

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



31120 Sycamore Church Road
Franklin, VA 23851
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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLXI, No. 3

Deacon of the Month
John Holland
March 2026

THIS AND THAT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

March is designated as Baptist Women in Ministry Month and has been observed at Sycamore since 2023 by having women as guest speakers in the pulpit throughout the month. The gifts of not only our very own pastor, Tracey Pugh, are recognized, but those of our guests as well. A list of the upcoming speakers is listed in a separate article.

And then there is Lent! We are well into the Lenten season as Ash Wednesday was observed in February. We have the opportunity to attend weekly community Lenten Services as we move through this season in preparation for Holy Week. The times and places are listed below. So exactly what is Lent?

Lent is a season that spans forty days, not including Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and culminating in Holy Week, just before Easter Sunday. It is traditionally observed as a period of repentance, fasting, prayer, and self-examination, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness.

For the church, Lent offers a time for communal reflection and spiritual renewal, encouraging believers to draw closer to God and prepare their hearts for the celebration of Christ's resurrection at Easter.

On an individual level, Lent provides an opportunity for personal growth, self-discipline, and transformation, helping Christians to realign their lives with their faith and deepen their relationship with God through acts of sacrifice, charity, and devotion.

Palm Sunday is in March this year. Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and is the beginning of Holy Week. As is Sycamore's tradition, the Holy Week story is presented in song by the choir. But what about that triumphal entry?

Mark 11:7-8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road: We like this slice from the life of Jesus because it simply *feels* so right. For much of Jesus' ministry, He was despised and rejected of men. Often the adoring crowds followed Him only for what they could *get* from Him, and most of His audience rejected any kind of personal commitment to Jesus. All of that was different on this day.

On this day, they lavished attention and honor on Jesus. They used their clothes as a saddle for Jesus and as a red carpet for the colt He rode on. Considering the expense and value of clothing in that day, this was generous praise. Credit to Enduring Word Commentary

Are you following Jesus for what you can *get* from Him? Or because he is worthy of our praise and devotion for his sacrifice on the cross. Something to think about. Patsy Falls

CHURCH LIFE

COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP AND LUNCH SERIES

Worship begins at 12:00
Lunch is served at 12:30

Weekly Church Locations:

March 04: *High Street United Methodist*

March 11: *Franklin Baptist*

March 18: *St. Jude Catholic*

March 25: *Emmanuel Episcopal*



Easter lilies, along with the flowering of the cross, add to the beauty of the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to have a lily placed in the sanctuary in memory or honor of someone, please have your order in by **March 5**. Your order should include who it is given for, by whom, and cash or a check made out to Sycamore Baptist Church in the amount of \$25.00 per lily. Order forms are available at each church entrance. The information and money may be placed in the offering plate or given to Debbie Jenkins, Dawn Mosen, Wanda Cotton. You may also leave in the church office.

EASTER CANTATA



The choir will present the Easter Cantata, Palm Sunday, March 29, during worship. Join us and bring a friend as we worship our Savior in song.



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 from Luke 22; 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.

We will offer a Seder meal and celebration on Maundy Thursday, April 2, 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 25** and may be made by contacting the church office or Peggy Rush.

Patsy Falls

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Sunday, March 29, Easter Cantata
Thursday, April 2, Seder Meal
Friday, April 3, Good Friday Service
Sunday, April 5, Easter
Sunrise Service
Worship Service
Flowering of the Cross

BWIM SPEAKERS

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| March 1 | Rev. Mandy Smith |
| March 8 | Rev. Valerie Carter |
| March 15 | TBA |
| March 22 | Rev. Carol Seeley |

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
—Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Spending time with friends, family and neighbors is important to building strong relationships. When you support the Offering for Global Missions, you help CBF field personnel around the world build strong relationships with their friends and neighbors as they share the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Long-term presence allows CBF field personnel to help others transform their lives even as they themselves are transformed.

- They encourage, work and minister with the global Church as well as those living in poverty.
- They offer language acquisition opportunities.
- They cultivate safe spaces for community building, stability and friendships.
- They address prejudices and racism.
- They provide scholarships for higher education.
- They provide tools and resources to equip pastors and church leaders.
- They provide space for believers to come together for music and worship.
- They share the good news of Jesus Christ in culturally relevant ways.
- And because of your support for the Offering for Global Missions, they can do so much more.

Your generosity ensures the Offering for Global Missions can provide support for the presence of CBF Global Missions field personnel.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

CBF field personnel are present in countries around the world, bearing witness to Jesus Christ and nurturing relationships with friends and neighbors. Join us for a Week of Prayer March 15-22 for the ministries of our field personnel.

FIVE WAYS TO PRAY:

1. Pray for CBF field personnel as they join God on God's mission.
2. Pray about how you can support the Offering for Global Missions. What is God leading you to give?
3. Use the Prayer Partners inserts in the bulletin to guide your prayer time.
4. Pray for CBF field teams—Asia, Europe, Africa/Middle East, Americas. Go to cbf.net to learn more about field personnel and their ministries.
5. Pray about how you and your church can become more involved in missions in your community.



Have you been to a Her Mission meeting, yet? If not, what are you waiting for? Her Mission meets monthly in the fellowship hall. Join us Sunday, March 15 at 11:30 a.m. for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and learning about and supporting local and global missions.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to change your clocks. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8. Be on time for church!

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY DONATIONS NEEDED



Our Free Little Library is a wonderful way to share the love of reading with our community. As books are taken to enjoy, we need your help to keep the shelves full!

Please consider donating new or gently used books for children, teens, or adults. Donations may be placed in the fellowship hall.

“Let all that you do be done in love.” — 1 Corinthians 16:14

Thank you for helping us share knowledge, encouragement, and God’s love—one book at a time.

The Library Committee

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

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 Tuesday mornings as follows:

| | | |
|----------|------------|---------|
| March 3 | Daily Dose | 9-10:30 |
| March 10 | StoreHouse | 9-10:30 |
| March 17 | Daily Dose | 9-10:30 |
| March 24 | StoreHouse | 9-10:30 |
| March 31 | TBD | |

Tracey Pugh

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 4 | Deacons |
| March 11 | Women’s Group |
| March 18 | Brotherhood |
| March 25 | Choir |

CONFERENCE REPORT

Sycamore met for the regular quarterly conference on February 22, 2026. The following occurred during that meeting.

- ❖ Written financial reports were received and approved.
- ❖ Charlie Harcum reported that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 37.
- ❖ Tricia Davis reported that HerMission had sponsored the Alma Hunt Offering and the Global Missions Offering as well as the Thanksgiving Meal Ministry, Prayer Wreaths, and Missions Mailbox.
- ❖ As reported by Holly Giles, Community Connections collected and delivered Angel Tree gifts for children and seniors.
- ❖ A motion was made to install a wheelchair lift in the church van. The motion was tabled until more financial information is known.
- ❖ It was noted the Ring security cameras are in place and working and will soon be permanently installed.
- ❖ It was reported that fire escape repairs and brick work for the front steps are being planned.
- ❖ Learned the deacons and nominating committee are meeting in March to nominate a new church trustee. The church will vote on the nomination at the April conference.
- ❖ Research authorization for Rev. Pugh’s doctoral work was approved through June 2026.
- ❖ Robin Davis, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that the audit committee is still in need of 1 more member before the church audit can be performed.

Tricia Davis

MARCH 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-----------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| 1 Sunday Morning Schedule | 2 | 3 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9:00-10:30 a.m. | 4 Family Night Schedule | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 DST Begins Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 | 9 | 10 Coffee and Conversation StoreHouse 9-10:30 a.m. | 11 Family Night Schedule | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m. HerMission Meeting and Lunch 11:30 a.m. | 16 | 17 Coffee and Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. | 18 Family Night Schedule | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Brotherhood Breakfast Sunday Morning Schedule | 23 | 24 Coffee and Conversation StoreHouse 9-10:30 a.m. | 25 Family Night Schedule | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Sunday Morning Schedule Cantata | 30 | 31 Coffee and Conversation TBD | April 1 Family Night Schedule | 2 Seder Meal 6:00 p.m. | 3 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m. | 4 |
| April 5 EASTER! He Is Risen!! Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule | | | | | | |

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
Women's Adult StudI: 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.
*The pastor is on sabbatical during the month of March.
Any special needs or emergencies should be directed
through Peggy Rush, Deacon Chair or Charlie Harcum,
Deacon Vice-chair or leave a message on the church's
answering machine.*