

# Long Memorial UMC

*March 2024*

## Worship With Us Every Sunday

8:45 A.M. – Early Service - Chapel

11:00 A.M. – Worship – Sanctuary

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

*“For where two or three have gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst.” –Matthew 18:20*



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

We are on the web at: [longmemorialumc.org](http://longmemorialumc.org)  
Like us on Facebook: Long Memorial United Methodist Church

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to turn your clocks UP (SPRING FORWARD) one hour before going to bed on Saturday night March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **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  
Danny Bumpass

## **UPDATE ON FINANCES**

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 25:

2024 Budget: \$481,908

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,267

Budget giving through February 25: \$63,661 (13% of budget)

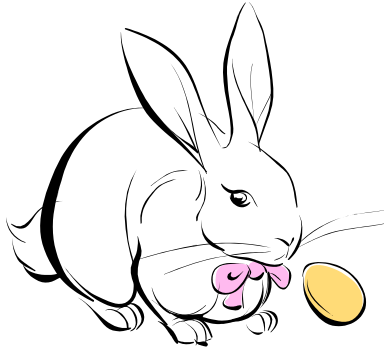
Amount of Budget to be raised: \$418,247 (87% of the budget)

Sunday, February 25 budget giving: \$4,835

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, or you can use the Vanco Mobile app on your phone to make single or recurring payments, or you can arrange through the church office to utilize an Electronic Funds Transfer (direct deposit) on a regular basis. If you wish to change your EFT amount, please send an email to [LMfinsec@esinc.net](mailto:LMfinsec@esinc.net) or come to the office to fill out a form. You can also mail a check to the church's PO box: Long Memorial UMC, PO Box 310, Roxboro, NC 27573

## EASTER EGG HUNT – PALM SUNDAY



Our Easter Egg Hunt is right around the corner, and we are looking for candy to fill our eggs for the children. If you would like to bring candy this year, Autumn will be collecting it on Sundays at the end of the Early Service and the beginning of the 11 A.M. Service. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!

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

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

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

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

All congregations and community members are invited to all 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.

**DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR LENT** by members and friends of Long Memorial United Methodist Church are available in the Narthex and are FREE. Please treat yourself to a blessing during this season of Lent.

## **EASTER CROSS FLOWERS**

This year we invite EVERYONE to join in the traditional “children’s celebration” of putting flowers on our cross in the sanctuary. You are invited to bring flowers from your garden to place on the upper sections of the cross upon your arrival in the sanctuary on Easter morning. The children will process in with their flowers at the beginning of worship and fill in the lower sections of the cross. Children who wish to join should meet in the library prior to the 10:30 A.M. service.



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

- Lenten Devotion Lunches Wednesdays through March 20 (Noon) Harris Hall
  - Youth Helping During Worship 11 A.M. March 3
  - Jaycees Prayer Breakfast and 11 A.M. Worship is March 17
  - Palm Sunday is March 24 – 10:30 A.M. Service Only - Sanctuary
- Palm Sunday Annual Fundraiser Luncheon March 24 – Noon - Harris Hall
  - Maunday 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

## **ATTENTION, MEN!**

There will be a meeting of any men interested in learning more about Methodist Men on Sunday, March 3, from 9:30-10:30 A.M. in the Harris Hall. The meeting will be “floating” so feel free to drop in. We will have coffee and doughnuts and discuss upcoming events and ways of becoming an organized group.

Thank you,  
Chris Atkins



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

### **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, 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

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

April 03 – Laura Atkins  
April 09 – Al Taylor, Sally Humphries, Cheryl Allen  
April 10 – Vickie Carver, Nicholas Young  
April 11 – Harriett Adcock  
April 14 – Jeff Kisner  
April 16 – Ann Ramey  
April 17 – Al Cole  
April 20 – Janna Kisner, Michael Pierce  
April 21 – Alicia Puryear  
April 29 – Doug Robinson

Mark Your Calendar

**LONG MEMORIAL UMC FUN DAY!**  
**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – 4:00-7:00**

Eat In or Take Out – Harris Fellowship Hall - \$14 Per Plate

Tickets to sell and tickets to purchase are available...

Contact: Nancy Lee Newell – 336-599-2095 or 919-451-8088,

[nancylee.newell@yahoo.com](mailto:nancylee.newell@yahoo.com)

**Festivities Include:**

Fellowship

Barbeque

Silent Auction

50/50 Raffle at the dinner – proceeds will go to local missions

**Volunteers are needed for:**

Kitchen Duty

Set up

Clean up

Silent Auction

Contact: Connee White – 336-504-2069, [conneew@gmail.com](mailto:conneew@gmail.com) or

Jill Strickland – 336-504-4081, [jillostrickland@gmail.com](mailto:jillostrickland@gmail.com)

Silent Auction: Do you have a treasure (could be an antique or not), vacation home, or artistic talent (baking, painting, needlework, gardening, woodworking, etc.) you would like to donate for the Silent Auction? WE NEED YOU!

Contact: David Lewis – 984-710-2318, [david.lewis761@gmail.com](mailto:david.lewis761@gmail.com)

**\*\*\*\*\*We need to pay down our note to Roxboro Savings Bank of \$150,000 for the 2020 renovations to the parsonage and other completed projects. Please help us by supporting our FUN DAY!! We are in extra need of sponsors to help make this day possible!\*\*\*\*\***

## **NEWS OF INTEREST**

There will be a meeting Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Harris Hall to discuss emergency response actions at the church. This will be a discussion for anyone willing to take a lead role in case there is a need for medical, fire, security, or other emergency responses at church.

## **OUR NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN**

A memorial garden is being constructed on the main street side of the columbarium under the oak trees. The garden will add more beauty to our beautiful campus and give one more place to go and reflect on God's creation. This is being made possible by a gift for the Glory of God and Long Memorial United Methodist Church by the Bill Sabiston Family.

## **HOMELESS SHELTER COMING TO PERSON COUNTY**

You may have heard in the paper that a Roxboro agency has recently been awarded a grant to build a shelter and affordable housing for persons experiencing homelessness. The multi-million dollar grant will cover the costs to build the shelter, but the ongoing operations will eventually need to come from the community. This will require a lot of community and church support.

The shelter support is currently envisioned to be modeled after an organization called Allied Churches of Alamance County, as a new community-ministry that will be about half the size of the Christian Help Center. While construction here in Person County has not yet even begun, I believe churches need to start learning and working together to better understand homelessness and how we can effectively join together in ministry. Long Memorial's Mission Committee and I would like to organize a group of church and community members to take a day trip to Burlington to visit and tour the Allied Churches shelter. ? Would you be interested in a day-trip to Burlington for that purpose? Please let me know! Once I know who is interested we will work on setting a date.

Does this project resonate with you? Would you like to learn more? I'm at the stage of planning of seeking people who are interested. Send me an email at [ed.priestaf@gmail.com](mailto:ed.priestaf@gmail.com), or call the church office at (336) 599-1193. We will get you plugged in.

## **SUMMER LITERACY PROGRAM UPDATE**

Last year's Summer Literacy Program was a lot of work, but by all accounts, a big success. We stopped the "summer reading slide" for 36 kids from around the county, we formed some new relationships and friendships with their families and with the schools, we involved many donors and community volunteers, we were a source of summer employment for a number of fantastic teachers and aides. We want to try again!

For more information from the Duke Endowment about the program: <https://www.dukeendowment.org/project-details/summer-literacy-initiative>

One of my goals this year is to work with the congregation to make the program more sustainable. In truth, we kicked things off last year with about as many kids as we could possibly have accommodated and really maxed out what was possible. We didn't have room for anymore! I will be working in the coming months with our church's Coordinating Committee to figure out ways to make the program less dependent on any one person. If you would like to join the Coordinating Committee, or to find out more, or to have me or one of our leaders come and speak to your organization about how to get involved, please reach out to Pastor Ed.



## **WORLD RENOWNED STORY TELLER**

### **DONALD DAVIS LECTURE**

#### ***The Power Of Telling Your Story***

We are helping to promote this great event at Roxboro Baptist Church (202 S. Main Street) on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome at this free event.



## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:**

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced . . . He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations.” (Psalm 105:4-7)

Long Memorial is pretty special church, in a pretty special place. There's literally no place on earth exactly like it! Of course, when one seeks to have “the same mindset as Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5), one begins to see that every place, every people, every culture is special in the sense that all of the “heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1) and everyone has been “wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139:14). The building is beautiful, the sunlight streams through the stained glass of the sanctuary in the evening. The echoes of children's laughter and loving caregivers fill the halls. New things spring forth, like the beautiful prayer garden that is taking shape between Main Street and the Columbarium. Our telephone conversations in the office are held concerning myriad subjects, but the majority of them ultimately involve someone caring for someone else. “Can you tell me how to get in touch with so-and-so? I want to send her a card.” “Would you add me to the prayer list, Pastor? I'm having surgery next Tuesday.” “Where can we bring peanut butter for the children's backpack program?” “Is the mission meeting at 6 in the church library? I don't want to miss it.” “How do we go about joining the church? We want to throw our lot in with you. It's been such a blessing as we have visited.”

We sing our hymns of praise, and we have our favorites; but we also listen and try to appreciate new songs, or songs that are at least new to us. A couple Sundays ago we heard our choir sing a new anthem. Its words moved me to tears: “We are your church, a light amidst the darkness. Shine through your servants, and lead from this place, to lift the lowly, to reach the lost and lonely, reflect your love, your mercy and your grace.” (We are Your Church, words by Tina English). Even when I'm representing our church in the community, like whenever I participate in a worship service with the Ministerial Alliance, I hear gospel songs played and sung with great enthusiasm and joy. The whole congregation seems to know the words, but I've never heard them before. Even so, by the end of the song, I at least can usually sing along with the chorus, and I find myself woven a little stronger to the body of Christ around me.

I read something recently that talked about the difference between a church where you are “welcomed” and a church where you “belong.” A welcoming church can be nice and friendly sounding – lots of smiles and pleasantries. A church where you belong expresses a deeper commitment: we care about you, as you are and as God is forming you to be; we value your input and presence - quirks and strengths and hang-ups and brilliance and warts and all. We are a place where you can sometimes get it wrong, but grace abounds, and we can learn to forgive and be forgiven. I think we are a church where you belong.

We are a church willing to join in God's mission, empowered by the unique gifts God has given us. We don't take as many mission trips as some churches do (although that could be good for us), but we are certainly in mission. We celebrate that many in our community

were taught in our church's kindergarten decades ago. We celebrate the thousands who have been blessed by our preschool over its 25 or so years. We celebrate the former music academy, and the decades filled with UMYF youth learning about how Jesus loves and wants us to love. We celebrate the countless strong women in mission, and the many labors of love by our men. We celebrate the integrity and passion and wisdom and skill of many souls who have been and are being formed as Christian disciples and who are called, hired, or elected to serve our community as officials, board members, citizen advocates, directors, teachers, nurses, administrators, and the like. We celebrate the folks who share God's love with their neighbors. We celebrate our many interns over the years from Duke Divinity School. We celebrate the new relationships and the good we did in helping our county's little ones learn to read last summer. All of this, we remember, is the work of the Holy Spirit – the gift of God – the way that God actually accomplishes God's good purposes in the world – calling us to serve as God's voice, hands, feet.

We also celebrate and remember the ordinary ways God shows up in our daily life. Every moment that we notice and give thanks to God is a moment when we are celebrating God's faithfulness. Every "I'm sorry" and every making up after an argument. The warm sun on your cheek, a sparrow on a feeder, the cry of a red-tailed hawk, a kitten curled up purring in your lap. These too are evidence of God's love.

So, remember the miracles, big and small, that God has done. God remembers his promises forever.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ed

## **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](mailto: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

