

Long Memorial UMC

October 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
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We are on the web at: longmemorialumc.org
Like us on Facebook: Long Memorial United Methodist Church

From Pastor Ed

“Oh, no! How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become . . . She weeps bitterly in the night with tears on her cheeks; among her lovers, she has no one to comfort her.” (Lamentations 1:1-2, New Revised Standard Version updated edition)

This passage certainly doesn't qualify as the “feel-good scripture verse of the year!” It's from the book of Lamentations in the Old Testament, which has been traditionally attributed to the prophet Jeremiah as its author. Jeremiah was a prophet when his nation of Judah was conquered and most of its people led into exile by their conquerors, the Babylonians.

Lamentations is a book of “lament” which Merriam-Webster defines as “to mourn aloud” and “to express sorrow, mourning, or regret for, often demonstratively.” Lament happens when your world has broken apart, and any attempts at offering comfort can't penetrate the depth of sorrow; when all is lost; when one can't see a way forward. This isn't the stuff of mere inconvenience or disappointment; it is the reality of devastation. In Jeremiah's time, the source of lament was defeat and exile at the hands of a warring aggressor. Throughout the ages, communal experiences like famine or plague, natural disasters like a hurricane or forest fire, or the outbreak of war initiate times of collective lament. Individuals, too, may experience personal loss and be overcome with lament as well: the sudden death of a child, the loss of a home by fire, a violent crime, or a terminal diagnosis. “I have nowhere to turn, there is no bottom to the depth of my sorrow, God has forgotten us.”

All this talk of the public expression of these depths of sorrow may make those of us who are not facing it at the moment rather uncomfortable. Even as I type this, I can hear the well-rehearsed jingles: “The sun'll come out, tomorrow!” sang Annie. “Gray skies are gonna clear up, put on a happy face!” “Don't worry, be happy!” “The joy of the Lord is my strength!” These are but a few of our culture's mantras of positive thinking. Indeed, as I write this, I'm wondering if now is the right time for a pastor's message about lament. We aren't very good at lamenting.

But Jeremiah's book of Lamentations made the Bible. There are times when lament is necessary, and the incredibly sad words play a role in coping and even healing. Too often, we try to pass over or avoid the sadness and grief too quickly, when our bodies, hearts, and souls need to feel the pain and the loss. Too often, the naive anxiety of our overly optimistic friends can create distance and encourage shallowness in our relationships. At times like those, the biblical witness of the Lamentations can be a helpful support.

Author Ann Weems wrote a book of modern-day Psalms of Lament. In her “Lament Psalm Five” she writes, “O God, find me! I am lost in the valley of grief and I cannot see my way out. My friends leave baskets of balm by my feet, but I cannot bend to touch the healing to my heart.” In these pain-filled, overwhelmed words, she expresses the deep

sorrow, but still her cry is to God, acknowledging the support of friends even though that support doesn't take the pain away. Maybe that's the secret of lament, to give voice to the pain even when you're not sure how long it will last; to cry out to God even if you're not sure God will hear. In the crying out, you discover the nearly cool but still glowing ember of faith, even though any compassionate answer seems beyond your expectation or imagination. We believe in a God who can hold the depth of our sorrow and, despite how it may seem in the moment, God will never leave us.

Why would I offer such a reflection, during a time of football tailgates, of fall festivals, of the return of crisp air and beautiful leaves? Perhaps one of you reading this needs to hear that your grief, while overwhelming, cannot separate you from God's eternal love. Perhaps another will keep in mind that your neighbor may be in the midst of a season of lament, during which your gestures of care may not be immediately warmly received, but are vitally needed. Or perhaps learning about lament will equip us to respond in the future when lament is the only thing we can do.

We are a people who need meaning, love, and care in our lives. When we experience devastation, the depths of sorrow, as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, our deep love is expressed as deep pain. Sometimes that expression, contrary to the psalmist's words, lasts longer than a night, and joy doesn't come immediately in the morning. During those times, when we express our lament, we are held in God's arms, we experience God's grace, all the same.

God bless you, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Amen.
Pastor Ed



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.

PRAYERS FOR MEDICAL CONCERNS

Susie Andrews Ainsworth
Helen Starr
Tom Hill Clayton

Ashley Bailey
Leon Long
Jean Andrews

Wrennly Long
Eddie Bridges
Norma Sabiston

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

...is extended to the family of Irma P. Stonbraker.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into our church membership the following:

...John and Sarah Illsley (children Annalise & Nathaniel) who joined on August 17, 2005;

...Mark and Kimberly Stewart who joined September 21, 2005.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Church's annual business meeting, called the Charge Conference, is scheduled for **this Sunday, October 12th at 7:00 P.M.** in the Harris Fellowship Hall. We will be hosting Longhurst UMC and New Brook UMC.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Long Memorial Church Family,

Thank you for many prayers, cards and your welcomed support over these many years, 55 to be exact. You have "been there" for me, Tom and our children, now adults, Susie and Nicole.

I am finally 'home' in my apartment after nearly two months in the hospital and rehabilitation. Your support has helped me to get back to some sort of normality.

Thank you everyone,
Jean Andrews

(2600 Croasdaile Village Farm Parkway
Apt. A314
Durham, NC 27705)



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TRUNK OR TREAT

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 5 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Long Memorial UMC
Parking Lot**

Everyone is welcome young and the young at heart!

Wear a costume & decorate your trunk if you dare.

Bring treats!!!

If you would like to participate, please contact Autumn Gentry at 336-501-1953.

Donations of candy will be accepted before both services during October.

Sponsored by the Long Memorial YOUTH.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SPAGHETTI SUPPER
& BAKE SALE

When: Friday, November 21st – 4:00-7:00 P.M.

Where: Harris Fellowship Hall

Eat In Or Take Out

Tickets \$10

See any circle member for tickets



Turn back your clocks on
Saturday, November 1st before
going to bed!!!!!!!!!!
FALL BACK TIME



FLOWER CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER

October 5 - Bill Westenberger
October 12 – Milton & Carol Hadley
October 19 – Steve & Loudell Medford
October 26 – Ben & Harriett Tillett

November 2 – Tommy & Sally Humphries
November 9 – Mark & Maxine Galloway
November 16 – Bob & Patti Morgan
November 23 – Harvest Table

November 30 – December 25 – Advent Wreath

December 28 – Rick Blanks

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:



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

October 03 – Aurora Castelo
October 04 – Janet Lewis
October 06 – Martha Butler
October 08 – Kathleen Hall
October 09 - Ashley Knott
October 10 – Jeanne 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 Prestaf
October 24 – Stacey Paith
October 25 – Maxine Galloway
October 26 – Loudell Medford
October 29 – Margaret Bailey
October 30 – Piper Webster
October 31 – Lily Weinberger



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 02 – Mike Miller
November 07 – Shirley Bradsher
November 08 – Wilkes Groce,
November 09 - Jackson Douma, Christopher Douma
November 10 – Jim Stovall, Claudia Berryhill
November 13 – Joe Weinberger, Cindy Hicks
November 15 – Barbara Alexander
November 17 – Jona Fitzgerald
November 18 – Johnny Bradsher
November 21 - Bradley Day, Brent Groce
November 27 – Gloria Bumpass
November 29 – Annalise Illsley
November 30 – Jo Ann Taylor, Baylor Gentry

THANKSGIVING MEALS - for Christian Help Center

Long Memorial UMC Missions is sponsoring Thanksgiving meal bags for the Christian Help Center. A list below is provided with the dry goods, and canned items needed to supply either a family of 1-2 people or 4-6 people. The shopping list will be provided with a shopping bag to put your items in and return to the Narthex.

PLEASE - CIRCLE - the meal size you are providing and include with your returned shopping bag. Missions will supply the money for Christian Help to purchase the turkey through their supplier.

Donations for the turkeys are welcome if you prefer not to buy the groceries. Having all the food items for the meal in one bag helps the Christian Help Center in their distribution process. Individuals, Sunday School classes or other church groups are welcome to work together on this project.

DEADLINE: NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 2nd. The Christian Help Center needs the food bags by then in order to arrange for the families to have the food on its distribution date.

Thank you,
Missions Committee.
Contact Susan Wilkerson (336. 599. 1869) if you have any questions.

THANKSGIVING FOOD LIST:

Option #1 - Family of one to three:

Stuffing	Small can of green beans	Chicken Broth
Gravy	Rice	Box of mac & cheese
Can of fruit	Box of Jello	Can of cream soup
Something Sweet		Canned sweet potatoes
Small can of another vegetable		

Option #2 - Family of four to six

Stuffing	Large can of green beans	2 cans of cream soup
Gravy	Box of mac & cheese	Large box Jello
Can of fruit	Large can of another vegetable	
Chicken Broth		
Large can of sweet potatoes		

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS
OF OUR 2025 "Chill Out"/Fun Day Event.
Total raised was approximately: \$37,000

Gold:

C.L. & Billie Oakley
Hunt & Jona Fitzgerald
Jim & Susan Wade
Bill & Connee White
Milton & Carol Hadley
Janice Wilson
Jeff & Paige Fitzgerald
Nancy Lee Newell
Leah Owen
Kenneth & Maribel Strachan
Lin & Terri Cates
Chris & Laura Atkins
Gordon & Kay Carver
Carver, Bumpass, Carver
Jean Andrews

Silver:

Jamie & Connie Mundy
Keith & Lori Burnette
Kim & Todd Bulgrin
Circle # 2
Jack & Linda Elliott
Breakfast Club S.S. Class
Steve & Ashley Bailey
Meg Denton
Ted Michie
Woody Garrett
Tommy & Sally Humphries
John & Sarah Illsley
Jim & Donna Kurst
Barbara Alexander
Terry & Martha Allen

Bronze:

Alan & Cindy Hicks
Keith & Helen Starr
Charles Higgins
Paul & Sammy Helminger

Circle #3
Deb Burke
Bob & Patti Morgan
George & Tonya Gentry
Lou Lockhart
Don & Zandra Hill
Wilbur & Becky Brann

Circle #4
Mitch & Debbie Pergerson
Dolly Denton



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Godly Play

Come be a part of **Godly Play** for children **K-2** each Sunday at 10:00 A.M. on the third floor at Long Memorial UMC! We are also offering a Sunday school class for children in **grades 3-5**, focused on learning to use their Bible.

We are so excited to offer this again! **Kelly Mundy and Jona Fitzgerald** are leading Godly Play, while Autumn Gentry is with the older children in the youth room.

WHAT IS GODLY PLAY?

The result of a lifetime of research and practice by theologian, author and educator The Rev. Dr. Jerome Berryman, the Godly Play® method is a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. The Godly Play curriculum engages what is most exciting about religious education: God inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—Scripture and spiritual experience. Godly Play practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives.

Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance. **Godly Play** has a foundation of 40+ years of research and practice.

Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships.

Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations. **Godly Play** allows practitioners to make relevant and personal theological meaning. Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

WHAT DOES GODLY PLAY® DO EDUCATIONALLY AND THEOLOGICALLY?

Providing structure for spiritual practice, the Godly Play method engages our innate spirituality and nourishes use of religious language to make meaning from Biblical stories through the Creative Process.¹ Originally designed as a curriculum for the spiritual guidance of children, the Godly Play method firstly aims for fluency in the Christian language before adolescence so that children entering this next stage of development have the ability to explore their existential limits and articulate their experiences in community.

Fluency does not mean “remembering the language as an end in itself.” Instead, a “conscious and functioning language system” develops because “religious language acts as a door into the pure coordination of actions among God, self, others and the creation.”^{2,3} Because language names and orders thoughts, the base language used to construct reality plays a significant role in the reality itself. Pre-language, conceptions of Self, God, Others and Nature connect and communicate directly with one another.⁴ When language is added, “the primary relationships are now refracted through the prism of the language.”⁵ In practice, the language domain influences relationships, meaning, and use of one's knowledge and experience.

The art of using language is acquired through modeling and immersion; words are only part of the process. Since both spoken and unspoken meaning foster full language acquisition, the environment and culture of Godly Play practice is critical—the method is much more than a clever way to tell Bible stories. ⁶ The Godly Play curriculum guides participants through self-discovery, which is fundamental to the Montessori tradition from which Godly Play developed. While the Godly Play method is a spiritual practice, spiritual experiences during Godly Play sessions are actually the mechanism for “being in religious language.”⁷ These experiences serve as both a conditioner for our existing spiritual connection with God and as the instrument for grounding spirituality in the Christian language and community of religion.

WHERE IS GODLY PLAY PRACTICED?

Largely Godly Play is practiced in church with children. The spiral curriculum works through three sets of three-year intervals based on the progression of language acquisition: Hear It (ages 3 – 6), Speak It (ages 6 – 9), and Think It (ages 9 – 12). Yet because spirituality and Christian language acquisition are lifelong journeys, use of the Godly Play method has quickly grown to include adults, the elderly and children in a diverse variety of setting such as hospitals, residential care facilities, prisons and by facilitators of social justice.

Founded in the United States, Godly Play is widespread throughout all 50 states. Godly Play also has a global presence with established associations in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom, rapidly growing programs in India and South Africa, and emerging practice in Estonia, Ireland, Sweden, Latvia, Pakistan, Tanzania and beyond.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Below you will see information regarding our congregation's financial giving through October 5, 2025.

2025 Budget: \$475,801

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,150

Budget giving on Sunday, October 5: \$13,692

Average budget given each Sunday in 2025: \$7,839

Budget giving through October 5: \$317,289 (67% of budget given through 77% of the calendar year)

Amount of 2025 budget still to raise: \$158,512 (33% of the budget)

The average amount needed per Sunday through the rest of the year to meet the 2025 budget is \$13,209.

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!

We also thank God for the generosity of our church in non-budgeted mission and ministry. Over \$1200 was raised at last Sunday's Youth Luncheon to help offset Pilgrimage expenses. Fun Day donations exceeded \$35,000 toward our church's capital debt, and over \$800 was raised for missions! Praise God!

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.

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