

Connect

January 2025



Welcome to Lakewood



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 12
in the Lodge at 12:15 PM
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

January 12

NEXT LORD'S SUPPER

February 23

FOLLOW US! @LAKEWOODLIFE

NOTE FROM

Dr. Tyler Smiley



As we step into a new year, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for us as a church family to grow in our understanding of God's Word and deepen our relationship with Him. This year, we will embark on a journey through Scripture that will take us back to the rich foundation of the Old Testament. Our focus will be on how we see the gospel woven throughout the lives of key figures in the Old Testament.

Often, we think of the gospel as beginning with Jesus in the New Testament, but the truth is that God's redemptive plan has been at work since the very beginning. Through the lives of people like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and through the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament, we catch glimpses of the Messiah to come and the good news of salvation that He would bring. I can't wait to explore these stories with you and see how they lead us to worship our Savior more fully.

As we begin this journey, I want to encourage you in two key areas:

- **Immerse yourself in Scripture.** If you haven't already, pick a Bible reading plan to help guide your time in God's Word this year. Visit our website for suggestions, or sign up for daily texts that correspond with the sermon series (see page 4).
- **Engage in community.** Being part of a small group or Bible study is one of the best ways to grow spiritually and connect with others. You can read about groups and studies on page 6 and find one to try this month.

As we look ahead to all that God will do in 2025, let's remember to thank Him for His faithfulness in the year behind. He has been so gracious to us as a church, and it's a joy to serve Him with you.

Let's pray for one another and trust the Lord to guide us as we begin this new year together. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'" (Lamentations 3:22-24).

Blessings,

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



THE JONES* FAMILY

The Jones family live and work in Central Asia among an unreached people group known as the Uyghur. They were sent out from our church over two years ago and by God's grace, the Lord has already blessed them with many local friendships and opportunities to share the gospel in a variety of different environments. Recently, the Jones have enjoyed a furlough here at home to rest and connect with family and friends. This month, the Jones family will be returning to their ministry in Central Asia.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For the encouragement of the Jones family as they live overseas
- For boldness as they share the gospel and disciple those around them
- For their growth in both language and cultural acquisition
- For relationships with Uyghur men and women

For more information please contact benji@lakewoodlife.org.

*For the safety of our mission partners and protection of their ministry, names have been changed

HIKE PREACHER'S ROCK • JANUARY 18

Join Jason O'Bryant, Recreation Ministry Director, for a hike at Preacher's Rock. Meet at Lakewood at 9:30 AM. Lunch in Dahlongega to follow. For details, email Jason at jobryant@lakewoodlife.org.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Our ESL program starts back Tuesday, January 7, at 6:00 PM. Classes are available for all levels, and the semester cost is just \$15. Sign up at lakewoodlife.org/esl or scan the code. There are also have many opportunities to serve in ESL. For volunteer info, contact Kevin Stradley at kstradley@lakewoodlife.org.



UPWARD SOCCER REGISTRATION OPEN



Upward soccer is open to boys and girls PreK-6th grade. Register before January 10 for the early bird price \$100. Registration ends February 15. For more information and to sign up, go to lakewoodlife.org/recreation or scan the QR code.



STAY CONNECTED THROUGH TEXTS

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Spend time daily in God's Word with us! In 2025, we will focus on reading the Old Testament from Exile to Silence. 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.



LAKWOOD 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 **LAKWOOD** to **(470) 516-5244** or scan the QR code.



FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2



UNITED WKND 2025



UNITED WKND 2025 • FEB. 28-MARCH 2 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

This weekend-long student conference is for middle and high school students, and takes place at Lakewood's campus and in host homes. United WKND brings together about a dozen youth groups from the Gainesville area for worship, teaching, and community. Our theme is "Who WE Are: Living out God's call for community and fellowship in Christ." Registration is \$65 through January 29. After that, the cost will be \$80 until the final registration deadline on February 12. Don't miss this amazing weekend!



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

Join us for our 10th 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 2025 Chili Cook-off winner! Enter your chili by scanning the QR code and filling out the entry form.



Thrive IN YOUR MARRIAGE MARCH 21-22, 2025

BIBLICAL WISDOM & PRACTICAL ADVICE FROM
SCOTT & DAWN SMITH

SIGN UP IN JANUARY FOR
THE EARLY BIRD PRICE



LAUNCH TEAM

Ben & Tiffany Presten will be sent out from Lakewood this summer to plant a new church in the John's Creek/Alpharetta area. The Lord is also graciously raising up a team from our church to join them. Several families from our church are prayerfully considering joining this team to help the Presten's establish a new church in this area of great need.

PLEASE PRAY:

- For housing and job opportunities for those relocating
- For peace and joy in the midst of this journey of faith
- That the Lord would grant the team unity and fellowship as they prepare
- That the Lord would continue to raise up families to be part of the team

For more information please contact benji@lakewoodlife.org.

FOLLOW US! @cor36network

WINTER DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Discover a variety of opportunities to grow and connect at Lakewood this winter! Wednesday night programs include studies for adults, activities for kids, and worship and small groups for students. Women's studies are offered on multiple days, featuring book discussions and Bible studies. Childcare is available for most programs. You can find more details or register by scanning the QR codes

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

TUESDAY NIGHTS:

THE RESOLUTION FOR WOMEN

Jan. 14–Feb. 4 | 6–7 PM | Library | \$10



WEDNESDAY LUNCH HOUR:

GET YOUR LIFE BACK

Jan. 15–Mar 5. | 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

City Park Pizza | \$10

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS:

GET YOUR LIFE BACK

Jan. 8–Mar. 5 | 6:15–7:45 PM | Lakewood | \$10

THURSDAY MORNINGS:

DEUTERONOMY (PRECEPTS)

Jan. 16–Mar. 6 | 9:30–11:30 AM | Room 133 | \$20

JESUS AND WOMEN

Jan. 9–Feb. 27 | 9:30–11:30 AM | Room TBD | \$20

SPECIAL GATHERING:

PRAYING WITH PURPOSE

Mon, Jan 27 | 10–11:30 AM OR 6–7:30 PM | No cost

MEN'S GATHERING:

FIRST WEDNESDAY

Men gather for a large group teaching, and small group discussion the first Wednesday of each month from 6:15-7:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and biscuits are provided. Starts back for 2025 on Feb. 5.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

START BACK JANUARY 8 AT 6:15 PM

ADULTS:

ORDERING YOUR PRIVATE WORLD

Scott Smith | Fellowship Hall



GET YOUR LIFE BACK

Jessica Hart | Fellowship Hall | Study for Women

CONNECTION: WHO NEEDS IT?

Karen Casey | Room 113/114 | Study for Women

GRIEFSHARE

Ed Jump | Room 108/109

DIVORCECARE

Stacey Reece | Room 111

MEET ME AT THE LAMP POST

Ormsbees | Room 133 (Book: The Weight of Glory)

LAKWOOD KIDS WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15

PRESCHOOLERS: Through Bible stories and play, preschoolers begin to grow in God's love.

GRADE SCHOOLERS: This mid-week program helps Grade Schoolers build a lasting foundation of Bible Skills and Bible memorization, small group discipleship, with an emphasis on missions.



LAKWOOD STUDENTS (6TH–12TH GRADE) WEDNESDAYS AT 6:15

Worship with live band, Bible teaching, and small groups. The Lodge opens at 5:30 PM for hangout, games, and food.



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

January 1	No Wednesday Night Activities
January 7	Women on Mission 10:30 AM
January 7	ESL Classes Resume 6:00 PM
January 8	Wednesday Nights Resume 6:15 PM
January 12	Discover Step 1 12:15 PM
January 15	Discover Step 2 6:15 PM
January 18	Tiny Stitches 10:00 AM
January 18	Special Needs Respite 5:00 PM
January 22	Discover Step 3 6:15 PM
January 28	Senior Adult Luncheon 12:00 PM
January 29	Discover Step 4 6:15 PM
February 4	Women on Mission 10:30 AM
February 5	First Wednesday Men's Gathering 6:15 AM
February 5	10th Annual CRI Chili Cook-off 5:00 PM
February 15	Special Needs Respite 5:00 PM
February 23	Discover Step 1 12:15 PM
February 23	Parent Child Dedication 4:00 PM
February 25	Senior Adult Luncheon 12:00 PM
February 26	Discover Step 2 6:15 PM
Feb. 28-March 2	United WKND (Lakewood Students)
March 21-22	Forever Marriage Conference

USE YOUR
SMART PHONE
TO SCAN THE
QR CODE FOR
THE LATEST
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 ACTIVITIES MEET 6:15-7:45 PM
 Babies, Preschool & Grade School
 Middle & High School Students
 DivorceCare & Grief Share
 Adult Bible Studies



LOOKING BACK



Every Sunday, Lakewood Kids gather for large group games, worship, and a Bible lesson followed by small group discussion with one of our adult leaders.

AVERAGE WEEKLY MINISTRY BUDGET NEED: \$114,375

AVERAGE WEEKLY RECEIVED 11/17-12/15: \$182,275

NEW MEMBERS: Peyton Griffin, Tucker Hall, Tony & Sarita Daniels, Karleigh Dills, Jessyca Irving, Alice Jordan, Carter Little, Katlyn Lopez, David & Vickie Pennell, Glenda York

*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

ASSOCIATE/SR. ADULT 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

Dr. Tyler Smiley • tmsmiley@lakewoodlife.org

Robert Puckett • rpuckett@lakewoodlife.org

Don Ormsbee • dormsbee@lakewoodlife.org

Dr. Benji Lavender • benji@lakewoodlife.org

Jeremy Daniels • jdaniels@lakewoodlife.org

Carter Reeves • creeves@lakewoodlife.org

Scott Smith • ssmith@lakewoodlife.org

Jamie Willis • jwillis@lakewoodlife.org



Dr. Tyler Smiley, Senior Pastor • LakewoodLife.org
2235 Thompson Bridge Road, Gainesville, GA 30501 • (770) 532-6307