

# Long Memorial UMC

*July 2025*

## **Worship With Us Each Sunday**

8:45 AM – Early Service - Chapel

11:00 AM – Worship Service - Sanctuary  
and  
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)  
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We are on the web at: [longmemorialumc.org](http://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.

## THANK YOU

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kindness and support you have shown me in my pursuit and attainment of ordination within our beloved United Methodist Church. Most recently, thank you to the United Methodist Men and United Women of Faith for the wonderful celebration luncheon and the whole congregation for the gift of my beautiful stole! I will forever remember the day (June 22, 2025) that you lovingly presented it to me. In reading the information that accompanied the gift, I was delighted and humbled to discover that it was handmade by the women of "Threads of Grace" of Grace Episcopal Church in Nampa, Idaho. They create these stoles out of love, and the proceeds are used to support their "House Next Door" ministry, which supports single mothers pursuing their educational degrees by providing loving support and rent-free housing.

I was blown away by the presence of many of our Long Memorial friends who made the trip to Greenville for the Ordering of Ministry service when I was ordained. It was also a great surprise to me that several friends from my former church in Durham made the trip. I haven't seen some of them since I was reappointed seven years ago; it's a testament to the fact that we are bound together in Christian love in ways that endure beyond distance and time. Many of you have also shared with me that you were able to watch the service online, which means a great deal to me. It reminds me of how God can use technology for good, and that our Sunday fellowship has expanded beyond those who can gather in the sanctuary. Praise be to God!

Looking back in time, I thank you for supporting and encouraging me to prepare the large body of work that the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry reviewed. Your character as a congregation, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit that moves through us, were infused in every answer to every question. Here's an excerpt I'd like to share with you:

*When I arrived at Long Memorial, I had long said on my annual self-evaluations that visitation of the sick or the elderly was one of the ministry practices that is essential to good pastoral leadership and that I gladly and routinely undertook (with very positive feedback from those that I visited), but that the practice tended to be emotionally draining. I often thought about the other, more life-giving things I could have been doing. However, when I began to visit the members here, something was different: I experienced a depth of love in these new and growing pastoral relationships and received frequent feedback regarding their mutuality. I believe with all my heart that we were realizing and recognizing "God as love" together, experiencing "God as love" in living rooms, hospital rooms, and telephone calls. This loving God was not simply a concept to be grasped, but the Divine was living and moving in and through our lives.*

What a blessing it is to experience "God as love" with you. I look forward to many more chapters in this journey together. In Christ, I love you all, and I experience God's love for me through you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Ed

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

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Paul says, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." This is certainly true in and around our congregation. Just this summer, as a congregation, we have been demonstrating particular gifts for helping children grow in their understanding of God's love. Two weeks ago, our Preschool Mini Camp was shepherding children as they discovered that they are beautifully made, and that they are capable of making beautiful artwork! Last week, a host of our members and friends were helping children learn about God's love through Vacation Bible School. This week, our Summer Literacy Program is underway, with some of Person County's best teachers, teacher assistants, and volunteers surrounding these children and their families with abundant love and grace.

"Ahh," you say, "it is a shame that I do not have the energy (or the patience!) to work with children anymore! Maybe I don't have any gifts that are of use here."

Paul's words in Corinthians are written with you in mind! You do have gifts! Just because our church focuses a good portion of attention on children does not mean we aren't also given other gifts to build up the kingdom of God! There are many places on the internet that you can visit to learn about your specific spiritual gifts. One place you might try is: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/exploring-your-spiritual-gifts>.

Here are some of many examples that our members and friends use their spiritual gifts: In our worship, where we gather together to ascribe worth to God, we have people who straighten and clean the sanctuary, who hang the various decorations and make sure the candles are ready, who plan the music, who offer their musical gifts, who greet folks as they arrive, who staff the nursery, who make sure those present can hear the words and songs, who stream the service to the internet, who make it a point to get to know newcomers and invite and welcome them into community, who lift up the vulnerable or the suffering in prayer, who read the scriptures, who give formative feedback to our interns, and even who quietly make sure our facility is safe for everyone.

In our showing of love and hospitality, we have people who organize receptions when a family is grieving, who prepare gatherings like last week's celebration of my ordination or like the annual Lenten Lunches.

In our growth as disciples, we have people who teach Sunday School, plan and lead Bible Studies, lead and attend women's circles, and participate in those experiences.

In our mission to the world, we have people who help chop wood in the winter for those who need it to heat their homes. We have people who prepare and serve meals for the hungry through the Christian Help Center. We have people who serve on civic and nonprofit boards like RCS, Public Health, the Jaycees, and the Partnership for Children. Some of our folks organize food drives and raise contributions for local agencies and church organizations like the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The list is long.

How is the Spirit of God inviting you to serve? If you ask God, God will be faithful in showing you. You're not alone . . . I welcome the opportunity to speak and pray with you about it!

Blessings to you!  
Pastor Ed

## **FRESH EXPRESSIONS COHORT**

Is God calling us to start something new? We think so. We are enrolled in a new opportunity along with other UMC's in North Carolina to create a "Fresh Expression."

We are looking for a couple of inspired and created people to form an exploration team. If this opportunity interests you, please reach out to Pastor Ed at (919) 274-8061 or [ed.priestaf@gmail.com](mailto:ed.priestaf@gmail.com)

Read more below!

Is your church ready to reach people in new places and new ways?

The **Fresh Expressions Pathway** is an 8-month journey that equips lay-clergy teams to start something new—a form of church that meets people where they are, builds spiritual connection, and grows from the ground up.

This isn't a one-day workshop or a brainstorming session—it's a call to commit, experiment, and launch. It all begins August 5 in Garner, and we'll walk with you every step of the way.

What are Fresh Expressions?

1. **Fresh expressions are new forms of church designed for spiritually open people who are not already a part of church.**

Fresh expressions meet people where they are on their spiritual journey. They typically gather in small groups where people can ask questions, share their thoughts and experiences, and grow alongside others in intimate community.

2. **Fresh expressions meet outside of the church building.**

Gatherings typically occur in public spaces, homes, cafes or the outdoors. We follow the example of Jesus and go to the people with whom we'd like to connect.

3. **Fresh expressions often gather around shared interests, passions or life experiences.**

Community is formed around shared interests like kayaking, or shared passions like ecological justice, or shared life experiences like single parenthood. Out of these connections we look for opportunities to form social and spiritual community.

4. **Fresh expressions are lay-led and clergy supported.**

Typically, a team of 2-3 people from a church come together to listen to the community and form a gathering. Clergy offer support to the fresh expression leaders, whether that is coaching, prayer or administering the sacraments.

*"Fresh expressions aren't big and flashy; they don't fill stadiums. They're simple, small, and led by ordinary people."* – Luke Edwards, *"Church for the spiritual but not religious,"* ResourceUMC.org

What's the Team Member Commitment? What's a Cohort experience like?

The cohort experience is designed to give you and your team all the support you need to launch a Fresh Expression in your context. Over eight months, you'll be equipped through the following:

1. **Garden Day, August 5, 9am-3pm, Garner**

Our kick-off event offers a hands-on opportunity to create a plan you can put into action. Bring your team, brainstorm a Fresh Expression for your community, and develop concrete next steps to bring your vision to life.

2. **Monthly Group Coaching**

Each month, we will have a group coaching call with a member of Michael Beck's team. Most months, these will be one-hour Zoom calls. Two of these sessions will be longer, in person opportunities to connect and support one another.

3. **Networking and Peer Support**

Starting something new is hard, but you won't have to do it alone. In addition to monthly coaching calls, we'll create opportunities for cohort members to connect, share successes and ideas, and offer mutual support as you initiate this work together.

4. **Rainforest Day, May 2026, 9am-3pm, Garner**

Our final gathering will be a time to showcase the ministries you have created and prepare for next chapter in your ministry. Each group will present their Fresh Expression, celebrate successes, share lessons learned, and share their hopes and plans for what comes next.



## **WELCOME, REBECCA**

On behalf of our church and its Staff Parish Relations Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that, after working in an interim capacity for a relatively short time, Rebecca Carlino has been selected as our permanent Organist and Accompanist. SPRC widely advertised the open position and collaborated with choir members to conduct multiple interviews with candidates. We are delighted that Rebecca emerged as the right candidate for the job!

Rebecca shared in the interview process that “my experience as an accompanist began as a child playing in my father’s church at nine years of age. I continued to play for all services, special music, and practices throughout high school and college. Because of my love for music, I chose to study music education in college with a focus on piano.” She played as “lead pianist at the same church from 1992 to 2021.”

Rebecca also holds a full-time job with Durham County government. This means that her availability to rehearse with soloists, or to provide accompaniment for funerals, during the week is more limited than in years past.

When funerals arise, as a matter of protocol, and as I have done for the past seven years here at Long Memorial, I will first approach and offer the opportunity to Rebecca. If she is not available, we are blessed to have the gifts of our church secretary Peggy Wade, who in addition to working in the Long Memorial office for over 45 years, has been playing professionally for churches around the county for over 50 years! She has worked with me on Long Memorial and other church funerals and is a blessing to accompany our LM Preschool children during their performances. Thank you, Peggy!

We have already been blessed to begin getting to know Rebecca and her husband Brian. Please join me in welcoming them and praying for them as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We all look forward to making beautiful, sacred music together. “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth!” Psalm 96:1

Ed Priestaf

### **A NOTE FROM OUR DUKE STUDENT - MADELEINE**

Hello, Long Memorial!

I want to thank each of you for your kindness and generosity as you welcomed me into your community. I am slowly grasping the depth and rich love that is present at Long Memorial. I watch as you care for one another with a kind of care that is uncommon. The friendships, relationships, and devotion between members are intricately woven together, which can only be explained by the love of God present among you. While many of these practices are second nature and long established at Long Memorial, I have rarely observed the rich sense of communal love, interconnectedness, and care that is the norm at this church. As I engage with you on Sundays or throughout the week, I witness a community that is deeply rooted in the love of Christ, which overflows in the myriad relationships present in the pews on Sunday and in the homes of those watching online. I am reminded of the early church in Acts 2:42-47.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The church in Acts centered itself on four basic principles: devotion to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. In practice, this community became a witness to the outside culture that something remarkable was occurring. God had done a mighty work on the cross through Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Christian church was a visible picture of the new Kingdom on earth that Jesus had ushered in. It was a community where everyone was known, loved, and supported. A community where Christ was the center. The outpouring of love among the early Christians and care for all the needs of the community allowed Christ’s name to be magnified.

At Long Memorial, I see the cornerstone of the early church exemplified in the rich love that you embody for God and one another. While life is difficult and we are not perfect in how we love others, we grow in our ability to love and steward these relationships as we grow in God. I am inspired by the way that Long Memorial actively resists the narrative that tells us to look only to our interests. The Church should strive to exemplify the daily life and rhythms of the earliest Christians that we learn from in Acts. We should become a space that stands as a countercultural witness to a society that is focused on power, wealth, and self-promotion. We should pray that our space is rooted and overflowing with the love of Christ. I hope to encourage you to continue this path of love as you grow in Christ. I also want to exhort each of you to consider how else you might embody similar actions as the early church. Who might you see in our congregation who has not

been welcomed into the community that you can reach out to and begin a new relationship? Who in our congregation might need prayer or a reminder of God's steadfast love and mercy? Who in our community needs material support that you can offer with the resources that God has blessed you with? Consider how the early church cared for one another – and do the same – so that our congregation might stand as a witness to the outside world that something remarkable is happening at Long Memorial. God's great love and goodness should propel us to become like the church in Acts so that we might be a visible picture of God's transformational love in Roxboro.

Love,  
Madeleine Gould

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED**

The Missions Committee will start collecting needed school supplies June 29<sup>th</sup> – August 3<sup>rd</sup> for South Elementary and North End Elementary School for the upcoming year. Items needed are: wide ruled notebook paper, glue sticks, crayons, colored pencils, book bags, hand sanitizer, and Kleenex. Please place your items in the bins on the pew in the Narthex. Start date June 29 – Deadline August 3.

### **JULY BIRTHDAYS:**



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

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 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:**



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

August 03 – Courtney Harding  
August 04 – Chuck Higgins  
August 07 – Danny Bumpass  
August 08 – Ashley Reed (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, Connie Mundy, Ann Groce  
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 JULY & AUGUST**

July 6 – Jona Fitzgerald  
July 13 – Patti Morgan  
July 20 – David Lewis  
July 27 – Nancy Lee Newell

August 3 – Tom & Teresa Fitzgerald  
August 10 – Jeff & Tom Fitzgerald  
August 17 – Ashley Bailey  
August 24 – Connie Mundy  
August 31 – Claudia Berryhill

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## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Here is information regarding our congregation's financial giving through June 29, 2025.

2025 Budget: \$475,801

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,150

Budget giving on Sunday, June 29: \$3,200

Average budget given each Sunday in 2025: \$7,642

Budget giving through June 29: \$199,756 (42% of budget given through 50% of the calendar year)

Amount of 2025 budget still to raise: \$276,045 (58% of the budget)

The average amount needed per Sunday through the rest of the year to meet the 2025 budget is \$10,617.

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.

## **FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE**

The Missions Committee has been working hard, but we want your input to ensure that we are doing the work you want us to do.

Our committee's mission statement is:

At Long Memorial United Methodist Church, we are growing our love for Jesus Christ through our words and deeds. Reaching out to our brothers and sisters by showing our compassion, a helping hand and a willing heart to serve.

Pathways to serve: Join us to foster hope, the needs of humanity and a servant's heart by addressing the needs of children, economically challenged, homeless or those affected by natural disasters.

Please complete the following survey by Friday, July 18th to help guide us in serving others through the Long Memorial UMC Missions Committee.

<https://forms.gle/RaxCqo3DZcvderBr8>

Thank you!

- Meg Denton and Emily Humphries  
Missions Committee, Co-Chairs

**Thank you for supporting Life Choices through the Baby Bottle Collection. We raised \$505.37 for this ministry.**



## ***The Christian Help Center of Person County***

122 Depot Street

Post Office Box 1882 Roxboro, NC 27573

[thechristianhelpcenter@gmail.com](mailto:thechristianhelpcenter@gmail.com)

(336)-599-6070

Melissa Lancaster, Executive Director

[www.christianhelpcenter.net](http://www.christianhelpcenter.net)



June 10, 2025

Greetings to all community members and loyal supporters! Another successful fiscal year has nearly come to a close, full of both blessings and challenges. This letter provides an update on recent developments.

Since our last update in the summer of 2024, your unwavering support has continued to help us successfully fulfill our mission of serving the most vulnerable in our communities. We distributed food boxes to an average of 560 households per month, clothing closet items to an average of 185 households per month, and firewood to 220 households during the cold season. Approximately 900 lunches were served at the soup kitchen each month, and we have seen a consistent influx of roughly 15 new clients per month. We have recently received noteworthy food donations, including 5,100 pounds of nonperishable food from the USPS Letter Carriers' Food Drive and 670 pounds of nonperishable food from Shred Day at Roxboro Savings Bank. While these large donations were undoubtedly a blessing, we should note that we have already distributed approximately 85% of them. We could not have been nearly as successful in our mission to fight hunger without your support!

The upcoming fiscal year presents a new set of challenges for the Christian Help Center and other agencies. Federal funding has been cut for several agencies and programs that are significant resources for nonprofits and similar organizations. The Christian Help Center has partnered with and relied on two of these programs for decades: the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (under FEMA). At last notice, funding for both entities has been reduced and/or stopped, thus impacting the longstanding partnering recipients (in this case, the Christian Help Center). As a result of these changes, our food deliveries from the Food Bank will be significantly reduced in size, and our ability to provide emergency utilities and rental assistance to clients will be severely impacted compared to previous years. The latter point is particularly concerning in light of the upcoming summer heat, as well as the similar budget cuts for housing assistance funds at many alternative agencies. We all need to consider other creative ways for Person County citizens to come together and combat hunger, and to continue helping those in need among us.

Recently, we decided to take a more detailed look at the demographics of the clients we serve. Researching census data, we found that 14% of Person County residents live below the poverty line, and 34% of the residents of the City of Roxboro live below the poverty line (MissionInSite). According to [hhs.gov](https://www.hhs.gov), the poverty level for a family of three is at or below \$26,650 annually; any household with such a low income in the current economic climate certainly needs any available resources it can get. Further analysis of our client data indicates that we serve approximately 25-30% of the estimated number of households with incomes below the poverty level in Person County each month. Lastly, approximately 27% of the individuals we serve are minors or children, and around 17% are elderly, aged 65 and above. It is our mission to support these vulnerable populations in our communities, and with your help, we will continue to fulfill our mission.

As the summer months approach, we anticipate an increase in financial requests for assistance with utility bills, and food donations are always a priority. Box fan donations are also welcome and appreciated! Every little bit helps and will directly benefit those in need in our communities through our services.

We cannot adequately express our deep gratitude for your continuous support and generosity. Your contributions are the backbone of our mission, and we are truly blessed to have you by our side. May God's blessings be upon you and your families, always.

Thank you,  
Melissa Lancaster, Director

## **SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:  
...the family of Cleo Mary Winters.

## **PRAYERS FOR MEDICAL CONCERNS**

Tom Hill Clayton      Norma Sabiston

## **SUMMER LITERACY - 2025**

We are pleased to report that the Summer Literacy Program at Long Memorial UMC is going strong with 30 students getting help in their reading ability.

The full day camp began June 23 and will wrap up July 25. 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 3% growth in reading scores, which is equivalent to about 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.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK IN  
OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>.**

