

Long Memorial UMC

August 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)
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.

SILENT AUCTION

We are planning the annual elimination of our debt fundraiser, Fun Day “Chill-out” September 12th. I am pleased to announce we will have our silent auction again this year with a different flair!! I appeal to all our vacation home owners’ , art collectors, great chefs, sports memorabilia collectors, gardeners, antique collectors, artists and craftsmen in our congregation for unique items we can include in the auction! We would like special items not found at a normal yard sale. I am working with our local college teams for signed collector items. The more items donated, the better we will do eliminating our debt.

Please reach out to David Lewis david.lewis761@gmail.com or telephone 984-710-2318 as soon as possible but by Sunday, September 7th with any articles you can donate or to discuss any ideas you have for our auction. Thanks so much for your support in advance.



CHARGE CONFERENCE!

Long Memorial’s Charge Conference, the annual church business meeting convened by the District Superintendent, is scheduled for Sunday, October 12th at 7:00 P.M.. Reports from committees are due to the conference two weeks prior (September 26). Long Memorial UMC will be the host church.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-11 NRSVue)

Invitations are everywhere.

“Are you in, or are you out?” asks a teenager gathering his friends for an adventure. “Will you marry me?” asks the man on one knee. “Call now so you don’t miss out!” urges the commercial. “Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?” That line from *The Summons* reminds us that Jesus, too, extends an invitation. Life constantly asks us to respond—to say yes or no.

Some invitations come from past experience—such as a coach asking a player to lead. Others invite us into the unknown: “Will you walk with me? Will you trust me?” Paul offers such an invitation in Colossians 3: “If you have been raised with Christ . . . set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

| What does it mean to be “raised with Christ?” It means you’ve trusted Him, received His grace and pardon. It recalls our baptism, when we are buried in the waters with Christ and we come forth a new creation. It means we are yielding our hearts to be the home of the Holy Spirit and the risen Christ, who overcame every limitation, even death and the grave.

That moment or stage in our journey may have happened for us in some spiritual mountain-top experience, or it may have happened at our baptism, or when we confessed Jesus as our Savior quietly when no one was listening, but we are assured that we now wholly belong to God. It may have been thrilling at that moment, but life has a way of returning to the ordinary day-to-day, with its routines and temptations, and that makes it easy to forget. The scriptures are filled with encouragements not to forget; encouragements to remember WHOSE you are.

Paraphrasing Paul, “Are you in, or are you out? If you are in, then set your minds on the things that are above.” Paul proceeds to give a list of behaviors to turn away from: greed, evil desire, impurity, and immorality. Paul says it’s time to clean house; it’s time to get rid of anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive language, and lying. Get rid of them! In other words, toss those behaviors in the dumpster! Take them off like you might take off tattered old work clothes, and put on the clothing of the new self, renewed in knowledge of God and the love of Christ Jesus.

How do you know you’re walking in that new outfit? One way is how you see others. Paul says that in that renewal, you will be aware that in Christ, there are no longer judgments

formed between people groups: no barriers to fellowship, no Jew or Greek, slave or free. If we are clothed and filled with the risen Christ, Christ is all and in all!. When His love fills you, everything changes.

So today, the question comes again: Are you in?

If you've been raised with Christ, seek the things of God, and let the rest fall away.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ed

A Few Thoughts on Giving from the Bible

The Bible is filled with guidance on the subject of sharing money and resources as an expression of faith. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but here are a few:

- Offerings and tithes (offerings of a tenth of your income) 2 Chronicles 31:4-5
- Alms-giving (giving charity to those who were poor or begging) Psalms 112:8-9
- Offerings and sacrifices (sacrifices of goats and bulls in the Old Testament) Exodus 29:36
- Forgiving others of their indebtedness Deuteronomy 15:1
- The provisions for poor families to make offerings (such as Mary and Joseph who purchased two doves after Jesus was born) Luke 2:24
- Modest and unquantified gifts of support (such as those of Jesus' supporters who providing food or lodging to the disciples) Luke 8:3
- Jesus' radical call to "sell all you have and give the proceeds to the poor and then come and follow me" Matthew 19:21
- The early church who pooled together and shared all of their possessions so that no one had need. Acts 4:32

The Bible is a very diverse witness on the subject. While many modern church stewardship models focus on asking God to help Christians recognize that everything that comes from God, and align their priorities around giving to God first, in the end, the decision of individual congregants is voluntary.

As a community of faith, I pray that we will turn to God as our guide and our wisdom, and that God's will would be done, through whatever generosity we respond with. To God be the glory: great things God has done, and great things God will do!

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LOVE OFFERING FOR MADELEINE

We are grateful for the time that our most recent intern, Madeleine Gould, spent with us this summer. As is our tradition, we will collect a love offering for her in the weeks following her placement with us. If you'd like to make a contribution, please write a check to Long Memorial and include "Love Offering - Madeleine" on the memo line. We will collect the love offering during the month of August.



PRAYERS FOR MEDICAL CONCERNS

Eddie Bridges

Jean Andrews

Tom Hill Clayton

Norma Sabiston

Irma Stonbraker (no visits but cards are welcome – 875 Younger Rd.
Roxboro, NC 27573)

(Others)

Rich Alder

Carolyn Woolley

Garvin & Virginia Smith

Mike Wrenn

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

...Linda and Jackson Elliott in the death of Linda's sister, Joan Parker;

...Susan Hester in the death of her husband Howard DuBose.

FLOWER CALENDAR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

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

SEPTEMBER 7 - Deb Burke
SEPTEMBER 14 - Janice Wilson
SEPTEMBER 21 - Lou Lockhart
SEPTEMBER 28 - Danny Talbert

OCTOBER 5 - (*Church Under The Tent*) – *no flowers needed*
OCTOBER 12 – Carol Hadley
OCTOBER 19 – Loudell Medford
OCTOBER 26 – Ben & Harriett Tillett



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:



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

August 03 – Courtney Craig Harding
August 04 – Chuck Higgins
August 07 – Danny Bumpass
August 08 – Ashley Reed
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 – Ann Groce, Connie Mundy
August 16 – **Tom H. Clayton – 101th birthday!!!!**
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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:



(Please call Church
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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 01 – Emily Humphries
September 02 – Kerry MacIntosh
September 03 – Sarah Illsley, Lilly Atkins, Angie Bryant
September 04 – Cornelia Loftis
September 05 – Woody Garrett, Grier Briggs
September 06 – Robert Allen, Connee White, Linda Bridges, Corey Harding
September 17 – Keith Burnette, Mark Galloway
September 18 – Elizabeth Sabiston
September 19 – Briggs Atkins
September 21 – Debbie Pergerson
September 25 – Oliver Bolen
September 26 – Luna Castelo, Karen Kerrick, Bill Westenberger

United Methodists and Apportionments

Friends,

In this newsletter I would like to share about one of the facets of being a United Methodist. As United Methodists, we believe we are a connected church. It's true that we do a lot of things as Long Memorial, but as United Methodists we also live out our calling in relationship with the District (called the Corridor District – about 80 churches spanning Burlington, Durham, Chapel Hill, Roxboro, and all the churches in between), the North Carolina Conference (about 439 churches in North Carolina from Burlington to the coast), and the denomination as a whole (with about 22,000 churches in the US and many more throughout the world).

As a connected church, we strive to strike a balance between the things we do and decide as a local church (as Long Memorial in Roxboro) and as a church in relationship with many other churches within the denomination. Lay and clergy people, nominated and elected by their peers, gather in what John Wesley called "Holy Conferencing" to make the decisions of and for the church. Some of those decisions are missional, such as deciding to operate and support the UM Home for Children here in North Carolina, where we provide foster care and support to children across the state. Other decisions are financial in nature. Every year, our

Annual Conference representatives come together in June and vote on a budget for the connectional things we do together. We raise these funds together through something called Apportionments, which is a means of sharing responsibility for the Annual Conference, including our missional and connectional obligations to the denomination. The budget is divided among all the churches in our conference in proportion to their actual annual spending. Large churches with larger expenditures typically have higher apportionments, while small churches have smaller apportionments. The expectation and hope are that each church will be able to pay its fair share of these apportioned funds for we UM people to do the ministry God has called us to do.

Long Memorial has had a mixed track record of paying our apportionment dollars. Looking back a few years, in 2021 we paid 100%, in 2022 we paid about 50%, in 2023, we paid 100%, and in 2024 we paid about 70%. So far this year, we haven't been able to pay anything toward our annual apportioned amount. So, what happens when we don't make 100%?

If you consistently fail to pay your water bill, the water company will eventually come and turn off your water. Thankfully, it's not like that with apportionments in our UMCs. If a congregation consistently has trouble meeting its apportionments, the Conference doesn't come in with a heavy hand. That said, the Bishop and our District Superintendent would become increasingly involved in helping the church problem-solve. They would help us identify and address any underlying issues in play. They might offer suggestions or even give some directives for remedying the situation. Ultimately, if an organization consistently fails to meet its financial obligations, it must either raise more funds or reduce expenditures. While we typically don't see the immediate consequences of not paying all of our apportionments (like we would if we didn't pay the light bill), the conference is similar to the local church. If the conference has less money and resources because it receives less from the churches that comprise it, it does less ministry. When we don't meet our apportionment obligations, people and ministries are affected.

Perhaps there are people in our community who are willing and able and could catch us up. Maybe someone will step forward and bless us with a major gift. We could also prayerfully work to chip in and give a little bit more as we have the means to do so. Or perhaps we will have to reduce our expenditures and thus change what we offer our community. As pastor, I haven't been given the gift of seeing into the future, but I will continue to try to prayerfully help the congregation prayerfully discern God's will as we discern these steps together.

May we all faithfully seek God's direction, on how God is asking us to share in the ministry of the church!

What Do Churches Get From Paying Apportionments?

Excerpts of an article By Christine Dodson, Conference Treasurer of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, November 29, 2022, (website:

<https://nccumc.org/treasurer/2022/11/what-do-churches-get-from-paying-apportionments/>)

Especially around this time of the year, we are asked, “What do churches get from paying apportionments?” That is not a question specific to North Carolina but is one that is asked throughout the United Methodist family. An article was published not too long ago by one of our sister annual conferences that provided some explanation of what a church gets back. I found the explanation helpful and have adapted that article to share this information with you.

So – what do churches get back from paying apportionments? Here are some of the returns!

- Training, credentialing, appointing, and supervising clergy in education through the conference board of ordained ministry, the district superintendency, and Ministerial Education Funds.
- Moving expenses for pastors changing appointments and retiring local pastors and elders.
- Information, resources, and training for clergy and lay leadership.
- Grants for projects that help churches reach neighbors and increase spiritual vitality.
- A conduit and system that enables churches to pool their resources toward mission projects around the world and at home—projects that no single church could do alone.
- Infrastructure that ensures 100 percent of gifts to Advance Specials, UMCOR, Imagine No Malaria, Love Offerings, Special Sundays and many others benefits the desired mission or ministry.
- New faith communities popping up all over North Carolina. Almost every church in our conference was started with financial and other support from the annual conference and/or partner churches.
- The Ministerial Education Fund – assisting seminary students during their schooling and active clergy with continuing education.
- Support for the Media Center, which makes available curricula, small-group study books and videos, stewardship training tools, Bible studies, Christian education resources, and much more.
- Partial support for the NC Conference Camping and Retreat Ministries, which helps young and old meet Christ in creation and among supportive community.
- Campus ministry units to keep and encourage college students in their love of God and service to Christ when they are in school.
- Staff and other support for youth events.
- Administration of a loan program to assist churches with financing for building and remodeling projects.
- Print, internet, and social media that provide a contact point for North Carolina United Methodists and anyone seeking a nearby United Methodist Church or information about the United Methodist Church in our conference, the nation, and the world.

- Conference entities that monitor and support ethnic and cultural inclusiveness in the increasingly diverse mission field that is North Carolina.
- Coaching and consultation services to assist local churches and pastors in growing in discipleship as a community in love with God.
- Leadership and support for the administration of local church personnel matters, benefits, and other business matters.
- Information to help with other questions that pop up that do not fall easily into other categories!

All of these things and more were part of the apportioned budget that clergy and lay people from all North Carolina United Methodist congregations approved during the annual conference session.

Christine Dodson



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL SCHOOL SUPPLIES THAT WERE DONATED BY YOU:
THE LONG MEMORIAL UMC CHURCH FAMILY!

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the loving support of this wonderful church family during this past year leading up to and following Dan's death. Your home visits, hospital visits, calls, texts, emails, cards, thoughtful little gifts, tasty meals and desserts, garden produce, flowers, and prayers certainly made me feel surrounded and buoyed by love, and wrapped in God's presence. Our family members and Dan's caregivers also felt your love. Many difficult days were lightened and brightened by a sure sense that we are living in God's kingdom. Dan knew that you loved him and to the very end, enjoyed seeing you all on the live-stream of the worship service each Sunday. May the many blessings you shared come back to you tenfold.

In Christ's love,
Martha Butler

Fun Day- September 12, 2025- “Chill-out”

Would you like to be a sponsor for our annual Fun Day event and help us retire the debt on the capital project? The event will take place in the fall this year, with a chili dinner, silent auction, games, and fun for all ages. On September 12, 2025, it is projected that we will be about \$91,000 away from retiring the debt. We would like to challenge the entire congregation to be sponsors! No sponsorships are too small. The suggested sponsorship levels are as follows:

\$200, \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000, \$3,000.

If you cannot sponsor as an individual, please consider sponsoring by going in with a small group, such as a Circle, Methodist Men, United Women in Faith, a Sunday school class, or simply a group of friends!

Please fill out the form below and include a check to Long Memorial United Methodist Church with “Fun Day Sponsorship” in the memo; you can drop both in the offering plate at church, bring both by the church office and give them to Peggy, or give them to Chris Atkins. If you have questions, please contact Chris Atkins at chrisatkinsdds@gmail.com or 919-306-0953.

I would like to be a Fun Day Sponsor at the following level (circle one);

\$200 \$500 \$1,000

\$1,500 \$2,000 \$3,000

My name or my group’s name as is should appear on the Sponsor Board:

Contact telephone number for sponsor/group:
