



LARCHMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Vision of Larchmont Church is to be a vibrant, engaging, and inclusive church that follows Jesus Christ.

August 23, 2026

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

†Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Vater unser in Himmelreich, BWV 636
(Our Father in Heaven)

J. S. Bach

Announcements and Greetings

Karla Robinson

†Passing the Peace

†Bringing in the Light of Christ

†Processional Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (vv. 1,2,4)

No. 384

†Call To Worship

Jonathan Clark, Worship Leader

Leader: Come, let us gather in the presence of the One who teaches us to hope.
Come, you who are exhausted and overextended, who work late, juggle too much, and whisper, "How much more can I give?"

People: We come with tired bodies and crowded minds. Meet us here, O God.

Leader: Come, you who love with a fierce, unreasonable love – who keep showing up with patience, small kindnesses, and wordless prayers.

People: We bring our love and our limits. God, receive them both.

Leader: Come, saints and cynics, rookies and veterans, angry at what is not right and grieving what is broken, still holding a fragile hope that things can change.

People: We come honest and unsure. Hold our anger, grief and hope together in you.

Leader: Hear the Good News, friends: The God who heard the widow pounding on the judge's door hears you today. The God who saw the tax collector in the back row sees you today – not as saint or villain, but as deeply loved.

People: Thanks be to God that you see us and you know us.

Leader: This God does not tire of your persistence or shrug off your weariness, but joins your longing for things made right with a mercy that will not let you go.

People: Strengthen our persistence, comfort our weariness, meet our longing with your mercy.

Leader: So come with your work and your worries, your burnout and your bravery, your laughter and your tears; because the doors that feel welded shut are already trembling on their hinges.

People: We lay it all before you, nothing hidden, nothing held back. Be present among us, and make us new.

Prayer for the Day

You tell me to pray always and never lose heart. Forgive me when I grow tired, stop asking, or doubt that You hear me. Give me the steady faith of the persistent widow, helping me to bring my needs to You day and night with a confident and trusting heart. AMEN

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Michelle Matthews

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Lesson

Luke 18:1-14 (NRSV)

Worship Leader

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Solo

Lord of All Hopefulness

Arr. Alan Bullard

Karla D. Robinson, soprano

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.*

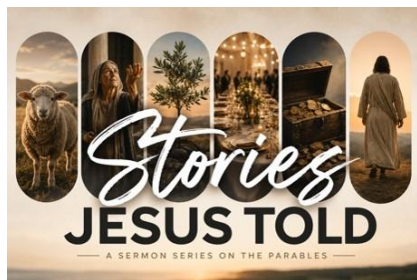
*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord at the noon of the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.*

Sermon	<i>“Prayerful, Persistent Hope”</i>	Rev. Michelle Matthews
†Response Hymn	<i>Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior</i>	No. 351
Celebrating Our Offerings	Jonathan Clark, Worship Leader	
Offering Prayer (unison)	Dear Heavenly Father, as we build for the future today, may our gifts shine Your light and show Your way. Help us to serve as living stones, our work to be your vibrant home. Amen.	
Offertory	Improvisation on <i>Love Divine</i>	Will Pearson
Doxology	<i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	No. 94
†Closing Hymn	<i>I Surrender All</i> (vv. 1,4,5)	No. 354
†Benediction	Rev. Michelle Matthews	
†Postlude	<i>In dir is freude</i> , BWV 615 (In Thee is Joy)	J. S. Bach

Stories Jesus Told: 6-Week Sermon Series beginning August 23



Jesus often taught through parables—simple stories that revealed deep truths about God and His Kingdom. These stories challenged people's hearts, invited faith, and called listeners to see the world through God's eyes. In this series, *Stories Jesus Told*, we will explore some of Jesus' best-known parables and discover their timeless message for our lives today. Though spoken centuries ago, these stories continue to confront, encourage, and transform all who will listen. May we hear Jesus' words with open hearts and allow His stories to shape our faith and our daily lives.

THIS WEEK AT LARCHMONT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, August 23, 2026

8:15 a.m.	Heavenly Grounds
8:30 a.m.	Nursery
8:35 a.m.	835LIVE Worship Service
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

7:00 p.m.	Financial Education Seminar on Wills & Trusts
7:00 p.m.	BSA Troop 24

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

6:00 p.m.	Handbells Rehearsal
6:00 p.m.	835LIVE Band Rehearsal
6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Prayer Group
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, August 29, 2026

8:00 a.m.	Church Yard Work / Cleanup for Sunday
noon	Women's Fellowship — Love Petals

Sunday, August 30, 2026

8:15 a.m.	Heavenly Grounds
8:30 a.m.	Nursery
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m.	Joint Worship Service
11:30 a.m.	FUNDAY SUNDAY on the Greenspace

Use this QR code to give online using your phone. →



Pumpkins are coming! We are expecting pumpkins on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11:30 a.m. The patch will be open every day until Nov. 1. We are looking for volunteers to help with unloading and working the patch. Sign-Up Genius link to come,

LARCHMONT UMC NOTICES

August 23, 2026

Scripture this Sunday: Luke 4:14-28 (NIV)

REV. FRAN IS ON STUDY/RENEWAL LEAVE AUG. 17 TO SEPT. 27

As she begins her sixth year at LUMC and her 37th year in full-time ministry, this leave will give her an opportunity to power down briefly before beginning another busy year here. While she's away, a variety of guest preachers will be filling in and Rev. Dave Loughery will be available for pastoral care.

WELCOME TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER: Rev. Michelle Matthews

Rev. Matthews is the founding and lead pastor of The Kingstowne Communion, a vibrant 10-year-old UMC plant in Alexandria, VA. A native of Hampton Roads and proud graduate of ODU, Michelle spent five meaningful years teaching high school English at Maury HS before answering her call into ordained ministry and earning her Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School. She is passionate about building creative, inclusive communities that collaborate for the common good. Outside of ministry, Michelle can be found 4-5 evenings a week this time of year dining and lounging by the neighborhood pool with her husband of 19 years, Chris, and rising kindergartener, Olive. Michelle loves karaoke and Duke basketball, and most recently has started trying to learn Mahjong - oh, and the fabulous Fran Cooper is her aunt!



Trustees need help Saturday, Aug 29, 8-10 a.m. for yard maintenance work to prepare for Funday Sunday and the new school year. We will be cutting back trees and bushes, weeding, picking up trash, and maybe some power washing. Bring trimming tools, rakes and garden gloves. Use QR code to sign up to help out or contact Kami Lannetti: klannetti@gmail.com



Our Choir and Handbells are resuming rehearsals and we want YOU!

We have some vacancies in the handbells and we would love to welcome more of you into the choir. Come and try it out for a couple of weeks, I know you'll love it.

Please join us up in the choir room Wednesdays 6-7pm for Handbells and 7:30-9pm for Choir.

Any questions, contact Karla: music@Larchmontumc.org



SPRC Staff Spotlight

The Staff Parish Relations Committee will be highlighting a member of the LUMC staff each month in 2026. Our staff is very important to the ministries of our church and the committee felt it was important to recognize them.

For August, we are recognizing our Pastor of Visitation, Rev. David Loughery, a PA native who served local churches there and served as a DS. He also worked for non-profits.

Dave's job at LUMC includes:

- Visiting members who cannot attend Sunday services
- Visiting the sick and those in hospital
- Coordinating, planning, and recruiting lay members for visitation
- Dave also participates in leading worship, prayer, and preaching

Outside of LUMC, Dave enjoys:

- Spending time with family: wife Jill and between them 4 children and 7 grandchildren
- Golfing
- Gardening
- Playing family games, including cards!

Thank you, Dave!

Please join the PRAYER GROUP Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

Contact Gary Chiaverotti for more information - chiaverotti@aol.com



Larchmont United Methodist Preschool is now enrolling. We have availability in our PreK4 classes and would love to be your child's first school experience. Please contact Meg Ditty at lumpschool@gmail.com with questions and to schedule a tour. We would LOVE to Welcome you to LUMPS!



Adult Education Opportunities
Coming in September

Wednesday Morning Study - History of Christianity (Luke Timothy Johnson)

Upper Room Class - History of Christianity

Coffee Talk Class - Love Does series by Bob Goff :-)

Assisting in Worship

	This Sunday August 23, 2026	Next Sunday August 30, 2026
Worship Leader	Jonathan Clark	David Loughery
Media Tech	Sara Morris	Wina Giddens
	Wina Giddens	Lucas Seymour
Sound Tech	Bill Huber	Jeff Paiste
Camera Tech	Stephen Croffie Djan	Stephen Croffie Djan
Security Trustee	Kami Lannetti	Kami Lannetti
Sunday Stewards	Robert King	Ed Lilly
	Jonathan Clark	Pris Peake
Monday Counters	GM Ziller	Watt Jones
	Gordon Glover	Robert King
Bus Driver	Rob Baxter	Kami Lannetti
Ushers	Rob Baxter	William LeHew
	William LeHew	David Lannetti
	Gary Chiaverotti	Kami Lannetti
	Traci Shepard	Traci Shepard

Larchmont United Methodist Church
1101 Jamestown Crescent
Norfolk, VA 23508
757-489-8168 office/ 757-489-1267 fax

Lead Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Pastor of Visitation
Music Director
Organist
Financial Secretary
Bookkeeper
Preschool Director
Children's Ministry Director
Youth Director
835LIVE Worship Leader
Digital Communications
Housekeeper

Rev. Fran Cooper; pastor@larchmontumc.org
Becky Whitlow; office@larchmontumc.org
Dave Loughery; pov@larchmontumc.org
Karla Robinson; music@larchmontumc.org
Will Pearson; wpearson@odu.edu
Rita Turner; giving@larchmontumc.org
Amber Pickrell, bookkeeping@larchmontumc.org
Meg Ditty; lumps@larchmontumc.org
Cathy Hickman; education@larchmontumc.org
youth@larchmontumc.org
Dai Poole; worshipleader@larchmontumc.org
Ron Pionk; CommunicationsSpecialistLUMC@gmail.com

Robert Ragland