

Long Memorial UMC

February 2024

Worship With Us Every Sunday

8:45 A.M. – Early Service - Chapel

11:00 AM – Worship – Sanctuary

Live Stream on Youtube
Anytime – Youtube (Long Memorial UMC)



Long Memorial United Methodist Church
226 North Main Street
P.O. Box 310 Roxboro, NC 27573
longmemorial@esinc.net (e-mail address)
ed.priestaf@gmail.com (Pastor's e-mail address)
336-599-1193 (Telephone)
336-599-1194 (Fax)
We are on the web at: longmemorialumc.org
Facebook: Long Memorial United Methodist Church

WERE YOU MARRIED IN 1974?

If this is the year of your 50th wedding anniversary please e-mail information to the church office: longmemorial@esinc.net or call Peggy at 336-599-1193.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Last week Tuesday was an eventful day. I heard a great story, I heard a great question, and I also found myself embarrassed. Care to listen in?

All of it occurred when I journeyed to our state's capital city to participate in a workshop led by Kenda Creasy Dean. I signed up for the workshop because a long time ago, in seminary, I took a class in youth ministry and part of the syllabus was one of Dr. Creasy Dean's first books – and it became one of my favorite books from my seminary experience ([Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church](#)). I haven't followed her career or her teaching specifically, but the chance to be in a local workshop with her seemed too good a chance to pass up. I also signed up because the workshop was on "The Good News of Shipwreck: What Does Church Look Like Now?" which was an intriguing title. In our post-pandemic world, in today's culture, how is church changing, and what is being asked of us?

One of the stories that sticks with me from the workshop is an image from the story of the Dunkirk evacuation, between May 26 and June 4, 1940 (now a major motion picture!). Before the US entered World War II in Europe, Axis forces had driven the Allies – mostly British and French forces – back to the beach at Dunkirk. There was nowhere left to go. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers were stranded on the beach. Churchill and his advisors reached out to British fishermen, and anyone with a ship that could cross the channel, to participate in a daring rescue. 700 little ships and 200+ warships participated in the evacuation, and over 300,000 soldiers were rescued from the beach, even though planners hoped they'd be able to rescue only 20,000. The image and story useful to the workshop, and relevant to the church, was that of isolated soldiers, scanning the horizon, seeing no help on the way, but then one boat, then two, then dozens and hundreds – of all shapes and sizes, all courageously heading in the same direction, entering the fray and coming to carry as many as they could.

Perhaps that is an image of the church – not a once size fits all experience, but a motley armada of courageous people willing to do what they can to share God's love. 1 Corinthians 12 says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many." How good it is when we sail in the same direction for the same life-saving purpose.

During that workshop, I also heard a great question. We were practicing the art and skill of honing and refining ideas for ministry. One of the questions that Dr. Creasy Dean asked us to think about was, "What would be different if a 12 year old planned your ministry?" What a great question! It encouraged us to simplify our ideas, to think about other groups that might have other perspectives to offer, and to consider what might make the ministry more fun or rewarding! After all, in Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

After the workshop, I was walking back to my car in the beautiful neighborhood surrounding Hayes Barton UMC (incidentally, I was sitting at a table in the workshop with some associate pastors from Hayes Barton Baptist church – the church with the very popular weekly television broadcast! I felt like asking for their autographs!). Because of limited parking, I had parked on a side street. I approached my car, and saw a piece of paper under the windshield wiper. “Uh-oh, a ticket,” I thought! I scanned the road but didn’t see any previously undetected no parking signs. As I took the paper, I saw it was a handwritten note. The note said, “Please do not park here again. You are impeding access to our driveway.” My heart sunk. I noticed that the driveway was at an angle, and at that angle, I was indeed blocking a corner of their coming and going, making it difficult but not impossible to get in and out. I also noticed the wheelchair ramp to the front door of their house. I felt terrible. Those who know me know that I say sorry a lot, even arguably when it’s not necessary; but this time I felt it was necessary. I was grateful that the homeowner hadn’t called the police or had me towed, and that the tone of the letter was not mean-spirited, even though it pointed out the problem and warned me not to do it again. I decided to pen a sincere apology on another note and put it onto their car’s windshield. I won’t do it again, and will be ever more careful!

It’s almost Lent. We are about to observe Ash Wednesday. Some of us have had great years and done many good things. Others perhaps not so much. Regardless, the season of Lent reminds us that even on our good days, each of us is capable of and culpable in getting in the way of others. As we say in our prayer of confession, “God, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done and by what we have left undone.” Sometimes we act with petty malice; at other times we are going about our business in some state of self-absorption, and we simply don’t pay attention. As it says in 1 John 1:8, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” Indeed. This Lent, may we once again practice the grace-filled art of humbly paying attention (avoiding bad parking spots in the first place?) and being humble when we discover our errors too late. May we be mindful of the needs of children and other vulnerable people in our midst. And may we have the vision to look to the horizon for the help that God is sending, or to look over the horizon willing to sail to the rescue in whatever shape boat God has provided.

FLOWER CALENDAR

Please take notice!! OUR FLOWER CALENDAR is posted on an easel in the Narthex!
Below are available dates OPEN for 2024. Please sign up, this will help both early and 11 o’clock services. THANK YOU!!

February 18
February 25
March 10
March 17

May 26
July 14
November 3
November 17

PRAYER TEAM

Members of the Prayer Team are offering daily prayers for those on our congregational prayer list and for other loved ones. If you would like to request prayers for someone -- whether they are part of our congregation or not -- please call Martha Butler (336-597-3946). If you would like to be on the Prayer Team, please let Martha know.



MEDICAL CONCERNS

Don Hill
Jeff Fitzgerald

SYMATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:
...Jean Andrews and Susie Ainsworth in the death of
Tom Andrews on December 29th;
...Tom Fitzgerald and Jeff Fitzgerald in the death of
Rob Fitzgerald on January 11th;
...Barbara Alexander in the death of Tom Alexander on
January 20th.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT by members, friends and former clergy of Long Memorial United Methodist Church are available. If you do not have one, please treat yourself during this upcoming season of Lent. They are **FREE** and can be found in the Narthex.



THE LENTEN LUNCHESES will be held with participating churches this year on Wednesdays from February 21 – March 20 , at Noon in the Harris Fellowship Hall.

February 21 - Rev. Bill Bennet - St. Mark's Episcopal

February 28 - Rev. Dr. DuPre Sanders - Roxboro Baptist

March 6 - Rev. Ed Priestaf - Long Memorial United Methodist

March 13 - Rev. Dr. Matt Bowman - Roxboro Presbyterian

March 20 - Bishop Clevie Brandon - Compassionate Ministries International and President of the Person Co. Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

All congregations and community members are invited to all of the Lenten Lunches, hosted by Long Memorial United Methodist Church each Wednesday at 12pm, for a time of fellowship edification on our Lenten journey. The meals are prepared by Long Memorial's United Women of Faith and the cost is \$10, but we never turn anyone away. The proceeds are used to support UWF missions.

Each participating church provides a musical selection and a homily/devotion.

The meals and program are served in the Harris Hall, which is the rear-entrance of the church next to the playground. Long Memorial UMC is located at 226 North Main St., Roxboro, NC 27573, across from the Kirby Theater. For questions about Long Memorial or this Lenten Lunch series, please send a message to longmemorial@esinc.net or call the church office at (336) 599-1193.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER **AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC:**

- Sweetheart Lunch is February 11- Harris Fellowship Hall
- Ash Wednesday Service is February 14 – 6:00 P.M. – Chapel
- Lenten Devotion Lunches are every Wednesday February 21 – March 20 (Noon)
Harris Hall
 - Jaycees Prayer Breakfast and 11 A.M. Worship is March 17
 - Youth Helping During Worship 11 A.M. March 3
 - Palm Sunday is March 24 – 10:30 A.M. Service Only - Sanctuary
- Palm Sunday Annual Fundraiser Luncheon March 24 – Noon - Harris Hall
 - Munday Thursday Service is March 28 – 7:00 P.M. – Chapel
- Easter Sunrise Service is March 31 – TBD – Merritt Commons, Main Street
(Ed Priestaf, preaching)
 - Easter is March 31 – 10:30 A.M. Service Only - Sanctuary

CHRISTIAN HELP CENTER NEEDS:

Canned Meats & Canned Beans



EASTER LILY TIME!



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN EASTER LILY IN THE CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31 IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF A SPECIAL PERSON PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE (336-599-1193) **BEFORE FEBRUARY 28TH** TO LET US KNOW. THERE IS AN ORDER DEADLINE AT THE FLORIST.

*****This year's cost is \$24.00 for a 6 inch pot. Our usual nursery has changed.*****

Please call Church
Office at 599-1193
for your birthday or someone in your home.)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 02 – Matthew Carver, Kalli Brown

February 03 – Judy Robinson

February 05 – Steve Medford

February 06 – Tate Allen

February 07 - Jen Pierce

February 09 – Felicia Allen, William Crabtree, Eric Sandy

February 10 – Amy Bayliff
February 11 – Eddie Bridges, Chris Atkins, Betsy Sandy
February 12 – Diana Stovall
February 13 - Helen Slaughter
February 14 – Gordon Carver
February 15 – Maribel Strachan
February 16 – John Lacy Harris
February 20 – Tom Carpenter
February 21 – Robert Wrenn, Joseph Stovall
February 22 – Jay Bayliff, Emily Rogers
February 24 – Hunt Fitzgerald
February 25 – Jim Kurst, Diana Smith

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

March 01 – Teresa Fitzgerald, Mark Ramey
March 03 – Brooke Denny
March 07 – Lois M. Winstead, Tom Fitzgerald
March 09 – Danny Talbert, Bradsher Atkins
March 10 - Tonya Gentry
March 14 - Stephen Paith, Christen Tillett, Kaiden Denny
March 18 - Jamie Mundy
March 21 – Nancy Day
March 26 - Sherry MacIntosh
March 28 - Glenn Long
March 29 - Leah Owen, Harriett Tillett
March 31 - Doug Mabe, Donna Kurst

UP DATE ON FINANCES

As 2024 gets underway, we continue to give thanks to God for shaping us together into the people God wants us to be. We celebrate that we were able to pay all of our bills, meet our mission commitments, and fully meet our Conference apportionments in 2023. Thank you for your generosity!

In our continued efforts to be transparent and good stewards of that with which we have been entrusted, we will periodically share our church financial status with the congregation.

Here is up to date information about our church's 2024 financials, as of Sunday, February 4:

2024 Budget: \$481,908

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,267

Budget giving through February 4: \$46,576 (10% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$435,332 (90% of the budget)

Sunday, February 4 budget giving: \$18,352

We thank you for your faithfulness in discerning what God has called you to share. We trust that God will help us all be good stewards of the blessings God has provided!

As a reminder, you can make contributions to the church by:

- Cash or check on Sundays or during office hours throughout the week,
- Vanco Mobile app on your phone to make single or recurring payments,
- Contact the church office to utilize an Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit / EFT) on a regular basis.
- If you wish to change your EFT amount, please send an email to LMfinsec@esinc.net or come to the office to fill out a form.
- Mail a check to the church's PO box: Long Memorial UMC, PO Box 310, Roxboro, NC 27573



**On Sunday, February 11th,
immediately following our 11:00 a.m.
worship Service, the YOUTH will host their
Sweetheart Luncheon.**

**This is a FREE lunch for all Senior Adult Church
Members (ages 60 and older) to say "THANK YOU"
to all who have lived as an example by going before
us in the walk of faith.**

YOU ARE INVITED

A bridal shower for Lucy Burch (our former Duke student intern) will be held in Long Memorial's fellowship hall on Saturday, February 17th from 1:00-3:00. There will be refreshments, games, and lots of laughs! Long Memorial means more to Lucy than most will ever know. She would absolutely be delighted to celebrate with you. Gifts are welcome, but they are in no way required. Your presence is the true gift! If you would like to stop by, you can text/call 251-510-3268.

HELP US UPDATE OUR CHURCH RECORDS

The Communications Committee is kicking off a campaign in 2024 to update our church records so we can better "communicate" with everyone and ensure we are doing our best in making sure you are always in the know. Please complete the Contact Information Sheet at the link below by Friday March, 1, 2024. This is for EVERYONE! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jona Fitzgerald, Chair of the Communications Committee. Hard copies can be found in the Narthex and returned to the church office or Jona Fitzgerald. (jona.fitzgerald@gmail.com / 336-583-9705).

<https://forms.gle/F7VVJZmsttWC1jH97>

Thank you-

Long Memorial United Methodist Church Communications Committee

Jona Fitzgerald

Donna Kurst

Courtney Harding

Martha Butler

Maribel Strachan

BACKPACK PALS NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Backpack Pals is looking for donations from Long Memorial for an Easter special pack. Our steering committee is so impressed with our special donations. The peanut butter and toothbrush request for Christmas was wonderful. You are truly a giving church family. They are requesting a special treat for Easter this year. Extra items will also be included for this school break. Nutella breadstick packs are needed.

Below is a photo of this treat. They may come in different size packs. A box will be placed in the narthex for these items. Thanks for your caring and giving.

Cheryl Allen/Backpack Pals coordinator



Ministering to Families Impacted by Substance Misuse and Mental Health Issues

Finding Resources

LONG MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
226 N MAIN ST, ROXBORO, NC 27573



*Lunch will be
provided!*

MARCH 12, 2024
12-1:30 P.M.

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 12 TO:
(336) 597-2204 X2263

rhjohnson@personcountync.gov

*Please join us for
this free resource
forum!*

Vaya Health
Insight Human Services
RHA Health Services
Freedom House Recovery Center
Person County EMS
NC211
Person Memorial Hospital

Sponsored by:
Healthy Personians Substance Use Disorder Subcommittee

