

# *Connect*

*August 2026*



*Preschool Ministry*



# 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](http://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

August 16  
in the Fellowship Hall  
at 12:15 PM  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/  
DISCOVER](http://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](http://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](http://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SERVE)  
to see some of the ways to  
serve using your personality,  
gifts and abilities.

### NEXT BAPTISM

August 30  
(Lake Baptism)

### NEXT LORD'S SUPPER

August 16

**FOLLOW US! @LAKEWOODLIFE**

## NOTE FROM Dr. Tyler Smiley



August marks the beginning of a new church year at Lakewood, and we're excited for all the Lord has in store. As we reflect on last year and all that the Lord did in and through our church, we're grateful for His faithfulness and for each person who served. Thank you for investing your time, talents, and resources to help make disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we begin this new season, we're excited to welcome Chris McClain and his family to Lakewood as Chris begins serving as our new minister for High School Students. We're also thankful that longtime Lakewood member Tim Roush has stepped into the role of Interim Kids Pastor. Please pray for these men and their families as they begin serving in these important ministries.

Wednesday Nights start back this month! Whether you're looking to grow deeper in your faith, build meaningful relationships, or find a place for every member of your family to connect, Wednesday nights provide opportunities for all ages to study God's Word and experience biblical community.

This month we'll also begin a new sermon series through the book of Colossians. This will be a great opportunity to go slowly through this book together and see all that the Lord is saying through His word. And it is also a great time to find a small group to join.

In this new church year, I'm confident the Lord will use your efforts and abilities for His good work. Maybe He'll use you to continue serving in a way that you've been serving for years, or maybe He has something new for you to do. I believe that if we all seek Him diligently and follow where He leads, He'll work through us in ways we could never imagine. All for His glory!

Blessings,

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



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# MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE MINISTRY (ESL)

Our ESL ministry begins a new year on August 18, offering English instruction while sharing Christ's love. Classes meet Tuesday evenings and welcome anyone wanting to improve their English. Since launching, more than 110 students have participated. Volunteers are needed to teach, encourage, and build relationships. No second language is required—only a heart to serve. **Stop by the ESL tables in the Lobby after worship on August 2 to learn about serving and volunteer training on August 11.** Scan the QR code below for more information.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- For students to come to know Christ.
- For God to provide more volunteers.
- For hearts to be open as classes begin and lasting gospel relationships to grow throughout the year.



For more information,  
scan the code or contact  
[benji@lakewoodlife.org](mailto:benji@lakewoodlife.org).

## CAMP BIG ENOUGH | AUGUST 8 | 9:00 AM

Camp Big Enough helps rising Kindergarteners get ready for the transition from Preschool Ministry to Grade School Ministry. Families enjoy breakfast with our Preschool and Grade School leaders, visit the worship venues, and preview Sundays in Kids Cove. Scan the code to register.



## NEXT GEN PARENT CONNECTION

**AUGUST 16 | 9:30 OR 11:00 | MINISTRY CENTER**

Parents of kids from preschool to high school are invited to learn more about our NextGen Ministry, including weekly ministry environments, teaching plans, big event dates, parent resources, and serving opportunities. Sign up today!



## NORTH GEORGIA WATERFALLS HIKING TRIP SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 | 9:00 AM

Meet our Recreation Ministry at Lakewood and travel together to hike a series of waterfalls, each featuring short, easy walks. Whether you're an experienced hiker or simply enjoy spending time outdoors, this is a great opportunity for fellowship, fresh air, and scenic views.

## WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP FALL KICK-OFF REFUGE | AUGUST 27 | 6:30 PM • CHAPEL

Join us for a special evening of worship and fellowship as women share how they've personally encountered God by experiencing a unique aspect of His character.



## NEW STUDENT/HIGH SCHOOL MINISTER



Join us in welcoming Chris McClain and his family to Lakewood! Chris, his wife, Hannah, and their daughter, Lily, recently moved from Raleigh, North Carolina. Originally from Monticello, Georgia, Chris is excited to serve our students and their families. In his free time, he enjoys reading, college football, and improving his golf game. We're thankful the Lord has brought the McClain family to Lakewood and look forward to seeing all God will do through their ministry.

## LAKE BAPTISM | 7:00 PM | AUGUST 30

Join us at Holly Park as we celebrate with those being baptized. If you would like to talk with someone about being baptized, please contact Missions Pastor, Dr. Benji Lavender.

## GIRLS RETREAT | AUGUST 28-30 NORTH GEORGIA CHRISTIAN CAMP



Middle and high school girls are invited to this weekend retreat designed to help girls grow in their faith and friendships. The weekend includes worship, Bible teaching, small groups, swimming, games, great food, and plenty of time to connect with friends. Sign up today!

## ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE ROOTED IN LOVE | SEPTEMBER 12



Whether you're an adoptive or foster family, considering fostering or adoption, or want to learn how to support families who are, this one-day conference is for you. Be encouraged and equipped through keynote speaker Jason Johnson, practical breakout sessions, and valuable resources. There are also opportunities for the Lakewood family to serve throughout the conference. Register today!

## CRAFTERS NEEDED FOR FALL CRAFT FAIR

Do you enjoy making handmade items? We're looking for crafters willing to donate their creations for our Craft Fair this November, benefiting our Celebrate Recovery Inside Prison Ministry. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact the Church Office (770-532-6307).

## TIM ROUSH: NEW INTERIM KIDS PASTOR

Lakewood is pleased to welcome Tim Roush as our Interim Kids Pastor. Tim and his wife, Tanna, have faithfully served at Lakewood for the past 12 years. They have nine children and a passion for seeing the next generation follow Christ. Tim has served as a deacon and on our COR 3:6 team. Originally from Valdosta, he enjoys college football and NASCAR. We are grateful for Tim's willingness to serve in this role and look forward to how God will use him to lead our Kids Ministry in this season.



## CHRIST CHURCH UPDATE JOHNS CREEK/ ALPHARETTA, GA

Christ Church, planted by Ben Presten, Hunter Clayton, and Kevin Stradley, continues to grow as God builds His church in Johns Creek. This spring, the church celebrated three baptisms and hosted a community 5K outreach with more than 70 participants. Through the summer, members have gathered in community groups, strengthening relationships and welcoming new families.

### PLEASE PRAY:

- That God would use Christ Church to reach their neighbors with the hope of the gospel.
- For continued growth, unity, and encouragement within the church family.
- That God would open doors for gospel conversations, invitations, and opportunities to serve the community.

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



# WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

STARTING  
AUGUST 19

# AT LAKEWOOD

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS START BACK FOR KIDS, STUDENTS AND ADULTS ON AUGUST 19 FROM 6:15-7:45 PM**

## KIDS PRESCHOOL

Through play and Bible stories, preschoolers grow toward God as they become aware that God wants everyone to know of His love.

## GRADE SCHOOL

This midweek program helps grade schoolers build a lasting foundation in Bible skills and memorization, learn practical life applications, experience small group discipleship, and deeply engage in missions.

## STUDENTS

Our midweek worship experience includes a live band and relevant teaching from God's Word. Lodge doors open at 5:30 PM for students to hang out, play games, or eat in our Lodge Cafe. At 6:15 PM, **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** and **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** worship separately followed by students meeting in small groups.

## ADULTS

**COLOSSIANS** Led by Pastor, Dr. Benji Lavender and other Lakewood Pastors in the Fellowship Hall, this study will coincide with the Sunday morning sermon series. Adults of all ages and stages are invited to attend.

**STRATEGIC PARENTING** Led by Pastor, Dr. Jamie Willis and his wife Joy, Strategic Parenting will equip moms, dads, and guardians with seven Bible-anchored, research-based practices that make faith formation a natural part of your everyday family rhythm.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** Join us this year as we study the women of Scripture and what they teach us about prayer. Each week features a standalone lesson led by different women, making it easy to attend whenever you're able. Whether you come every week or occasionally, you'll find biblical teaching, meaningful fellowship, and a welcoming community of women growing together in God's Word.

**DIVORCE CARE** Led by Stacey Reece in Room 111, this Christ-centered 13-week support group for men and women will help you to face the challenges of divorce and move toward rebuilding your life.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT WEDNESDAYS AND SIGN UP FOR A CLASS AT  
[LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SUNDAYS-WEDNESDAYS](http://LAKEWOODLIFE.ORG/SUNDAYS-WEDNESDAYS)**



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

|                 |                                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| July 28         | Senior Adult Lunch   12:00 PM                            |
| August 3        | Last Day To Sign Up For Upward Fall Sports               |
| August 4        | Monthly Prayer Time   8:30 AM                            |
| August 4        | Women on Mission   10:30 AM                              |
| August 5        | First Wednesday Men's Gathering   6:15 AM                |
| August 5        | C.S. Lewis Book Club   6:15 PM                           |
| August 8        | Camp Big Enough   9:00 AM                                |
| August 9        | Promotion Sunday   9:30 AM & 11:00 AM                    |
| August 15       | Special Needs Respite   5:00 PM                          |
| August 16       | Parent Connection   9:30 AM and 11:00 AM                 |
| August 16       | Discover Step 1   12:15 PM                               |
| August 18       | ESL Classes Resume   6:00 PM                             |
| August 19       | Wednesday Nights Resume   6:15 PM                        |
| August 19       | Discover Step 2   6:15 PM                                |
| August 22       | North Georgia Waterfalls Hiking Trip   9:00 AM           |
| August 24-26    | Adults 55+ VBS   9:00 AM                                 |
| August 26       | Discover Step 3   6:15 PM                                |
| August 27       | Refuge Fall Kickoff   6:30 PM                            |
| August 28-30    | Girls Retreat (Student Ministry)                         |
| August 30       | Lake Baptism at Holly Park   7:00 PM                     |
| September 1     | Monthly Prayer Time   8:30 AM                            |
| September 1     | Women on Mission   10:30 AM                              |
| September 2     | First Wednesday Men's Gathering   6:15 AM                |
| September 2     | Discover Step 4   6:15 PM                                |
| September 5     | Upward Soccer and Flag Football Begin                    |
| September 12    | Rooted in Love Adoption/Foster Care Conference   8:15 AM |
| September 19    | Special Needs Respite   5:00 PM                          |
| September 22    | Adults 55+ Luncheon   12:00 PM                           |
| September 26    | Fall 5K/Family Day at the Retreat   10:00 AM             |
| September 27    | Discover Step 1   12:15 PM                               |
| September 27    | Parent Child Dedication   4:00 PM                        |
| September 28-30 | Jubilee Conference (Adults 55+)                          |
| September 30    | Discover Step 2   6:15 PM                                |

### 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

Worship Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Kids & Students 9:30 & 11:00 AM  
Young Adult (Gather) Group 9:30 AM  
Adult Small Groups 8:30 & 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



More than 80 campers and leaders spent an unforgettable week at Kids Camp at A.H. Stephens State Park in Crawfordville, growing in their faith through the theme of the Armor of God from Ephesians 6. Along with worship, Bible study, games, and outdoor adventures, campers were encouraged to stand firm in Christ and live out their faith every day.

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

**AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED 5/24-7/12:** \$106,944

**NEW MEMBERS:** Ryan Nixon

\*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](http://lakewoodlife.org/give)



OFFERING BASKET:  
cash or check

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

## CONTACT

SENIOR PASTOR  
EXECUTIVE PASTOR  
WORSHIP PASTOR  
WORSHIP PASTOR  
MISSIONS PASTOR  
NEXT GENERATION PASTOR  
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Scan the QR Code to see a complete list of our Lakewood staff



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