

EXTRA NEWS FROM LONG MEMORIAL UMC THIS WEEK

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you, in the name of Jesus! As we journey through the last days of springtime, I pray that you find moments to be aware of God's love and blessing all around you. I've included a few updates below.

For those who just want the headlines:

1. I'm officially reappointed to Long Memorial;
2. I'm taking Spiritual Renewal leave from July 1-31. Coverage for worship and pastoral care is arranged.
3. A helpful summary of General Conference actions can be found online at nccumc.org/gc/
4. Annual Conference meets this week, June 13-15 in Greenville, NC with 8 LMUMC representatives!
5. Mike Friese wraps up his time of able leadership as our DS at the end of June, with Rev. Claire Clyburn becoming DS. Mike is moving to First UMC Wilson to serve as pastor.

Here are the details:

1. Terry shared in church on June 9 that I have been appointed by Bishop Shelton to return to Long Memorial as your pastor for another year. Jackie and I are thrilled about this, and we look forward to prayerfully continuing to serve God alongside you! May God give us grace to follow faithfully as disciples of Jesus. Please pray for the pastors and congregations around the conference who are experiencing pastoral transitions.
2. Terry also shared on behalf of DS Mike Friese has relayed that I have been chosen to participate in a month-long leave for Spiritual Renewal, scheduled for July 1-31, 2024. Times of spiritual renewal routinely serve as a blessing for both the pastor and the congregation. During this time, the church will be served by clergy and laity who temporarily lead the congregation in worship, and by gifted and compassionate pastors who cover any pastoral care situations that may arise. In addition, I have been working with the staff and the Coordinating Committee of the Summer Literacy Program to help prepare for the camp to run smoothly in its second year in my absence. Please contact Peggy Wade at the church office (336) 599-1193 during the month of July if you have matters that need pastoral attention, and she will be able to connect you with the appropriate

people. More information will be shared later this month. Please pray for this time of renewal: for our congregation and for me!

3. The General Conference of the UMC took place in Charlotte, April 23-May 3, 2024. The GC took a number of significant legislative actions. The NC Conference page that summarizes the General Conference information can be found here: <https://nccumc.org/gc/>.
4. The North Carolina Annual Conference of the UMC is taking place this week, from Thursday June 13 – Saturday June 15. Annual Conference is the gathering of UMC congregations in eastern NC (from Burlington to the coast) and includes worship, fellowship, mission, and business. Long Memorial will be well represented! I am attending as our appointed clergy person. Sally Humphries is attending as our church's elected Lay Representative. Tommy Humphries is attending as our District Lay Leader. Nancy Lee Newell, Mark and Maxine Galloway are serving on behalf of our District. Three youth are attending because of their leadership in conference and district youth committees: Lilly Atkins, Caroline Cates, and Molly Pierce. You can follow along with Annual Conference business at <https://nccumc.org/ac2024/>.
5. Lastly, Mike Friese's time as our District Superintendent is drawing to a close. Our new DS, effective in July, is Claire Clyburn, who has recently been serving First UMC in Graham, NC. Thank you, Mike! And Welcome, Claire!

As always, I'm happy to talk with you if you would like, about these or any other matters.

Blessings!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ed

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Please remember in prayer Doug Robinson and his family. This week Doug will be going to Hock Pavilion in Durham. We send our thoughts, prayers and love to Doug, Judy and Chris.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Thank you so much for all that you have done this year to feed hungry children in Person County. We have survived a year of growing numbers accompanied by outrageous grocery costs. You have been a tremendous part of our ability to pull this mission off.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Backpack Pals

FROM CHERYL ALLEN WITH BACKPACKS

August 13th is our new school year first week delivery. The new school year is beginning earlier so we have to adjust.

Please let me know asap if you are available to work this new year.

This will give me time to plan and prepare our schedule.

You have been a wonderful and reliable group this year.

We have grown so much, and are planning to become our own tax exempt organization. It requires quite a bit of work, but we're hoping to be successful.

You are all appreciated and I hope we can work together another year to feed 355+ students each weekend.

Many thanks for your commitment.

Below you will find a Amazon gift list for convenient shopping for Backpack this year. Thanks so much!

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3C5ZTJ8TZKPE0>

REMINDER: Wednesday, June 12th at noon is the last day for including names in our 2024 Father's Day Bulletin.