

# SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor  
Rev. Tracey Pugh

Deacon of the Month  
Charlie Harcum

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## GIVING THANKS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Greetings Friends,

As we once again move toward the Holiday Season, which includes Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then New Year's Day, I want to take just a moment to encourage you to pause and consider just how good God has been to you over this past year.

While there have been many challenges for us and the world over the past year, God is still good! We are reminded of the fragility of life, that we all face ups and downs, and that we should do our best to value our loved ones, love our neighbors, and love God.

I believe and am trying to practice that the Holiday Season doesn't need to be filled with stress and anxiety when we realize the purpose of celebrating these wonderful times of the year... and the new year!

November reminds us that thankfulness is truly the kind of spirit we are to have. This thankfulness will be more meaningful when we are thankful to those around us and to our God above us.

Here's a beautiful verse of scripture on thankfulness from 1Chronicles 29:13 (MSG):

*13 And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you, praising your splendid Name.*

I encourage you to focus on this spirit of thanksgiving in advance of all these Holidays, and I really believe God will give you a tremendous appreciation for the Christ of Christmas. More than the “tinsel and the toys” and more than the “bustle and the noise” is the realization that Jesus came to earth over 2000 years ago for you and me to know the blessed gift of Salvation!

Then, when these special days are over, take a week to reflect on the events of this past year and determine your goals for the new year ahead.

Here is a beautiful scripture in anticipation of the New Year: Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

*13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

Press on! This walk with the Lord speaks of tenacity and resolve, yet the same God who has helped you make it through this year in victory will also help you in the year ahead!

So, get out there, don't stress, and enjoy the Holiday Season, realizing the gift that it is to us.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Tracey*

## THIS WEEK

### TIME CHANGE



**November 3  
at 2:00 am.**

### CHURCH CONFERENCE

The quarterly church conference will be held on Sunday, November 3, immediately after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

### ANGELS WITH ANN

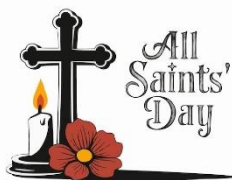


On Sunday, November 3, Ann Crane will teach us how to make angels from yarn. This hands-on mission project will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with a light supper to follow. Men, women, and children/grandchildren are encouraged to participate. The angels will be given to various projects as a reminder of God's love and Jesus's birth.

## WORSHIP EXTRAS

### NOVEMBER 3 WORSHIP

#### All Saints' Remembrance



All Saint's Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, Halloween, or the Feast of All Saints in the Christian church, is a day to remember the saints who have passed on to heaven. During worship, we will read the names of our church members who have passed away since this day last year and light a candle in their memory.

Additional candles will be available for congregants to light in memory of others in their lives. We will also celebrate communion during this service.

## THANKSGIVING MEAL & SERVICE

The Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, November 24, at 6 p.m. A covered dish meal will be served before the service at 5:00 p.m.



Join us as we fellowship and give thanks to God in worship.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



We are continuing to collect specific items needed for the meal each month. In November, we will collect **turkeys, frozen pies,** or monetary donations to purchase the necessary items. We also need folks to help pack groceries and distribute meals to local families on our pick-up day.



#### Packing Night: Wednesday, November 20

Following Family Night Dinner, we will pack groceries in bags for our Meal Pick-Up Day.

#### Pick Up Day: Saturday, November 23

Help is needed to check names, distribute turkeys, pies, grocery bags, and direct cars as families pick up their meals from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Delivery drivers may also be needed. To get involved, add your name to the Fellowship Hall list or contact Tricia Davis.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**NOVEMBER 20th**

After packing Thanksgiving meals, we will have an OCC shoebox packing party with the items we have received over the past few months. Once filled, boxes will be delivered to our drop-off location the following week.

If you have any questions, please ask Erin Harcum or Janet Bulls. Thank you!

### **WE DID IT! WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL OF 25 BUCKETS!**

Thank you to all who donated to the Flood Bucket mission through the BGAV for Hurricane Relief. A



special thank you to NAPA for donating 20 buckets and to Lowe's for their generosity in allowing us to purchase items for the buckets at cost. That was huge savings, and once we have our 25+ buckets complete, we will have money remaining to purchase even more!

Fill the bucket night will be November 6, right after supper.

The Deacons and Pastor Tracey

## 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:



November 5	Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.
November 12	No Coffee & Convo
November 19	Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.
November 26	Storehouse 9–10:30 a.m.

Pastor Tracey

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



### **Sycamore Sends**

Do you know someone who could use some sunshine in their mailbox? Let a member of Community Connections know, and we'll send a little ray of hope and encouragement.

What about a hot meal? Meals are delivered on Wednesday evenings to members, neighbors, and friends. To ensure delivery on Wednesday, add names to the delivery list or let a Community Connections team member know by Monday.

### **Halloween Trunk or Treat**

Members of Community Connections participated in the community Trunk or Treat held at So-Co Gatherings. The event was well organized and welcomed about 383 children and 313 adults. Attendance far exceeded the organizers' expectations. Our team gave out 200 treat bags, 140 church information cards, and many candy bars.



## FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

If the assigned dates are unsuitable for your class or group, please trade with another group and let Dianne Umphlett know.

November 6	Men's Discipleship
November 13	Youth
November 20	WOM
November 27	No Family Night

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### POINSETTIAS



Add to the beauty of our sanctuary during the Christmas Season by purchasing a poinsettia in a person's honor or memory. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on December 3 and may be picked up after the worship service on December 22.

**Cost:** \$15.00 **Order Deadline:** Nov 26

Note: Poinsettias will be **red** this year.

Money is due at the time of your order. Make checks payable to the church. Include with your order who you are honoring or memorializing. Forms may be found in the vestibule or by the organ. Contact Tracey Pugh if you have any questions.

#### HANGING OF THE GREENS

We will decorate the church for the Christmas Season at the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, December 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. If you have never participated in decorating the church for the Christmas Season, join us, and you will get into the Spirit of Christmas.



#### COMMUNITY LIVING NATIVITY

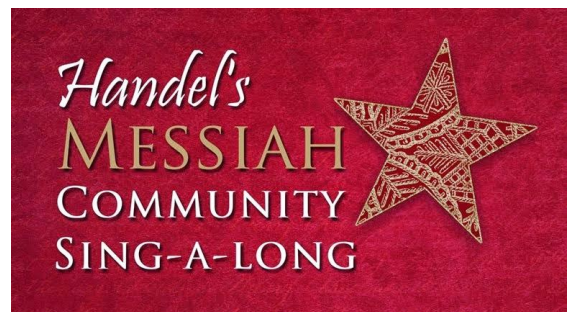
The Living Nativity, a free drive-through event for the community, is back this year at Barrett's Landing, and Sycamore is happy to be a part of it again for the fourth year.

We need help setting up and taking down our scene on Wednesday, December 11, and Friday, December 13.

We need people to play Joseph and an Angel for all three nights from 5:30 to 7:00. Don't wait to say yes and serve the community.

Sign up now in the fellowship hall to participate in this moving experience.

#### COMMUNITY MESSIAH SING-ALONG



Franklin Baptist Church is sponsoring a Community Messiah Sing-along. This event, featuring an organ and orchestra, is open to the public.

Rehearsals will be on December 3 and 10 at 7:00 p.m. and the performance on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. Come and sing or listen to enjoy and celebrate this music as a community. Bring your own score, or one will be provided.

Contact Jeremy Poplin, Associate Pastor/Music at Franklin Baptist Church, for more information. 757-562-5135

## DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on Monday, October 7. At that time, the following was heard or discussed.

- Prayer concerns were heard, and committees made reports.
- New lists will be put up for the congregation to sign up to serve on a Deacon Team.
- Disaster relief—The BGAV suggested providing Flood Buckets. A goal of 25 buckets was set. Monetary donations will be received, as needed items are more economical to buy in bulk. Tracey will investigate Sycamore as a receiving site for the local community. The cost to complete a bucket would be \$65.
- It was reported that the sound board had died, and we will be using the old one while estimates or look into for a new system.

The deacon of the month is Charlie Harcum.

Peggy D. Rush

## DEACON LED TEAM MINISTRIES

What are Deacon-Led Team Ministries? First, they are areas of ministry identified as needs of the church body. Second, they are led by deacons. Third, they are teams of service-oriented church members who are led through their gifts to be part of a team.

Why a **TEAM**? Because:

**Together Everyone Achieves More!**

Find your talent, gift, or passion and unite with others serving the Lord and your fellow man.



**Are you a prayer warrior?**

Join the **Prayer Team!** Many requests are received from both members and community residents through our Prayer Box and online. Contact Charlie Harcum to join this team.

**Do you love to travel?**



Join the **Transportation Team!** People need rides to church or doctor's appointments. Or they may need someone to pick up prescriptions or groceries. Contact Terry McPherson or Charlie Daughtrey if this is a service you can provide. It is okay to limit your services to the local area.

**Do you enjoy cooking? Or do you have a favorite place to buy prepared food?**



**Join the Casserole Team!** Families experiencing a death in the family, sickness, or any upheaval in their lives need nourishment and the awareness that someone cares enough to feed their bodies and their souls. Contact Holly Giles if this is among your gifts.

**Do you have compassion?**



**Join the Bereavement Team!**

When families gather after the death of a loved one, our bereavement box provides items that people may not have an adequate supply of in their homes. And personal contact can mean so much to those who are grieving. Contact Ronnie Bulls if you'd like to join this team and show your care and concern to a family during a crisis.

**Do you like to visit people?**



**Join the Hospital and Homebound Team!**

Homebound people in retirement homes or the hospital often feel isolated. A visit, phone call, or card can brighten their day. Give Joey Francis a call if this is a way you'd like to serve.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on October 20. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned the average Sunday School attendance for September was 33.
- Noted Thanksgiving Meals and Operation Child Shoeboxes will be packed on Wednesday, November 20.
- Was informed that the Brotherhood is working on plans to build a ramp at the parsonage.
- Learned that the soundboard is now working.
- Noted the Thanksgiving Meal and Service will be on November 24.
- Learned Hanging of the Greens will be on Wednesday, December 4.
- Noted the Christmas Cantata will be on December 15.
- Celebrated that we have exceeded our goal of 25 Flood Buckets and that the filling of the buckets will be on November 6.

Patsy Falls

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

### WOM Delivers School Supplies to Riverdale Elementary School

Dianne Umphlett delivered a carload of school supplies collected in August.



## Baptism Renewal Service



The first Baptism Renewal Service was held. Thirteen people came forward to renew their baptism vows, and all were anointed with oil.

## 3rd Annual Sycamore Summit

Team and Committee leaders gathered at StoreHouse Coffee to discuss Sycamore's ministry blueprint. It was a time of team building, learning, and exploring together.



# Annual Worship and Church Picnic Bronco Club



# NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Conference Angels with Ann 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.</b>	4	<b>5</b> <b>Election Day Coffee &amp; Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm.</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Family Night Flood Bucket Pack Night</b>	7	8	9
<b>10</b> <b>Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Veterans Day</b>	12	<b>13</b> <b>Family Night</b>	14	15	16
<b>17</b> <b>Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.</b>	18	<b>19</b> <b>Coffee &amp; Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m. WOM 6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Family Night Pack Night for Thanksgiving Meal Ministry And OCC Boxes</b>	21	22	<b>23</b> <b>Pick Up For Thanksgiving Meal Ministry 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Sunday Morning Sch Covered Dish 5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Service 6:00 p.m.</b>	25	<b>26</b> <b>Coffee &amp; Conversation 9-10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>27</b> <b>No Family Night</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>	29	30

**SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE**

(unless otherwise noted on the calendar)  
 Sunday School 9:00 am. | Worship 10:00 am.

**\*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: [www.sycamorebaptist.org](http://www.sycamorebaptist.org)  
 Church phone: 757-562-6749  
 Rev. Pugh's email: [pastor@sycamorebaptist.org](mailto:pastor@sycamorebaptist.org)  
 Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 9537930  
 Office Hours: 8:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday and as needed by appointment

