hope and strength in knowing God is with us in everything, including any new beginnings we face. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, *“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”* God is constantly at work in our lives, creating new opportunities and possibilities for us.

When we encounter a new beginning, it can be helpful to reflect on the past and give thanks for the experiences and lessons we have gained. However, it's also important not to get too caught up in the past and to keep an open mind and heart for what God has in store for us in the future.

One way to embrace new beginnings is to plan and set reasonable goals for what we want to accomplish. This can give us a sense of direction and purpose and help us to stay focused and motivated. Remembering that we don't have to go through new beginnings alone is essential. We can seek the guidance and support of friends, family, and our faith community.

Speaking of guidance and support, I want to remind you that I am here as your Pastor. I am hearing from many of you that you don't want to bother me or that my plate is full. While it may have a lot on it, Sycamore is a significant part of what is on my plate. While I appreciate your compassion, please do not hesitate to call on me for guidance, support, prayer, pastoral care, or whatever you need. I am here to serve and do not take the privilege lightly.

As we begin a new year, let us remember that with God's help, we can face any new beginning with confidence and hope. May we trust in His plan for our lives and embrace the opportunities and challenges that come our way.

“For I know the plans I have for you, “declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11.

I pray this will be a fantastic new year for you, your loved ones, and our church!

In Christ,

Pastor Tracey



SAVE THE DATE



Sycamore Summit intends to create a culture of working together across various ministry areas to assess if what we are doing and how we are doing things is meeting the church's mission. We will look at lessons learned, recruiting, efficiencies, financial burdens, and other factors of our ministries.

Everyone serving on a team or committee is strongly encouraged to attend this one-day workshop. Anyone in the church who is interested in the programs and ministries of the church is warmly invited to attend and get involved.

Pastor Tracey

WOMEN ON MISSION **January Mission Focus**

Franklin Cooperative Ministry provides personal hygiene kits for those in need throughout the year. The Women on Mission focus for January is hygiene kits. Listed below are items that are requested for both men and women. Please place them in the designated box in the Fellowship Hall during January. We will assemble the kits on Wed, Feb 14.

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

As we begin a New Year, consider our church's and our own missional lifestyle. 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.

CONFERENCE



The regular quarterly church conference is scheduled for Sun, January 28, immediately after worship in the fellowship hall.

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.



- January 3 Mixed Adults
- January 10 Deacons
- January 17 Study Group
- January 24 Brotherhood
- January 31 Choir

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation. I will set up shop on Thursday mornings as follows:



- January 4 No C & C
- January 11 The Vine 10-11:30
- January 18 Daily Dose 9-10:30
- January 25 The Vine 10-11:30

Pastor Tracey



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Short and sweet, be the hands and feet.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Lemuel Brown, Jr. upon his confession of faith on December 24, 2023, and look forward to his baptism in the near future.

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on December 4, 2023. At that meeting, the deacons:

- Shared a meal and watched the CD by Tom Stocks on the Deacon Team Ministry concept, followed by a discussion on what we had learned.
- Shared prayer concerns.
- New church key requests were reviewed and approved.
- Noted Tracey will be attending classes January 2-10, 2024.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for **January 15**.

The Deacon of the month for January is Tricia Davis.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

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

Patsy Falls

LIVING NATIVITY

Once again, Sycamore participated in the drive-through Living Nativity held at Barrett's Landing. Take note that **650** people drove by the scenes in three nights. A big thank you to Connie Williams, Joey Francis, Jimmy Vann, Charlie Daughtrey, and the Harcum Family for their roles as Joseph and the angel/messenger. And a big thank you to Jimmy Vann, Tracey Pugh, Joey Francis, and the Harcums for their efforts in setting up and taking down the scene.



Connie Williams and Joey Francis

THREE Cs EVENT

The chili cookoff and the cookie bakeoff were a huge success. Caroling, however, was cancelled due to the very rainy, muddy night.

The reigning winners of the two events are:

Chili Cookoff – Kay Holland
Cookie Bakeoff – Holly Giles



Judges: Andrew & John Jenkins, Mark Pugh

PRAYER WREATH EVENT

This year, 17 wreaths were filled with prayer and delivered to folks to enjoy this holiday season.





JANUARY 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year	2	3 Family Night Schedule	4 No Coffee and Conversation	5	6
7 Sunday Morning Schedule	8	9	10 Family Night Schedule	11 Coffee and Conversation The Vine 10-11:30 a.m.	12	13 .
14 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	15 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	16 WOM 6:30 p.m.	17 Family Night Schedule	18 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	19	20 .
21 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15	22	23	24 Family Night Schedule	25 Coffee and Conversation The Vine 10-11:30 a.m.	26	27
28 Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday Morning Schedule Conference 11:15 a.m.	29	30	31 Family Night Schedule	February 1 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	2	3

SUNDAY MORNING 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 6:45

Mission Friends & 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.