

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



31120 Sycamore Church Road
Franklin, VA 23851-5132
(757) 562-6749

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XIX, No. 7

Deacon of the Month
Terry McPherson
July 2025

SONGS OF SUMMER

There’s something about summer that invites us to slow down, soak up the sunshine, and reconnect with the rhythms of life. It’s a season of family vacations, cookouts, lightning bugs (aka fireflies), and front porch conversations. It’s also an excellent time to refresh our faith and renew our worship. That’s why this summer I am doing a sermon series called Songs of Summer—a celebration of timeless hymns, modern praise, and the eternal truths that anchor our souls.

Each Sunday from June through August, I’ll pair a traditional hymn with a contemporary worship song and explore the biblical themes they carry. These are not just songs we sing—they are songs that have brought generations through both joy and sorrow. Songs that have echoed through sanctuaries and living rooms, campfires and concert halls. Songs that give voice to our praise, our longing, our hope, and our need for God.

In this series, together we will think about:

- What does it mean to rejoice always, even when life feels heavy?
- How do we lean on the everlasting arms of God in times of fear or uncertainty?
- What does it look like to live in daily dependence on God's grace and guidance?

Each week will feature a new theme—*joy, trust, prayer, faithfulness, greatness, surrender, grace*, and more—grounded in Scripture and brought to life through music. We’ll draw from Philippians, Psalms, the Gospels, and other passages that speak to the heart of Christian discipleship and worship.

Here’s a glimpse of the series:

- Week 1: “The Joy of the Lord” — with *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* and *Hear Our Praises*, rooted in Philippians 4:4–9 and Nehemiah 8:10.
- Week 2: “How Great Is Our God” — with *How Great Thou Art* and *How Great Is Our God*, reflecting on Psalm 145 and the majesty of our Creator.

And it goes on—each week building on the last, helping us grow in our relationship with God through worship that speaks to the soul and truth that transforms the heart.

Whether you're someone who grew up with hymns or someone who finds deep meaning in modern worship, *Songs of Summer* is for you. It's a series that honors the past, engages the present, and points us toward an eternal future with God.

So come as you are, invite a friend, and be ready to lift your voice and your heart. Let this summer be filled not just with sunshine, but with songs of hope, faith, and praise.

In Christ,
Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

*Local, Global,
And Everything In Between*

WOM JULY MISSION FOCUS

The Women on Mission are continuing to partner with the Western Tidewater Food Bank in Franklin for July to add to their Welcome Boxes. Welcome boxes are given to new clients when they come in to sign up for assistance from the Food Bank. Listed below are items that are difficult for the Food Bank to obtain or are challenging to keep in stock.

Canned chicken

Peanut butter

Canned fruits

Pasta sauce and pasta

100% fruit juice

Cereal/oatmeal

Rice

Crackers

Jelly

Other items are needed as well. Note the following when making your purchase:

- *Low fat, sodium, and sugar preferred
- *Non-perishable food
- *Non-breakable containers
- *Nutritional labels intact

Products are good 6 months past the Best/Sell/Use By Date.

Amazon Shoppers! Save your boxes with lids for packing. And any other boxes as well.



Did you know that any profit made on Family Night meals goes to mission efforts? Family

Night Funds have

supported or continue to support the protein bread ministry in Peru, the Alma Hunt Mission Offering, the CBF Mission Offering, Christmas in August, and Thanksgiving meals, among others. So, when you cook and keep the cost low, and when you buy your meal on Wednesday nights, you are supporting missions! And we are self-supporting! Who knew?!?



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Summer is in full gear! For July, we will be collecting **small toys for boys**. These toys may include foam balls, kickballs or soccer balls (with manual air pump), kites, finger puppets, a slinky, etch a sketch, toy cars, plastic dinosaurs, animals or action figures (nothing war related), stuffed animals, musical instruments, or interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries). These are just a few suggestions of what may be added. A collection container is in the Fellowship Hall.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



RANDOM
ACTS  OF
KINDNESS

It's RAK Month! 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: Doctor's office, post office, social services, daycare, sheriff's office, police department, non-profits, banks, veterinarian's office, 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, flowers from your garden, etc.
3. Pick up a card from the sanctuary or foyer near the elevator to put with your gift.
4. Deliver your gift sometime during July. (Snap a picture during delivery if possible.)
5. Update the RAK board with your experiences so the church can see the people and places where love was spread in our community.

CHURCH LIFE

FAMILY NIGHT SUMMER SUPPER SCHEDULE



Below is this month's supper schedule. As a reminder, volunteers will be preparing meals through August 27. A sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall. Any open weeks will be "Bring Your Supper" nights. The schedule will be published each month in the newsletter.

July 2	Tracey & Friends
July 9	Tracey, Joey & Friends
July 16	Giles/Youngs
July 23	VBS No Family Night
July 30	Tracey and Friends

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I thoroughly enjoy my morning coffee and appreciate being out in the community. Join me at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation. I will set up shop on Tuesday mornings as follows:



July 1	Daily Dose	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
July 8	Storehouse	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
July 15	Daily Dose	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
July 22	Storehouse	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
July 29	Parsonage*	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

*Cont. breakfast, coffee, and conversation.

Pastor Tracey

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

CHURCH CONFERENCE

The regular quarterly church conference is scheduled for Sunday, August 3, immediately after worship. The budget for the upcoming church year will be presented by the Finance Committee, along with recommendations from the Nominating Committee. Deacon nominations will also be made.

DEACON REPORT

The Deacons met on June 2. In that meeting, the following took place:

- Devotions were led by Joey Francis, followed by prayer concerns and prayer.
- Heard Ministry Team reports.
- Reviewed concerns and progress on sanctuary painting, VBS, van accessibility for people with disabilities, financial health of the church, and grass in the parking lot.
- The deacon of the month for July is Terry McPherson.

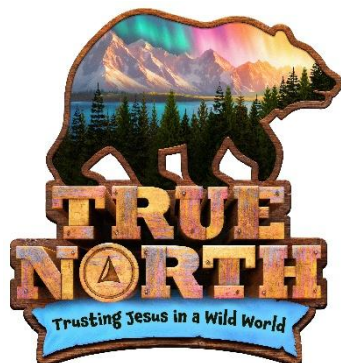
Patsy Falls

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

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

Contact these Team Leaders if you or someone you know has a need for any of these services.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



WHEN: Jul 21 – Jul 24

Dinner 5:15 pm | VBS Programming 6 pm – 8 pm

WHO: Children aged 4 through grade 5

WHAT: A trek through the Alaskan tundra pointing kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can trust in world that feels confusing and overwhelming.

HOW: Register at www.Sycamorebaptist.org/vbs

NOTE: We are collecting items (some to borrow) to make this experience epic. See the VBS board in the fellowship hall.

DECORATING DAY: Sunday, July 20 – Time TBA HELP IS NEEDED!
See Pastor Tracey to get involved and serve in this ministry.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we continue our journey of faith together, it is essential for us not only to dream boldly but also to manage our resources wisely. Our church's mission—to be God's hands, feet, and voice in our community and beyond, demonstrated through deeds of loving kindness and words of truth—is not merely about programs and activities; it drives everything we do at Sycamore. This mission is a way of life that requires prayerful planning, passionate involvement, and financial commitment.



You may have noticed that we began sharing our financial progress in the weekly bulletin last month. With rising costs and several significant repair expenses, we find ourselves in a critical season. For three quarters of the church year (September to June), our current giving trends indicate that we are approximately 56% of the way to fully funding our ministry plan for the year. Our church leadership is working diligently to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely and responsibly.

To move forward in faith, we need each member of our church family to prayerfully consider their role in funding our mission and vision.

****How You Can Help:****

1. ****Pray**** – Ask God to guide your giving and bless the work of our hands.
2. ****Give**** – Whether you are a first-time giver or a long-time supporter, every gift matters. Summer can be a challenging time for the church, as many people travel and attend worship services less frequently, which affects our gifts and offerings. Consistent, proportionate giving enables us to plan effectively and respond generously.
3. ****Engage**** – Attend the quarterly conference to learn about the latest developments at the church and discover opportunities to get involved and support our church's programs and ministries.

Cont.

We are not just funding a budget; we are investing in God's Kingdom. When we give, we create opportunities for hope, healing, and transformation to flourish not only in our community but also beyond.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and belief in our shared mission. Together, we are fulfilling the vision of our church, loving God and touching lives.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

As we strive to grow in faith and mission, our church depends on the gifts and service of each member. The nominating committee is currently prayerfully discerning individuals to serve in key roles across our church's various committees and ministries. These positions are essential to the life of our congregation, helping us care for one another and serve our community with Christ's love.



Each committee—whether it focuses on worship, education, outreach, stewardship, or care—plays a part in fulfilling the mission God has given us. As Paul writes in 1 Cor 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” That means your voice, passion, and presence matter.

Serving on a committee is not just a responsibility; it's a way to grow in faith, build relationships, and helps shape the future of our church. If you feel a nudge or hear God's whisper to step forward, please reach out to a member of the nominating committee. We'd love to discuss how your unique gifts can help strengthen our shared ministry.

Opportunities to serve that are still open:



Backup Youth SS Teacher
Flower Committee
Food Service Committee
Recreation Committee

We invite you to join us in prayer as we seek to fill the remaining open roles with faithful and committed individuals.

Together, let's continue the good work Christ has begun in us.

Committee members:

Charlie Harcum, Robin Davis,
Holly Giles, Peggy Rush, Tricia Davis

<div>  <div>JULY 2025</div>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	2 Family Night	3	4 Independence Day 	5
6 Sunday Morning Schedule	7 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 10-11:30 a.m.	9 Family Night	10	11	12
13 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	14	15 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	16 Family Night	17	18	19
20 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	21 VBS*	22 VBS* Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 a.m.	23 VBS*	24 VBS*	25	26
27 Sunday Morning Schedule Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00	28	29 Coffee & Conversation 9-10:30 a.m. The Parsonage	30 Family Night .	31		

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
 (unless otherwise noted on the calendar)
 Sunday School 9:00 am. | 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 6:45
 Mission Friends & Children in Action: 6:45
 Adult Choir: 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION
 Secretary Email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org
 Church website: sycamorebaptist.org
 Church phone: 757.562.6749

Rev. Tracey Pugh – Pastor
 Email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
 Cell Phone: 434.953.7930 (Call or Text)
 Office: 757.562.6749 ext. 2
 Office Hours – Tues-Fri 830 am -5 pm and as needed

***VBS Daily Schedule”**
 515 p.m. Dinner in Fellowship Hall
 6 – 8 p.m. VBS Programming

