

SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLXI, No. 11

Deacon of the Month
Charlie Harcum
November 2025

A Season of Gratitude

Dear Church Family,

As we step into this season of giving thanks, my heart is overflowing with gratitude—for you, for the ministry we share, and for the goodness of God that continues to shine through the life of our congregation. The psalmist writes, *“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever”* (Psalm 107:1). Truly, I see that steadfast love reflected in the life of this church and in each of you.

This time of year, naturally, turns our hearts toward thanksgiving, but as I look back over the past year, I realize that gratitude has been the quiet rhythm beneath everything we’ve done together. In times of celebration and in seasons of challenge, God’s presence has carried us. I see His hand at work in the laughter that fills our fellowship hall, in the gentle care you show when someone is hurting or sick, and in the faithful service that keeps our ministries strong and vibrant. I see Christ’s love alive in your willingness to pray, to serve, to give, and to go wherever He leads.

On a personal note, I want to thank you for all the ways you bless me and my family throughout the year. Your prayers, notes, meals, hugs, and words of encouragement have been a steady source of strength. You have walked beside us through both joyful and difficult seasons, and your kindness continually reminds us that we are part of something sacred—a family of faith bound together by grace. Like the Apostle Paul, I can say with confidence, *“I thank my God every time I remember you”* (Philippians 1:3).

As we move through this season of gratitude, may we be intentional about noticing God’s goodness in both the big and small moments—in answered prayers and in quiet mercies, in new beginnings and in everyday routines. The Apostle Paul reminds us, *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude isn’t limited to one season; it is a way of life shaped by the awareness that God is with us and for us in all things. I can’t think of a better way to prepare for the coming season of Advent.

Let’s give thanks together for all that God has done, all that God is doing, and all that God will yet do among us. May our hearts be filled with praise, our hands with generosity, and our lives with the light of Christ.

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

*Local, Global,
And Everything in Between*



We are continuing to collect specific items needed for the meal each month. This month, we

will collect **turkeys, frozen pies,** or monetary donations to purchase the necessary items. **NOTE: If you plan to bring in a turkey or a frozen pie, please sign up on the list available in the fellowship hall** so we can track our numbers and ensure we have what we need for delivery day.



Pack Night: Wednesday, November 19

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

Pick Up Day: Saturday, November 22

Help is needed to check names, distribute turkeys, pies, and 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 list in the Fellowship Hall or contact Tricia Davis.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

After packing Thanksgiving meals on November 19, Sycamore will have an OCC shoebox pack party with the items we received.



All boxes will be delivered to our drop-off location the following week.

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

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Thank you to everyone who helped with the recent Trunk or Treat community event. The event was a success, and we were glad to be out in the community.

As the season of giving approaches, Community Connections is exploring potential avenues for this year's Angel Tree ministry, which aims to support children and seniors in our community.

We're currently coordinating with local partners to identify needs and finalize logistics.

We hope to have simple, meaningful ways for the whole church family to participate. Be ready, though, as the timeline is always short and the turnaround is quick.

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 sixth year.

Help is needed to set up and take down our scene on Wednesday, December 17, and Friday, December 19, respectively.

We also need two people each night to play Joseph and an Angel (non-speaking roles) for all three nights (Dec 17-19) from 5:30 to 7:00. Don't wait to say yes and serve the community and share the Christmas story!

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

CHURCH LIFE

NOVEMBER 2 WORSHIP



All Saints' Remembrance

All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or the Feast of All Saints, is a day in the Christian church to remember the saints who have passed into heaven.

We will have a service of remembrance during worship, reading the names of our church members who have passed away since this day last year and lighting a candle in their memory. Additional candles will be available for congregants to light in memory of loved ones.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE & FRIENDSGIVING MEAL



Our Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, Nov 23, during our regular morning worship.

A Friendsgiving covered-dish Fellowship Meal will be enjoyed immediately after worship. Join us as we fellowship together and give thanks to God in worship.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

We will incorporate the Hanging of the Greens into the worship service on Sunday, November 30, 2025. This is a beautiful and meaningful service which reminds us of the symbolic decorations that adorn our church and will enhance the joy felt throughout the season of Advent.



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community. 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 4	Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.
November 11	Storehouse 9–10:30 a.m.
November 18	Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.
November 25	Storehouse 9–10:30 a.m.

Pastor Tracey

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

This month's supper schedule is below. If the assigned dates are unsuitable for your class or group, please trade with another group and let Dianne Umphlett know about the change.

November 5	Up & Coming/Discussion
November 12	HerMission
November 19	Deacons
November 26	No Family Night

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 November 30 and may be picked up after the worship service on December 21.

The cost for each is \$16.00, and the deadline to submit your order is Sunday, November 23. Please include money with your order form. Checks should be made payable to the church with the memo "Poinsettia."

Include with your order who you are honoring or memorializing. Forms may be found in the vestibule or by the organ. Contact Tracey Pugh, Deb Jenkins, Wanda Cotton, or Dawn Mosena if you have any questions.



Every Sunday, as the congregation gathers for worship, a special group quietly serves in our church nursery. These dedicated individuals care for our youngest friends by creating a safe, nurturing environment where children can play, learn, and grow in their faith. Their commitment ensures that parents can participate fully in church services, confident that their little ones are in loving hands.

The Nursery Committee is seeking additional support for this key ministry. Anyone aged 16 and older who loves children and is willing to serve with a joyful heart is welcome. The more people we have, the less often each person will have to serve.

If you feel called to serve, please get in touch with Robin Davis, Nursery Chair.

Let's work together to bless our families and nurture the next generation. Thank you for prayerfully considering this vital ministry opportunity.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



TIME CHANGE
November 2
2:00 am.

DEACON REPORT

The deacons met on Monday, October 6. At that time, the following was heard or discussed.

- Prayer concerns were heard.
- Team reports were presented.
- Received copies of special funds conditions.
- Chose deacon team leaders.
- Learned that a new desk and chair had been purchased for the secretary's office as well as a new chair for the pastor's office, with money coming from George Burgess, Jr.'s memorial fund.

The next meeting is on November 3, and Charlie Harcum is the deacon of the month for November.

2025-2026 Deacon Team Leaders

Transportation: Terry McPherson

Bereavement: John Jenkins

Casserole: Debbie Oliver

Hospital/Homebound: Joey Francis

Prayer: Charlie Harcum

CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT

The regular quarterly business meeting was held on Sunday, October 26. The following was presented or discussed.

- All financial reports were presented and received as printed.
- The average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 39.
- A children's time has been added to the worship service.
- The Thanksgiving service and the Hanging of the Greens will both be incorporated into Sunday worship services. (See articles concerning this in this newsletter.)
- Reports were received on HerMission, Brotherhood, and Community Connections activities.
- The new HVAC system has been installed at the parsonage.
- Work continues on the sanctuary roof leak, fire escape repairs, cameras, and van handicap accessibility.
- The next conference date is January 25.

NOVEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 Sunday Morning Schedule HerMission Meeting and Lunch 11:30	3 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm.	4 Election Day Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m	5 Family Night	6	7	8
9 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	10	11 Veterans Day Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9-10:30 a.m.	12 Family Night	13	14	15
16 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m.	17	18 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30 a.m.	19 Family Night Pack Night for Thanksgiving Meal Ministry And OCC	20	21	22 Pick Up For Thanksgiving Meal Ministry 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
23 Sunday Morning Schedule Covered Dish 11:30 a.m.	24	25 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9-10:30 a.m.	26 No Family Night	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 Sunday Morning Schedule						

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
Church website: www.sycamorebaptist.org
Church phone: 757-562-6749
Rev. Pugh's email: pastor@sycamorebaptist.org
Rev. Pugh's cell phone: 1 (434) 9537930
Office Hours: 9:00-4:00 Monday-Friday or as needed by appointment

