



MAY 2026 | VOL. XX NO. 5

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS

PASTOR
REV. DR. TRACEY PUGH

DEACON OF THE MONTH
DEBBIE OLIVER

FROM EMPTY TOMB TO UPPER ROOM: EASTERTIDE SERMON SERIES

FROM THE PASTOR

Easter is more than a single Sunday celebration. It is a season in which the church learns again what the resurrection of Jesus means for real life. That is the heart behind our current sermon series, From Empty Tomb to Upper Room.

In this series, we are following the risen Christ from the joy of Easter morning to the power of Pentecost. Along the way, we see that resurrection is not only an event to remember, but a new life to receive. Jesus meets his followers in grief, fear, doubt, disappointment, failure, and waiting—and in every moment he is forming them into a hopeful, faithful, Spirit-filled people.

In case you missed the first few weeks, we began at the empty tomb, where Mary encountered the risen Christ and was called by name. From there, we moved into the locked room, where Jesus came to fearful disciples and spoke peace over them. Most recently, we have been in John 20:24–29, where Thomas reminds us that Jesus is not threatened by honest doubt. In that powerful story, Thomas moves from demand to devotion, from questioning to confession, and finally to the words, “My Lord and my God!”

In the weeks ahead, we will continue on this journey with the risen Christ. We will walk the Emmaus road, where discouraged disciples discover that Jesus has been with them all along. We will stand beside the fire with Peter, where failure is met by restoring grace. We will wait in the upper room with the early church, learning that waiting is not wasted time when it is filled with prayer and promise. And finally, on Pentecost, we will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers the church for witness in the world.

My hope is that this series will help us all see that the resurrection speaks into every part of life. It speaks to our sorrow with hope, to our fear with peace, to our doubt with grace, and to our calling with power.

Each week, we continue this journey from the empty tomb to the upper room, trusting that the risen Jesus is still meeting his people, still speaking peace, and still calling us to follow him.

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Extending Christ's love through service and generosity to those in need around the world.

BROTHERHOOD: WORLD HUNGER

Join us in fighting hunger through our rice bowl collection. Each rice bowl represents meals for families in need.

Rice bowls will be available throughout the church for you to take home to place loose change in as a reminder to support this mission.

If you prefer to write a check, please put "World Hunger" on the memo line.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity both locally and globally.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It's time to start collecting items for our shoebox ministry! We're gathering supplies to bring joy to children around the world this Christmas season.

Collection for this month:

Fishing Kits - hooks, line, bait, bobbers, etc.

Sewing Kits - thread, needles, thimbles, buttons, scissors, etc.

Tool Kits - small hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, etc.



Please remember that these items must fit in a shoebox. A collection container will be in the fellowship hall.

We plan to have a packing party at the end of the year, but if you would like to pack your own box throughout the year, you are more than welcome to do so. Please let us know, and we will make sure you get a box as soon as we have them.

If you have any questions, please see one of us. Thank you in advance for all of your help and participation.

Janet Bulls & Erin Harcum

HERMISSION

Time for Tea

Sunday, May 3 | 11:30 am
in the Fellowship Hall



We will be putting together care packages for caregivers this month.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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CHURCH LIFE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Time to run? Or time to step forward?

Everyone has a gift to share. The Nominating Committee will soon seek servant leaders for the church's work.

Don't run - step forward!

Committee Members:



Peggy Rush (Chair), Holly Giles,
Patsy Falls, Tricia Davis, Charlie Harcum.

WOM FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE

May 6	Covered Dish
May 13	Up and Coming
May 20	HerMission
May 27	Deacons



*If dates are unsuitable, please
trade with another group and let
Dianne Umphlett know.*

CHURCH CONFERENCE

The quarterly conference
has been rescheduled due
to a lack of quorum on
April 27.



MANY THANKS!

A huge thank you to all who had a part in making the Seder Meal a memorable experience! We had people of all ages pitching in, from 6-year-old Avery Story to some in their 80's who will not be named.

From setup, through the service and the delicious meal, to the dismantling process, it could not have run more smoothly.

Patsy Falls

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Join Pastor Tracey for fellowship.
Coffee and Conversation meets every
Tuesday from 9 am to 1030 am.

May 05: Daily Dose
May 12: StoreHouse
May 19: Daily Dose
May 26: StoreHouse



PENTECOST IS COMING



Join us for the celebration
of Pentecost on Sunday,
May 24 during worship.
Pentecost marks the
outpouring of the Holy
Spirit upon the early church
a powerful reminder that God is still
moving, empowering, and sending us
today.

We invite you to **wear red** as a
symbol of the Spirit's fire and
presence among us. Come ready to
worship, celebrate, and be renewed!

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on April
6, 2026. At that meeting, the deacons:

- Shared prayer concerns.
- Team reports were heard.
- Learned that insurance is an issue
for the van lift addition, metal
fire escape work, and the
masonry work needed for the
front steps.
- Confirmed that John Jenkins
would be presented by the
Nominating Committee and the
Deacons as a church Trustee.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders:

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

May 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday Morning Schedule HerMission 11:15 a.m.	4 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm	5 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 am	6 Family Night Schedule	7	8	9
10 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:30 a.m.	11	12 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 am	13 Family Night Schedule	14	15	16
17 Sunday Morning Schedule Conference 11:15 a.m.	18	19 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 am	20 Family Night Schedule	21	22	23
24 PENTECOST Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule		26 Coffee & Conversation Storehouse 9-10:30 am	27 Family Night Schedule	28	29	30
31 Sunday Morning Schedule						

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

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Office House: Tues-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm and as needed