

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLIX, No. 3

Deacon of the Month
Terry McPherson
March 2024

THE MIRACLE OF EASTER

Easter Greetings!

We often hear people refer to an unexplainable event as a “miracle,” and we have become a bit too used to hearing the term used out of context and meaning.

When Jesus was here on this earth, Acts 10:38 (NKJV) tells us this:

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

The good that Jesus did was miraculous in so many ways, and there was no explanation for what took place other than that it was an “act of God.” We often hear the term “act of God” today about tragic events such as hurricanes or tornadoes, etc. but the acts of God Jesus did were good things!

From the moment Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and placed in the womb of the Virgin Mary, miracles marked his life! He gave sight to people who were blind and gave the lame man the power to walk again. A woman reached out to touch the hem of His garment, and that act of faith healed her immediately!

The list could go on and on, and one of the miracles that astounded the people was raising Lazarus from the dead. Yet, we know that eventually, even Lazarus would die.

The miracle of Easter is what I might call a nonnegotiable of our faith: resurrection. Jesus rose from the grave because death could not hold Him. He had lived a sinless life and died so that you and I could experience the amazing miracle of Salvation. Without the miracle of the Resurrection, we have nothing, but with it, we have abundant life in the here and now and eternal life.

“17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even in Christ all shall be made alive.”

1 Corinthians 15:17-22 (NKJV)

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, I encourage you to make plans to be a part of all that is happening in the life of our church this month. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you as you choose to prioritize the miracle of resurrection in your life. The journey to the cross continues, and I look forward to walking with you.

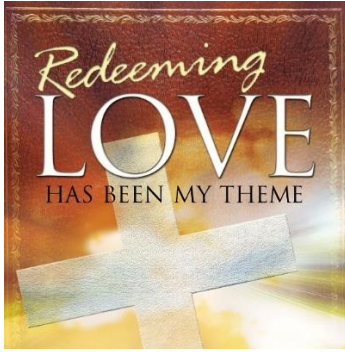
Because He lives,

Pastor Tracey

HOLY WEEK OPPORTUNITIES

“Listen,” he said, “we’re going up to Jerusalem” (Matthew 20:18, NLT) Jesus said to his disciples. It is one of the many roads we may confront Christ during this most solemn season. It is when we conclude our Lenten journey and step into Holy Week. Together, we will recognize the events of Holy Week that lead us to the cross and finally to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

PALM SUNDAY



Join us during worship on Palm Sunday when the choir presents our Easter Cantata, "Redeeming Love Has Been My Theme," as we worship and celebrate Christ and his redeeming love.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Seder Meal

Service and Meal at 6:00 p.m.

A Passover meal, a worship service, and communion will be incorporated into this event. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to celebrate the Lord’s Last Supper and bring a friend—reservations are required.

GOOD FRIDAY

Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday observes the Passion of Christ, crucifixion, and death. Worshippers will have the opportunity to bear the weight of the cross.



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

The Easter sunrise service will be held at **6:45 a.m.** on Easter morning at the church.

EASTER WORSHIP CELEBRATION & FLOWERING THE CROSS



On Easter morning, we will come together to proclaim He is Risen. He is Risen, indeed! Worshippers are invited to bring **a few** fresh cut flowers to the 10:00 a.m. worship service to offer in honor of the risen Lord as we flower the cross together during worship.

CHRISTIAN PASSOVER SEDER



As Baptists, we do not typically observe Passover or the Seder Meal. However, in the Christian tradition, the Passover Seder is believed to be when Jesus instituted the Eucharist (Communion, Lord's Supper). We know the story; Jesus was gathered around the table with the disciples,

15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again

Jesus then proceeded to give thanks, break bread, and serve the bread and cup. When we receive Communion, we celebrate the Last Supper and our Jewish heritage, which provides context for the meal.

The seder meal commemorates the Exodus story and is accompanied by commentary, prayer, and possibly even songs.

We will offer a Seder meal and celebration on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Make plans to join this most sacred meal and invite a friend by reserving your place at the table. Reservations are required and due by March 21 and may be made by contacting the church office, Pastor Tracey, or the reservation link on Facebook and our website beginning March 6.

Patsy Falls



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, a worship service at noon will be followed by lunch at 12:30 pm.

NEW THIS YEAR – Rotating Locations:

March 06: St. Jude Catholic Church

March 13: High Street United Methodist Church

(Sycamore is collaborating with HSUMC.)

March 20: Hunterdale Christian Church



Can you believe it is time to order Easter lilies? Easter is early this year, plus the year is flying by.

If you are interested in ordering a lily, please give information on who it is in memory or honor of, along with your check for \$25.00 per lily made out to Sycamore Baptist Church to Penny Mobley. All orders are due by Sunday, March 10.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to change your clocks. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 10. Be on time for church!

YOU'RE INVITED



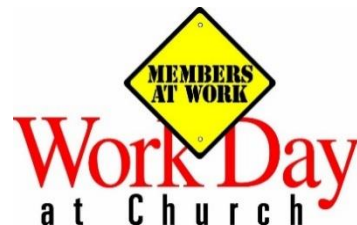
please join us for

Ayla's 3rd Birthday Brunch Open House

March | 17 | 1130

SYCAMORE BAPTIST CHURCH

rsvp to Tracey 434.953.7930
The gift of your company is more than enough!



Come One and All
March 9, 2024, | 8:30 a.m. - Until

Buildings and Grounds and the Brotherhood are co-sponsoring a workday. We have several opportunities for you to help further the church's work. The playground equipment needs sprucing up; the handicap-accessible parking spaces require new lines and signs. We also have signs for installation at the church driveways, and if we get enough workers, we can clean the leaves and debris away from the church foundation. We will use Electric drills, screwdrivers, post-hole diggers, rakes, etc.

If outside isn't your thing, no worries; there is some organizing and cleaning to do inside the church.

A full schedule is planned; come out and help spruce up God's house and enjoy the fellowship of working together. Lunch will be served for all those attending.

Please forward any questions you have to either George Giles or me.

John Jenkins
Buildings & Grounds Chair

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

Equipping...with Every Good Thing... Hebrews 13:20-21

March 10-15 is our Week of Prayer and offering for CBF Global Missions. When you give to the Offering for Global Missions, more than 50 field personnel in 18 countries cultivate beloved community, bear witness to Jesus Christ and seek transformational development as they invite one and all to the table. Thank you in advance for your prayers for the missionaries, their safety, their mission, and your financial gifts.

GENIEVE SHELTER

Who: “Anyone” interested in a local mission project?

What: No sew fleece blankets

When: On Thursdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2, 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Why: Because there is a need... The Genieve Shelter serves families and individuals attempting to escape domestic violence. They serve the cities of Suffolk, Franklin, and Smithfield and the counties of Isle of Wight, Southampton, and Surry.

Have you ever felt you want to help but don't know what to do? Or I don't know where to begin. Well, look no further. If you can tie a shoe, you can tie a blanket. Come out and support the shelter. Share your love for Christ through this ministry. Hope to see you,

Janet Bulls



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sycamore Shares

We will be collecting school supplies for Riverdale Elementary this month. A list of needed items to get them through the rest of the year is listed below. We will collect through Sunday, March 24.

Requested supplies: *Notebook paper, one subject composition books, marbled composition books, colored pencils, colored ink pens, glue sticks, #2 wood pencils, dry erase markers, Sharpies (all colors)*

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 Serves

Community Connections is coordinating with High Street United Methodist Church in serving a meal for the Community Lenten Service on Wednesday, March 13. Sycamore is providing the salad. A sign up sheet will be available for people to agree to purchase certain items for the salad which are due on Sunday, March 10. Servers are also needed. Contact a Community Connection team member if you have any questions or can help in any way that day.

Sycamore choir members will also join with the High Street choir that day as well.

Sycamore Sends

Sycamore continues to send cards to members, friends, and neighbors as well as meals to those in need on Wednesday nights. Share with team members if you know of someone who could benefit from these kindnesses.

RANDOM
ACTS  OF
KINDNESS

Thanks to everyone who shared love in our community with Random Acts of Kindness during February.

Holly Giles
Joey Francis
Erin Harcum
Sharon Moore

Lou Vann
Jimmy Vann
Tammy Woods

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:



March 7	Daily Dose	9-10:30
March 14	StoreHouse	10-11:30
March 21	Daily Dose	9-10:30
March 28	The Vine	10-11:30

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.

March 6	Covered Dish
March 13	Youth
March 20	WOM
March 27	Mixed Adults



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 for applying 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 Scholarship 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 for applying is April 26, 2024.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

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

- Noted there will be a Bible Adventures on Saturday, March 2.
- Discussed a church workday, Saturday, March 9, led by Brotherhood, including several church improvement projects, including the playground.
- Discussed participating in an area Egg Hunt.
- Learned Community Connections will collect school supplies for Riverdale in March.
- Noted Focus on WMU Sunday is March 3.
- Learned Sycamore will host a BGAV Digital Proficiency Workshop on April 16.
- Learned the soundboard has been repaired.
- Noted average Sunday School attendance for January was 39.
- Noted the choir will present the Easter Cantata on March 24, Palm Sunday.
- Reviewed the schedule for Holy Week: March 28 Seder Meal and service 6 p.m., March 29 Good Friday Service 7 p.m., March 31 Easter Sunrise Service 6:45 a.m., and Easter Worship Service 10 a.m.
- Noted that the CBF Global Missions offering will be collected in March.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Articles for the April newsletter are due to Patsy Falls on or before March 20 at 5 p.m. Meeting this deadline will ensure the newsletter is completed, published, and in hands by the first of the month. It is early this month due to Holy Week activities. Your timeliness is appreciated.

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on February 5, 2024. The following was discussed:

- Discussed Sycamore co-hosting the Community Lenten Service on March 16 with High Street Methodist Church at High Street Methodist.
- Noted a church workday will be held on March 9 to work on the playground and other church projects.
- Discussed plans for the Seder Meal.
- Approved requests for use of the fellowship hall: March 23 by Tammy Woods and June 30 by Debbie Oliver.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for April 1.

Deacon of the month for March is Terry McPherson.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

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

HYGIENE KIT PACKING



SYCAMORE SUMMIT


Marshmallow Challenge – Team Building





MARCH 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday Morning Schedule Focus on WMU Book Study 5:00 p.m.	4 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Family Night Schedule	7 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9:00-10:30 a.m.	8	9 Workday 8:30 a.m. Lunch Provided
10 DST Begins Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 Book Study 5:00 p.m.	11	12	13 Family Night Schedule	14 Coffee and Conversation StoreHouse Coffee 10:00-11:30 a.m.	15	16
17 Sunday Morning Schedule Ayla's Party 11:30 Book Study 5:00 p.m.	18	19 WOM 6:30 p.m.	20 Family Night Schedule	21 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9:00-10:30 a.m.	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Cantata Brotherhood Breakfast Church Council 11:15 Book Study 5:00 p.m.	25	26	27 Family Night Schedule	28 Coffee and Conversation The Vine 10:00-11:30 a.m. Seder Meal 6:00 p.m.	29 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	30
31  Sunrise Service 6:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule	April 1	2	3 Family Night Schedule	4 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9:00-10:30 a.m.	5	6

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: 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.