



## Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

The Declaration of Independence boldly affirms that all people "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights," among them "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Notice what the founders did—and did not—say.

They did not say we are guaranteed happiness.

They said we have the freedom to pursue it.

They did not say life would be easy.

They did not say liberty would be free.

In fact, the men who signed the Declaration pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. They expected sacrifice. They expected hardship. They understood that freedom requires responsibility, courage, and perseverance.

Somewhere along the way, however, we seem to have changed the meaning of those words.

Life has become the expectation that nothing difficult should happen to us.

Liberty has become the belief that no one should tell us "no."

The pursuit of happiness has become the demand that we actually be happy.

We have moved from inalienable rights to personal entitlements.

As a result, when life becomes difficult, when freedom requires sacrifice, or when happiness proves elusive, we grumble, complain, and look for someone to blame.

The Apostle Paul offers a startlingly different vision. Writing to Christians facing real hardship, he does not say that affliction is evidence that something has gone wrong. He says that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

Perhaps one of the deepest problems facing our nation is not that we suffer too much. Perhaps it is that we have forgotten what suffering can produce. And perhaps the answer is found not in demanding more from life, but in discovering the hope that only Christ can give.



**Scripture**

Romans 5:1-8

**Sermon**

There is Such a Thing as Character

**\*Hymn**

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*My Tribute***\*Closing Blessing****\*Postlude***God Gave to Us This Glorious Day* Johann Walther  
organ

\*Stand as you are able

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- The baby rosebud is given to celebrate the birth of Frank Mead Adams on Tuesday, June 2 to proud parents Ryan and Anna Adams. Frank joins big brothers, Dean and Wayne. Congratulations!
  - The Altar flowers are given in honor of the spouses and children of service members, whose strength, sacrifice, and dedication keep families and daily life moving forward while their loved ones are serving.
  - 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

Kelly Sorrow, Financial Secretary

Tammara Shipes, Music Assistant

Emilee Sheffield, Office Manager

Alice Releford, Custodian

Dicky Gilbert, Audio

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## Weekly Schedule

### Tuesday, June 16

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Fellowship  
10:30 a.m. - JOY Choir buses depart for Church Home Life Spring

### Wednesday, June 17

6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, June 18

6 a.m. - Men's Basketball in the FLC  
1 p.m. - Walking in the FLC  
5:30 p.m. - Youth Worship and Bible Study. Meet in the Youth Center, pickup at the Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. - Young Adult Worship and Bible Study. Meet in the Sanctuary

Our love, sympathy, and prayers are given to the following church family who have experienced loss in the recent days.

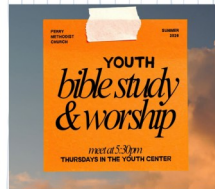
- Deborah Long upon the passing of her husband, David Long on June 8, 2026. His visitation will be tomorrow at 10 a.m. with the funeral to follow at 11 a.m.
- Janice Walker upon the passing of her husband, Larry Walker on June 9, 2026. His service will be today at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Charlotte Bohanan upon the passing of her husband Wayne Bohanan on June 10, 2026. His service will be on June 27 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.



**Prime Time is going to see the Macon Bacon play the Martinsville Mustangs on July 15, 2026.** The game starts at 7 p.m. You can drive or if you would like to ride the bus, we will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. Van/Bus space is limited so call the church office at 478-987-1852 to reserve your spot today.

All registrations and payments must be received by July 1, 2026. Tickets are \$17 (cash or check) and include all you can eat and drink. **This is a Prime Time trip but all ages are welcome to attend!**

## Youth and Young Adult Bible Studies Thursdays Evenings



6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders  
Drop off at the Youth Center, pickup at the Sanctuary at 7 p.m.



18 to 30 year olds  
Meet in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.



**We are collecting \$25 Kroger gift cards for our Community Assistance Program that we hold on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday.**

These cards will go directly to those in need in Perry to help pay for groceries, gas, or much needed prescriptions.