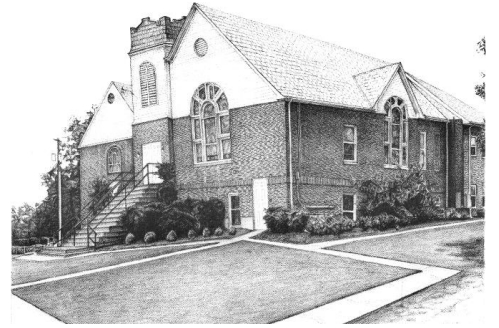


SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS



31120 Sycamore Church Road
Franklin, VA 23851
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Pastor
Rev. Tracey Pugh
Vol. XLIX, No. 11

Deacon of the Month
Peggy Rush
November 2023

BE THANKFUL

Thanksgiving Greetings,

God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!

While a statement like that may sound a bit “cliche,” we must realize it's true! Much of the world considers Thanksgiving as another excuse to cook a great meal, throw a party, or watch football all day. We, as believers, know it goes far deeper than that.

Moreover, we know that Thanksgiving is not just a “day” but a mindset. The Bible shares many scriptures on the importance of being thankful, giving thanks, and even entering times of worship WITH thanksgiving.

*“⁴Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful to Him and bless His name.” Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)*

The Psalmist was clear that one of the best ways to enter God's presence is with a thankful heart. When we are grateful, we are also mindful that the blessings we experience are not the result of our works and giftings alone. We depend on a mighty God who provides and guides us.

One of the very first lessons we, as parents and grandparents, teach our children is the importance of being thankful. I have no doubt God, our Heavenly Father, takes great joy in hearing words of thanks from the grateful hearts of His children.

*“¹⁸In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)*

The Apostle Paul told the early church that giving thanks “in everything” we may go through was essential. Although there are many things we may find challenging to be thankful “for,” such as the death of a loved one, a scary diagnosis, job loss, and so on, we CAN be thankful “in” those circumstances, knowing that God will help us through the journey.

These past few years have been a challenge for all of us, and things are different these days, but I would encourage you to ask the Lord to help you be thankful. Consider specific things or people you are grateful for, and thank the Lord for his provision and those folks in your life. Let others know you are thankful for them; a word of thanks feels good to give and receive.

I hope many of you will consider joining me on Sunday, November 19, at 5:45 p.m. for dinner and following at 7 p.m. for a service of Thanksgiving and Praise!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Tracey



NOVEMBER 5 WORSHIP



**ALL
SAINTS'
DAY**
NOVEMBER 5

All Saints' Remembrance

All Saint's Day, also called All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or Feast of All Saints in the Christian church, is a day to remember the saints who have passed on to heaven. We will have a service of remembrance during worship by reading the names of our church members who have passed away since last year and lighting a candle in their memory. Additional candles will be available for congregants to light in memory of others in their lives.

HANGING OF THE GREENS



We will decorate the church for the Christmas Season at the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 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.

THANKSGIVING MEAL AND SERVICE



The Thanksgiving service will be held on Sunday, November 19, at 7 p.m. A covered dish meal will be enjoyed before the service at 5:45 p.m. Join us as we fellowship and give thanks to God in worship.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 15th! After packing Thanksgiving meals, Sycamore will have an OCC shoebox packing party with our received items. All boxes will be taken to our drop-off location on November 20th after church.

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



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



Packing Night: Wednesday, November 15
Following Family Night Dinner, we will pack groceries in bags for our Meal Pick-Up Day.

Pick Up Day: Saturday, November 18
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. - 1:00 p.m.

Delivery drivers may be needed as well.

To get involved and serve our community, add your name to the list in the Fellowship Hall or contact Tricia Davis.

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 29 and may be picked up after the worship service on December 24. The cost is \$17.00, and the deadline to order is Sunday, November 26. Money is due at the time of your order. Please make checks payable to the church and include who you are honoring or memorializing with your order. Forms may be found in the vestibule or by the organ. Contact Penny Mobley if you have any questions.

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 2	Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.
November 9	Hubs Vine 10–11:30 a.m.
November 16	Daily Dose 9–10:30 a.m.
November 23	Thanksgiving
November 30	Hubs Vine 10–11:30 a.m.

Pastor Tracey

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 about the change.

November 1	Covered Dish
November 8	Staff
November 15	Men's Discipleship
November 22	No Family Night
November 29	Youth

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Backpack Mission

The church agreed to fund 50 Backpacks twice a month through the Foodbank of Southeast VA to Riverdale Elementary School. These backpacks provide food to children who have food insecurities. Community Connections is challenging your family, study group, Sunday school class, or other group to commit to sponsoring one child at \$110.00 for the year. Gifts to this mission can be in full or partial sponsorship throughout the school year. Please mark your check or envelope as "Backpack." Let's work together to fund this mission!

Sycamore Sends

Cards are being sent to members, visitors, and families needing sunshine & love. Cards are available in the fellowship hall.

Meals are being delivered on Wednesday evenings to members, neighbors, and friends in need. Add names to the delivery list or tell a Community Connections team member by Monday to ensure delivery on Wednesday.

Franklin Parade

Sign up to serve with planning, construction, and participation in the parade on December 1. There are plenty of opportunities to help make this a success!

Together, we are the hands and feet in our community !!

Holly Giles, Joey Francis,
Erin Harcum, Sharon Moore,
Jimmy & Lou Vann, Tammy Woods

DEACON REPORT

The Deacon's meeting was held on October 2, 2023. The following was discussed:

- The deacon team ministry plan was reviewed. Church members are encouraged to join one or more of the Deacon Led Team Ministries as they feel called.
- Communion will be held on Nov. 5.
- The annual deacon dinner is scheduled for Nov. 12 at Smithfield Inn.

The next deacon meeting is scheduled for November 6.

The Deacon of the month for November is Peggy Rush.

Deacon Ministry Team Leaders

- Bereavement – Ronnie Bulls
- Casserole- Holly Giles
- Hospital/Homebound – TBD
- Prayer – Tricia Davis
- Transportation – John Holland

Tricia Davis

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 church members who are led through their individual gifts to be a part of a team. Why a Team? Because:

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More!

Find your talent, gift, or passion and unite with others in service to the Lord!



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 Tricia Davis to join this team.



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 John Holland 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. 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? **Join the Hospital/Homebound Team!** People who are homebound, 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.



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 folks to help set up our scene on Wednesday, December 13, and to take our scene down on Friday, December 15. Help is also needed to be in the scene for three nights, December 15-17, from 5:30-7:00 each night. Don't wait; please sign up now in the fellowship hall to be a part of this moving experience that reaches out to our community.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on October 22. In that meeting, the council:

- Learned average Sunday School Attendance for September was 35.
- Noted Thanksgiving Meals and Operation Child Shoeboxes will be packed on Wednesday, November 15.
- Was informed that the Brotherhood is working on plans to fix up the playground.
- Decided we will participate in the community nativity.
- Noted the Thanksgiving Meal and Service will be on November 19.
- Learned Hanging of the Greens will be on Wednesday, November 29.
- Noted the Christmas Cantata will be on December 17.

Tricia Davis

CONFERENCE REPORT

The church held its quarterly business meeting on Sunday, October 29, 2023. In that meeting, the church:

- Received written financial reports and committee reports;
- Learned that the average Sunday School attendance for the quarter was 37 and that the Discussion Class and the Up and Coming Class had combined;
- Was informed that the Trustees had placed flowers in the church for Pastor Appreciation Sunday;
- Learned that the elevator and fire extinguishers had been inspected;
- Heard from Building and Grounds that a bid was soon to be received from Andrews Roofing for roof repair;
- Was informed that security measures were being increased with the presence of someone in the parking lot during events at church and that adding security cameras was being considered;
- Set a date for the next conference for January 28, 2024.

Patsy Falls, Clerk

TIME CHANGE

November 5 at 2:00 am.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	1 Family Night	2 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30	3	4 Bible Adventures 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.
5 Sunday Morning Schedule Communion Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm.	7 Election Day	8 Family Night	9 Coffee & Conversation The Vine 10-11:30	10	11 Veterans Day
12 Sunday Morning Schedule Community Connections 11:15 a.m.	13	14 WOM 6:30 p.m.	15 Family Night Pack Night for Thanksgiving Meal Ministry And OCC Boxes	16 Coffee & Conversation Daily Dose 9-10:30	17	18 Pick Up For Thanksgiving Meal Ministry 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
19 Sunday Morning Schedule Church Council 11:15 a.m. Covered Dish 5:45 p.m. Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22 No Family Night	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Sunday Morning Schedule	27	28	29 Family Night Meal Hanging of the Greens 7:00 pm.	30 Coffee & Conversation The Vine 10-11:30		

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
 World Changers 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: 434.953.7930
 Office Hours: 8:00-4:00 Monday-Friday and as needed by appointment

