

**"News From Home"**  
**Perry Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**302 East Salling Street, PO Box 479**  
**Perry, MO 63462**



**January / February 2025**

**A PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR:**

Dear God,

I have plans for my future, my career, and my relationships in this new year.

But if my plan isn't YOUR plan, help me wait for the one that is.

Give me the courage to enter into this year with open hands, for this is the gesture of letting go. You can't put anything into closed fists.

So, I will open my hands to let go of control.

Let go of my plans.

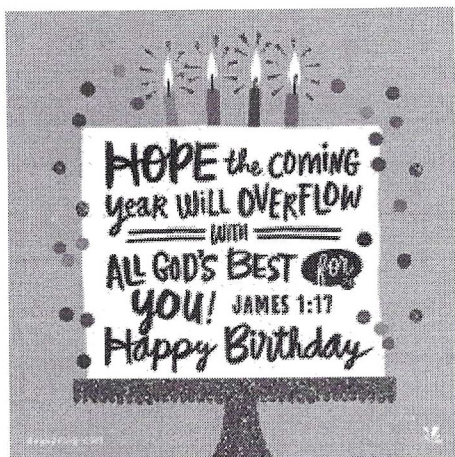
Let go of my preferences.

Let go of my expectations.

That doesn't mean I'm giving up, Lord. It means I'm giving in to the will of the One who made me.

You never fail. You just don't. You are a promise keeper and the holder of the plan. You are working miles ahead of me, putting pieces of this great big puzzle together.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

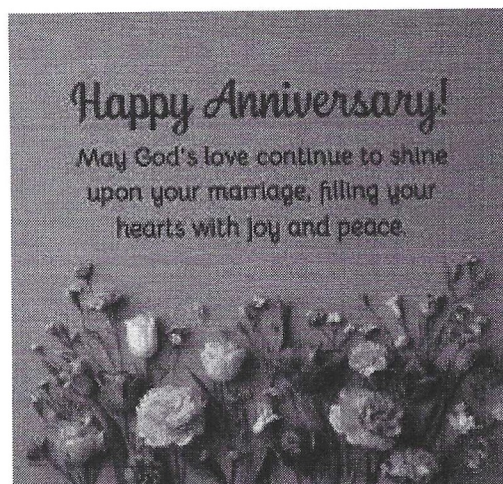


### ***January Birthdays***

**Lela Johnson – January 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Joyce Coleman – January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Addison Grace Caldwell – January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Jessica Meranda – January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Destiny Davis – January 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Meagan Cripe – January 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Erika Dodd – January 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Terry Davis – January 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Shirley Levings – January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Andrew Schumacher – January 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Doug Laird – January 31<sup>st</sup>**

### ***February Birthdays***

**Linda Hodges – February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anthony Elam – February 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Carolyn Schutte – February 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mary Wasson – February 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Warren Hetrick – February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Robert Roland – February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Candice Rothwell – February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Ethan Brown – February 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**J.D. Dodd – February 26<sup>th</sup>**

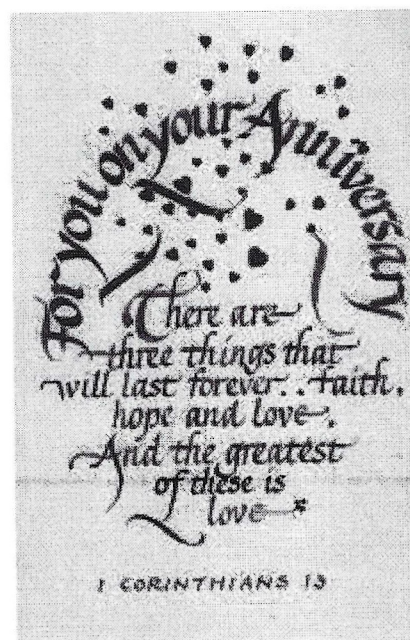


### ***January Anniversaries***

**Alvin & Nancy Seelow – January 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**James & Melanie Utterback – January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**David and Lois Swon – January 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bob & Nancy Kellstrom – January 28<sup>th</sup>**

### ***February Anniversaries***

**Travis & Renea Brown – February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Don & Kathy Laird – February 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Jim & Terri Anderson – February 24<sup>th</sup>**







**Looking Back to Sunday, September 9, 1990**

**Ray Trotter, Pastor**  
**Mary English, Organist**  
**Debbie Carey, Choir Director**  
**Mildred Long, Church School Pianist**

The morning announcements included:

- 5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship for grades 7-12. BBQ and games at the parsonage
- Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. All County All Church Picnic at Perry City Park. Bring your family and picnic supper and share n the fellowship with area Christians
- Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Northeast Area CWF Assembly at First Christian Church in Hannibal. See Shirley Levings or Billie Ray if interested in making a reservation.
- Sermon Note: Today's sermon title is "The Work of Faith – To Turn" and is part two of a four-part sermon series based on Paul's letters to the Thessalonians which are our August and September books of the month. Next Sunday the topic is "The Labor or Love – To Serve".
- Greg Harrison, Church Treasurer reports as follows: Balance August 1<sup>st</sup> is \$767.75, Income for August was \$2,270.22, Expenditures were \$2,526.01 leaving a balance on September 1<sup>st</sup> of \$511.96. The Memorial Fund balance was reported at \$1,158.57

**More News from Memory Lane**

From the 2-1-69 Board Meeting Minutes: "we have received two new members, Ken & Ruth Keil bringing our total membership to 354. A committee was appointed to investigate the prospects of acquiring the property east of the church now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Elam."

From the 2-7-70 Board Meeting Minutes: "The special committee appointed to put a new bulb in the sanctuary light, consisting of David Levings and Bob Hodges, reported that Bob had broken his arm and that David had been sick, but promised to complete it in the near future."

From the 9-4-71 Board Meeting Minutes: "Charles Cole reported that the new church sign sponsored and paid for by the Cum Duple Class was erected on Main Street."

From the 12-19-71 Board Meeting Minuts: "The purpose of the meeting was to decide if the church wished to purchase property east of the church and adjoining church property, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Elam. The information presented to the Board was that the Elam's would take a net of \$2,500 and the church pay all closing costs. On January 2, 1972 Chairman English presented the above to the congregation. Motion made by Alberta Paris, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mildred Jones that the congregation vote immediately on the proposition and not delay another week. Motion carried. Chairman English asked for a show of hands of those wishing to purchase the property and those opposed. There were no recorded opposing votes. It might be noted that all people present did not vote."

From the 6-4-72 Congregation Report to the Christian Church Publication in the Annual Yearbook and Directory: "Total membership last year was 344. Added 5 members this year by baptism, 6 by transfer, 5 removed during past year. Membership on 6-30 this year 233, participating 116 for a total of 349. Sunday school enrollment 121 and CWF membership on 6-30 was 40."

### **Church Closing in the Event of Inclement Weather**

In the event that our Sunday services are canceled due to inclement weather, we will notify our congregation via texts, emails and notices placed on our church Facebook page. Phone calls will also be placed to those members without computer access.

If you have a preferred way of being notified, please contact Nancy Seelow.



#### ***Cheeseburger Soup***

1/2 pound ground beef  
4 tablespoons butter, divided  
3/4 cup chopped onion  
3/4 cup shredded carrots  
3/4 cup diced celery  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes  
1-3/4 pounds (about 4 cups) cubed peeled potatoes  
3 cups chicken broth  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
8 to 16 ounces Velveeta, cubed  
1-1/2 cups whole milk  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 cup sour cream  
Optional: Onion rings and thinly sliced green onions

#### **Directions**

In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook and crumble beef until no longer pink, 6-8 minutes; drain and remove from pan. In same saucepan, melt 1 tablespoon butter over medium heat.

Saute onion, carrots, celery, basil and parsley until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Add potatoes, broth and ground beef; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 10-12 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt remaining 3 tablespoons butter. Add flour; cook and stir until bubbly, 3-5 minutes. Add to soup; bring to a boil. Cook and stir 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese, milk, salt and pepper; cook until cheese melts. Remove from heat; blend in sour cream. If desired, serve with onion rings and green onions.

#### ***2 Hour No Knead Bread***

#### **Ingredients**

3 cups all purpose flour  
2 tsp Rapid Rise or Instant Yeast  
1-1/2 tsp salt  
1-1/2 cups lukewarm water  
3 tbsp flour to sprinkle on counter while shaping  
Instructions

Place flour in bowl, add yeast and mix together. Then add salt and lukewarm water.

Stir ingredients together for about 1 minute or until ingredients are well incorporated (no obvious dry flour). This will look shaggy and sticky. Cover with plastic wrap and let stand in warm, dry place for 1 hour.

After an hour has passed, place an empty Dutch Oven into the cold oven and turn oven on to 450 degrees and let the oven and Dutch Oven come 450 degrees.

Pour dough out onto a lightly floured surface and using a spatula or scraper, fold the dough over on itself 10-12 times, forming a ball. Place the dough into a bowl, lined with a sheet of parchment paper. Cover with a dishcloth for 30 minutes, as the oven comes to temperature.



After the dough has rested in the bowl for 30 minutes, carefully pick up the parchment paper with the dough on top and very carefully put it into the hot, Dutch Oven (paper and dough), place the lid on top and cook for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, remove the lid to the Dutch Oven and cook for another 10 minutes if you want a crispier, crunchier crust. Remove the bread from the oven and place on a cooling rack for 10 minutes before slicing. Enjoy!

### February Church Board Meeting

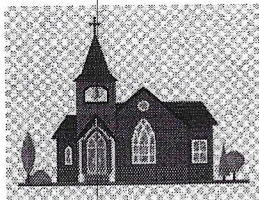
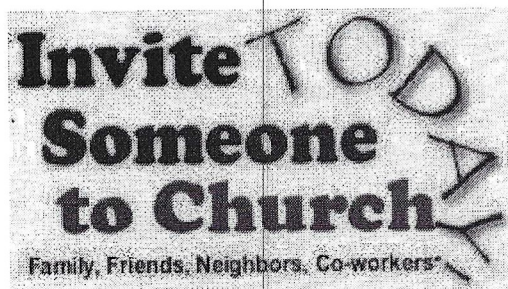
Board Members:

Our February Board meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> immediately following the morning worship service.

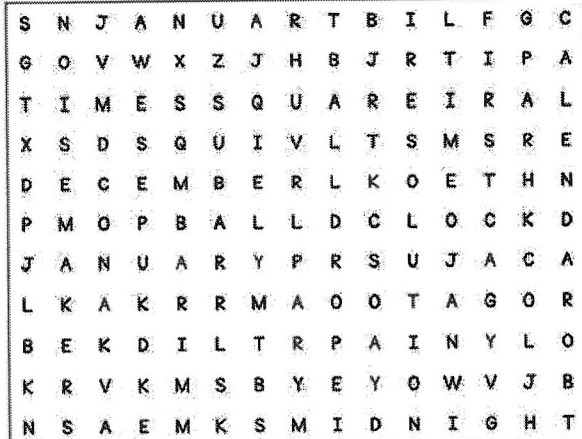
Rather than meeting in the church office, we will go to the Junction, have lunch as a group and the meeting will follow. The back meeting room at the restaurant has been reserved for us.

Kirby Gould, Vice President of at the Christian Church Foundation, will present our meeting for the purpose of discussing investment options for monies received from the church parsonage sale.

Please plan to join us for lunch and the meeting.

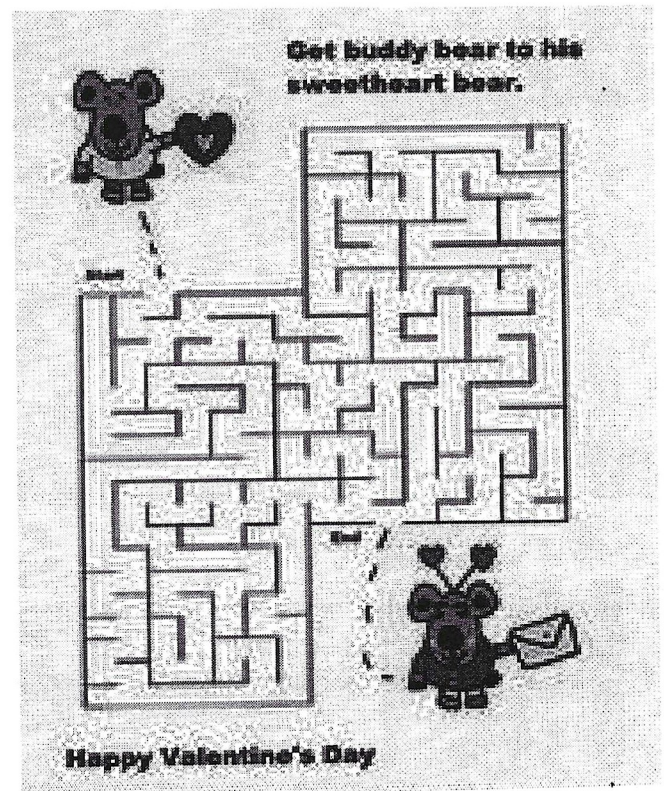


### New Year's Word Search



January	Party	Clock
First	Hat	Ball Drop
Eve	Noisemakers	Midnight
December	Kiss	Times Square
Calendar	Midnight	Resolution

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## Adult Sunday School Class 2011

Standing – Carol Norman, Mae McLaughlin, Pastor David Todd, Jim Gay, Slim McLaughlin and Ronnie Cragen.

Sitting – Mae McLaughlin, Dee Hurley, Nancy Seelow, Irene Parks, Mary Lee Dye, Cullen Dye, Melburn Fisher and Su Todd





## Arlen Notes



The 2024 Advent/Christmas season is drawing to a close and the New Year is beginning. Thinking back on this Christmas season I realized that as usual it has been a very busy time for the church's music department. I believe that we have been blessed with lots of activities this Christmas to help spread the wonderful news that Christ was born to bring salvation for everybody. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals who helped make this year's activities a success.

Thank you to Mary Wasson, Tony Blanchard, Tom Hurley, Glenna Johnson, and Jim Bair for decorating the church. They assured us of a beautiful and festive sanctuary in which to worship, as well as nativity and greenery outside. I want to thank all those who read for the lighting of Advent candles: Eisele family, Brown family, Utterback family, and Johnson family.

Also, I appreciate the help that Glenna Johnson provided to help make the children's Christmas Skit, "12 Symbols of Christmas" so much fun. The children who presented the skit were: Caytlyn Provancha, Tanner Eisele, Grayson Rothwell, Ethan Brown, Rylee Eisele, Donovan Rothwell, Daxon Rothwell, and Rayne Spurgeon. I appreciate how willing they were to make changes at the last moment.

I extend my thanks to those who read scripture at the Christmas Eve Service: Carol Norman, Tony Blanchard, Greg Harrison, and Nancy Seelow. Without members of the church being willing to help, these activities would never have been possible. I apologize if I accidentally left your name off the list as I would never intentionally leave you off my thank you list.

I want to thank the CWF for the very generous Casey's gift cards. It was very thoughtful of you to remember me at Christmas time. I want to thank the members of my church family for allowing me to use my gift in praising our Lord and Savior. Also, for allowing me to do what I believe is God's mission for my life and lead music at church to help spread His Love.

This year we were able to help 18 children via the Christmas Tree Angels as well as provide food for three families. The help was received with lots of thank yous, you don't know how much this will help, hugs and a few wet eyes. The church's generosity made a huge difference in the life of many children and families this year. I am always filled with pride and amazement with how our church is so willing to help others. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou

shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

As one starts the New Year, they often make a resolution. I challenge you to make a New Year's Resolution to further God's word by inviting someone to attend church with you. It may be a new friend that you've found or maybe it someone who has stopped attending church. It never hurts to let people know that our church is open to anyone who would like to attend. Who knows, your words and interest might be the very thing that someone needs to develop or rekindle a relationship with God. Also, Sunday afternoon is the perfect time to visit or call someone who missed church that morning. A few minutes of your time can make a huge difference in someone's life.

Valentine's Day began as Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The feast was first established by Pope Gelasius I to honor one or two saints named Valentinus for being martyred on February 14. Those familiar with this connection believe there to be a single man, but there were actually three saints bearing the name Valentine or Valentinus. Two were from Italy and one was from Africa. Two were clearly beheaded, while the third one's martyrdom is only "supposed" by some. One Valentine's story is that he was a temple priest who was imprisoned for ministering to Christians when they were being persecuted by the Roman empire. While in prison, he fell in love with a young woman (possibly the jailer's daughter) and sent her a farewell note (from "Your Valentine") before his execution. One version of the story states that the young woman was blind, and Valentine healed her, while other stories leave that part out. Another Valentine's story says that he was beheaded for performing secret weddings when Emperor Claudius had outlawed them for young soldiers. And yet another story: Valentine was a priest who was arrested, but instead of being put in jail, he was put into the custody of an aristocrat named Asterius. After hearing Valentine speak, he challenged him about the validity of Christ. He bargained with him to heal his for Asterius to believe. Valentine healed her and they all got baptized. After Emperor Claudius II found out, he had Valentine killed. With the difficulty of determining which details are true, it's no wonder they can be found all mixed together, giving us the idea of a single person. Whatever Valentine's Day is to you, it is for you to decide. Personally, I think it's a great opportunity to celebrate love, whether it be for family, friends, lovers, or neighbors because Jesus said that people would know us by our love.

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:34-35).*

