

# *Connect*

*January 2024*



*Made New*



# WELCOME

## NEW TO LAKEWOOD?

We want to meet you, answer your questions  
and help you get connected.

Visit our  
Info Desk

OR

Fill out the Connect card  
located in the pocket on  
the back of each pew  
or chair. Drop it in the  
offering basket or take it  
to the Info Desk.

OR

Go to  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/INFO](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/INFO)



## GET INVOLVED

Discover your place at Lakewood

### ATTEND DISCOVER

This basic intro to  
Lakewood is designed  
to help you discover who  
we are and where we are  
going as a church.

#### NEXT DISCOVER CLASS

January 28  
in the Lodge  
at 12:15 PM  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/  
DISCOVER](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/DISCOVER)

### FIND A GROUP

We believe you grow to be like Christ  
as you do life with other people. In  
addition, we are convinced sustained  
life-change happens best in the  
context of a small group. Visit our  
Info Desk to learn about Sunday  
morning groups. We also have  
groups that meet all week around  
Hall County. To find a group, go to  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/GROUPLIFE](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/GROUPLIFE)

### JOIN A TEAM

God has gifted each of us  
differently and at Lakewood  
we have ways to serve that  
match your gifting! Visit  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SERVE](https://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SERVE)  
to see some of the ways to  
serve using your personality,  
gifts and abilities.

### NEXT BAPTISM

January 14

### NEXT LORD'S SUPPER

February 25

**FOLLOW US! @LAKEWOODLIFE**

## NOTE FROM

# Dr. Tyler Smiley

January is a time of fresh starts and new beginnings. As we are thinking about 2024, let us prayerfully consider what God might have for us this year and how we can grow in our relationships with Him. Here are two ways the Lord has given to help us grow:



- Read the Bible daily. On our website, we have provided several suggested Bible reading plans. We also send out daily texts with Bible readings that coincide with the sermon passage for Sundays. Text @LBCBible24 to 81010 to sign up.
- Be a part of Christian fellowship. If you are not already in a small group, we hope you will find one in 2024 to be a part of. On page 6, read about groups and Bible studies and plan to try one out this month.

On Sundays, we will focus on the book of Romans. I want to invite you to go "deep" with me into God's word through the study of Romans this year. This book is rich with insight into God's true nature, our true nature, His work to rescue us through the gospel, and the practical implications of this for our lives. I pray you will join us on this journey. We'll make a few other stops in Scripture over the course of this year, but we are trusting the Lord to speak powerfully to us through His word in Romans for much of 2024.

I want to especially thank you, church, for your wonderful and generous support of this ministry. It never ceases to amaze me how incredibly generous, supportive, and self-sacrificing you are in support of the ministry of our church. The Lord is at work in amazing ways here... more than we could ask or imagine. For that we give Him ALL the glory, and I thank you for joining in His work to serve and take the gospel locally, nationally, and globally. I'm so honored to be part of this healthy and vibrant church.

Blessings to you all through Jesus Christ our Lord,

The **VISION** of Lakewood is to be a regional church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and globally.

**CROSSPOINT WORSHIP** is a traditional blend of praise and worship at 9:30 AM in the Chapel.

**REAL LIFE** is a vibrant, contemporary worship experience at 11:00 AM in the Worship Center.



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# MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



## MINISTRY TO "U" PEOPLE

"Chuck" & "Irene" M. are two of Lakewood's global partners engaged in cross-cultural ministry in Asia. The M's are working in a church in an area of the world where gospel proclamation is opposed and the local church is often harassed by local authorities. Part of the M's current aim is to help equip and send workers to take the gospel to the U people group who are in a different area of the same country. In time, the M's hope to move closer in order to personally bring the gospel & make disciples among the U.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- For the encouragement of the M's as they seek to proclaim the gospel in an unreached area of the world.
- For protection for their family as they minister in an area typically referred to as a "closed" country.
- For the gospel to spread throughout the region and particularly among the U people.

For more information please contact [benji@lakewoodlife.org](mailto:benji@lakewoodlife.org).

For the safety of our mission partners and protection of their ministry, please do not share this information on any online platform.



Lakewood's Adoption and Foster Care Ministry has embraced adoption and offered ministry and support to adoptive families and their children. This ministry seeks to meet the critical need for foster homes in Hall County.

Through no fault of their own, about 14,000 children in Georgia and 371 children right here in Hall County are in foster care. These children are today's orphans and we ask YOU to be a part of caring for "the least of these."

## ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE INFORMATION SESSIONS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 • 12:15-2:30 PM**

Join us over lunch for ONE of three information sessions to learn more about adoption and foster care. Childcare provided by reservation.

### SESSION A: So You Might Want to Adopt

Learn about the adoption process.

**SESSION B: Foster Care Information** Find out what being a foster parent means and the process involved.

### SESSION C: Supporting & Serving Foster Parents:

Find out how you can serve foster children and families.

Sign up and make childcare reservations at [LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/EVENTS](https://lakewoodlife.org/events) or by scanning the QR code. Childcare reservations must be made by January 15







## UNITED WKND 2024: WHO I AM MARCH 1-3 AT LAKEWOOD



United WKND 2024 registration is open! This event for our middle and high school students takes place at Lakewood and in host homes. We will gather with students from other churches in our area to worship the Lord together and grow deeper in community with one another. This year at UNITED WKND, we will focus on the theme of IDENTITY (WHO I AM). Our speaker is Andy Blanks and worship will be led by Soul Sound. Registration is \$60 through January 31. After that, the cost is \$75 until the final registration deadline on February 14.

## ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF • FEBRUARY 21 5:00-6:00 PM • FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for our 9th Annual Chili Cook-off to sample the entries and vote for your favorite. The cost is \$5 per person and all proceeds benefit our Prison Ministry. Additional tickets may be purchased for more



votes. Do you make a great chili? You could be our 2024 Chili Cook-off winner! Enter your chili by scanning the QR code and filling out the entry form.



## UPWARD SOCCER REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Upward soccer is open to boys and girls PreK-6th grade. Register before January 15 for the early bird price \$95. Registration ends February 15. For more information and to

sign up, go to [lakewoodlife.org/recreation](https://lakewoodlife.org/recreation) or scan the QR code.



## MEET A COR 3:6 CHURCH PLANTER

Andrew Kappenman & Patrick Chandler are currently planting 1002 Church in Orlando, Florida. After being friends for several years, the Lord graciously led Andrew & Patrick, along with their families, to plant a church together in an area of need. They are planting near the University of Central Florida where they desire to see the gospel of Jesus Christ spread and transform lives. Already they have been blessed with seeing around 80 people on average attending their Sunday services.

### PLEASE PRAY

- For the encouragement of the Kappenman & Chandler families as they undertake the work of church planting
- For unity and health for 1002 Church
- For the gospel to spread throughout Orlando and that many would come to faith in Christ

For more information please contact [benji@lakewoodlife.org](mailto:benji@lakewoodlife.org).

# START A NEW HABIT IN 2024

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS** start back for Kids, Students and Adults on **January 10 from 6:15-7:45 PM.**

## STUDY THE BIBLE

Scott Smith will be teaching a class on the book of Romans Wednesday nights in the Fellowship Hall for all ages.

## READ A GOOD BOOK

Join Don & Elizabeth Ormsbee in Room 133 for a literary journey through The Screwtape Letters. Whether you are already a friend of Lewis, a casual reader, or interested in beginning a literary journey, these sessions will be enjoyable discussions designed to stretch and strengthen ideas about our faith.

## DISCOVER FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Join Dave Scobey in the Fellowship Hall for a 7-week study that will help you grow in your ability to steward the resources that God has entrusted to you. Learn practical and biblical ways for how to manage your finances in a way that honors God.

## FIND HEALING

**GRIEF SHARE** Join Ed Jump in Room 108 for a 13-week Grief Share support group where you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

**DIVORCE CARE** Join Stacy Reece in Room 111 for this Christ-centered 13 week support group for men and women to help you face the challenges and move toward rebuilding your life.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT WEDNESDAYS  
AND SIGN UP FOR A CLASS AT**

**LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SUNDAYS-WEDNESDAYS**

## GROW DEEPER IN YOUR FAITH AND IN COMMUNITY

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

New Women's Bible Studies are starting in January.

Scan the QR code for all the details and to sign up.



### FIRST WEDNESDAY MEN'S GATHERING

is our monthly Bible Study for men with large group teaching, and small group discussion. This study meets the first Wednesday of each month from 6:15 to 7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and biscuits are provided.

## READ THE BIBLE DAILY

Sign up for daily text reminders from Lakewood with a link to a reading from the Bible for each day. In 2024 these texts will go chronologically through the New Testament. To sign up, text **LBCBible2024** to **81010**. Texts come at 6:15 AM Monday through Friday.



## COMING UP AT LAKEWOOD LEARN MORE AT [LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/EVENTS](http://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/EVENTS)

January 2	Women on Mission   10:30 AM
January 3	First Wednesday Men's Gathering   6:15 AM
January 3	No Wednesday Night Activities
January 8	Gather Groups Resume
January 10	Wednesday Night Activities Start Back   6:15 PM
January 13	Tiny Stitches   10:30 AM
January 21	Adoption Foster Care Information Sessions   12:15 PM
January 23	Senior Adult Luncheon   12:00 PM
January 28	Discover Step 1   12:15 PM
January 28	Parent Child Dedication   4:00 PM
January 31	Discover Step 2   6:15 PM
February 6	Women on Mission   10:30 AM
February 7	First Wednesday Men's Gathering   6:15 AM
February 7	Discover Step 3   6:15 PM
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service   12:00 PM
February 14	Discover Step 4   6:15 PM
February 15	Upward Soccer Registration Ends
February 16-18	COR 3:6 Conference
February 17	JOY Ministry Respite   5:00 PM
February 21	9th Annual CRI Chili Cook-Off   5:00 PM
February 27	Senior Adult Lunch   12:00 PM
March 1-3	United WKND (Student Ministry)

USE YOUR  
SMART PHONE  
TO SCAN THE  
QR CODE FOR  
THE LATEST  
INFORMATION.



## WEEKLY

### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Babies, Preschool & Grade School 9:30 & 11:00  
Middle & High School Students 9:30  
Young Adult Groups 9:30  
Adult Small Groups 8:30 & 9:30 & 11:00  
Worship Services 9:30 & 11:00

**TUESDAYS** Celebrate Recovery • 5:30 PM Dinner • 6:30 PM Large Group

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

**ALL ACTIVITIES MEET 6:15-7:45 PM**  
Babies, Preschool & Grade School  
Middle & High School Students  
Adult Bible Studies & DivorceCare  
Crosspoint Choir



# LOOKING BACK



In December, Lakewood families went caroling at the Phoenix and visited with some of our longtime Lakewood members as part of Family Christmas Caroling. Every Sunday, Don Ormsbee, our Senior Adult Pastor, leads Bible Study and singing at the Phoenix.

**AVERAGE WEEKLY MINISTRY BUDGET NEED:** \$114,375

**AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED 11/19-12/17:** \$162,243

**NEW MEMBERS:** Ian Arnold, Cole & Brooke Handte, Scott & Robin King, Russ & Charisse Lee, Brandi Powell

\*The Real Life service may contain flashing lights that might cause difficulties for people with photosensitive epilepsy.

## WAYS TO GIVE:

**GIVE ONLINE:**  
[lakewoodlife.org/give](http://lakewoodlife.org/give)



**OFFERING BASKET:**  
cash or check

**ENDOWMENT FUND:**  
[lakewoodlife.org/  
endowment-ministry](http://lakewoodlife.org/endowment-ministry)

## CONTACT

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**NEXT GENERATION PASTOR**

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Scan the QR Code to see a complete list of our Lakewood staff



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