

More Than a Pew

August will be an especially meaningful month in the life of Perry Methodist Church.

On Sunday, August 23, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our congregation. The following Sunday, August 30, we will honor Dr. Jane Kimbrel as she concludes twenty years of extraordinary ministry among us. You will find more information about both of these important occasions elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our search for Perry Methodist's next music leader is also continuing. The search committee is reviewing candidates carefully and prayerfully as we seek the person God is calling to lead this important ministry. The process has taken longer than we first hoped, but we are encouraged by the interest we have received and grateful for the thoughtful work of the committee. Please continue praying for Jane, the committee, the candidates, and the future of our music ministry.

As we celebrate where we have been and prepare for what comes next, we are also continuing the important work of Vision 200. During our recent Culture Change sermon series, we have talked about the fact that culture is often simply the way we function without consciously thinking about it. Every church has patterns, habits, assumptions, and ways of doing things that can become almost invisible to those who have been around for a long time.

One of the realities of church culture is that it is possible to come to worship, sit in a pew, and leave without ever truly getting to know anyone. A person may attend for six months—or even a year—and still feel like a stranger. That may sound hard to believe, but it happens.

We want something more for the people who come through the doors of Perry Methodist. We want people to find brothers and sisters in Christ. We want them to develop friendships and discover companions for the journey of faith. We want them not only to attend church, but also to know that they are known, loved, and needed. I have heard it said that **circles are better than rows**.

There is great power in gathering for worship, sitting together in the sanctuary, and facing in the same direction. But relationships usually grow when we move from rows into circles—around a table, in a Sunday school classroom, in someone's home, in a choir room, or in a smaller gathering where we can share from the heart, learn one another's stories, and become known. This has been at the heart of Christian community since the beginning of the Church. Acts tells us: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
—Acts 2:42

A few verses later, we are told that the believers spent time together in the temple and also broke bread in their homes. Their faith was lived both in the large gathering and in smaller communities of fellowship. We need both.

In the coming weeks, I would like every Sunday school class, small group, Bible study, children's class, youth class, choir, handbell group, and other fellowship ministry to begin thinking about a simple question:

How can we reach out a hand of welcome?

How can we help people see who we are, where we meet, and how they can become involved? How can we make it easier for someone to take that first step?

Our campus has many buildings, hallways, doors, rooms, and floors. Even finding the right classroom can feel intimidating to someone who is unfamiliar with the church. Most people will not study a campus map, navigate several buildings, and walk uninvited into a room full of strangers.

That is simply too big of a leap.

We need to meet people where they are. We need to make our ministries visible, approachable, and welcoming. We need to help people see that there is more to Perry Methodist than sitting in a pew on Sunday morning.

As we look toward the fall, I am beginning to imagine a day when all the different groups and ministries of Perry Methodist might be placed "on display"—almost like an orientation day—so that people can meet leaders, learn what is available, ask questions, and find a natural place to connect.

The details are still taking shape, and I look forward to hearing ideas from our leaders. But the heart behind it is simple:

Everyone belongs.

No one should have to remain anonymous. No one should have to find their way alone. No one should wonder whether there is a place for them.

There is more than a pew.

There is a circle.

There is a table.

There is a group.

There is a place where you can know others and be known.

There is a place for you.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Director of Music/Organist: Dr. Jane Kimbrel
Collaborative Pianist: Dr. Carol Goff
Music Assistant: Tammara Shipes
janekimbrel@gmail.com (478) 987-1852

JOY Choir August Schedule

Tuesday, August 11

10:15 Buses Depart

10:45 Sing at

The Phoenix at Lake Joy

100 Lake Crossing Dr., Warner Robins

11:45 Lunch at

Culver's Hamburgers and Custard

780 State Road 96, Bonaire



Rise Against Hunger: Our next Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event is **Sunday, September 20th!**

Join us for a volunteer

lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12 pm that day, followed by our next meal packaging event in the FLC at 1pm. We need lots of volunteers to help pack 16,000 meals to feed hungry families all over the world! This is a great volunteer opportunity for all ages. We need to raise approximately \$2500, and will be collecting donations to cover the event and lunch throughout this month. Checks can be made out to "Perry Methodist Church" with "Rise Against Hunger" in the note line. Thank you all for 12 years of support for this organization!



School Supply and Clothing Drive:

Thank you to everyone who helped provide school supplies, socks, underwear, and bras for families in need! You

helped prepare many children in need in our community for another school year!

Next Missions Meeting: Thursday, August 13th, at 12pm in the Missions Room

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A *Retirement Celebration* DINNER HONORING **Dr. Jane Kimbrel**

FOR *Twenty Years* OF FAITHFUL
SERVICE AS OUR ORGANIST AND
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

5:00 P.M.

PERRY METHODIST CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
1009 MAIN STREET

PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING THE
CHURCH OFFICE AT 478-987-1852 OR BY GOING
TO PERRYMETHODIST.COM UNDER
UPCOMING EVENTS ON THE HOME PAGE.

As we celebrate Dr. Jane Kimbrel and her retirement, we will be collecting a special love offering to honor her faithful ministry and years of service. If you would like to contribute, please mark your donation "Dr. Jane" and place it in the offering plate. If you are giving by check, please make your check payable directly to Jane Kimbrel.

*Interested in Info
about the Church?*
**Sunday, August 9, 2026
at 10 a.m. in the FLC**



You are personally invited to our New Member Brunch!

We will learn about our church, our ministries, and ways to get connected.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about us, whether you're considering membership or simply want to know more, we'd love to have you join us!

Scan the QR code above to sign up or call the church office at 478-987-1852.

AUGUST

New Back to School "Know Me Notes" available for parents in SS Classrooms...great to add to lunchboxes to connect to your kids on discipleship matters!

KRISSE WALKER
CHILDRENS PASTOR
KCPTEACH@YAHOO.COM
CHRISTIE ROOKS
CHRISTIAN ED. ASSISTANT
CHRISTIEROOKS.PMC@GMAIL.COM

We will gather once each month at a different restaurant around town for devotion, fellowship, and emotional support in our motherhood journeys! Our August date and location will be Orleans, downtown Perry on Monday, August 10th at 11:30am
*Dutch Treat

NEW!
Bible Study Format for Moms!

PROMOTION SUNDAY

AUGUST 23RD 10AM FELLOWSHIP HALL

3YO THRU 5TH GRADE

Keepy Uppy Movey Uppy

RIISING 6TH GRADERS

The Crossing of the Street
(to the Youth Building)



Parents of rising 6th graders can line the sidewalk in front of the church to take photos. All other parents may drop their child off in the Fellowship Hall and attend Sunday School as usual.

HAPPY
200TH
BIRTHDAY
PMCI

KIDS ZONE
WITH
INFLATABLE,
FACE PAINTING,
& SIDEWALK
CHALK

SATURDAY,
AUGUST
22ND
4-7PM

Save the date for
the start of
Treehouse Trades
Wednesday,
September 9th!

4:00-5:30*

*note new time

PERRY
METHODIST
YOUTH

Follow Us!



Nichole Lawson
Youth Pastor
nhslawson@gmail.com
478-230-2237

Caroline Arnold
Assistant
Youth Pastor
478-230-4505

Youth Band Practice

AUGUST 12TH & 19TH
FROM 5:30-6:30
IN THE YOUTH CENTER

Prayer Walk and Dinner
Sunday, August 16
5:00-8:00
Bring \$10 for dinner.



We will pray over
Perry High School
Perry Middle School
and The Westfield School

Family Youth Night

Wednesday, August 26 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

All parents and youth are invited
to join us for pizza,
salad bar, games,
meeting about events
for the year, prayer, and calendar reveal.

PROMOTION SUNDAY - AUGUST 23

JOIN US FOR DONUTS, BIBLE/CHURCH JEOPARDY,
AND MEET YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

6TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL MEET IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
AND THEN WALK OVER TO THE YOUTH CENTER



Youth Wednesdays
start back on
September 2
in the Youth Center!

Prayer Breakfast
7 a.m.

Worship and
Bible Study
6:30 p.m.

Electronic Service Requested

Average Attendance As of July 2026	
Morning Worship	325
Finance Report Month to Date	
July 2026	
Receipts Month to Date	114,756.94
Disbursements Month to Date	255,505.60
Finance Report Year to Date	
July 2026	
Receipts Year to Date	1,007,219.90
Disbursements Year to Date	939,685.74
Difference	67,534.16
Building Fund	
July 2026	
Total Received Year to Date	46,567.25
Building Loan Balance	832,580.73



Thank you for your support of our church ministries. You may make your gifts by several means:

Perry Methodist Website
perrymethodist.com/give
Click the "Make a donation" button and follow the prompts.

Online Giving
Text "PERRYMC" to 73256
or and follow the prompts.

Postal Mail
PO Box 73, Perry 31069

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

9 a.m. - Morning Worship
10 a.m. - Sunday School
11 a.m. - Morning Worship

Monday

10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting
7 p.m. - CenterStage for Christ Rehearsal in the FLC

Tuesday

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Breakfast
7 p.m. - CenterStage for Christ Rehearsal in the FLC

Wednesday

6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

1 p.m. - Walking in the FLC
7 p.m. - CenterStage for Christ Rehearsal in the FLC

SPECIAL EVENTS

August 6 - Basketball in the FLC at 6:15 a.m.
August 6 - Prime Time Luncheon
August 9 - New Member Brunch in the FLC at 10 a.m.
August 10 - Mom's Lunch at Orleans (dutch treat)
August 11 - JOY Choir buses depart for The Phoenix at Lake Joy 10:15 a.m.
August 11 - Finance Committee Meeting at 4 p.m.
August 12 - Youth Praise Band at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center
August 12 - Love Thy Neighbor Paint Party at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
August 16 - Youth Prayer Walk and Dinner at 5 p.m.
August 17 - CSFC tickets go on sale in the church office
August 19 - Youth Praise Band at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center
August 20 - Basketball in the FLC at 6:15 a.m.
August 22 - 200th Anniversary Committee Street party from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. on Carroll Street
August 23 - Promotion Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Fel Hall & Youth Center
August 23 - 200th Anniversary Services with covered dish lunch at 12 p.m.
August 29 - Jane Retirement Celebration and Dinner at 5 p.m. in the FLC
August 30 - Acolyte and Crucifer training at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Brandi Warren, United States Navy, granddaughter of Bill Warren
Lt. Col. Phillip Ferris, son of Mark and Gloria Ferris
CPL Connor Hill, USMC, grandson of Linda Loewen and the late Arthur Loewen
Lt. Col. William R. Wright, grandson of Elaine Wright
Staff Sergeant Brooks Warren, United States Air Force, grandson of Bill Warren
SFC Christopher Lanning, United States Army, son of Richard and Trisha Lanning
Sergeant First Class Derek M. Livingston, United States Army, Grandson of Liz Fauconniere
CPT Harrison Booth, United States Airforce son of Bill and Dawn Booth
Brian Sikes, United States Navy, nephew of Mike and Lisa Klug
CPT Alexander M. Kofskey, MD United States Air Force, son of Su and Mike Kofskey, grandson of Bob and Marguerite Messer.

Please help us keep this list updated by calling the church office.

Perry Methodist Church Staff

Rev. Tom Carruth	Senior Pastor
Rev. Rob Ray	Associate Pastor
Krissy Walker	Children's Pastor
Christie Rooks	Christian Education Assistant
Katie Cawthon	Missions Coordinator
Nichole Lawson	Youth Pastor
Caroline Arnold	Assistant Youth Pastor
Dr. Jane Kimbrel	Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Dr. Carol Goff	Collaborative Pianist
Tammara Shipes	Music Assistant
Dicky Gilbert	Audio Visual
Emilee Sheffield	Office Manager
Kelley Sorrow	Financial Secretary
Mike Klug	Building Superintendent
Alice Releford	Custodian
Joyce Cook	Nursery Worker
Abigail Durham	Nursery Worker
Lacy Murphy	Nursery Worker
Lesley Matthews	Nursery Worker