

Long Memorial UMC

May 2024

Worship With Us On Sunday

8:45 PM – Early Service - Chapel

11:00 AM – Worship Service – 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
Like us on Facebook: Long Memorial United Methodist Church

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.

LOVE OFFERING FOR SLICE, OUR DUKE INTERN

We have been so blessed to have Slice Penny with us last summer and this past school year. If you would like to contribute to a love offering for him during the month of May, please write "Love offering: Slice" on the memo line of your check, or on the offering envelope. If sending by mail: P.O. Box 310; Roxboro, NC 27573.

BABY BOTTLE BLESSING DRIVE

It will soon be time to show our support for Life Choices (Pregnancy Support Center) by participating in the Baby Bottle Blessing Drive. On Mother's Day, take home a baby bottle, fill it with your donation, and return the bottle to the church by Father's Day. On May 12th, Ellen Harris will have the bottles at early church and in the narthex before the 11:00 service. Any questions? Call Ellen at 599-8033.

THANK YOU FROM THE FUN DAY COMMITTEE

Our Fun Day committee thanks everyone who was in any way part of our Fun Day event! With no doubt it was a great success! THANK YOU.



(Please call Church



Office at 599-1193

for your birthday or someone in your home.)

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

May 02 – Carl Stonbraker
May 03 – Steve Bailey
May 06 – Norma Sabiston
May 08 – Zandra Hill, Jim Tomkinson
May 09 – Elaine Hightower
May 10 – Tripp Atkins
May 11 – Gracelyn Gentry
May 13 – Dan Craig, Jill Strickland
May 14 – Aubrey Hess
May 15 – Carla Stovall

May 16 – Lori Burnette, Ted Michie, Rosalie Gates
May 18 – Walt Rogers, C.L. Oakley
May 19 – Tommy Humphries
May 20 – Kay Carver, Tracy Rogers, Paul Long
May 21 – Lin Cates, Cindy Johnson
May 23 – Wayne Winstead
May 25 – Jeff Fitzgerald
May 27 – Anne Barry-Priest, Darnell Carver, Anniston Stovall, Emily Pierce
May 29 – Jeffrey Hicks

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

June 02 – Kayla Brown
June 03 – Terri Cates
June 06 – Samantha Craig, Nora Groce
June 07 – Martha Ann O'Hara
June 08 – Tom Loftis
June 09 – Xavier Strachan
June 10 – Dan Butler
June 11 – Louise Tomkinson
June 13 – Ashley Bailey
June 18 – Riley Young
June 19 – Carol Hadley, Conrad Kimbrough
June 20 – Nina Rhodes
June 21 – Ellen Harris
June 22 – Stephanie Gilbert
June 23 – Martha Allen
June 25 – Leon Long
June 26 – Bill Sabiston, IV
June 29 – Lou Lockhart
June 30 – Terry Allen

DO YOU HAVE A GRADUATE?

If you have a high school or college graduate that will be graduating this year (2024) please contact Autumn Gentry at 336-501-1953 or autumngentry23@gmail.com with your graduate's name. We are hoping to recognize graduates on Sunday, June 2, 2024.



FROM THE PASTOR

Friends,

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

Way back in one of my first churches, when I was working with the youth, I noticed there was a difference between what I knew the youth were dealing with and talking about at school, and what they were sharing when they got to church. So we began to work to tear down the laws of self-censoring that they thought they had to uphold. They had learned by example over their young lives that when you came to church, and the question of sins or mistakes came up, there was a certain hierarchy. Certain shortcomings were OK to share in church. Maybe you didn't clean your room, or you said a "bad word," or listened to a song that you probably wouldn't play in church. That's what you should/could/would share. But in school, it was a whole different universe. When I grew up 35 years before today's kids, some kids in my school had run ins with the police for assault, vandalism, and theft; I learned much later some of my childhood friends endured abusive parents and boyfriends; some struggled with addictions and compulsions; some considered suicide; those are just a few of the things going on that no one dared bring up in church. Then in church we would all stare at our toes in youth group when our volunteer youth teacher would ask us questions about what we were going through. We, too, would feel bold enough to say sanitized sins, like we didn't stop playing ball right when mom said dinner was ready; we were thinking that our church teacher didn't REALLY want to know what we were REALLY dealing with. How wrong we were.

Sadly, we carry some of those "appropriateness" rules forward into adulthood. In church, when we ask for prayers, our church culture is such that we often just share about deaths in our friend/family sphere, or an illness or hospital stay: all worthy of prayer and care, of compassion and healing and solace. But that's just a small slice of what we are going through. What's more, most of us who show up on Sunday morning come only to worship, where only a few requests are named, and there's no real means to explore the depths of grace and share how we are being transformed, or at least how God might be asking us to grow. Some of the reason for this, I think, is that we haven't sat with these verses in Romans and let them permeate way down deep. Sunday School classes or other small groups are a start in the direction of real-life sharing, but only a start.

Perhaps we are only comfortable admitting to God the sanitized kinds of sins we used to think were OK to share in Sunday School. Surely God can forgive a swear word expressed in frustration, or a slight oversight when I could have been more attentive to another's needs. But must I also wrestle with the really ugly truth? The stuff no one knows about me? The stuff I'd rather not admit about myself? Do I have to confront,

like my school-days examples, the crimes that might be on my record; the abuse I know is going on in my friend's house; my compulsions that have spun out of control; thoughts I'm not sure I'll survive? If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves. If we say we've only sinned in sanitized ways, that's not giving God's grace much credit, and we are still deceiving. You see, God knows it all, and wants all of us to know all of Him.

Yet Romans 5 says, "Christ died for the UNGODLY." "At JUST THE RIGHT TIME." "WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, Christ died for us." Christ didn't wait until we had it all together. No, Jesus knew our biggest yuck, and still said, "I love you and I want you to be with me. I forgive you for everything."

I wonder what would happen, if we were able to come fully to terms with how far God had to go to reach US. Not THEM, those really bad sinners out there, but US, in the depth of our yuck. Not THEM, the folks that are easy to judge, but ME. If we could really come to terms with that, I wonder how that would change the grace we show others, in Jesus' name.

"Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5) So don't be ashamed of the worst you've done. Repent from it. Receive God's forgiveness. And go about the work of forgiving and sharing God's grace with others.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ed



SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

...Danny Bumpass in the death of his sister, Jane Carver Bumpass Dixon.

...Kayla Brown in the death of her uncle, Timothy Brown.

PRAYERS FOR MEDICAL CONCERNS

Dan Butler
Charles Higgins
C.L. Oakley

Tom Hill Clayton
Helen Starr
Elizabeth Sabiston

ACT FAST: Mother's Day Bulletin!!!

Remember a SPECIAL LADY on Mother's Day by having her name included in our special Mother's Day Bulletin.

Cost: \$5 per name. Sponsored by the UMYF. Please respond by e-mail, phone (336-599-11930 or at church this Sunday. *Do not mail it.* **Deadline is next Wednesday, May 8th at Noon.**

E-mail address: longmemorial@esinc.net

ARE YOU INTERESTED: in Addressing Homelessness in Roxboro

As many of you have heard, the Roxboro Housing Authority and their nonprofit arm, the Rox Community Redevelopment Corporation, have been awarded two multi-million dollar grants for a homeless shelter and affordable housing units. The shelter will provide wrap-around services to those persons and families, to help them overcome the many obstacles that they may be facing: medical care, mental health care, financial counseling, social services, transportation, job networking, education, etc., while giving them safe shelter at night. **Important to note, however, is that this shelter grant did NOT include funding for its operations.**

More information can be found here: [RHA Press Release](#); [WRAL Story](#)

As a citizen of the county and a church leader who cares about our most vulnerable neighbors,

1. I am writing this firstly to begin recruiting grassroots involvement of community members to learn about and help support our homeless neighbors. I believe that we are going to need to create an organization of support that involves many individuals, churches, and civic groups. **If you would like to start working together to understand the issue and how to help, please send me an email with your contact information.**
2. Secondly, one of the nearest homeless shelters in our region is a long-standing shelter in Alamance county run by Allied Churches of Alamance County (Link: [Allied Churches](#)). The Allied Churches shelter in Burlington would love to have some interested Person County folks like us come, take a tour, and learn about how they operate. This would be done on a weekday morning in May – probably leaving Roxboro about 9am. **Would you like to be a part of such a "field trip?" If so, please send me an email about that, too. Once I see who is interested, I will work with the group to organize the trip.**

FINANCE UPDATE:

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 information about our church's 2024 financial giving, as of Sunday, April 28 (33% of the year):

2024 Budget: \$481,908

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,267

Budget giving through April 28: \$138,538 (29% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$343,370 (71% of the budget)

Sunday, April 28 budget giving: \$2,060

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 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.

SAVE THE DATE!

P.u.M.P. (Person united Methodist Parishes) is celebrating their 50th Anniversary on Sunday, May 19th, at Long Memorial from 3-6pm. A worship service in the sanctuary will be followed by a catered meal in the Harris Hall!

NOTE OF THANKS

Many thanks to our church family for all the cards, calls and delicious meals sent to us during our recent rough patch.

We can attest to the fact that Long Memorial has many good cooks!

-Helen & Keith Starr

SUMMER LITERACY

We are pleased to report that Long Memorial has received another grant for our second year of our Summer Literacy Program!

Returning Site Director Autumn Snow and returning Volunteer Coordinator Tracey O'Briant have been hard at work making preparations, as have the members of the Coordinating Committee. Student invitations have gone out through the Public Schools to over 200 rising 2nd graders across the county, and so far we have over 60 responses. We plan to receive the 30 of those children who need the most help. Most of our staff from last year is returning, and the Hiring Subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee have been interviewing candidates this week to fill the few open positions that we have.

The full day camp will begin June 24 and wrap up July 26. We use licensed teachers and teacher assistants who are trained in the Science of Reading, with a student/teacher ratio of 5/1. The children are provided with breakfast and lunch, receive nearly 4 hours of reading instruction, and participate in more than 2 hours of other enrichment each day. On Thursday nights we provide a great meal and fun engagement for our students' families. Last year, the camp saw a 1% growth in reading scores, which is equivalent to 2-3 months. This is significant, because students without intervention like ours are likely to show a decline in their reading over the summer.

We actively seek donations from churches, individuals, and civic organizations, and we celebrate the many volunteers that we need to make the camp work! The Duke Endowment and other local donations provide the funding to hire these teachers and

staff, and to buy the materials needed. This program is not funded from the Long Memorial budget. That said, Sunday School classes, the UWF, and individuals were moved to make donations last year that were greatly appreciated, and donations are gladly welcomed!

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Ed or Autumn Snow at 336-703-8076 or any of the Coordinating Committee members; if you'd like to volunteer you can contact Tracey O'Briant at 336-583-5990.

Coordinating Committee Members: Site Director Autumn Snow, Autumn Gentry (Children's Director), Doug Mabe (SPRC), Beverly Hicks, Don Hill, Pam Day (Preschool), Ed Priestaf (Pastor), George Gentry (Trustee), Sally Humphries, Jackie Priestaf, Stacey Paith, Harriett Tillett, Kelly Duncan, Brooke Denny, Karen Kerrick.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC

JUNE 17, 18, 19, 20

5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M

Dinner will be included each evening.

Ages 3 years – 5th grade

MARK YOUR CALENDER

***The Church Office Will Be Closed On May 27th
In Observance Of Memorial Day***

GOD is
so GOOD!

