

The Hunger for the Head Table



A few Sundays ago, I shared about our incredible Men's Ministry Dinner, where we welcomed Secretary Sonny Perdue. It was a special night, not just because of his distinguished career, but because he came as a fellow believer, friend, and family member to many in our congregation. At that dinner,

Shelly and I were seated at the head table, and I joked that I didn't really want to be there. Truth is, I'd rather be at the edges of the room than right in the middle with everyone watching.

But if I'm honest, even as I walked in that night, I was thinking the same thing many of you probably would: *Where am I going to sit? And more importantly, who do I want to sit with?* That thought took me back to the school lunchroom—especially those first days of the school year—when the questions loomed large: *Who's going to sit where? Who will I sit with? Will I belong?*

That same hunger for belonging, for being seen, for having a place, follows us into adulthood. And it doesn't take long before we realize how exhausting it can be to always measure ourselves by where we sit, who we're with, or whether we feel noticed.

Today's gospel from Luke 14 dives right into that hunger. Jesus tells a parable about seats at a banquet, but it's really about the arrangements we make in our own hearts. What if the way we've been trying to secure our place only leaves us emptier? What if God has something far better in mind—a table where the seats are given, not earned, and where the guest list is filled with the most unlikely of people?

If you've ever felt the pressure to measure up, to prove your worth, or to find your place in the room—this is a Sunday you won't want to miss.

Grace and Peace,
Tom

Worship and Praise Gathering

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025

Liturgical Color: Green
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

Be Still, My Soul arr. Harold DeCou
Kerri Shoemaker, guest organist

***Hymn of Praise** 185 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

***Affirmation of Faith** 881 *The Apostles' Creed*

***Gloria Patri** 70 *Glory Be to the Father*

Pastoral Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation** 405 *Seek Ye First*

Offering Feel free to give as you feel led

Offertory Anthem *Amazing Grace* arr. David C. Huff
The Sanctuary Choir with Natalie Bradley, soloist

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there then thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we first begun.
Amazing grace!*

***Doxology** 94 LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Scripture Reading Luke 14:1, 7-14

*Closing Blessing

*Postlude

Postlude with Timbrel and Cymbal

Chester Nordman
organ

*Stand as you are able

Crucifer: Jameson Applegate 11:00

- Today we welcome organist Kerri Shoemaker. Kerri is a business analyst with TSYs, a financial technology company headquartered in Columbus. Kerri has served as organist for several churches, and currently assists with music at the Methodist Church in Camilla, where her husband, Rev. Chris Shoemaker, serves as the pastor. Welcome Kerri!
- Our love, sympathy, and prayers are given to Winbon Golden upon the loss of his wife, Judy Golden who passed away on August 22, 2025.
- 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.

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 Peavy, 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	Greg Adkins, Visual
Walter Gray, Audio	

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Weekly Schedule

Monday, September 1

Church office is closed

7:30 p.m. - CSFC Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 2

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Fellowship

7 p.m. - CSFC Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 3

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

6 p.m. - Youth Worship and Bible Study

6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 4

2 p.m. - Walking in the FLC

7 p.m. - CSFC Rehearsal



Youth Prayer Breakfast Wednesday, September 3

7 a.m. in the Youth Center

Join us for breakfast and a youth led devotion. We are having **eggs, grits, bacon, biscuits, hashbrown casserole**, and a **yogurt bar**. We will have transportation to Perry High and Westfield after breakfast.

Tree House Trades

Our Wednesday afternoon program for school aged kids kicks off on September 10 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Scan the QR code to register or go to perrymethodist.com/ministries/childrens.



Prime Time Trip to Blue Ridge October 29-30, 2025 \$399 per person

We will tour Mercier Orchards, have a scenic train ride and more! There is a \$75 deposit that is due at registration. Register by Friday, September 12 by coming by the church office.



Rise Against Hunger

We are collecting **\$1610** to help us purchase the needed supplies for our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. This will allow us to pack 15,000 meals for those in need in other countries.

Please mark your donation "Rise Against Hunger" and place it in the Offering plate or bring it by the church office!

It's Time for the Jelly!

We are collecting jelly for the Loaves and Fishes food bank next Sunday! Bring your donations to the narthex or place them in the basket at the end of the hall!



Mom's Bible Study beginning September 8 at 12 p.m. in the children's area

We will study *Peace: Hope and Healing for the Anxious Momma's Heart* by Becky Thompson. Bring your own lunch! All moms are welcome! Foster, Adoptive, etc!