



You Belong. You Matter. You Are Needed.

There was something almost magical about Everyone Belongs Sunday. Maybe "holy" is the better word.

It was not perfect—and I did not want it to be. What mattered was getting more of us engaged at the heart level, truly caring that every person who comes to Perry Methodist knows they belong, meets people, makes friends and finds a group.

The real magic was not in the tent, the signs or the booklet. It was in the people. People noticed one another, talked to one another, welcomed one another and invited one another. It was not a staff program being carried out. It was the church being the church.

That connects with an experiment we are trying right now: taking a break from verbal announcements during worship. We are not doing this because communication does not matter. We are doing it because announcements do not work nearly as well as we often assume.

A general announcement is directed toward everybody, making it easy for everybody to assume it is really for somebody else. A personal invitation is different. It says, "I thought about you. I believe you would enjoy this. I would love for you to come with me."

An announcement shares information. A personal invitation builds a relationship.

That is what happened last Sunday. It did not happen because we advertised belonging. It happened because people practiced belonging.

Today gives us another opportunity to practice it. We will pack thousands of meals through Rise Against Hunger. We will serve volunteers, prepare the Family Life Center for funeral overflow, care for the Watson family and gather at 4:00 p.m. to remember our friend Draper.

This is not simply about filling volunteer positions. What we do matters. We are sharing the love of Jesus Christ and showing what it means to be the body of Christ.

You are wanted. You are needed. You belong here.

And you matter.

Grace and Peace,
Tom

The Service of Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

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

Prelude

Prelude in A David M. Kenney, Jr.
David M. Kenney, Jr., organ

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Rob Ray

Hymn

133 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

*Affirmation of Faith

883 A Statement of Faith for the
United Church of Canada

*Gloria Patri

70 *Glory Be to the Father*

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

*Hymn

174 *His Name is Wonderful*

Offering

Feel free to give as you feel led

Offertory Anthem

The Lord is My Strength arr. Mark Patterson
The Sanctuary Choir

*The Lord is my strength,
He makes my feet like the feet of the deer.*

*The Lord is my strength,
He helps me walk upon the highest places.*

*The Lord is my strength,
and I will rejoice in His name.*

*Though I look out and the trees are all bare,
Though I can see no fruit on the vines,*

*Even though the world is raging around me
I will still rejoice.*

*For the Lord is my strength,
and I will rejoice in His name.*

*Doxology

94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Rise Against Hunger Presentation

Rev. Tom Carruth

Striving Side by Side

351 *Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior*

Vickie Mathis

Closing Blessing

David M. Kenney, Jr.

*Stand as you are able

Crucifer: Jameson Applegate 11:00

- Our love, sympathy and prayers are given to the family and friends of Draper Watson who passed away on September 14. His funeral will be today at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have an overflow in the Family Life Center. There will be a Reception and Visitation at Houston Lake Country Club from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- The Altar flowers are given in honor of our grandchildren the Lord has blessed us with in this new season, Rosemary Paulk and Kate Westmoreland.
- 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 help you locate these ministries in the Education Building.

Rev. Tom Carruth, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rob Ray, Associate Pastor

Perry Methodist Church
P.O. Box 73 | 1002 Carroll Street
Perry, GA 31069
Phone: 478-987-1852
Email: church@perrymethodist.com
Website: www.perrymethodist.com

Weekly Schedule

Today, September 20

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing

10 a.m. - Unloading the RAH Truck
12 p.m. - Lunch for Volunteers in the Youth Center
1 p.m. - Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing (we need volunteers)
2 p.m. - Youth buses depart for Dooly Campground
4 p.m. - Funeral Services for Draper Watson in the Sanctuary - Overflow in the Family Life Center

Monday, September 21

10 a.m. - Diving Deeper Ladies Bible Study in the Brad Brady Conference Room
5 p.m. - Ladies Bible Study in the Brad Brady Conference Room
6 p.m. - Cub Scouts in the Youth Center
7 p.m. - Sanctuary Bells Rehearsal in the Handbell Room

Tuesday, September 22

7 a.m. - Men's Prayer Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. - JOY Choir departs for Hawkinsville

Wednesday, September 23

FLC closed for Carpet Cleaning

7 a.m. - Youth Prayer Breakfast in the Youth Center
9 a.m. - Staff Meeting
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 24

FLC closed for Carpet Cleaning



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.**

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER
Today at 1 p.m. in the FLC

We are in **GREAT NEED** of volunteers to come and pack meals today.

We have a goal of packing 16,000 that will go to the hungry in other countries.

We will have a lunch in the **Youth Center** at 12 p.m. for volunteers who are packing. **You do not have to stay for lunch to help!**

After the meal packing, we will break down and set up for Draper Watson's funeral. We need as much help as possible to be able to pack quickly and to set up for the overflow before 4 p.m.

Please register by scanning the QR code, you will be able to register and sign the waivers in person at the Family Life Center as well.

