



A Birthday, a Baptism, and a Question for All of Us

This Sunday is Baptism of the Lord Sunday—which means water, grace, and the reminder that God names us beloved before we ever get our act together. It also means we're baptizing Eleanor Ruth Whiddon, who has already figured out the most important part of the Christian life: showing up and being held.

This year is also a big one for our church. In 2026, Perry Methodist Church turns **200 years old**. That's two centuries of worship, prayer, potluck dinners, sermons long and short, faithful saints, imperfect people, and a whole lot of God's grace. When this church was founded, people came to worship by horseback or on foot. Today, some of us barely make it on time even with heated seats and GPS.

Anniversaries like this raise a question—not just *where have we been?* but *where is God leading us now?*

Jesus' baptism didn't mark the end of anything. It marked the beginning. Before he preached a sermon or healed a soul, God named him beloved—and then sent him forward. In much the same way, our 200th anniversary isn't about nostalgia or preservation. It's about faithfulness. It's about listening. It's about asking, together, what obedience looks like in this moment of our shared life.

In the weeks ahead, we'll be inviting the church into a season of prayer and fasting—not because we're in trouble, not because we're anxious, but because we want to listen well. We believe God still speaks. And we want to be a people who can hear.

So today, as we remember our baptisms and celebrate new life, consider this an invitation—not to have all the answers, but to be open. God has been faithful for 200 years. We trust God will be faithful still.

Grace and Peace,
Tom

Worship and Praise Gathering

Baptism of our Lord
January 11, 2026

Liturgical Color: White
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Rob Ray

Please register your attendance on the pads found in each pew.

Prelude

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty arr. Lloyd Larson
piano

Hymn

605 *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:13–17

Sermon

Beloved

Rev. Tom Carruth

Baptism (11:00)

Eleanor Ruth Whiddon

daughter of Heath and Kaki Whiddon

sister of Luke, Bo, and Ella Ann

Refrain: Ruthie, Ruthie, God claims you, God helps you, protects you,
and loves you, too.

We this day do all agree, a child of God you'll always be.

Refrain

We are here to say this day, that we will help you on your way. Refrain

*Hymn

189

Fairest Lord Jesus

Offering

Feel free to give as you feel led

Rob Ray

Offertory Anthem

Borning Cry
The Sanctuary Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

Refrain: I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are
old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've
begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.
Refrain

*Doxology	94	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Sermon	Sent	Rev. Carruth
*Hymn	347	<i>Spirit Song</i>
*Closing Blessing		
*Postlude	<i>Postlude on Beach Spring organ</i>	arr. Charles Callahan

*Stand as you are able

Acolyte: Sybil Wetherington 11:00
Crucifer: Jameson Applegate 11:00

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- The Altar flowers are given in honor of Eleanor Ruth on the day of her baptism by her parents Heath and Kaki Whiddon. May Ruthie always know how much God loves her.
 - The baby rosebud is given to celebrate the birth of Katherine “Kate” Grace Westmoreland who was born on December 29, 2025 to proud parents Bryce and Liz Westmoreland. Congratulations!
 - A pre-school nursery is provided for children 6 weeks to 4 years old. Children’s Church is provided at 11 a.m. for children 4 years of age through their completing first grade. An usher will be happy to assist you in finding these locations in the Education building.
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Perry Methodist Church Staff:	
Rev. Tom Carruth, Senior Pastor	Rob Ray, Assistant Pastor
Krissy Walker, Children’s Pastor	Christie Rooks, Education Assistant
Nichole Lawson, Youth Pastor	Caroline Arnold, Youth Assistant
Katie Cawthon, Missions Coordinator	Dr. Jane Kimbrel, Director of Music Ministries
Mike Klug, Building Superintendent	Dr. Carol Goff, Collaborative Pianist
Kelley Sorrow, Financial Secretary	Tammara Shipes, Music Assistant
Emilee Sheffield, Office Manager	Alice Releford, Custodian
Dicky Gilbert, Audio	

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Weekly Schedule

Today, January 11

10 a.m. - Communion Prep Training in the Sanctuary

2 p.m. - Honduras Mission Team Meeting in the FLC

Monday, January 12

12 p.m. - Methodist Women in the Fellowship Hall

5 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study in the Brad Brady Conference Room

6 p.m. - Trustees Meeting in the Office Conference Room

7 p.m. - Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 13

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Fellowship

11 a.m. - JOY Choir Rehearsal

6 p.m. - Diving Deeper Women's Bible Study in the Brad Brady Conference Room

Wednesday, January 14

7 a.m. - Youth Prayer Breakfast in the Youth Center

6:30 p.m. - Youth Worship and Bible Study in the Youth Center

6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15

2 p.m. - Walking in the FLC

Saturday, January 17

11 a.m. - Memorial Service for Marjorie Suber in the Sanctuary

Our love and sympathy are given to Paula Geiger upon the passing of her husband, Jim Geiger on January 5. His funeral was on Friday, January 9 in the Sanctuary.

Please remember Paula, Nancy and all who loved Jim in your prayers.

Methodist Women

January 12, 2026

12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



Bring your own Sandwich or Salad. Drinks and sides are provided. Our program will be Kevin Splaine, Emory Hospital CEO. **Bring an item for the Blessing Box!** All women are invited to attend.

Winter Coat Drive

During the month of January, will be collecting coats of all sizes (adult and child) for the Appalachian Mountain Ministry. You may bring these coat donations to the church office.

Tree House Trades

Wednesdays beginning January 21

4:30 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

K4 - 6th grade

This session will focus on prayer. Scan the QR to register or go to perrymethodist.com/ministries/childrens.



Youth Activities starting THIS WEDNESDAY!

Youth Prayer Breakfast

at 7 a.m. in the Youth Center.

Join us for breakfast and a youth led devotion. We will have transportation to be Westfield and Perry High after.

Youth Worship and Bible Study at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Youth Center.

All 6th to 12th grade students. Join us for worship and small groups. Bring \$5 for pizza!