

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XIX, No. 5

Deacon of the Month
Charlie Harcum
May 2025

LIVING THE RESURRECTION

Greetings, Sycamore Family and Friends,

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead." — Philippians 3:10–11

The tomb is empty — but what does that mean for Tuesday morning?

Too often, the power of Easter is treated like a single-day celebration: a burst of joy, a few triumphant hymns, and then back to “life as usual.” But that’s not how the early church understood the resurrection — nor how Scripture teaches us to respond.

Easter isn’t the conclusion of the gospel story. It’s the beginning of a whole new creation. The resurrection of Jesus isn’t just an event to believe in — it’s a reality to live out.

During this time, Christians worldwide reflect on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope it brings. It’s a period of spiritual growth, renewal, and deepening of our faith. Here are some things to know about this season of the liturgical year:

- ✚ Joy and Celebration: Eastertide is filled with joy as we celebrate the victory of life over death. Each Sunday during this season is a mini-Easter, reminding us of the resurrection.
- ✚ Scripture and Reflection: This season invites us to delve deeper into the scriptures, exploring Jesus's post-resurrection appearances and the transformative power of His love.
- ✚ Pentecost Preparation: As we journey through Eastertide, we prepare for Pentecost, commemorating the Holy Spirit's descent and the Church's birth.
- ✚ Acts of Kindness: Eastertide encourages us to embody the spirit of Easter through acts of kindness, service, and love towards others.

Last Sunday, we wrapped up our dive into Paul’s letter to the church at Colossae and kicked off a new series, Living the Resurrection. Over eight Sundays, we’ll explore what it means to live in light of Christ’s resurrection, not just as a historical fact but as a present and powerful way of life.

In Philippians 3:10–11, Paul gives voice to a desire that should stir every heart: not just to know about Christ but to know Christ himself — to be shaped by the power that raised Him from the grave. This power isn’t reserved for the past or the future.

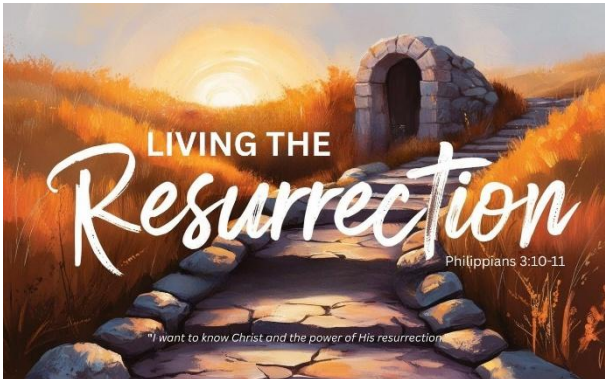
It’s available now—in our prayers, relationships, witness, and worship. To live the resurrection is to trust that the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead also breathes new life into our daily faithfulness.

It’s living as if death no longer has the last word. It’s giving generously, loving boldly, speaking truth with grace, serving humbly, and hoping fiercely. It’s living with an eye on the Kingdom that is coming and with hands ready to build it here and now.

This is more than a sermon series. It is a call to a season of renewal – for our congregation and each of us personally. I hope you will walk, worship, and live this season deeply and intentionally.

Because He Lives,

Pastor Tracey



COMMITTEES

BROTHERHOOD



During May, the Brotherhood will be collecting money for World Hunger. Rice bowls will be available in the vestibule and the elevator lobby as reminders to support this mission. If you want to write a check, please put “World Hunger” on the memo line.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Lenten Lunches – Several people came to help assemble approximately 140 ham rolls and individual serving bags of crackers for the Community Lenten Lunch series.



Easter Baskets – we assembled and delivered 15 Easter Baskets for homebound members.

Teacher Appreciation—This month, we plan to provide 75 teachers and staff at Riverdale Elementary School with brownies and ice cream. The items are due to the church on Wednesday, May 7th. See Holly to sign up.

Derby Day – Since we could not participate, the committee agreed to financially support concessions for this community event sponsored by Tidewater Child Development, one of our community partners.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

TIME TO RUN?



OR TIME TO

It's time to stir up that gift! Everyone has at least one. The Nominating Comm. will soon begin to seek out those in our congregation who are willing to be of service to the work of the church. If you have an area of ministry that you feel particularly called to serve, please let one of the committee members know. Be in prayer for the committee as they seek servant leaders and for yourself and each other in discerning where you can serve.



**Don't run when you see one of us coming!
Look inward for your God-given gifts!**

The committee members are Robin Davis, Chair, Peggy Rush, Holly Giles, Tricia Davis, and Charlie Harcum.

WOM FAMILY NIGHT 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.



May 07 Men's Discipleship
May 14 Youth & Children
May 21 Picnic & Praise at the Parsonage
May 28 Covered Dish

PICNIC & PRAISE

You are invited to an evening of Picnic and Praise at the Parsonage. We will have dinner and bring out the sound system for some praise music, prayer, and scripture led by Mark and me. **BRING A LAWN CHAIR & JOIN US** on Wed, May 21. Heat/Rain moves it to the church.



Dinner 545pm | Praise 615pm to 7 pm

WOM FAMILY NIGHT SUMMER SUPPER SCHEDULE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The fellowship we share during Family Night Supper is one of the highlights of our Wednesdays and our entire week. We appreciate all the work that goes into preparing these meals and are giving our classes and groups a summer break.

Women On Mission is seeking volunteers to prepare meals for Family Nights this summer to keep this time of fellowship going all summer. Our classes and groups will be taking a well-deserved summer meal prep break, but we welcome any volunteers who can help.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the fellowship hall for June 18 – August 25. Please sign up by May 28. Any open weeks will be “Bring Your Own Supper” nights. The completed schedule will be published in the June newsletter.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The group is growing! Join me and others at the coffee houses listed below for a cup of coffee and some conversation.



May 06 – Daily Dose	9-10:30 a.m.
May 13 – Storehouse	9-10:30 a.m.
May 20 – Daily Dose	9-10:30 a.m.
May 27 – Storehouse	9-10:30 a.m.



Coffee & Conversation, April 29 at StoreHouse

Pastor Tracey

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Back this Summer!
July 27 – 30, 2025

Support is needed to make this ministry a success. Come to a kick-off and organizational meeting to learn more about it and where you can serve.



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on April 7, 2025. At that meeting, the deacons:

- Shared prayer concerns.
- Team reports were heard.
- Learned that Joey Francis has security camera bids to share at conference.
- Were informed that the Nominating Committee will present nominations for the currently vacant spots.
- Discussed the Seder Meal and the deacon's responsibilities.
- Heard that Gift and Memorials had informed the Brotherhood that money was available per a donor's request for the handicap ramp at the parsonage.
- Were informed that van add-ons to make it more accessible for people with disabilities were being evaluated.
- Discussed bids for the painting and plaster repair in the sanctuary.
- Learned that a clean-up day for the church grounds is planned for April 12.
- Was informed by Tracey that she is posting more church related activities on Facebook and she asked that we share more of the posts to increase our exposure.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

Bereavement – Ronnie Bulls

Casserole- Holly Giles

Hospital/Homebound – Joey Francis

Prayer – Charlie Harcum

Transportation – Terry McPherson

CONFERENCE REPORT

Sycamore met for the regular quarterly conference on April 27, 2025. The following occurred during that meeting.

- ❖ Written financial reports were received and approved. Debbie Oliver, Treasurer, noted that the new HVAC for the fellowship hall had been paid out of the general fund, which caused a lower-than-normal checking account balance. Discussion ensued regarding the correct payment fund, and it was decided to have the chairman of various funds meet to determine the best route to take.
- ❖ Charlie Harcum reported that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 37. He also stated that he is working with the Aplos software financial piece, and Jimmy Vann is working with the accounting side.
- ❖ Tricia Davis reported that Women on Mission had sponsored the Global Missions Offering and collected hygiene items for FCM.
- ❖ Per George Giles, the ramp for the parsonage will soon become a reality.
- ❖ As reported by Holly Giles, Community Connections collected school supplies and assisted with the Lenten Luncheon at Franklin Baptist.
- ❖ A motion was made, seconded, and passed to give the \$957.02 in the Backpack designated fund to the Western Tidewater Food Bank earmarked for the Backpack program.
- ❖ The body voted to install Ring security cameras at the church with the money, not to exceed \$1500.00, coming from miscellaneous line in the church budget.
- ❖ Voted to give the bid to Calvin Barnes to repair the plaster and paint the sanctuary with money coming from the Vaughan Memorial Fund.
- ❖ Van disability access add-ons are being investigated.
- ❖ Received the Audit Report.
- ❖ Learned that new microphones had been ordered for the choir, and a new speaker for the back of the church is being considered.
- ❖ Approved the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee to fill seats left vacant by Sam Moon's death and to replace Camp Funds trustees.
- ❖ Tracey appointed Holly Giles to the Nominating Committee to begin serving immediately.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS



Easter Basket Packing



B & G Workday



Seder Meal

*Easter Sunday
Flowered Cross*



MAY 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion 	5 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm	6 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 am	7 Family Night Schedule	8	9	10
11 Sunday Morning Schedule 	12	13 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 am	14 Family Night Schedule	15	16	17
18 Sunday Morning Schedule VBS Kick-Off Lunch & Meeting 11:15 am	19	20 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 am WOM 6:30 pm	21 	22	23	24
25 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 am Sunday Morning Schedule	26 	27 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 am	28 Family Night Schedule	29	30	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 and Children in Action: 6:45
Adult Choir: 7:45

CONTACT INFORMATION
Church website: sycamorebaptist.org
Secretary's email: secretary@sycamorebaptist.org

Rev. Tracey Pugh, Pastor
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Articles for the June Newsletter are due to Patsy Falls no later than May 25.