

Connect

January 2026



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



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 11 | February 22
in the Fellowship Hall
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

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
to see some of the ways to
serve using your personality,
gifts and abilities.

NEXT BAPTISM

February 8

NEXT LORD'S SUPPER

February 22

FOLLOW US! @LAKEWOODLIFE

NOTE FROM

Dr. Tyler Smiley

A new year gives us a chance to reflect on all God has done in the previous year and to look ahead with expectation to what the Lord will do in the year to come. As a church family, we step into 2026 with gratitude for His faithfulness to us and with a renewed desire to follow Jesus faithfully in the days ahead.

In the coming months, we will spend Sunday mornings in the Gospel of John. John's gospel takes us right to the center of the identity of Jesus, considering His life, teaching, death, and resurrection. And as John writes, his aim in writing about Jesus is "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). I pray the Lord accomplishes that goal in our lives this year.

As we consider how to walk faithfully this year, here are two simple practices that can help you grow in your relationship with Christ:

- Make a habit of reading your Bible daily. If you don't already have a reading plan for the year, this is a great moment to begin one. You can also receive our daily Bible reading texts, which correspond with sermon passages and help create a steady rhythm in the Word. (See page 4.)
- Stay close to the people who help you follow Jesus. Small groups, Bible studies, and Wednesday night gatherings give us places to ask questions, grow together, and share life in meaningful ways. You'll find several opportunities on page 6.

I'm so grateful for this church. It is an honor to serve as Senior Pastor, and it is a joy for me to have a front-row seat to see the Lord's work in and through this church. I thank God for your commitment to serving Him and supporting His church. May the Lord grant us the endurance to serve Him with faithfulness with all of our lives.

Blessings,



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

9:30 AM SUNDAY SERVICE

Traditional service in the Chapel

11:00 AM SUNDAY SERVICE

Contemporary service in the Worship Center



MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



THE "K" FAMILY CENTRAL ASIA

A. and S. K. are missionaries in Central Asia, faithfully investing in the lives of local students. They recently launched an English-speaking club, and by God's grace, several new attendees have begun coming regularly. These gatherings are opening the door to deeper friendships and meaningful gospel conversations. One medical student, in particular, has quickly grown close to them, providing a natural opportunity to share the hope of Christ.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Encouragement and endurance for A. and S. K.
- Students' hearts to be softened and prepared for Christ
- More students to attend and engage in their English-speaking club

For more information please contact benji@lakewoodlife.org

FOLLOW US!

[@lakewoodbaptistmissions](https://www.instagram.com/lakewoodbaptistmissions)



DELIGHT & DECLARE: A NIGHT OF WORSHIP JANUARY 7 | 6:15 PM | WORSHIP CENTER

Join us as kids, students, and adults gather for an evening of worship, Scripture, and prayer—celebrating the gospel and asking God to help our joy in Christ overflow to others. Childcare for birth–preschool is available by reservation; scan the code to sign up.



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE WOMEN'S EVENT JANUARY 8 | 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM



Women are invited to gather for a casual time of creating or continuing a prayer Bible by marking passages of Scripture for intentional prayer. Bring a Bible, and all other supplies will be provided. Light refreshments will be available at both sessions.



STAY CONNECTED THROUGH TEXTS

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Spend time daily in God's Word with us! In 2026, our daily readings will correspond with the weekly sermon text. When you sign up for these texts, you will receive a daily reading link sent Monday through Friday at 6:15 AM. (If 6:15 AM is too early, you can turn off notifications and access the text when you're ready.)



SIGN UP: Text **BIBLE** to **(470) 516-5244** or scan the QR code.

LAKESIDE TEXT UPDATES

Stay updated on important church events and announcements. You'll receive reminders for upcoming events, special services, and schedule changes.



SIGN UP: Text **LAKESIDE** to **(470) 516-5244** or scan the QR code.

UPWARD SOCCER REGISTRATION OPEN

Upward soccer is open to boys and girls ages 3-12. Register before February 6. For more information and to sign up, go to lakewoodlife.org/recreation or scan the QR code.



ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF | FEBRUARY 4 5:00-6:00 PM | FELLOWSHIP HALL



Join us for our 11th 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 2026 Chili Cook-off winner! Enter your chili by scanning the QR code and filling out the entry form.



REGISTER BY FEB. 25 FOR KIDS CAMP & SAVE

Kids Camp is May 26-30.

Registration opens January 14 with an early bird rate through February 25. Learn more by scanning the QR code.



UNITED WKND 2026 | FEB. 27-MARCH 1 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

This weekend conference is for middle and high school students and takes place at Lakewood's campus and in host homes. This year we will partner with YM360's Generate Conference to host this event. United WKND brings together about a dozen youth groups from around North Georgia for worship, teaching, and community. Our theme this year is "The Way: Walking in Truth." Registration is \$60 through January 28. After that, the cost will be \$75 until the final registration deadline on February 11.



CHURCH PLANTER CONFERENCE

Lakewood will host our third COR 3:6 Church Planter Conference February 13-14. More than 30 of our partnering church planters from around the country will join us here in Gainesville for a time of fellowship and mutual encouragement. We will sing, pray, hear God's Word, eat, and enjoy fellowship as we celebrate the gift of gospel partnership.

On Sunday, February 15, we'll host a lunch for all of our planters, and our church family is invited to join us. This is a great opportunity to meet and spend time with our partners. To help cover the cost of the meal, we're asking for 5 dollars per person. Space is limited, so if you are interested in attending the lunch, please scan the QR code to RSVP.



For more information please contact benji@lakewoodlife.org

FOLLOW US! @cor36network

Connect

At Lakewood, we believe you grow to be more like Christ as you Connect with others. We're also convinced that lasting life-change happens best within the context of a small group.

In 2026, find a small group, Bible study or Wednesday night gathering where you can learn God's Word better and be around people who can help you grow.

Women's Groups

Grow in your faith and connect with other women through Bible study, conversation, and prayer. Groups are designed for every season of life and offer varying levels of study. Scan the code to see groups starting in January and join a community where women encourage one another to walk faithfully with Christ.



Men's Bible Study

First Wednesday Men's Gathering is our monthly Bible Study. Wake up early and join with men for a large group teaching, and small group discussion. This study meets conveniently the first Wednesday of each month from 6:15-7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and biscuits are provided.

Senior Adult Bible Study

WINTER BIBLE STUDY for everyone 55+ will take place in the Fellowship Hall January 5-8 from 10:00 AM-12:30 PM. Throughout the week, we'll focus on the Fruit of the Spirit and how these qualities shape a life that reflects Christ. Join us for meaningful teaching, warm fellowship, and a refreshing time in God's Word as we learn and grow together.



Wednesday Nights

Adults have several opportunities to grow in their faith and connect with others on Wednesday nights. This semester, you can choose from a variety of studies: **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN** in the Fellowship Hall with Dr. Benji Lavender; **THINK BEFORE YOU THINK: TAKING THOUGHTS CAPTIVE TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST** in the Worship Center Lobby with Scott Smith; **VICTORY OVER THE DARKNESS** in Room 133 with Dave Scobey; **DIVORCE CARE** in Room 110 with Stacey Reece; **DEFENDING YOUR FAITH – AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS** in Rooms 131/132 with Mike Casey; and **THE BOOK OF GALATIANS**, a women's study led by Angela Megaw. **ALL GROUPS BEGIN JANUARY 14.**



COMING UP AT LAKEWOOD LEARN MORE AT LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Dec. 24-Jan. 4 | Ministry Center Closed |
| January 5-8 | Senior Adult Winter Bible Study 10:00 AM |
| January 6 | Senior Adult Prayer 8:30 AM |
| January 6 | Women on Mission 10:30 AM |
| January 7 | First Wednesday Men's Gathering 6:15 AM |
| January 7 | Delight and Declare 6:15 PM |
| January 8 | Praying with Purpose (Women) 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM |
| January 11 | Discover Step 1 12:15 PM |
| January 11 | Choir Starts Back 4:00 PM |
| January 12 | Winter Women's Bible Groups Begin |
| January 13 | ESL Resumes 6:00 PM |
| January 14 | Wednesday Nights Resume 6:15 PM |
| January 14 | Discover Step 2 6:15 PM |
| January 17 | Tiny Stitches 10:00 AM |
| January 17 | Special Needs Respite 5:00 PM |
| January 21 | Discover Step 3 6:15 PM |
| January 27 | Senior Adult Lunch 12:00 PM |
| January 28 | Discover Step 4 6:15 PM |
| February 3 | Women on Mission 10:30 AM |
| February 4 | First Wednesday Men's Gathering 6:15 AM |
| February 4 | Chili Cook-Off 5:00 PM |
| February 13-15 | COR 3:6 Conference |
| February 15 | Lunch with Church Planters 12:15 PM |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 PM |
| February 21 | Tiny Stitches 10:00 AM |
| February 21 | Special Needs Respite 5:00 PM |
| February 22 | Parent Child Dedication 4:00 PM |
| February 24 | Senior Adult Lunch 12:00 PM |
| February 25 | Discover Step 2 6:15 PM |
| Feb. 27-March 1 | United WKND |

CONNECT THROUGH TEXTS

Receive a link to our **Daily Bible Reading Plan** Monday-Friday. Text **BIBLE** to (470) 516-5244.



Get **Lakewood Text Updates** for church events, special services, and schedule changes. Text **LAKEWOOD** to (470) 516-5297



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE LATEST CALENDAR INFORMATION.



WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

Kids & Students 9:30 & 11:00 AM
 Young Adult (Gather) Group 9:30 AM
 Adult Small Groups 8:30 & 9:30 & 11:00 AM
 Worship Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM
 Open Gym 2:00-7:00 PM
 Choir Practice 4:00 PM

TUESDAYS

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
 5:30 PM Dinner - 6:30 PM Large Group
English as a Second Language (ESL)
 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

All Ages 6:15-7:45 PM



LOOKING BACK



During our Thanksgiving Box Outreach, over 100 volunteers packed 876 boxes with Thanksgiving meals for families. These were distributed among 5 local church plants and 6 elementary schools. Thank you to all who served!

AVERAGE WEEKLY MINISTRY BUDGET NEED: \$114,375

AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED 11/23-12/7: \$169,869

NEW MEMBERS: Buddy & Susan Thigpen, Charlie Alexander

*The 11:00 AM service may contain flashing lights that might cause difficulties for people with photosensitive epilepsy.

WAYS TO GIVE:

GIVE ONLINE:
lakewoodlife.org/give



OFFERING BASKET:
cash or check

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

CONTACT

SENIOR PASTOR

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

MISSIONS PASTOR

WORSHIP PASTOR

WORSHIP PASTOR

DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

NEXT GENERATION PASTOR

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

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