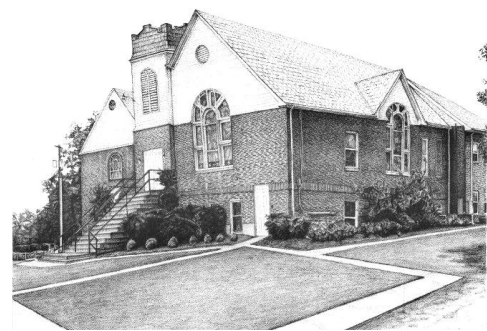


# SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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

Pastor	Deacon of the Month
Rev. Tracey Pugh	Ronnie Bulls
Vol. XLX, No. 3	March 2025

## Lent, Easter, & Resurrection

Greetings, Sycamore Family and Friends,

We are about to enter the Lenten season and embark on what I hope will be a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the next several weeks.

The Lenten season differs in many ways from the Advent season: we don’t have a hanging of the greens, we don’t sing carols, and instead of anticipating the birth of the Christ child, we prepare ourselves for His death and resurrection. Now, I admit that by putting it that way, this all sounds rather gloomy in contrast— but we can rejoice because we know He has risen, He has risen indeed!

*“I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

-Romans 12:1-2

Paul writes to the Romans that we believers are called to study, worship, and renew our minds to know God's perfect will. Just as we marvel over the circumstances of Christ’s entrance into our world during Advent, we can also find ourselves amazed at God's ability, creativity, and love. During Lent, we ponder how Jesus left this world only to rise from the grave to sit at God’s holy, heavenly hand.

After spending forty days being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus stayed busy. During His last week on earth, he cleared the temple, cursed the fig tree, teaches the Sermon on the Mount—and that’s just the first two days. In fact, the majority of the Gospels focus on this latter part of Christ’s life. This Lenten season, won’t you join me in learning more about our Savior— His last earthly days, resurrection, and what it all means for us? I have chosen *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection* as our Lent Book Study text. We focus on Easter but not so much on resurrection and what it means for us today. I hope you will consider joining me in digging into resurrection beyond the grave.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Tracey*



## THE LENTEN SEASON



Sycamore is again participating in the community Lenten services this year. On April 2, we will collaborate with Franklin Baptist Church. Our pastor will deliver the Lenten message, and our congregation will help with the luncheon at Franklin Baptist. More information on our lunch participation is forthcoming.

Schedule: 12:00 p.m. Worship Service  
12:30 p.m. Lunch

**March 05:** *High Street United Methodist*

**March 12:** *Hunterdale Christian*

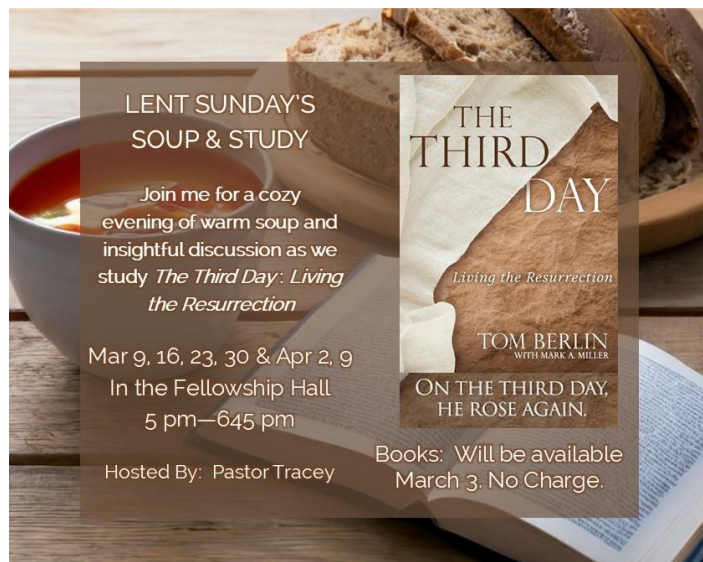
**March 19:** *Emmanuel Episcopal*

**March 26:** *St. Jude Catholic*

**April 2:** *Franklin & Sycamore Baptist  
at Franklin Baptist*

**April 9:** *Congregational Christian*

### LENTEN BOOK STUDY



In *The Third Day: Living the Resurrection*, storytelling and biblical insight bring the resurrection to life. Rather than dwelling on loss, the book emphasizes renewal, transformation, and redemption through the experiences of those closest to Jesus.

We will walk alongside Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they move from despair to astonishment and joy in the wake of the resurrection. The study also explores how their encounters profoundly changed Paul and the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Through these narratives, we will explore the life-changing power of the resurrection—not just for them but for believers today.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Plan to come and join the fellowship and worship.



5:45 pm Deacons will host a Shrove Tue-Wednesday Pancake Supper.

7:00 p.m. We will gather in the sanctuary for an Ash Wednesday service, during which we will receive the imposition of ashes.



### EASTER LILY ORDERS

Easter lilies and the flowering of the cross add to the sanctuary's beauty on Easter Sunday. If you would like a lily



placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone, please have your order in by **April 9**. Your order should include who it is given for, by whom, and cash or a check made out to Sycamore Baptist Church for \$25.00 **per lily**. The information and money should be given to the church office or a member of the Flower Committee.

Dawn Mosena  
Erin Harcum

Debbie Jenkins  
Wanda Cotton

### SAVE THE DATES HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 13, Easter Cantata

Thursday, April 17, Seder Meal

Friday, April 18, Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 20, Easter  
Sunrise Service  
Worship Service  
Flowering of the Cross

Don't Wait! Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to attend these meaningful events and services with you.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



OFFERING FOR  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

BECAUSE PRESENCE MATTERS

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” —Isaiah 43:19*

March 23-29 is our Week of Prayer and offering for CBF Global Missions.

Watch closely! God is doing something new! When you give to the Offering for Global Missions, you participate in God’s transformation through the Global Church. Your gifts support the ministries and long-term presence of 48 field personnel in 18 countries as they join in God’s transforming work around the globe—bearing witness to Jesus Christ, cultivating beloved community and seeking transformational development.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and gifts.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**WAY TO GO!** As of Feb 22, the board noted 22 Random Acts of Kindness. That’s not all; I have heard of others since then.

**SPEAKER SERIES BEGINS** - A new quarterly speaker series during family night supper will begin on March 19. A member from one of our partner organizations will come and share complete and upcoming opportunities to be involved in our community. The first will be Kashif Carter with his nonprofit, Speak Life. Come and be informed and inspired to serve locally.

**RIVERDALE SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE-** We are replenishing the supply closet at RES this month. DUE BY MAR 23.

No2 Pencils	Crayons
Colored Pencils	One Subject Notebooks
Glue Sticks	Composition Books
Highlighters	

## 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 4	Daily Dose	9-10:30
March 11	StoreHouse	9-10:30
March 18	Daily Dose	9-10:30
March 25	StoreHouse	9-10:30

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 5	Deacons
March 12	Up and Coming
March 19	WOM
March 26	Women’s Study Group



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



Don't forget to change your clocks. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 9. Be on time for church!

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

### DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on Monday, February 3, in the Fellowship Hall. In that meeting, the following was discussed.

- A devotion was followed by the sharing of prayer concerns and prayer.
- Team reports were received.
- Camera monitoring bids were reviewed.
- The possibility of having a Prayer Vigil was considered.
- A decision was made to continue with the Seder Meal this year.



## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Church Council met on February 16. Areas of discussion included the following.

- Jimmy Vann noted that the Finance Committee will seek committee budget needs soon.
- For Building & Grounds, Joey Francis reported that the windows had been replaced at the parsonage, that a new HVAC system was installed for the Fellowship Hall, that bids were being received for the painting of the sanctuary and the purchase of cameras, and that the gutters had been repaired.
- As reported by Patsy Falls, the deacons will serve the meal on Shrove Wednesday and support the Seder Meal.
- Tricia Davis noted that Focus on WMU will be held on Sunday, March 23, and that the cantata will be presented on April 13.
- With warmer weather hopefully soon, the Brotherhood will turn its attention to constructing a ramp at the parsonage for easier transport of Ayla.
- Charlie Harcum reported that January's average Sunday School attendance was 33. He also stated that the soundboard in the sanctuary is functioning correctly and that new mics have been ordered.
- Tracey Pugh announced that there will be an Ash Wednesday service and a Lenten Book Study. March is Women in Ministry Month, and Valerie Carter Smith may bring a message one Sunday in March.

## A NOTE OF THANKS



Dear Pastor Tracey & Church Members,

Thank you, Pastor Tracey and church, for your love and support during the death of Samuel A. Moon. It is great to have a church who is so kind and loving and prays for others.

Robin Davis & Chris Moon

## 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 27, 2025.

## 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 27, 2025.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please note the following updates in your current church directory:

**Roclun & Meagan Barber**  
5919 Country Manor Ln  
North Chesterfield, VA 23234

**Zachary & Victoria Gurganus**  
Chesapeake, VA

**Tyler Gyoker**  
258 Wickman Rd, Shiloh, NC 27974

**Sharon Kasper**  
23084 Homestead Ln, Franklin, VA 23851

**Thelma Dodson - Phone**  
757-353-8231

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the April newsletter are due to Patsy Falls on or before March 23.





FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating God's Love



Wednesday  
PM  
Children's  
Class




Wednesday PM Men's Class



Random Acts of  
Kindness



MARCH 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday Morning Schedule Bldg & Grds 11:15 a.m.		4 Coffee & Convo Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.	5 Family Night Schedule Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.	6	7	8
9 Spring Forward - DST Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connect 11:15 Lenten Book Study 5 p.m.	10	11 Coffee & Convo StoreHouse 9-10:30 a.m.	12  Family Night Schedule	13	14	15
16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m. Lenten Book Study 5 p.m.	17 	18 Coffee & Convo Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. WOM 6:30 p.m.	19 Family Night Schedule	20	21	22
23 Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday Morning Schedule Lenten Book Study 5 p.m.	24	25 Coffee & Convo StoreHouse 9-10:30 a.m.	26 Family Night Schedule	27	28	29
30 Sunday Morning Schedule Lenten Book Study 5 p.m.	31	1	2	3	4	5

**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](mailto:secretary@sycamorebaptist.org)  
Church website: [sycamorebaptist.org](http://sycamorebaptist.org)

Rev. Tracey Pugh, Pastor  
Email: [pastor@sycamorebaptist.org](mailto:pastor@sycamorebaptist.org)  
Church phone: 757.562.6749  
Cell phone: 757.953.7930  
Office Hours: 8:30 – 4:30 Tues – Fri, and as needed



