

# Long Memorial UMC

*April/May 2026*

## **Worship With Us On Sunday**

8:45 PM – Early Service - Chapel

11:00 AM – Worship Service – Sanctuary

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](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

## **Dear friends,**

The Long Memorial Family has long supported BackPack Pals of Person County. As you know, during the school year BackPacks provides healthy food over the weekend for some 400 Person County children. Your generosity has overwhelmingly changed the lives of these kids. Well, as the school year is coming to a close, we ask you for one more kind act of generosity.

We'll be distributing the last backpacks for the year the last of May. We want to provide a little something extra as the kids go home for the summer. If you would, please donate 16-ounce jars of creamy peanut butter. Place them in the BackPack box in the narthex. We'll collect them through May 10th! Your additional contributions will go a long way!

Also, please let me know if you'd be interesting in being a packer or deliverer for the 2026-2027 school year. It doesn't take much time and you have to participate only a few times a year. It is our volunteers who make the BackPack program so worthwhile.

Cheryl Allen  
Long Memorial BackPacks Coordinator  
(757) 404-0633

### **FOR EVERYONE'S KNOWLEDGE**

Beginning Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> the church secretary, Peggy Wade will not be working from the church office. She will be having a total right knee replacement. Peggy will be recovering from this grueling surgery while doing church work from home along with therapy at PMH. With the help of her husband, she will occasionally come to the church on Friday for a short time to prepare for each Sunday. For approximately 6 weeks Peggy will still answer the church phone, receive e-mails, texts and continue doing her weekly church work while trying to recover from home. Please bear with us all during this time. Thank you!!!

### **ARMENIAN MISSION PRESENTATION**

Our Long Memorial United Women In Faith will host an Armenian Mission Presentation, on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. in the Harris Fellowship Hall. All congregation members are welcome to attend.



Office at 599-1193  
for your birthday or someone in your home.)

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

April 03 – Laura Atkins  
April 09 – Al Taylor, Sally Humphries, Cheryl Allen  
April 10 – Vickie Carver, Nicholas Young  
April 11 – Harriett Adcock  
April 22 – Blaine Duncan  
April 29 – Harrison Hicks

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

May 03 – Steve Bailey  
May 06 – Norma Sabiston  
May 08 – Zandra Hill  
May 09 – Elaine Hightower  
May 10 – Tripp Atkins  
May 11 – Gracelyn Gentry  
May 13 – Dan Craig, Jill Strickland  
May 16 – Lori Burnette, Ted Michie, Rosalie Gates  
May 18 – Walt Rogers, C.L. Oakley  
May 19 – Tommy Humphries  
May 20 – Paul Long, Tracy Rogers, Kay Carver  
May 21 – Lin Cates, Cindy Johnson  
May 25 – Jeff Fitzgerald  
May 27 – Anne Barry-Priest, Darnell Carver  
May 29 – Jeffrey Hicks

## **JUNE BIRTHDAYS:**

June 02 – Kayla Brown  
June 03 – Terri Cates  
June 06 – Samantha Craig, Nora Groce  
June 07 – Martha Ann O'Hara  
June 08 – Tom Loftis  
June 09 – Xavier Strachan  
June 13 – Ashley Bailey  
June 18 – Riley Young  
June 19 – Carol Hadley, Conrad Kimbrough  
June 20 – Nina Rhodes  
June 21 – Ellen Harris  
June 22 – Stephanie Gilbert

June 23 – Martha Allen  
June 24 – Taylor Rogers  
June 25 – Leon Long, Avery Gentry  
June 26 – Bill Sabiston, IV  
June 29 – Lou Lockhart  
June 30 – Terry Allen

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

I always marvel at March Madness – 64 teams representing the best of college basketball. When they enter the championship tournament, all of them (except one) are poised to lose a game in the coming weeks, though some put off that fortune longer than others. Such enthusiasm and hope are placed in so many teams that will, by design, end their season with a loss.

When a couple is married, the vows articulate hope and commitment through life's most joyful but also most perilous ups and downs. Each promises to remain steadfast, "For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness, and in health, till death do us part." Poverty, sickness, and even death are anticipated on such a joy-filled day!?

Even when someone is baptized in our church, often an infant, we affirm with unflinching voices that anticipate the inevitable and eventual: "Wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory."

We are wired, created, and formed to live. We have senses designed by God to keep us safe and to enable us to experience beauty. We have love in our hearts: dancing, blissful, strong love. Yet that love is so strong that when separation or death comes, we feel it in every cell, bone, muscle, and thought. It is palpable – tactile – it leaks out of our eyes, captures our words, takes our breath, aches in our throats and stomachs. The fear of enduring grieving moments, the fear of loss of someone or something we love, leads us to seek out nearly limitless distractions, denials, and avoidances. Sometimes that fear of loss is the strongest driver of our behaviors. Some of us are quite good at avoiding any thought of our end, of your end, of the end.

Yet tonight, as I write this, we will come together as people of faith and voluntarily immerse ourselves in a remembering of, and confrontation with, Jesus' death. It's Maundy Thursday. We will observe Holy Communion and be met with the words, "the Body of Christ, broken for you," and "the blood of Christ, shed for you." We will confess the way we've willingly or unwillingly participated in, even caused, small deaths from sin. And we will pledge ourselves to one another's care this night, rehearsing a form of Jesus selfless foot-washing act by washing one another's young, old, gnarled, strong, or fragile hands.

We will remember that even our Lord endured death, that the celebration of fellowship became the horror of the cross and the finality of the tomb. And then, on the third day, we will celebrate the miracle of his resurrection, and we will proclaim that because he rose, we will rise also.

Elisabeth Kubler Ross articulated the stages of grief, with which you may be familiar: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Some grief-filled people move all the way to acceptance; others remain stuck in another stage. I say this with compassion, not judgment. In my 24 years of pastoring, I've been in many rooms where the person who is dying is the first to accept the truth of life's end; the loved ones have a harder time.

James Finley, a Christian teacher I often listen to, uses the phrase that acceptance is a way of being "delivered from the tyranny of death in the midst of death," of being freed from fear of death, despite death's inevitability. Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter, is the great faith-messenger of freedom from fear. Jesus rose from the dead, and he promises that we will join him forever in eternity! There is nothing to truly fear, since we do and will dwell with God's infinite love forever!

So, because He is risen, all is NOT and cannot be lost. Because infinite love is ours. Because He is risen, we might lose a game or a tournament, in the first round or the finals, and we might be surrounded who didn't win the world's contest, but we have a prize far greater than a clipped net or a trophy – we have unbounded, uncompromising, unfailing, amazing love. We might watch or even tragically contribute to the failure of a venture like a marriage covenant, or we might be blessed to faithfully and lovingly live and love our partner well, even to the end, as we long ago promised. Regardless, our faults are loved away, our failings washed clean because of God's uncompromising love for us. We might even die to the world in Christ, taking great risk and displaying great courage, faithfully confident that we will be raised again. We cannot go anywhere beyond God's loving reach.

Not even to the grave.

May we live as a people who are liberated, freed, delivered from the fearful tyranny of evil, even death, even while we walk through its midst. As the Psalmist said,

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil. For Thou art with me. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23)

Have a Blessed Easter Season,  
Pastor Ed

**ATTENTION!!!!**

**THIS SUNDAY, (April 19<sup>th</sup>) AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC  
CHURCH UNDER THE TENT  
HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE HARRIS HALL**

- One service only at 10:30 A.M. (IN HARRIS HALL)
  - Casual Attire
  - Special Music by Decatur Street Beat  
New Orleans Dixieland Style Band
  - CATERED LUNCH

**PLEASE COME JOIN THE FUN**



**YOU ARE THE BEST!!!!**

On behalf of the church, I would like to thank our faithful and gifted chancel choir members, and the bell choir members, all under the direction of our gifted Director of Music Chuck Higgins, for the ways they share their musical gifts with the congregation and all who visit. This year's Cantata, "Touched By the Christ," was beautiful and inspiring, and was inspired by the love of the Holy Spirit.

Julia Alliger  
Ashley Bailey  
Mary Calhoun  
Mark Galloway  
Susan Hester  
Tommy Humphries  
Cornelia Loftis  
Cathy Lowery  
Bob Morgan

Connie Mundy  
Kelly Mundy  
Nancy Lee Newell  
Maribel Strachan  
Jim Wade  
Bill Westenberger  
Connee White  
Bob Wilkerson  
Susan Wilkerson

On Easter Sunday, we look forward to hearing from our Bell Choir. We thank each and every one of them for sharing their gifts as well!

John Illsley  
Susan Hester  
Jona Fitzgerald  
Patti Morgan  
Sally Humphries  
Harriet Tillet  
Nancy Lee Newell  
Cornelia Loftis  
Mary Calhoun  
Ted Michie  
Bob Morgan

As we continue our search for a permanent organist/accompanist, we also want to express our gratitude to Cathy Lowery, Mary Calhoun, and Susan Stedman for their offering of keyboard gifts. We see them on Sunday mornings, and they are with the choir on Wednesday nights, but we also appreciate the long hours of practice that go unnoticed. Thank you!

*“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalm 100 KJV)*

## **LOOKING AHEAD AT LONG MEMORIAL UMC:**

### **APRIL**

Church Under Tent **MOVED TO HARRIS HALL** – 10:30 A.M. (only) – Sunday, April 19  
with Lunch to follow

Church Council – 6:00 P.M. – April 21 – Harris Hall

### **MAY**

Mother’s Day Sunday – 11:00 A.M. - Sunday, May 10 (Baby Bottle Drive begins)

Preschool Graduation Week – May 12, 13 & 14

Graduation Sunday 11:00 A.M. & Lunch - Noon - Sunday, May, 17

PUMP Dinner at LMUMC – 6:00 P.M. – May 21

Church Office Closed – Monday, May 25

**JUNE**

PUMP Dinner – Tuesday June 2 – Harris Hall

Last Choir Practice before summer break – Wednesday, June 3

Preschool Summer Camp Week – 9:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. – Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

Literacy Orientation - Thursday, June 11 – 3:00-7:00 P.M. - Harris Hall

Vacation Bible School – 9:00 A.M. - Noon – June 15<sup>th</sup> – June 17<sup>th</sup>

Annual Conference – June 18 -19

Father’s Day – Sunday, June 21 – Baby Bottles to be returned to church

Summer Literacy Camp Begins – A.M. & P.M. daily Monday, June 22 through Friday, July 24 – Harris Hall & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

.....

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

In our continued efforts to be transparent and good stewards of that with which we have been entrusted, we will be sharing up-to-date financial information each month:

Here is information about our church's 2026 financial giving, as of Sunday, April 12, which is 29% of the calendar year. There are 37 Sundays remaining in 2026:

2026 Budget: \$487,208

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,369

Budget giving through April 12: \$138,800 (28% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$348,408 (72% of the budget)

Sunday, April 12 budget giving: \$24,099.

We appreciate the commitment many of our congregation members gave through pledges. Of the \$370,360 in pledges that were made for 2026, we have received \$107,698 (29%).

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 P.O. box: Long Memorial UMC, PO Box 310, Roxboro, NC 27573.

## **HOW BLESSED WE ARE**

Thank you to the artists and all who contributed to making possible Journey to the Cross on Good Friday possible. Your gifts, time, and dedication created a meaningful and reflective experience for everyone who attended. Your work helped bring depth, beauty, and reverence to this sacred time—we're truly grateful. A very special thank you to the Reverend Julia Alliger for the inspiration and coordination of "Journey To The Cross".

Thank you so much for the beautiful Palm Sunday lunch and for all the hard work that went into preparing it. Your dedication, generosity and spirit of service truly made the day special. It was a blessing to share a meal and reflect on the meaning of the season. Everything was thoughtfully done and deeply appreciated. Thank you for being such a caring and faithful community.



## **PRAYERS FOR MEDICAL CONCERNS**

Ron Priestaf  
21735 Francis  
Dearborn, MI 48124

## **Mother's Day Bulletin!!!**

Remember a SPECIAL LADY on Mother's Day by having her name included in our special Mother's Day Bulletin.

Cost: \$5 per name. Sponsored by the UMYF. Please respond by e-mail to Autumn Gentry. *Do not mail it.* **Deadline is this Wednesday, May 6th at Noon.**

**Autumn's e-mail address is: [autumngentry23@gmail.com](mailto:autumngentry23@gmail.com)**





### **Dear Church Friends,**

Leon Long wants to thank Long Memorial people for the many cards, visits, food and prayers. Leon survived 3 hospital visits totaling 100 days. The staff at Person Memorial Hospital did a great job! God is Good!!! Thank you church friends for your thoughtfulness.

### **BABY BOTTLE BLESSING DRIVE**

It will soon be time to show our support for Life Choices (Pregnancy Support Center) by participating in the Baby Bottle Blessing Drive. On Mother's Day, take home a baby bottle, fill it with your donation, and return the bottle to the church by Father's Day. On May 10th, Ellen Harris will have the bottles at early church and in the narthex before the 11:00 service. Any questions? Call Ellen at 599-8033.

***The Church Office Will Be Closed On May 25th  
In Observance Of Memorial Day***

---

GOD is  
so GOOD!

