



SYCAMORE HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2026
VOL. LII, NO. 10

PASTOR

REV. DR. TRACEY PUGH

DEACON OF THE MONTH

DEBBIE OLIVER

SEASON OF SERVICE & CONNECTION

October has a way of reminding us that change is part of life. The air turns cooler, the days grow shorter, and the trees begin to let go of their leaves. Some changes are welcome. Others leave us uncertain about what comes next. Ecclesiastes reminds us, “For everything there is a season” (3:1). Whatever this season holds for us, God is present in it.

In our current sermon series, Things Jesus Never Said, we are taking a fresh look at familiar phrases that sound comforting but do not always hold up when life is hard. “God helps those who help themselves” can make us feel as though we must earn God’s care. “God won’t give you more than you can handle” can leave us feeling alone when we are overwhelmed.

Scripture offers us something more honest and more hopeful: God meets us with grace, and we are given one another to help carry what is heavy. As Paul writes, “Bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

We have opportunities to put those words into practice this month. At Worship by the River, we will gather around God’s Word, witness baptism, come to the table of the Lord, and share a meal. At Sycamore Summit, we will listen and dream together about the future of our church. At the community Trunk or Treat, we can connect with our neighbors, and the Thanksgiving meal ministry affords the opportunity to come together in service. Whether you bring a covered dish, join a conversation, decorate a trunk, or greet a family, you have a part in showing others that they are welcome and seen.

The season ahead may bring change and even some challenges as our calendars fill up and move us toward the holidays. May we all listen for Christ’s voice, make room for one another, and trust God to guide us together. As the leaves turn this month, I invite you to notice where God’s grace is meeting you—and where you might share it.

With gratitude,

Pastor Tracey



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

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



HerMission will meet at 11:15 a.m. on October 11 in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served. Join us as we strive to live a missional lifestyle, finding missional opportunities and supporting others in their mission work.



JOY RISING GETAWAY WEEKEND

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

-John 15:11

Calling all women! Join us at Eagle Eyrie to step away from the everyday and draw closer to God.

Come experience powerful worship services, practical breakout sessions, and meaningful community with other women. This year is extra special because our very own, the one and only Rev. Dr. Tracey Pugh, will be leading one of the breakout sessions on joy.

Learn more at onhermission.org/getaway.

Make plans now to be refreshed, inspired, and renewed on November 6-7.

Contact Patsy Falls for more information and to register if you wish to attend.



OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS:

This fall, Sycamore will again have the opportunity to share God's blessings by providing Thanksgiving dinners for area families who could use a little extra help.

Working together, we will collect, organize, and pack food for complete Thanksgiving dinners and distribute them to families in our immediate community.

We are continuing to collect specific items each month needed for the meal. This month, we will collect green beans (50 oz. can), cranberry sauce (can), and dressing (boxed).



Next month, we will collect turkeys and frozen pies. We will also come together to organize, pack, and distribute meals.

Stay tuned for additional details and dates. We look forward to the entire church working together to serve our community this Thanksgiving season as we give thanks while giving to others.



HerMission making foster care blankets.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES CONT...



Community Connections will finish cards of appreciation going to Riverdale and Capron Elementary educators. Please take a minute to sign some of them; they are on the back table in the fellowship hall

Community Connections is gearing up for Trunk or Treat at SoCo Gatherings on Friday, October 23 from 5:30-7:30.

Let someone from Community Connections know if you are interested in helping at the event.

We will be getting names for Angel Tree in no time. We have committed to Senior Adults from Courtland Health Care and are looking to get children’s names from Southampton Social Services too.

- 2026-27 Committee Members
- Ronnie Bulls, Chair
- Janet Bulls, Joey Francis
- Holly Giles
- Lou Vann & Jimmy Vann

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER SCHEDULE

The fellowship we share during Wednesday Family Night Supper is one of the week's highlights. Here are this month’s cooks:

Oct 7	Men’s Discipleship Group
Oct 14	Children’s Group
Oct 21	Up & Coming/Discussion
Oct 28	Covered Dish

A reminder to all about Family Night meals.

- Sign up if you are coming!
- Cancel if you are not!
- Meals are \$5.00 per person or \$12.00 for a family of three or more.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Fall is here and we are coming to a close of this OCC collection year.



As our last collection of this year, we are asking for you to donate personal care items. This may include wash cloths, toothbrushes, adhesive bandages, combs, and hairbrushes. Please do NOT donate any toothpaste, soaps, lotions, or hand sanitizer as we cannot send these items.

A collection container marked for Operation Christmas Child will be in the Fellowship Hall.

We plan on having a packing party next month, but if you would like to pack your own box, you are more than welcome.

Just let us know and we will get a box to you. If you have any questions, please see one of us. Thank you in advance for all your help and participation.

Erin Harcum & Janet Bulls



John Jenkins rings the church bell for Bells Across America day.

CHURCH LIFE & INFORMATION

WORSHIP BY THE WATER

Fall Fellowship & Picnic

 **Sunday, Oct. 4 • 11:00 AM**

 **Bronco Rod & Reel Club**

 **Bring: Lawn Chair & Covered Dish**

**Hosted by Sycamore Baptist Church
Franklin, VA**



A Few Notes About the Day:

- There will be no Sunday School on Oct 4.
- The Deacon Team will provide fried chicken for the potluck picnic lunch. Bring a friend, games, a fishing pole or two, and have a swinging good time on the traditional Bronco Club swings!
- In case of inclement weather the event will be held at the church.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Everyone who serves at Sycamore—or would like to—is invited to Sycamore Summit on Sunday, October 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at StoreHouse. Brunch will be served when you arrive.

We'll enjoy time together, strengthen our teamwork, celebrate what is going well, and share ideas for the future of our church. Come ready to connect, dream, and discover where you might serve!

SYCAMORE SUMMIT

SERVING TOGETHER

Remembering Where We've Been
Discerning Where God Is Leading

 **SUNDAY, OCT 18**

 **11:30 AM–3:30 PM**

 **STOREHOUSE**

 *Brunch served upon arrival*

 *Anyone who serves—or is interested in serving—is welcome.*



Sycamore Baptist Church

Sign up by October 15 so we have enough materials and food. You can text PTracey, call or email the church office, or preferably, go to the following link: <https://forms.gle/gHc8zRh5rVD1ad5S9>



CONTACT INFORMATION

31120 Sycamore Church Rd
Franklin, VA 23851
757.562.6749
www.sycamorebaptist.org

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

I very much enjoy my coffee in the mornings, and I love being out in the community.



Join me every Tuesday from 9:00 -10:30 a.m. at StoreHouse for a cup of coffee and some conversation.

There will not be C & C on October 14.

KEYS & CODES



Please remember to turn in your church key if you are going off of a committee as the chairperson.

Your door code will also be deleted at that time. Peggy Rush is the “keeper of the keys,” so you will need to see her if you need another key. A new request form will need to be completed and submitted.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

Conference is scheduled for October 25. Mark your calendars and plan to be a part of the decision making of church business.

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 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 and one another. **Team sign-up sheets are on the whiteboard in the fellowship hall.**

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 Debbie Oliver 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. The personal contact can mean so much to those who are grieving. Contact John Jenkins if you'd like to be a part of this team.

Do you like to visit? Join the Hospital/Homebound Team! People who are homebound, in retirement homes, or in 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.

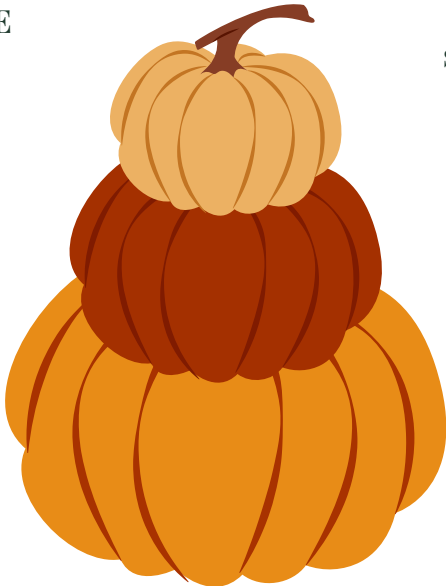


OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Worship & Picnic by the Water 11 a.m.	5 Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.	6 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00- 10:30 a.m.	7 Family Night Community Connections Mtg	8	9	10
11 Sunday Morning Schedule HerMissiom Bldg & Grounds Teller Training 11:15 a.m.	12	13	14 Family Night	15	16	17
18 Sunday Morning Schedule Sycamore Summit 11:30 a.m.	19	20 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00- 10:30 a.m.	21 Family Night	22	23	24
25 Brotherhood Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Schedule	26	27 Coffee & Conversation StoreHouse 9:00- 10:30 a.m.	28 Family Night	29	30	31

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted)
Sunday School 9:00 am.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE
(unless otherwise noted)
Meal: 5:45
Adult Study II: 6:15
Men's Bible Study: 6:45
Youth: 6:45
Mission Friends: 6:45
Children in Action: 6:45
Adult Choir: 7:45



CONTACT INFORMATION
secretary@sycamorebaptist.org
www.sycamorebaptist.org
Church Office: 757.562.6749

Rev. Dr. Tracey Pugh – Pastor
pastor@sycamorebaptist.org

Cell: 434.953.7930 (Call or Text)
Office: 757.562.6749 ext. 2

Office Hours: Mon–Fri
9 a.m. –5 p.m.
And by appointment.