

Long Memorial UMC

June 2024

Worship With Us Each Sunday

8:45 AM – Early Service - Chapel

11:00 AM – Worship Service – Sanctuary

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



Long Memorial United Methodist Church
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longmemorial@esinc.net (e-mail address)
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336-599-1193 (Telephone)
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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.

FROM PASTOR ED

“Never Say Never”

Ezekiel 37

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life.

When my children were small – three or four or five years old, one of their favorite games to play with me was “You can NEVER get away!” We would wrestle playfully together, and then I would grab them in some variation of a bear hug, while they giggled, and I would say in my most “ominous” voice and a movie-style maniacal laugh, “Now I’ve got you! You can never get away! Hahahaha!” Then I would pretend to get distracted, while they inevitably wriggled themselves free. They would taunt me with their escape, and I would pretend to express my great dismay (“Curses! Foiled again! I’ll get you next time!”) and they would giggle some more. Then inevitably they’d end up in another bear hug, they’d be threatened with eternal imprisonment from their dastardly dad, only to wiggle free again. We’d repeat the game until either Dad got tired or they spotted a shiny object or another grand adventure, and they flitted off in pursuit of it. I liked to think I was teaching them to be confident of getting out of difficult or impossible situations. Of course, as grownups, we know that there are many predicaments that happen to us that are far harder to wiggle out of. In fact, some of them seem impossible. And whenever I see the word, “impossible,” I think of the scripture in Matthew 19:26 which says, “Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

One of the lectionary readings this week concerns God doing the impossible. (If you’re looking for a free spot without any commentary that leads you through most of the Bible in three years, a website for daily Revised Common Lectionary readings can be found at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=B>)

This scripture is the story of the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel, chapter 37, in the valley of dry bones. In a vision, God takes Ezekiel to a valley where long ago there had been a great battle, and the countless skeletons of the fallen remained scattered everywhere. God asks Ezekiel the famous question, “Mortal, can these bones live?” If you or I were asked that question, we might be quick to say, “Nope! They are very dead and skeletons never escape death!” But Ezekiel in the story expresses great faith in

God, and wisely says, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know!" God then tells Ezekiel to speak/prophecy God's words to the bones, to be reconnected (the toe bone to the foot bone, the ankle bone to the leg bone, says the old song), and for breath to enter them, and for the army to once again live. (By the way, here is a good example of prophecy not referring to predicting the future, but rather for speaking whatever words God places on your lips). Sure enough, after Ezekiel follows God's direction, the impossible happens. What seemed impossible, that the very dead skeletons would be raised from the dead, is possible for God.

In the context of the prophecy, if you read the surrounding chapters, Israel is facing great desolation at the hands of their neighbors. All hope seems lost. But God is encouraging the people not to give up hope; that God will restore them. No matter what the circumstances, God can breathe new life into existence. No matter what the tragedy, God promises a new day. God is not limited by any earthly circumstance. We must keep in mind, however, that God is not like Cinderella's fairy godmother. God won't turn the pumpkin in your backyard into a coach, or mice into horses, just because it's impossible. Unlike the fairy godmother, whose spell wore off at midnight, God CAN replace despair with new purpose, God can replace pain with healing, God can replace injustice with justice, God can replace isolation with connection, God can replace shortfall with plenty, if we place our faith in God.

How does this look in our lives? It might look like a hope-filled, God-believing Christian like you sharing a bit of encouragement with a discouraged worker. A lot of waiters and waitresses are working hard to fund their education and eventually their dreams, for example. God asks, "Tell me, is this person my child?" We answer, "Lord, you know she is." Then God instructs us, "Speak her value and your appreciation into her life." It might look like a five minute quiet time of prayer in your own backyard, when you pour your worried heart out to God about a family situation or a health crisis, and God reminds you that all will eventually be well, replacing your overwhelming anxiety with peace. "Tell me, child, is this crisis too much for me?" We reply, "God, you are greater than this circumstance." God replies, "I am sharing my peace with you. Cast your burdens upon me."

Without God, we might feel like the bear hug of the world is too much from which to escape. But with God's power, we can be freed from that which threatened to eternally chain us. It's not just a child's game; it's the very promise of God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ed

CHURCH FINANCIAL 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, May 26, 2024 (which is 40% of the calendar year):

2024 Budget: \$481,908

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,267

Budget giving through May 26: \$167,884 (35% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$314,024 (65% of the budget)

Sunday, May 26 budget giving: \$4,436

Our budget giving is about \$17,000 less this year than it was last year. However, this year in the spring we focused heavily on supporting Fun Day to pay down our capital loan (for things like new church HVAC units and the 2020 parsonage improvements). Overall, total church giving is \$231,125 as of May 26, which is an increase of nearly \$32,000 over the same time last year.

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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR BABY BOTTLES ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16 - FATHER'S DAY
FOR THE BABY BOTTLE BLESSING DRIVE. THIS DONATION WILL HELP
SUPPORT LIFE CHOICES (Pregnancy Support Center).**

Thank you for your donation.

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

CHRISTIAN HELP CENTER DONATIONS NEEDED:

Shampoo, soap/body wash, toilet paper

A basket is located in the hallway just past the Library for your items.

TAKE NOTE!

We will soon be collecting school supplies again this year for several area schools. A list will come out the last week of June of items needed. Please take note of this so we can minister to those children in need of our help.



PRAYERS FOR MEDICAL CONCERNS

Dan Butler
Donna Kurst
Norma Sabiston

Tom Hill Clayton
Elizabeth Sabiston
David Kimbrough

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Judy Robinson in the death of her sister, Carolyn Payne Shuford.

2024 GRADUATES

This Sunday, June 2nd we will honor our 2024 high school graduates at the 11'oclock worship service. We are proud of our following seniors:

Nathanial Alan Stovall, Jr.
Roxboro Community School

Kyah Thompson
The School of Science and Mathematics, Durham



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

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 – Stefanie Gilbert
June 23 – Martha Allen
June 25 - Leon Long, Avery Gentry
June 26 - Bill Sabiston, IV, Mary Kelsey Jackson
June 29 – Lou Lockhart
June 30 – Terry Allen

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

July 01 – Anna Wrenn Long
July 02 – Alan Stovall, Kelly Mundy, Bryan Westmoreland
July 03 – CeCe Fitzgerald, Carol Jones
July 04 – Kaitlin Carver, Sallie Weinberger
July 05 – Madelyn Stovall, Layla Fitzgerald
July 07 – Bill White
July 12 – Billie Oakley
July 13 – Jean Peterson
July 14 – Maggie Hess, Sharon Slaughter, Ryan Puryear

July 15 – Allison Thomas
July 16 – Rhys Fitzgerald
July 17 – Bob Morgan
July 19 – Meredith Cates, Thomas Harding
July 20 – Alan Hicks, Hogan Carringer, Grayson Long
July 22 - Ed Priestaf
July 25 – Nancy Coleman
July 27 – Judy Winstead
July 28 – Wilbur Brann, Nate Stovall
July 29 – Phillip Allen, Phyllis Tuck
July 30 – Janice Wilson, Kyle Puryear

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:

August 03 – Courtney Craig Harding
August 04 – Chuck Higgins
August 07 – Danny Bumpass
August 08 – Ashley Castelo
August 09 – Nick Clements
August 10 – Sherry Clayton
August 11 – Milton Hadley
August 12 – Michelle Young
August 13 – Jean Andrews
August 14 – Rachel Blanchard
August 16 – Tom Hill Clayton (100th), Ann Groce, Connie Mundy
August 18 – Nicky Webster
August 19 – Noah Paith
August 21 – Jim Priest
August 22 – Anniston Denny, Lilly Sandy
August 23 – Sam Bailey, Aubrey Hess
August 25 – Barbara Winebrenner
August 26 – Agnes Bacnik
August 28 – Donna H. Kimbrough
August 29 – Kevin Clayton, Susan Wilkerson
August 30 – Kenneth Strachan
August 31 – Olivia Hess



FLOWER CALENDAR FOR JUNE, JUL & AUGUST

June 2 – Carol Hadley
June 9 – Leon Long
June 16 – Bob & Patti Morgan
June 23 – Deb Burke
June 30 – Terry & Martha Allen

July 7 - Jona Fitzgerald
July 14 – _____
July 21 – David Lewis
July 28 – Nancy Lee Newell

August 4 – Tom & Teresa Fitzgerald
August 11 – Deb Burke
August 18 – Ashley Bailey
August 25 – Connie Mundy

FATHER'S DAY BULLETIN

Remember a SPECIAL MAN on Father's Day by having his name included in our special Father's Day Bulletin.

Cost: \$5 per name. Sponsored by the UMYF. Please respond by e-mail, phone (336-599-1193 or at church this Sunday. *Do not mail it.* **Deadline is Wednesday, June 12th at Noon.**

E-mail address: longmemorial@esinc.net

Old Cokesbury Hymnal

Sing A Long

Sunday, June 9

4:00-5:00

Long Memorial UMC

226 North Main

Do you have fond memories of singing from ‘the old Cokesbury hymnal?’ Do you reminisce about the people, the places and the musical memories from your faith journey? Do you wish you could sing some of those old favorites again? Well, please come to an old fashioned sing along. Bring your friends and family to share the memories. Bring your “old Cokesbury hymnal” to hold in your hand once more. We will have extra copies to share.

For more information, contact the office or Janna.

FREE CONCERT THIS SUNDAY

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is pleased to announce that they are hosting the Burlington Boys Choir **THIS** Sunday June 2 at 4 pm! This is an ensemble that is comprised of auditioned boys ages 8-12 years. The performance is free and a love offering will be taken up to support the ensemble. An ice cream social (free) will be held in the parish house following the performance.

Please join them for this event!