

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2024 VOL XIII: ISSUE 9 LBCPC.org

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



Friends & Family Day

WORSHIP SERVICES-
8:45 & 11:00AM EST



SUNDAY SCHOOL-
10:00AM EST

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2024



A Message from Andrew Spires

LEAD PASTOR



Life is hard. Anyone who tells you otherwise is trying to sell you something. We all know that our lives can be difficult and challenging. On the other hand, it's an amazing time in which we live, filled with blessings. Never before have so many human beings, especially Americans, had such access to abundant food and clean water combined with healthcare that is healing illnesses and extending their lives. We may have the occasional trial, the proverbial bump in the road, but most of the time those situations pass quickly. That doesn't mean that they are not hard or real to endure, or that we always excel in "counting it all joy" when in times of trouble. For some reason, most people are honestly surprised when something goes wrong or is painful. We have somehow developed an expectation that life should be smooth and easy. For most Americans, as long as our world is okay, as long as our hometown is peaceful, and our family is intact, we don't think much about the rest of the world and its troubles. We can get so focused on our own bubble that we forget there's a great big world out there.

Yet, many in the world still suffer starvation, malnutrition, sickness, disease, and live in war-ravaged areas. Just look at the world, there are large-scale wars in the news such as Russia and Ukraine or Israel and Hamas/Palestinians. Both of these wars seem to drag on without end costing thousands of lives. However, there are many more that never make the news. It's estimated that right now there are at least 45 armed conflicts active in just the Middle East and Africa alone. If we take an honest look at the world, we can see most of the world's population lives without much hope or security in their daily lives. We don't know their stories just as they don't know ours, but we do seem to have a disconnect to the realities outside of the "first world". The problem of suffering

and why God allows it has always been a tough question to answer. Many atheists stated reason for not believing in an all-knowing, all-powerful God is due to the existence of evil. You've heard the question before; "How could God allow such evil to exist in the world?" Or; "If God is good and all-powerful, why doesn't He just stop all the suffering in the world?" Maybe some of these questions have given you pause amid the trials and sufferings in your life. To make matters worse, there's often loneliness mixed in with our suffering. While suffering, it feels like we are the only ones in the whole world who are suffering the way we are. We look at other people's lives and they seem so perfect and together compared to ours. Their pictures are perfect, and their kids or grandkids are perfect and beautiful, and it seems that our world is the only world falling apart. Have you ever felt that way? Nobody understands what I'm going through! Have you ever considered what God sees? We have such a limited view of suffering that's only tied to our world, but God sees it all. He sees every evil action, every initial evil thought that leads to evil deeds. He sees them all in real-time, not on the news a day or two later. Not just the major conflicts but every tinge of evil upon the human heart. He hears the desperate prayerful cries and He sees every tear-filled eye. He also sees every act of persecution for His Name's sake. Did you know that it is estimated that around 70 million Christians have been martyred for their faith in the last 2,000 years? Did you know that over half (+/- 45 million) of those were killed in the last century or so? Evil is on the rise and not the fall. Yet, our God sees it all and He cares about it all. Matthew 10:28-31 speaks of God's watchful and caring eye. "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who

can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." In context, Jesus had sent out the Twelve Disciples and had prepared them by telling them what to expect as they went. We too can expect this world to get worse and not better. We can expect to be treated poorly as followers of Christ. As believers, we are not promised an easy life, and we are not immune from trials and heartache, but we

know God sees it all, we know He is there with us. Let us take solace and find our strength in the promises of God. For those of you who are intrigued by understanding the answers to tough questions and how to intelligently defend your faith, we will be beginning a new Wednesday night series this Fall covering apologetics and some of the hot-button issues of the day. Keep an eye out for the announcement of the specific start date and we hope to see you there.

God bless,
drew

John 3:30



L A K E W O O D B A P T I S T
C H U R C H



FALL



FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 12:00-2:00 PM EST
4011 LAKEWOOD DRIVE PHENIX CITY, AL

LUNCH, HAYRIDE, GAMES,
INFLATABLE SLIDE,
TRUNK OR TREAT, BAKE SALE

H E L P E R S N E E D E D -
S E E D A V I D
D A V I D @ L B C P C . O R G

A Message from Josh Elliott

STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT PASTOR



Hey Church!

Summer is officially over and our students are back to school. Our Student Ministry here at Lakewood closed out summer with a few different events as you will see in the photos included in this month's newsletter. We had a Parent Night where we invited parents to come worship alongside their students and then we capped the night with a game of black light dodgeball (the parents won of course). We also participated in the community Back to School Bash hosted at Central Baptist Church. There was a volleyball tournament at the Back to School Bash so we had some "jerseys" made. Now, if you show up to a church volleyball tournament in matching jerseys there are two possible outcomes. You could show up in matching jerseys and you lose and it is embarrassing, or you could show up in matching jerseys and dominate the competition and win. Well we can proudly say that Lakewood Students showed up and dominated the competition all while wearing our new Lakewood Students shirts. Lastly, we capped off the summer with an End of Summer Luau hosted at the Parkman's House. It stormed for the first thirty minutes or so, but in the end we had fun capping off the summer with one last trip to the pool. Now that school is in session, our calendar of events will slow down, but our church's involvement with the students of our church doesn't have to. I challenge you all to pray for our students. Pray for their safety and success at school. Pray for the teachers that are playing a vital role in their lives and development. Take time to talk with some of them and give them encouragement. Go check out a ballgame and cheer them on! If you would like to be involved with our students or would like some direction in how you could pray for them or when to see a game, reach out to me and I would be happy to give you some direction or invite you to tag along with me when I go.

In Christ,
Josh



Lakewood Baptist

EVENT SCHEDULE

➔ SEPTEMBER

9/4 @ 6PM

AWANA starts back

9/9 @
6:30PM

Sister to Sister
Home of Mary Kay Wilson

9/20

Men's Retreat

9/26 @ 6:30

Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women
Home of Sandy Carter

9/28 @ 11AM

Feed the Homeless

8/29 @ 6PM

Mission Trips Recap

A Message from **David Stephens**

CHILDREN'S PASTOR



As we step into our Fall schedule, with the kids back in school and our calendars filling up with activities, the changing colors on the weather tree in my yard signal that cooler days are ahead—my favorite time of the year!

We recently wrapped up our final Wet Wednesday of the summer, and it was a blast! With Icee's for everyone, a giant water slide, and countless water balloons, the energy on our campus was incredible. It's heartwarming to see so many of our families coming together in fellowship. Here are a few pictures capturing the fun.



**Our AWANA midweek programming for children kicks off on September 4th from 6:00-7:30 PM.
We're excited for a great semester ahead!**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

October 20: Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat | 12:00-2:00 PM

November 13: Operation Christmas Child AWANA Packing Party | 6:00-7:30 PM

Lakewood Happenings

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
9:00am - B.F. 10:30am Comined Worship 1	Labor Day Office Closed 2	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 3	10:30am VK/WMU 6:00pm AWANA resumes 4	5	6	7
5:00pm Deacons Meet 6:00pm Students Frozen Frisbee 8	10:30am Amen Choir 6:30pm Sister to Sister Mary Kay Wilson 9	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 10	11	12	5:30pm Senior Game Night 6:30pm YA Braves Watch/ Pool Party 13	14
Friends & Family Day Deacons Meet 5:00pm 15	10:30am Amen Choir 16	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 17	7:15pm Finance Team Meets 18	19	20	21
2:00pm Bonus Christmas Reh. @ Phil. 22	10:30am Amen Choir 23	6:00pm Alleluia Choir 24	6:30pm Saw you at the pole - FAC 25	6:30pm JEG/BW 26	Amen Choir Concert @ Central Baptist Church 27	11:00am Feed the Homeless 6:30pm AL/GA watch party Farm 28
6:00pm Missions Trips Recap 29	10:30am Amen Choir 30					

July Giving

DATE	BUDGET	R-R-R	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
07/07/24	\$23,160.95	\$10,584.10	\$2,611.95	\$1,443.00	\$37,799.99
07/14/24	\$13,954.22	\$1,760.00	\$1,181.94	\$313.00	\$17,209.16
07/21/24	\$13,086.95	\$195.00	\$618.59	\$320.00	\$14,220.54
07/28/24	\$10,277.17	\$907.85	\$3,697.28	\$1,067.00	\$15,949.30

Ongoing Activities:

SUNDAY	
8:45am	Worship
10:00am	Bible Fellowship
11:00am	Worship
WEDNESDAY	
6:00pm	AWANA
6:00pm	Bible Study
6:00pm	Youth Worship

In Memory of:

John Spivey
For Bereavement
from Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Whitehead
For Bus
from Mr. & Mrs. Fred Van Horn

Diane Eubanks
For RRR
from Mr. & Mrs. J.D Whitehead

Nell Bush
For Amen Choir
from Mr. & Mrs. Randy Daniels

In Honor of:

Janet Ormond
For Belize Feed A Child
from Mr. & Mrs. Bill McCarley

Terry Grimes
for LOAF
from Mr. & Mrs. Bill McCarley

Larry Bush
For Amen Choir
from Mr. & Mrs. Randy Daniels

CHS Class of 1971
for General Fund

Linwood & Dora Spires
For Belize Feed a Child
from Pat Holland

Amen Choir
Concert

Friday, September
27th @ 5:00pm

Central Baptist
Church Gym

Senior
Game Night

Friday
September 13th
5:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

MINISTERIAL STAFF

ANDREW SPIRES
LEAD PASTOR
ANDREW@LBCPC.ORG

• *Charles Keown*
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• ADULT PASTOR
• CHARLES@LBCPC.ORG

• *Josh Elliott*
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• PASTOR
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LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
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HOURS: M-TH 8:30AM-4:30PM
FRI 8:30AM-12PM

