

Long Memorial UMC

July 2026

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.

HELLO LONG MEMORIAL!

As I serve with you all this summer, I continue to be blessed by your love and generosity. Your fellowship has impacted me in ways you may not realize, and it is a gift for me to experience. I have surely encountered the love of Christ through you all.

A few years ago, I was visiting a church back in West Virginia, and I heard a hymn that has stayed with me since. It described a believer's journey from a state of vain piety to devout faith. It was written as a conversation between God and a human being. A verse from the hymn states, "if just a cup of water I place within your hand, then just a cup of water is all that I demand". Those words often return to my mind when I consider what is expected of me – in a task, a day, or my life. What is adequate service in the eyes of God? And how are we to serve faithfully with our gifts in the places we are in?

In the book of Exodus, soon after leaving Egypt, the Israelites entered a covenant with God and were instructed to build a tabernacle – a dwelling place where God would be present among His people. He gave specific instructions regarding the materials to be used and the heart posture of those who would provide them (Ex. 35:4-9, 20-29).

Notably, God had already placed the materials into the hands of the Israelites earlier through His providence as they departed Egypt. The Israelites were now being called to return and consecrate what God had previously entrusted to them. Additionally, more than the mere physical materials for its construction, God's people were asked to provide these gifts with willing and generous hearts. He invited His people to participate in offering freely, not out of obligation. As Exodus describes, those whose hearts were stirred and whose spirits were willing brought offerings ranging from earrings to fine leather. The gifts overpoured!

Paul describes us in the new covenant as "God's temple," the new dwelling place of God (1 Cor. 3:16). As the Israelites were asked to offer what had been given to them and to do so with a willing heart, we too are called to use our gifts that have been entrusted to us and return them willingly to His service. The same God who supplied the materials for the tabernacle has also given over to our stewardship specific gifts, resources, and opportunities to be used in Kingdom service and for the edification of the community of believers.

It may seem at times as small as an earring or a cup of water, but something offered in faith has immeasurable impact on the Kingdom. I think of the boy who offered his five loaves and two fish, and the gift was multiplied to feed the five thousand (John 6:1-13). Our faithfulness is not in the size of the offering, but in the willing heart that gives it. Whether it's taking time for someone to feel seen after society has cast them aside, to love a child as Jesus loves them, to work on administrative tasks for the church, or other day-to-day acts of service that may go unseen – each becomes a sweet aroma to Him.

While I know my tendency, maybe like some of you, is to not take as much pleasure in the small and ordinary tasks, it may be in those very ordinary moments that God is calling us to faithfulness, and in those moments that He is glorified most.

Your Sister in Christ,
Sarah Dorminey
(Duke Summer Intern Student)



SUMMER LITERACY PROGRAM UPDATE!

The summer is off and running for our fourth annual Summer Literacy Program! This year has been extra exciting with the addition of our satellite site partnership with New Brook UMC. We have enrolled thirty kids who just finished first grade at Long Memorial, and twelve kids who just finished kindergarten at New Brook.

Each day, campers arrive at around 7:30, share a breakfast, and then are off to morning reading instruction taught by some of our county's finest teachers and TA's. After lunch, our talented and energetic enrichment staff share a wide variety of experiences with the children – from playground games to storyteller visits, from crafts to science lessons, and more! On Thursdays, the whole family is invited to a delicious dinner. The kids have fun, and the parents are able to get individualized feedback from the teachers. We are also mindful that some of our families need support outside of the camp, and we strive to come alongside them in whatever ways we can. Our fantastic staff and amazing volunteers show incredible, unwavering support and love to all of our families.

The program originated with The Duke Endowment, and since its inception, it has grown to include additional funding and oversight partners. Between both sites, we will receive about \$90,000 in grants. We also rely on local community fundraising through donations and hope to raise more than \$25,000. We are well on our way, having already received generous monetary donations from fifty individuals, organizations, businesses, and churches, but we still have a way to go. Donations can be made to Long Memorial with "Summer Literacy" in the memo line.

Students are invited by Person County Schools, and children who need the most help are given priority. We are immensely proud to have helped over one hundred students in our county catch up on their reading skills, and enter their next school year with confidence! Thank you for your support!

Follow us on Facebook – "Roxboro Cooperative Summer Literacy Initiative"

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

The Missions Committee will start collecting needed school supplies July 5th – August 2nd for South Elementary, North End Elementary School and CCA (Jackie Priestaf's 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 July 5th – Deadline August 2nd.

JULY BIRTHDAYS:



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

July 01 – Anna Long
July 02 – Kelly Mundy, Bryan Westmoreland
July 03 – CeCe Fitzgerald, Carol Jones
July 04 – Kaitlin Carver, Sallie Weinberger
July 05 – Layla Fitzgerald
July 07 – Bill White
July 12 – Billie Oakley
July 13 – Jean Peterson
July 14 – Sharon Slaughter
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
July 29 – Phillip Allen, Phyllis Tuck
July 30 – Janice Wilson
July 31 – Charley Weinberger

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 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 – Connie Mundy, Ann Groce
August 18 – Nicky Webster
August 19 – Noah Paith
August 21 – Jim Priest
August 22 – Lilly Sandy
August 23 – Sam Bailey
August 26 – Agnes Bacnik
August 29 – Kevin Clayton, Susan Wilkerson
August 30 – Kenneth Strachan
August 31 – Todd Bulgrin

FLOWER CALENDAR FOR JULY & AUGUST

July 5 – Jona Fitzgerald
July 12 – Bob & Patti Morgan
July 19 - David Lewis
July 26 – Nancy Lee Newell

August 2 – Tom & Teresa Fitzgerald
August 9 – Sallie Weinberger & Tommy Clayton
August 16 – Connie Mundy
August 23 – Ashley Bailey
August 30 – Deb Burke

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## **NEW ADDRESS:**

**Lois Winstead  
Westminster Canterbury  
Drinkard Building Room 429  
501 V.E.S. Rd.  
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

## **SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to:

...Bill & Elizabeth Sabiston in the death of Norma Sabiston. The service will be Sunday, July 12 at 2 P.M. at Long Memorial UMC. Reception to follow.

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

Is there a character in a story, any story, that you somehow, at least in part, seek to emulate? Someone who has a character trait that you see in part in yourself? A mentor of mine once said that when a child puts on a superhero costume, they aren't pretending; they are practicing. There's a difference, right? If I were to introduce the spiritual life into the exercise, and think about the stories we know in scripture or in our long Christian tradition, which stories inspire us? While some of the biggest stories have some miraculous, fantastical outcomes (David defeating Goliath, or Queen Esther saving her people, for example), there are plenty of everyday characters who catch our attention.

The other day I was reading a passage in the book of Acts, chapter 9, and I came across the story of Ananias. Saul of Tarsus, who had been persecuting Christians, has just had an encounter with the risen Christ. In the encounter, Saul is temporarily blinded and told to go into the city and wait for further instructions. Meanwhile, a disciple of Jesus named Ananias is minding his own business when Jesus appears in a vision and tells Ananias to go meet this Saul. Ananias has heard of persecutions at Saul's hands, and objects, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." Jesus replies, "Go!", saying that God has important work for Saul. In the next verse, Ananias goes to the house where Saul is staying, enters it, lays his hands on Saul in an act of blessing and prayer, delivers God's message, and acts as the vessel for Saul's healing. Saul's sight is restored.

To me, the first part of the story of Ananias is a story for us ordinary folks. Here we are, just going about our business, when somehow God nudges us and tells us there is work

for us to do. We often protest: "I'm too busy!" "I'm too tired!" "I don't know how!" "It won't work!" Or maybe even, "It's too risky!" We may know, somewhere deep down, that if God leads us to it, God will see us through it. Most of us have been going to church for a long time. We say we have faith. We say we believe God. We say we love our neighbor. But when asked to do something concrete, especially something we haven't done before, when we are nudged by God, we have a very real choice to make. In the words of the 80's song by The Clash, "Should I stay or should I go now? If I go, there will be trouble; and if I stay, it will be double!" The Clash's song wasn't one of faith; it just captured the essence of indecision. In contrast, Ananias' story captures our fears: Ananias could ignore God's invitation, or Ananias could follow God's direction and nudge, trusting that God will be with him.

So, is there a story or a character who inspires you? Does that story reveal something about your heart; about who God has created you to be? May God give you the courage to live out your particular gifts, and to step out in faith. If God leads you to it, God will see you through it. Amen.

Ed Priestaf  
Pastor

## **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, June 28, which is 50% of the calendar year. There are 26 Sundays remaining in 2026:

2026 Budget: \$487,208

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,369

Budget giving through June 28: \$208,260 (43% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$278,948 (57% of the budget)

Sunday, June 28 budget giving: \$9,127

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. When worshiping in our sanctuary, there are new cards on the backs of pews with a QR code that links to an electronic contribution option. You can also 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 email [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.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE:**

What an incredible few days we shared together at Vacation Bible School! Our journey to Snowball Mountain was filled with laughter, learning, music, creativity, and so much love. Watching our children grow in their faith while having so much fun was truly a blessing.

Our theme verse for the week was Philippians 4:13: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Throughout the week, we were reminded that no challenge is too big when we put our trust in Jesus. We prayed that each child would leave knowing not only this verse by heart, but also that God's love is always with them and that Christ gives them the strength to face whatever comes their way.

From making colorful kaleidoscopes, photograph magnets, and adorable clay snowmen to learning brand-new songs that are sure to be sung long before we ever see snow on the ground ourselves, every moment was filled with excitement and wonder. More importantly, friendships were strengthened, smiles were shared, and memories were made that will last a lifetime. Their enthusiasm, kindness, and joy filled every room, and it was incredible to watch each child grow in their knowledge of God's love. We hope they left Snowball Mountain with hearts full of faith, confidence in Christ, and memories they will cherish for years to come.

To our incredible volunteers, thank you for giving so generously of your time, talents, energy, and love. Whether you taught a lesson, led music, helped with crafts, served snacks, welcomed families, or simply shared a smile, you made an eternal difference in the lives of our children.

And to our parents, thank you for entrusting us with your children and allowing us to be a small part of their faith journey. We are so grateful for the opportunity to laugh with them, learn alongside them, and remind them just how deeply they are loved by God.

Thank you all for making this year's Vacation Bible School such a special and memorable week. We are thankful for every child, every volunteer, every family, and every moment.

Autumn Gentry  
Youth & Children's Ministries Director, LMUMC



## LONG MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL

*What a joyful way to celebrate another amazing year in our preschool! Our End-of-Year **Celebrations** were filled with smiles, laughter, and proud moments as we honored the growth and accomplishments of our children.*

*Families and teachers gathered to cheer on our students during our festive **parades**. The children proudly made their way through the celebration in decorated cars, trucks, bicycles, and even their own miniature ride-on cars, all adorned with colorful balloons and cheerful signs.*

*It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the friendships they have built and the confidence they have gained throughout the year.*

*Our GRADUATION ceremony was especially meaningful as we recognized our preschool graduates and wished them well as they prepare for KINDERGARTEN.*

*As we reflect on this school year, we give thanks to GOD for His many BLESSINGS and LOVE. We pray that our graduates will continue to grow in wisdom, kindness, and faith as they begin their next adventure, and we look forward to welcoming many familiar and new faces in the 2026-2027 preschool year.*

Pam Day  
Long Memorial Preschool Director

### **CAMP LONG MEMORIAL.... ZOO CAMP ADVENTURES....**

*We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo...  
How about you, you, you?  
You can come too, too, too  
We're going to the zoo, zoo, zoo....*



If you had stopped by the church during the week of June 8, you probably would have left singing "Going to the Zoo" by Raffi!  
(ask Pastor Ed ☺)

That catchy tune became our soundtrack to an exciting week as our preschoolers explored the wonderful world of Zoo Animals and their habitats: Safari animals, Artic Animals, Discovering the Rainforest

These 15 Zookeepers wrapped up the week by giving all the animals a bubbly bath and enjoying some outdoor splashy fun.

**BREAKAWAY EXPERIENCE:** By: Riley Young

One of the most meaningful experiences I have had with the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church was attending Breakaway. During this week-long camp, I reconnected with old friends while also building friendships with new people from across the conference. Each day included worship services and small groups called Growth Groups, where we shared our faith, encouraged one another, and grew closer to God. Breakaway strengthened my relationship with Christ and gave me a deeper sense of community within the United Methodist Church, making it an unforgettable and impactful experience



**HAPPY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> WEEKEND**