



Everyone Belongs Sunday: It's About Posture

"Who you are speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say." —Ralph Waldo Emerson

This Sunday is **Everyone Belongs Sunday**. And the closer we get to it, the more convinced I am of something:

**It isn't about posters or pamphlets. It's about posture.
It isn't about a strategy. It's about a culture.**

I keep hearing stories from people who have been part of Perry Methodist for years. But when they tell me about the first time they came—when *they* were the new person—they almost never talk about a program.

They talk about **a person**.

Someone noticed them. Someone learned their name. Someone invited them to sit with them. Someone introduced them to somebody else. Someone made sure they knew where to go. Someone simply acted like they were genuinely glad they were there.

They were seen. They were loved. They knew they belonged.

That's what this Sunday is about.

The only thing really "different" we're doing is putting a tent out front. But it's not about the tent! It's about the people who will sit beside it or stand underneath it, ready to say:

"Hey! I'm glad you're here. Got any questions? Can I show you around?"

And that same posture belongs everywhere else—in the parking lot, the hallways, Sunday School classes, the sanctuary, and the pew.

Because ultimately, **Everyone Belongs isn't a program. It's a person. It isn't a creative strategy. It's a culture of genuine love.**

And that culture is created every Sunday by ordinary people who decide to notice someone, move toward someone, make room for someone, learn someone's name, and help them know:

I see you. I'm glad you're here. There's room for you here. You belong.

That's who I want Perry Methodist Church to be—not just this Sunday, but every Sunday.

Tom

The Service of Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

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

Prelude

Fanfare
David M. Kenney, Jr., organ

Robert Harman

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Rob Ray

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

Hymn

371 *I Stand Amazed in the Presence*

*Affirmation of Faith

881 The Apostles' Creed

*Gloria Patri

70 *Glory Be to the Father*

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

All Are Welcome (words on the screen)

Offering

Feel free to give as you feel led

Offertory Anthem

We are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light

arr. Hal Hobson

(based on the South African Freedom Song)

*We are singing, for the Lord is our light,
we are singing for the Lord is our light.*

*The Lord is the strength of our lives;
of whom shall we be afraid?
Though foes may be near to destroy;
the Lord will be our light.*

*One thing we have asked of the Lord, yes, this is the thing we seek;
To dwell in the house of the Lord; to live with God forever.*

*When burdens are heavy to bear, our shelter is God alone.
Our feet are lifted high; yes, high upon a rock.*

*We walk in the strength of the Lord, God's love is ever sure.
We shout that the world may hear, we sing a joyful song.*

We are singing, for the Lord is our light!

*Doxology

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Scripture Matthew 18:21-35 Rev. Tom Carruth

Sermon Grace Pays the Bill

Hymn 365 *Grace Greater Than All Our Sin*

Reception of New Members - 9 a.m. Donald and Joyce Hall

Profession of Faith & Baptism - 11 a.m. Jaylen "Big J" Moore

Sending Forth 365 *Grace Greater Than All Our Sin*
verse 4

Closing Blessing

***Postlude** *Prelude and Fugue in F, S. 534* J.S. Bach
organ

*Stand as you are able

Acolyte: Sybil Wetherington 11:00

Crucifer: Ethan Swift 11:00

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- Our love, sympathy, and prayers are given to the family and friends of Peggie Williams who passed away on August 22, 2026.
 - The Altar flowers are given in honor of all the grandparents of our congregation this Grandparents Day. We thank God for their love, wisdom, prayers, and faithful example, and for the blessing they are to our families and church family.
 - A pre-school nursery is provided for children six weeks through four years. Children's Church is offered during the 11:00 a.m. service for children age four through those who have completed first grade. An usher will be happy to you locate these ministries in the Education Building.
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Rev. Tom Carruth, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rob Ray, Associate Pastor

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Weekly Schedule

Today, September 13

4 p.m. - Honduras Mission Trip Info Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
(If you are interested in the trip, please join us)

Monday, September 14

10 a.m. - Diving Deeper Ladies Bible Study in the Brad Brady Conference Room
11:30 a.m. - Mom's Fellowship Lunch at Meridia
12 p.m. - Methodist Women in the Fellowship Hall
5 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study in the Brad Brady Conference Room
6 p.m. - Cub Scouts in the Youth Center
6 p.m. - Lobby opens for CenterStage for Christ "You're A Mean One, Mr. Lynch" in the FLC
7 p.m. - Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal in the Handbell Room

Tuesday, September 15

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
11 a.m. - JOY Choir Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
6 p.m. - Lobby opens for CenterStage for Christ "You're A Mean One, Mr. Lynch" in the FLC

Wednesday, September 16

7 a.m. - Youth Prayer Breakfast in the Youth Center
4 p.m. - Tree House Trades in the Fellowship Hall
6 p.m. - Worship and Bible Study Bring \$5 for pizza
6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 17

6:15 a.m. - Men's F3 Basketball in the FLC



Methodist Women September 14 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a sandwich or salad. Drinks and sides are provided. Billy Sparks will present From Darkness to Light for our program.

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event Next Sunday, September 20



We will pack 16,000 meals for people facing hunger around the world. All are welcome and invited! We have something for all ages to do.

10 a.m. - Unloading the truck in the FLC

12 p.m. - Lunch for volunteers in the Fellowship Hall (You do not have to stay for lunch to pack meals)

1 p.m. - Meal Packing in the FLC

Help us by
pre-registering,
scan the QR code or
sign up at
[perrymethodist.com/
our-ministries/
missions](http://perrymethodist.com/our-ministries/missions)



Prime Time Luncheon Thursday, October 1 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall \$11 per person

Attorney Rebecca Moody will present our program on Estate Planning. Lunch is a Chick-Fil-A sandwich, fruit cup, and chips, with cookies and ice cream. **Reserve your spot by September 25, 2026, by calling 478-987-1852.**

Learn more: [perrymethodist.com/
our-ministries/older-adults](http://perrymethodist.com/our-ministries/older-adults)