

CONNECTIONS

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH NOVEMBER 2025 VOL XV: ISSUE 11 LBCPC.org



The Greatest Journey Making Disciples

The Greatest Journey, the discipleship program for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift recipients, teaches boys and girls about following Jesus Christ and telling others about Him.

12
SCRIPTURE
LESSONS

in each student workbook:
6 on coming to know Christ;
3 on growing in faith;
3 on sharing the Gospel.

46 MILLION+

boys and girls enrolled since 2009.

2.2 MILLION+

trained volunteer teaching positions filled from
local churches worldwide.

23.5 MILLION+

children reported decisions for Christ since 2009.

**"Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations."**

—Matthew 28:19



**"I started to pray and I asked God
to help me follow in His footsteps.
I love sharing the Bible. I tell my
friends to seek God."**

—Ivanna, 12, decided to follow Christ



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR

.....

We have very few holidays, if any, that are not tarnished by consumerism and secularism. Most of our holidays are an amalgam of celebrations and traditions from older pagan cultures, foreign to our own. This is somewhat true of Thanksgiving. In the Old World (England), days of thanksgiving were celebrated when the nation was victorious in battle over an enemy or when recovering from a national time of trouble, such as disease or drought. These thanksgiving days were celebrated in church and were practiced with prayer and fasting to God, giving Him thanks that these hard times had ended. Far from today's American celebration of an overindulgence in food and football, these were times of soul-searching and a realization that Almighty God was teaching through every situation of life, especially the hard times. The Puritans regularly practiced days of thanksgiving to keep their practice and perspective in line with the Word of God and to stay humble. They were the ones who brought the idea and practice of thanksgiving to the New World.

Then there's the original Thanksgiving celebration from which we derive our tradition, between the Pilgrims and Native Americans. The winter of 1620 was so harsh that it wiped out nearly half of the original Pilgrim settlers who survived the dangerous crossing. Those hardy Pilgrims developed a friendly relationship with the Wampanoag Indian tribe, who helped them learn how to fish, hunt, plant, and survive in the New World. By the Fall of 1621, with the Natives' help, the Pilgrims harvested and stored enough food to feed their families for the coming winter. This was a turning point; they were no longer just surviving, they were thriving. The Pilgrims and the Native Americans joined together for a three-day feast, which we now call the first Thanksgiving meal. Despite the immense loss of life and all the pain and suffering, those early settlers still gave God praise and thanks for all He had done for them. They saw His Divine Providence in all that they had endured and overcome.

Fast forward to the American Revolution. In 1777, the Continental Congress decreed that all thirteen colonies declare and observe a public day of

thanksgiving to Almighty God for His grace in the American victory over the British at Saratoga, which was a major turning point in the Revolutionary War, gaining American forces the French support that was so desperately needed. After the final victory was achieved at Yorktown and the British surrendered, the young country set about creating a government and electing its first president, George Washington. His 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation has always been a favorite of mine. I thought I would share it again with you. By the President of the United States of America, a proclamation:

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor--and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint committee requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness. Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that Great and Glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be--that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks--for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation--for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war--for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed--for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted--for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and

in general for all the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the Great Lord and Ruler of nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions--to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually--to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed--to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord--to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us--and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

Given under my hand at the City of New York, the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

George Washington

Coming further forward, a writer and activist in the mid-1800s, named Sarah Josepha Hale, most famous for the nursery rhyme 'Mary had a Little Lamb', lobbied many politicians to formalize and create a national day of thanksgiving. In the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln answered Hale's plea. In October of 1863, Lincoln issued a proclamation of his own. By the President of the United States, a proclamation:

"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful Providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a Civil War of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the

camp, the siege, and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our Beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and Union. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed." Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-eighth. By the President: Abraham Lincoln

It seems we have strayed on all counts from the original purposes of Thanksgiving, both in the Old World and the New. While not surprising, it is sad. My prayer is that we as a people, we as a Church, we as a nation, and we, all mankind, turn and give thanks to the One True and Almighty God for all that He has done. For His grace and mercy, for His wise Providence, and for His blessings despite our failings. For Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who is THE Way, THE Truth, and THE Life, and THE ONLY Way to the Father in heaven. That we will repent of our sins and fall upon His mercies anew again, and that we take stock of our blessings, giving Him thanks, and leverage those undeserved blessings for His glory alone. I pray that you will say with me, "Thank you, Lord, for all that You have done!"

God Bless,
drew

A Message from **Josh Elliott**

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR

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Hey Church!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Well... we have Thanksgiving first of course and before Thanksgiving our Christmas trees arrive for our Missions Tree Lot. This is an exciting time of year as we prepare to raise money for missions. I would encourage all of you to seek the Lord over how you can be a part of this fundraiser. Whether you purchase a tree, sponsor a tree, volunteer your time, provide a treat for the workers, or pray for success, please know you are needed! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Also, I wanted to share with you all a few updates from the Student Ministry. First, thank you to all who participated in the canned food drive and the Donate to Dunk campaign! We brought in 2.5 tons of food and the Food Pantry is stocked for the rest of the year. Second, the Lord has been gracious as we are seeing on average 45-50 students each week and sometimes more. Lastly, our D-Groups have begun and our leaders are working to build relationships with

students and are investing their time praying for our students. If you will, please commit to praying for the student ministry as a whole, but specifically the hearts of our students. Also be in prayer for our upcoming events as well. We will have our Winter Retreat at Shocco January 2nd-4th. This will be a great opportunity for the students to grow in relationship with each other as they grow in their relationship with Christ. Our theme this year is "Unshakable". 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 (6th-12th grade) that would like to attend, please reach out to me. The deadline to sign up will be December 7th. I look forward to hearing from you on how we can partner together with all that we have coming up in the life of the Student Ministry!

In Christ,
Josh



A Message from the

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

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We have an exciting month ahead in Children's Ministry! Our Operation Christmas Child Pack Night is coming up soon, and we are still in need of a few items to help fill the boxes. Please see the QR code for our Amazon Wishlist if you would like to help provide supplies. These gifts are a wonderful way for our children to learn about giving and to share the love of Jesus around the world.

Our Children's Church theme for this month is God Is With Us. Each week's story reminds us that God is always present with His people. Even in times of human failure, His presence remains steadfast. Our memory verse for the month is: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

With Thanksgiving coming up, we are also encouraging our families to take part in our Family Gratitude Challenge: 30 Days of Thankful Hearts.

Calendars are available at the Awana check-in table downstairs, at Mrs. Diane's check-in table, and on the table outside the Children's Worship Room. We hope every family will take one and enjoy completing the challenge together throughout November.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall Festival! From the volunteers, to the bakers, to those who came out to enjoy the day, your support helped make the event a wonderful success. We are thrilled to report that between the lunch and bake sale we raised \$3,278.17. These funds will go directly towards the shipping costs of our Operation Christmas Child boxes.

Please continue to pray for our search team. In the meantime, we are grateful for all you do to support our children as they grow in faith and love.

QR Code for Amazon
Wishlist for OCC





Sunday, Nov. 16th 3-5 pm

Lower Lakewood Field

Come play or come watch

Bring a chair

LAKEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
CHRISTMAS Tree
FUNDRAISER
FOR MISSIONS

OPENING NOVEMBER 22

Pre-Sale Pickup & Church Members

2:00-7:30PM

SIZES RANGING FROM TABLETOP TO 11 FOOT

All proceeds benefit Summer Missions.

Lakewood Happenings

November 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
Time Change 9:15am - B.F. 10:30am - Worship Feast of Thanks 2	10:30am Amen Choir 3	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 4	10:30am VK/WMU 5			8
5:00pm Deacons Meet 9	10:30am Amen Choir 6:00pm Sister to Sister F/H 10	Veteran's Day 6:00pm Alleluia Choir 11	AWANA OCC Packing Night 12		5:30pm Senior Game Night 14	15
2:30pm Bonus Reh. 4:00pm RRR Meeting 4:00pm Turkey Bowl 16	10:30am Amen Choir OCC Drop Off 17	6:00pm Alleluia Choir OCC Drop Off 18	7:15pm Finance Team Meeting OCC Drop Off 19	6:30pm JEG/BW OCC Drop Off 20	OCC Drop Off 21	OCC Drop Off 22
3:00pm Student Team Meets OCC Drop Off 23	10:00am Amen Choir OCC Drop Off 24	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 25	No Events 26	Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed 27	Office Closed 28	29
2:30pm Bonus Reh. 30						

September Giving

Week	Tithe	RRR	Missions	Other Des.	Totals
09/07/25	\$28,085.85	\$511.97	\$1,850.64	\$1,235.00	\$31,683.46
09/14/25	\$14,715.81	\$445.00	\$1,510.00	\$835.00	\$17,505.81
09/21/25	\$18,033.55	\$181.80	\$432.50	\$557.00	\$19,204.85
09/28/25	\$13,100.19	\$270.00	\$549.00	\$1,052.00	\$14,971.19

In Memory of:
Natalie Hollon
 Birthday
 for Circles of Influence
 From Janet Turner

Cody Martin
 For Amen Choir
 From Myra Currier

Wayne Williams
 For Belize Feed a Child
 From Pat Holland

Charlie Mitchell
 For Student Ministries
 From Mr. & Mrs. Steve Argo



AWANA PACK NIGHT NOV 12

WELCOME

NEW

MEMBERS:

Dennis & Robin
 Ruthenberg
 Charlotte Chancey
 Kyle & Cassie Denney
 Sheila McComas

Senior Game Night

Friday,
 November 14th @ 5:30pm
 Fellowship Hall

OCC Serve Day
Processing Center
in Atlanta

Saturday, December 6th
 Leave church on the bus
 at 7:30am

Sign-up sheet on
 bulletin board outside of
 fellowship hall
 Only 8 spots left

- MINISTERIAL STAFF
- *ANDREW SPIRES*
- LEAD PASTOR
- ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

- *Charles Keown*
- WORSHIP & SENIOR
- ADULT PASTOR
- CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

- *Josh Elliott*
- STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT
- PASTOR
- JOSHUA@LBCPC.ORG

- *AMANDA OWENS*
- INTERIM VOLUNTEER
- CHILDREN

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 FRI 8:30AM-12PM

