CONNECTIONS

VOL XV: ISSUE 12 LBCPC.org LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2025



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

Lakewood, I want to say thank you! Thank you for always rising to meet the needs that we place in front of you. As the year draws to an end, I always reflect on God's goodness to our church in the area of giving. You faithfully give tithes and offerings week after week. You give to local, stateside, and foreign missions through our Circles of Influence program and through designated giving. You feed hungry kids in Belize through our weekly offering jug. You donate food and clothes to our food and clothes closets. You give to RRR to help revitalize our campus so that we can continue the work of the Gospel to the next generation in the community God has planted us in. Thank you for giving as an act of worship and obedience to the Lord. Thank you for excelling in the grace of giving!

In the last couple of months alone, you have gone above and beyond when it comes to giving! You participated in our Donate to Dunk food drive, where you donated thousands of items to our food closet, meeting the massive need we have experienced lately. Then we made the call for additional items needed to fill the OCC shoeboxes. We posted an Amazon shopping list, and you promptly provided the items. Afterwards, we asked you to join in covering the shipping costs for the 700 shoeboxes we filled. You have given over \$7,000 to entirely cover that need as well. Then, we asked you to donate \$15 towards a ham or turkey, providing a Thanksgiving meal to a needy family. You have provided around 150 hams and turkeys for those who come for food assistance this time of year. What a blessing you have been! Finally, we've asked you to purchase or sponsor a Christmas tree this year to help support 2026 missions, and we know you'll be faithful here, too. Church, you are amazing, and I thank God for you!

God's Word tells us that the spirit of unity and the grace of giving were evident in the early New Testament Church. In the book of Acts, chapter 4, verses 32-37, the Word of God says: "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. With great power, the Apostles continued to testify to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time, those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales, and put it at the Apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the Apostles' feet." As people were transformed by the Gospel, they let go of everything, even the things they valued most, giving away and selling their possessions to meet the needs of others. It's hard to believe what the Word says: "There were no needy persons among them.", but I believe it! God used the Church to meet every need! Imagine if every church had the resources to meet every physical need it encountered. Imagine what a light within a community, each church, would become. Imagine if there were no needy people. Imagine all the open doors for the Gospel to be preached. By this, the New Testament Church truly discovered what it meant to love your neighbor as yourself. May this spirit of unity and sacrificial grace of giving always be present here at LBC. May God bless all those who give back to God what is His from the start.

Merry Christmas and God bless, drew John 3:30

A Message from Josh Elliott

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

Hey Church!

2025 is almost over, but we have much to do and to prepare for before then. The Missions Tree Lot is in full swing and we need YOU! Whether it's volunteering some of your time, purchasing your tree from us, or sponsoring a tree for someone in need, there is a way for you to be a part of this fundraiser. All proceeds go towards our church's mission efforts in 2026. Every tree sold helps us send servants to share the gospel on three different continents next year! Lastly, our Student Ministry Winter Retreat is coming Jan. 2nd-4th. Please be in prayer for those attending

this retreat. Our theme this year is "Unshakable", and we will be diving into God's Word to see why our foundation should be firmly on Christ in a world that is "shaky" to say the least. If you have a child or grandchild that isn't 6th-12th grade and would like to attend, please reach out to me.

My family and I would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to spending this special time of the year alongside each of you.

In Christ, Iosh



A Message from the

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Our Children's Department is always full of energy, especially as we move into the Christmas season!

Our theme this month is: God Is a Promise Keeper. When sin entered the world, God promised to send a Savior. This month we celebrate the fulfillment of that promise in the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas reminds us that God does not leave us in our brokenness; He sent the greatest gift of all. Monthly Memory Verse: "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." —Isaiah 9:6

We also celebrate packing 700 Operation Christmas Child boxes this year—each one headed around the world to share the hope of Jesus. Thank you to everyone who donated, served, and gave so generously. We were overwhelmingly blessed with enough donations to cover the shipping for every single box.

We are also spreading the Word locally. Our Awana classes are busy preparing handmade Christmas cards for our Teen Challenge visitors. A simple but meaningful way for our kids to share Christ's love during this special time of year.

God continues to move in and through our children's ministry, and we're grateful to serve alongside you in this joyful season!

Search team update: Our search team continues prayerfully seeking the right full-time Children's Director. In the meantime, Amanda Owens has graciously stepped in as our Volunteer Interim Children's Director. She has committed to serve through the 2026 calendar year. We are grateful for her steady leadership and for the extra time this allows us as we continue to discern God's direction.











Virginia Kennedy WMU

10:30am - Upstairs South Building

THURSDAY 12/4

Widow/Widower Senior Singles Banquet

6:00pm - Family Activities Center

SATURDAY 12/6

Trip to Atlanta to pack shoeboxes

Leave the church at 7:30am

SUNDAY 12/14

Guys and Girls events

Girls wear your Christmas PJ's Guys will have game night in the FAC



OPENING NOVEMBER 23 TO THE PUBLIC

2:00-7:30PM

SIZES RANGING FROM TABLETOP TO 11 FOOT

All proceeds benefit Summer Missions.



Lakewood Happenings December 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	10:30am Amen Choir	6:00pm Alleluia Choir	10:30am VK/WMU	6:00pm - FAC Widow/ Widower - Single Seniors Banquet		7:30am Atlanta - OCC Packing Boxes
	1	2	3	4	5	6
4:00pm Instrumental Christmas	10:30am Amen Choir	6:00pm Alleluia Choir				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4:00pm Acappella Christmas 5:00pm Deacons Meet	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister to Sister	6:00pm Alleluia Choir	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
6:00pm Solo & Ensembles	10:30am Amen Choir	6:00pm Alleluia Choir	Christmas Eve Office Closed 6:00pm Candlelight Service	Merry Christmas Office Closed		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15am - B.F. 10:30am Worship Josh Preaching			Happy New Year's Eve NO Events tonight			
28	29	30	31			

October Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
10/05/25	\$27,382.29	\$289.11	\$2,329.31	\$550.00	\$30,550.71
10/12/25	\$12,551.37	\$235.00	\$1,092.59	\$2,002.87	\$15,881.83
10/19/25	\$32,430.35	\$380.00	\$3,774.49	\$678.00	\$37,262.84
10/26/25	\$8,691.42	\$200.00	\$2,651.97	\$1,168.75	\$12,712.14

In Memory of:
For RRR
From Clara Jean Watson
Wayne Williams
Cody Martin
Eddie Hightower
Jean Carden
Mary Ann Brown



<u>Church office</u> <u>will be closed:</u>

December 24th & 25th

&

December 31st

Deacon
nomination
forms
&
Ministry
teams
interest
forms
need to be
turned in by
December 7th

MINISTERIAL STAFF

• Andrew Spires

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Charles Keown

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LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH 4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE PHENIX CITY, ALABAMA 36867 O: 334.298.6433 LBCPC.org HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM FRI 8:30AM-12PM

