

Long Memorial UMC

August 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.

INVITATION FROM CLAUDIA BERRYHILL HONORING LACY



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Whoever says, 'I abide in him [Jesus]' ought to walk in the same way as he walked." 1 John 2:6

I have a book on my shelf by Pastor Rudy Rasmus, who is the founding pastor of St. John's UMC in Houston, TX (<https://www.stjohnsdowntown.org/>). The book is called Touch: Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World and it details the formation and unique qualities of this radically loving church that exists in the middle of much brokenness amongst its neighbors. We might not be in a huge city like Houston, Texas (population 2.4 million!), but even in little Roxboro and Person County we live in the middle of many broken people. I once was in a workshop led by Pastor Rasmus, and sat next to him during our lunch break. He's an ordinary person, like you and me, who listens closely for God's direction, and who sees everyone as made in God's image.

He writes, “I like the way John described the way Jesus walked in his first letter. He said that if we are really following Jesus, we will “walk just as He walked.” What in the world does that mean? Here’s my list of what I think it means (you may have your own list):

- Jesus didn’t use love as leverage. He didn’t love people to get them to change. He just loved them and let them respond. Some of them repented and found love and hope; some hated Him and plotted to kill Him.
- He didn’t own much, and he never seemed to care about acquiring things. In fact, he was really wary about the destructive power of things. Freedom and joy seemed to come from giving stuff away.
- He loved people and used a few rules – not the other way around.
- Jesus regularly hung out with riffraff, sick folks, prostitutes, and other outcasts.
- He wasn’t afraid of powerful, rigid people.
- He asked really hard questions, and when people asked Him questions, He didn’t give simple answers – if He gave any answers at all.
- He loved people so much that He was severely criticized for it.
- He was rigidly nonpolitical (“Render to Caesar...”)
- He taught and modeled a powerful combination of truth and grace.
- He accepted everybody, but He never abandoned the brutal truth to accommodate differences.
- As Almighty God in human flesh, Jesus was infinitely superior, but common people felt completely comfortable with Him because He loved them without patronizing them.
- Rigid, self-righteous, power-hungry, political people felt threatened by Him and hated Him.
- He prayed often, long, and hard.
- He had such a clear sense of His purpose and strong trust in the Father that He was never in a hurry, even though the weight of the world was on His shoulders.
- Popularity and success never went to His head. He always moved toward people in need, not toward people who would give Him applause and power.

- Interruptions (like the four guys lowering a paralyzed friend through the ceiling in the middle of His talk) never fazed him. He saw every moment as an opportunity to do the Father's will.

"If God's direction to us is to "walk just as Jesus walked," we have to ask ourselves, "how much are we really walking like Jesus?"

Rasmus, Rudy; Touch; copyright 2007 by Rudy Rasmus; Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.; pg. 114.

I'll be asking myself this question. I hope you will be too. Amen.

-Pastor Ed

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2026 – October 18th **at 3 PM at New Brook United Methodist Church**

As a congregation of the United Methodist Church, one of our important ways of ordering our work is the annual Charge Conference. A "charge" in Methodist-speak is a church or group of churches served by a pastor who is appointed by the bishop. Methodists meet together in "conferences," in which we do worshipful work. The Charge Conference is a meeting, annually called and under the facilitation of the District Superintendent (DS). The meeting names and celebrates our mission and ministry together, shares information with the DS about the church's past year, and includes at least two important agenda items: the **setting of the pastor's salary**, and the **election of church officers and committee members** for the coming year (our 2027 church budget is usually proposed and decided by the Church Council after the Charge Conference).

This year as in years' past, our Charge Conference will be held alongside those of a number of other local churches. Sometimes we host this gathering, but not this year. **Our Charge Conference is set for October 18 at 3pm at New Brook UMC. The extensive reporting that is required in advance of the Charge Conference is due to the DS by October 4, two weeks prior to the Charge Conference.**

This year, our 2026 Church Council members are being asked by our bishop to complete an important Church Health Survey. Each will receive an invitation to take the survey in the next week, and will have about a month to complete it. It is estimated to take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

The notice of Charge Conference also means that the annual work of our church's nominations committee will begin soon. The nominations committee is chaired by the pastor and works to invite congregants who have the calling and gifts for leadership and service to serve in various committees throughout the church. The nominations committee submits their nominations to the Charge Conference (and the Charge Conference may nominate other people), who actually elect the leaders.

Please keep this important work of your church in your prayers.

FINANCE 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, August 2, which is 60% of the calendar year. There are 21 Sundays remaining in 2026:

2026 Budget: \$487,208

Budget divided evenly per Sunday: \$9,369

Budget giving through August 2: \$249,139 (51% of budget)

Amount of Budget to be raised: \$238,069 (49% of the budget)

Sunday, August 2 budget giving: \$5,081.

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 \$186,451 (50%).

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. In the pews on Sundays you can find a card with a QR Code that directs a smartphone to the Vanco site. 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.

