

Long Memorial UMC

September 2025

Worship With Us On 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.

<p>Sponsorships Available</p> <p>Free Eat-In Chili and Fixin's</p> <p>Chili To-Go For Sale</p>	<p>"CHILL OUT" FUNDAY</p> <p>Friday, September 12</p> <p>4 - 7 p.m.</p> <p>Long Memorial UMC</p> <p>Harris Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>Silent Auction</p> <p>Vacation Rentals</p> <p>Gift Baskets & More</p> <p>50/50 Raffle</p> <p>Raffle proceeds go for Missions</p>
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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.



FROM THE PASTOR:

I sat there as a late teenager for what must have been hours, considering carefully the age-old question: to jump or not to jump. I was sitting in the hay loft of my grandfather's barn, it was a beautiful day, and I had nothing but time. It was midsummer, the northern Michigan hardwoods were in full green, and the fallow fields of grasses were swaying in the wind. Two cows - black and white – were grazing in the pasture. I sat alone on the weathered wood of the hayloft with my legs dangling over the edge, considering the possibilities for failure in any leap of faith: I could catch my pants on a nail or splinter; the impact might break my leg; I could twist an ankle on a hidden rock; I could end up with a mouth full of cow manure. I considered, too, the prospects of glory: to overcome some fear; to fly for a few brief moments; bragging rights with my brother; knowing that I would add some measure of legitimacy to my pursuit of my grandfather's heroic childhood tales.

Once, I told this story in a sermon, and I omitted the final detail - did I jump or not? I left the the congregation hanging. On the way out of the service that morning, no fewer than 25 people asked me whether I jumped or not, and several waited more than a week with the question still with them.

Unfortunately for them, however, the sermon was not primarily about my boyhood leap. It was a faith analogy - and quite an obvious one at that. I knew that the hearers were intelligent people, and the analogy wasn't lost on their ears. But isn't it a powerful commentary how we take such great interest in the heroic (or foolish) adventures of others, as distractions from answering our own hard questions? So many people that day commented with a knowing grin, "So I just have to ask you, did you jump?" In retrospect, my reply ought to have been, "You tell me first. In your faith journey, have you gone all in? Have you weighed the options and taken the leap, come what may? If you won't tell me, I won't tell you."

Mark 11 says, "They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?" Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism -- was it from heaven, or from men? Tell me!"

"They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, "From heaven, he will ask, "Then why didn't you believe him? But if we say, 'From Men . . . ' (they feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

"Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things." There's something about committing to the journey before the treasures of faith are revealed. The Fellowship of the Ring wouldn't have existed without Frodo's leap. Neo wouldn't have been able to discover the secrets of the Matrix without choosing the pill of no return. Kate Winslett's character on the Titanic wouldn't have tasted the fullness of

life had she not gone below decks to dance with the fiddlers. We might not discover the fullness God has to offer without coming down off the fence, without leaping from our figurative haylofts into full dependence on God's grace.

Do you wonder if I jumped or not that day? I wonder about you. In your faith journey, have you gone all in? Have you weighed the options and taken the leap, come what may? If you won't tell me, maybe I will say, half playfully, in the words of Jesus, "Neither will I tell you!" May we all grow in our faith to share the good news of Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ed

TAKE NOTE:
Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
practice each Wednesday
Handbell Choir is at 6 P.M. and
Chancel Choir is at 7:00 P.M.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Dear Long Memorial UMC,
On behalf of our entire school community, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous school supply donations. Your kindness and continued support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and families. We are truly grateful for your commitment to helping every child start the year prepared and confident. Your partnership reminds us that it truly takes a village, and we are appreciative to have you as a part of ours. Thank you for investing in our students' success – it does not go unnoticed.

With gratitude,
South Elementary Staff

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Long Memorial UMC,  
The students and staff at North End Elementary would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation of supplies for both our students and teachers. Your thoughtfulness ensures that our teachers are supported and our students have the tools they need to learn and succeed. Thank you again for your kindness and for being such an important part of our school family.

With gratitude,  
Tracy Rogers  
School Social Worker  
North End Elementary

## **FLOWER CALENDAR**

September 7: Deb Burke  
September 14: Janice Wilson  
September 21: Lou Lockhart  
September 28: Danny Talbert

October 5: Outside Service  
October 12: Carol Hadley  
October 19: Loudell Medford  
October 26: Ben & Harriett Tillett

November 2: Tommy & Sally Humphries  
November 9: Maxine Galloway  
November 16: Patti Morgan  
November 23: Harvest Table  
November 30: Advent Wreath

## **UP-TO DATE FINANCIAL GIVING:**

Here is information regarding our congregation's financial giving to the budget through August 31, 2025.

2025 Budget: \$475,801

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,150

Budget giving on Sunday, August 31: \$4,672

Average budget given each Sunday in 2025: \$7,772

Budget giving through August 31: \$272,030 (57% of budget given through 67% of the calendar year)

Amount of 2025 budget still to raise: \$203,770 (43% of the budget)

The average amount needed per Sunday through the rest of the year to meet the 2025 budget is \$12,261.

The congregation has given \$32,000 to nonbudget funds, such as Fun Day, Community Assistance, and Love Offerings for interns.

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.

## **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.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

### **SEPTEMBER**

Preschool Begins – September 9th

FUN DAY "Chill-Out" – 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. – Friday, September 12th – Harris Hall

United Women In Faith Annual Dinner – 6:00 P.M. – Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

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OCTOBER

Church Under the Tent – Sunday, October 5th

Youth Fund Raiser Lunch – Noon – Sunday, October 12th

Trunk or Treat – P.M. – Sunday, October 26th

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### **NOVEMBER**

Pilgrimage Weekend – Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>

Church Decorated for Christmas – After 1:00 P.M. – Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>,  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup>

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DECEMBER

Jingle On Main – P.M. – Thursday, December 4th

Lovefeast – 5 P.M. – Sunday, December 7th

Children's Christmas Program – P.M. – Sunday, December 14th

Lessons & Carols Service – 10:30 A.M. (only) – Sunday, December 21st

Christmas Eve Service – 5:00 P.M. -Wednesday, December 24th

MEDICAL CONCERNS:

Helen Starr

Leon Long

Tom Hill Clayton

Jean Andrews

Susie Andrews Ainsworth

Eddie Bridges

Norma Sabiston

SYMPATHY: Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Irma P. Stonbraker who passed away on September 1st. Funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 11 A.M. at Brooks and White Funeral Home.

BIRTHDAYS:



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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 01 – Emily Humphries
September 02 – Kerry MacIntosh
September 03 – Lilly Atkins, Sarah Illsley, 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 – Bill Westenberger, Luna Castelo, Karen Kerrick

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

October 03 – Aurora Castelo
October 04 – Janet Lewis
October 06 – Martha Butler
October 08 – Kathleen Hall
October 09 - Ashley Knott
October 10 – Jeanne Gentry Webster
October 12 - Bob Wilkerson
October 13 – Julia Alliger
October 17 – Kylie Gilbert

October 19 – Pam Day
October 20 – Chase Craig
October 21 – Helen Starr, Rick Blanks
October 23 – Jackie Priestaf
October 24 – Stacey Paith
October 25 – Maxine Galloway
October 26 – Loudell Medford
October 29 – Margaret Bailey
October 30 – Piper Webster
October 31 – Lily Weinberger

PRESCHOOL IS STARTING BACK THIS COMING WEEK

Long Memorial Preschool is back underway for our 2025-2026 school year. We have approximately 100 children enrolled, served by an amazing staff of 17 teachers, led by Mrs. Pam Day. Please pray for the students, the families, and the staff, to be effective in their teaching and learning, and that every need of every family is met throughout the year. If you'd like to show love and hospitality to our preschool families, please contact Mrs. Pam! There are lots of ways you could help!

COME JOIN US!

LADIES - Looking for a wonderful way to get involved at Long Memorial United Methodist Church?

The United Methodist Women (UMW/UWF) is having its annual covered dish dinner to kick off the 2025/2026 year on **Monday, September 29th at 6 P.M. in the Harris Fellowship Hall** and YOU are invited to join us.

The UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH at Long Memorial is divided into circles. A circle is a group of serving, sharing, loving women who meet together for spiritual growth, fellowship, fun and service. ALL women are welcome, both members and non-members.

Please come join us on September 29th to learn more about the UWF. If you like what you hear, we will help you find the circle group that best fits you.

If you are unable to attend the dinner but would still like more information on the UWF, please contact the church at 336-599-1193.

****CHURCH UNDER A TENT****

Sunday, October 5th

One Worship Service Only at **10:30 A.M.**

Lunch at 11:30 A.M.

Worship Service will be followed by a catered lunch. Bring a Dessert to share!

Please contact Peggy to RSVP for the luncheon.

You may respond at: longmemorial@esinc.net or 336-599-1193.

LAY LEADERSHIP – INTEREST IN SERVING ON CHURCH COMMITTEES

Each summer and early fall of the year, Long Memorial's Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee works to discern and invite people with the interests and gifts to serve in committee roles responsible for planning, organizing, and overseeing the work of the church. It's that time again! The Lay Leadership Committee nominates persons, and the election happens during our annual Charge Conference, which this year will be held Sunday, October 12.

The challenge for the Lay Leadership Committee is to know who is feeling interested or led to serve, and in what capacity. This is especially true in this time and place, when so many new people make up our community! So we need your help! Below we have listed the committees, the openings on each committee, and a very brief description. We would consider it a great blessing if you would be willing to share your interest with us.

Your interest will be vitally and prayerfully considered by the Lay Leadership Committee as they do their work of discerning who to nominate. Indicating your interest will in most cases result in someone from the Lay Leadership Committee reaching out to speak further, to clarify the role of the committee, etc. Please keep in mind that expressing your interest doesn't guarantee you'll be nominated or elected to that spot, but we aspire to do everything possible to match people's passion and gifts with the roles and responsibilities we have available. Please complete the interest form and place it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or contact the church office for more information.

Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you!

Pastor Ed – m (919) 274-8061; ed.priestaf@gmail.com Church office (336)-599-1193

Council At Large – multiple openings – The Council is made up of all church committee chairs, other officers, and the at-large members, and is responsible for setting and overseeing the church budget, selecting, overseeing, and equipping the official ministries of the church. All other church committees serve "at the pleasure" of the Church Council, meaning that if there was ever a dispute of priorities or policies between a church

committee and the Church Council, the Church Council's decision would have priority. Meets 3-4 times per year.

Administrative Committees

Staff-Parish Relations Committee SPRC – 3 openings – This is the personnel committee of the church, responsible for hiring, priority setting, and helping to resolve conflicts that may arise. The SPRC functions as the liaison between the congregation and our employees, including the pastor, and also the liaison between the congregation and the UMC Conference with regard to pastoral matters. Meets approximately quarterly or as needed.

Trustees – 3 openings – The Trustees are the ones who look after, maintain, and plan for all things related to buildings, grounds, vehicles (when applicable), and insurance and legal matters. In some cases, the Trustees do hands-on work to repair or enhance church properties; in other cases, they arrange for the work to be done with contractors and outside companies (defining the scope, finding the funding, soliciting bids, choosing and overseeing vendors). Meets roughly 2-4 times per year, or as needed.

Parsonage Committee – 1 opening – The Parsonage Committee works to keep the church parsonage (where the pastor's family lives), furnished and in a good state of upkeep. This might involve the coordination of repairs or upgrades, landscaping, or furnishings. Meets annually or as needed.

Finance Committee – 2 openings – The Finance Committee is responsible for working to raise the budget of the church, and to oversee and make recommendations regarding the financial status, outlook, financial reporting, and financial controls in place at the church. This includes fundraising and financial stewardship. The Finance Committee includes representatives from the Trustees and SPRC and the Church Council, and works closely with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Meets quarterly.

Endowment Committee – 1 opening – The Endowment Committee is responsible for the investment strategy and reporting of funds in our church endowment to the congregation. The Endowment Committee was established to make recommendations to the Church Council regarding allocation of Endowment interest funds for the good of the church and its mission. Meets semi-annually or as needed.

Lay Leadership Committee – 2 openings – The Lay Leadership / Nominations Committee is responsible for assessing the leadership needs of the church, for recruiting and discerning the best people to fill those roles, and annually recommending to the Church Council their nominations to fill those positions. Meets 2-3 times, typically in August/September, to complete its work in preparation for Charge Conference.

Mission and Ministry Committees

Nurture Committee – unlimited openings – This committee works to plan events and carry out ministries to demonstrate Christ's love to our church members, with a focus on those experiencing limited mobility and the infirmed. They might coordinate meals or visits, taking

communion to those who aren't able to attend worship in person, or distribute gifts to brighten up days. Nurture may also be involved in planning congregational fellowship events like Church Under the Tent in the fall. Meets as needed.

Outreach and Missions Committee – unlimited openings – This committee works to connect us in service to the world, through fundraisers, awareness campaigns, donation collection, and even service days or trips. We have recently supported hurricane relief efforts, the Christian Help Center, Backpack Pals, Life Choices Roxboro, UM Committee on Relief, and local schools. Meets quarterly.

Worship Committee – unlimited openings – This committee works to support the pastor in the worship arts. The Altar Guild checks on candles and other elements in the altar space, and helps to straighten the sanctuary after each worship service. Communion stewards prepare the bread and grape juice for communion, and clean up afterward. Ushers and greeters help direct folks to their seats, assist newcomers, and collect the offering. When there are funerals or weddings, we have coordinators to serve as liaisons with the family. There is music and choir to enhance and help, and we also have a technical team that handles audio and online streaming communication. Meets as needed.

Preschool Board – 2 openings – This committee is the liaison with Long Memorial's very successful preschool. They work closely with the Director to set tuition rates, to oversee policies, to annually audit the financials, to assist with various fundraisers and appreciation for staff and families. Meet 3-4 times per year.

Social Media / Communication Committee — openings if interested - This committee works to make sure we are effectively communicating with members and interested neighbors. Committee members handle posts to Instagram, Facebook, and our website. They also help maintain and communicate through automated group text messaging.

Columbarium Committee – openings if interested - This committee oversees maintenance, upkeep, and administration of matters related to our church columbarium (a structure used as a final resting place for the urns containing the ashes of those who are deceased).

Summer Literacy Coordinating Committee – openings if interested - This committee serves as the liaison between the congregation and the staff of the Summer Literacy program. The church uses grant funds from the Duke Endowment and community donations to hire about 15 staff and dozens of volunteers to host a 5-week summer camp helping about 30 elementary school students in need of reading intervention. The committee thinks about hiring, volunteer recruitment, fundraising, curriculum, supplies, safety, building use, financial oversight, and fidelity to the Duke Endowment's standards.

Other Ways to Get Involved

United Methodist Men – Men gather occasionally for breakfasts, help prepare and serve meals for special events, and participate in church beautification and missions.

United Women of Faith – Women’s circles meet monthly to fellowship, grow in faith, and engage in mission projects. Open to all women!

Children’s Ministry Volunteers – Primarily on Sundays, leading Children’s Church during 11am worship, teaching Sunday School at 10am.

Youth Ministry Volunteers – Our youth group of about 20 middle and sr high youth meets Sunday evenings from 5-7pm. Volunteers are always appreciated to work with or supervise the youth, and prepare/serve dinners. We also attend workshops and outings for which chaperones and drivers are sometimes needed.

“Breakfast Club” Sunday School – 9:50 am on Sunday mornings. Usually, a discussion centering on a Christian book or devotional material.

“The Library” Sunday School – 10:00 am on Sunday mornings – scripture-based discussion, encouragement, prayer, and fellowship.

Backpack Pals – A community nonprofit working to provide food-filled bags home with public school students each weekend. Our church takes care of food distribution to Stories Creek elementary school. Packers for the 400 plus students are also appreciated.

Choir – Rehearsals on Wednesday nights in preparation for 11 am worship.

Bell Choir – Rehearsals on Wednesday nights in preparation for occasional special music in worship.

Tech Team – Each week, church volunteers operate microphones and remote video cameras to ensure our worship services are heard within the building and streamed to the internet for people to participate online. It’s a small team with a big job, and substitutes and regular volunteers are always appreciated.

Love Feast – We need two organizers and many volunteers to plan and serve our annual beloved Christmas Love Feast.

Christian Help Center – We strongly and frequently support the work of the Christian Help Center, located right across the parking lot from our church. The CHC serves approximately 600-700 households per month with food, clothing, and three hot lunches per week.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE BELOW FEEDBACK SHEET
YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED!!!!

Ministry Interest Feedback

Thank you!

Name: _____

Best Contact: _____

Administrative Committees

Church Council at Large []

SPRC []

Trustees []

Parsonage []

Finance []

Endowment []

Lay Leadership []

Mission & Ministry Committees

Nurture []

Outreach and Missions []

Worship []

Preschool Board []

Social Media []

Columbarium []

Summer Literacy []

Other Ways to Be Involved

UM Men or Women in Faith []

Children and Youth []

Backpack pals []

Sunday School []

Music (Choir etc.) []

Tech Team []

Love Feast Organizing []

CHC []

**THIS SHEET MAY BE TURNED INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR THE OFFERING PLATE – THANK YOU!**