



pastor's PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

I know several people who have some big decisions to make in the next few weeks and months and so I thought it might be helpful to write on the topic of discerning God's will in our decision making. In our spiritual pilgrimage, often we will be confronted with this question, "What is God's will for me? What school major? What school? What job? What church? Who will I marry?"

There may be better or worse reasons to choose one option over another, and we do need wisdom from God. That said, God never promises to give us what David Powlison calls, "handwriting on the wall" guidance. Many decisions, like the aforementioned, are not on God's written list of what he wills for us.

Now the "will of God" can be confusing because the Bible uses the phrase in a variety of ways. So on one hand, there is God's will of decree. This refers to what God ordains and has planned from all eternity according to his good and wise purposes. Ephesians 1:11 tells us that all things work according to the counsel of God's will. In Isaiah 46:10, God says, "I will accomplish all my purpose."

Yet in another sense, the Bible also speaks of "the will of God" as something we can obey or disobey, often called God's will of desire. This is God's will objectively revealed to us in Scripture. For example, 1 Thessalonians 4:3a "For this is the will of God, your sanctification."

Consider Hebrews 13:20-21. The writer prays that God would equip his people with everything good for doing his will (that is, what he has objectively revealed to us in Scripture). Powlison speaks of a wise professor he had in seminary who asserted, "It may be relatively indifferent whether you eventually become a pastor in Kalamazoo or a missionary in Timbuktu....But it may be a matter of life or death whether or not you decide to cross the street, if you spot an old friend from whom you've been estranged, walking on the other side. God really cares what you do next."

With regard to taking the hypothetical pastorate in Kalamazoo, or missionary work in Timbuktu, this relates to a third aspect of God's will—what Kevin DeYoung calls God's will of direction. This is what Christians most often mean when they are seeking to discern the will of God. Though this is often our emphasis, and it is this aspect of God's will to which we are referring when we are seeking to make life decisions like school or vocation. There is no indication from Scripture that this is an Easter egg hunt and we find our egg or not.

So think of it this way. God's will of decree is hidden to us. Deuteronomy 29:29 tells us the "secret things belong to the LORD our God." We are not to concern ourselves with his will of decree except to know, believe, and rest in the truth that the LORD is always good and does good (Psalm 119:68).

With regard to the LORD's "will of desire," this is his will revealed to us in Scripture. This should be the aspect of his will, to which we must focus. To center our lives on what he has already revealed is to "delight in the LORD." The psalmist promises in 37:4 that if we "delight ourselves in the LORD and he will give [us] the desires of [our] heart." In other words, when we are seeking to obey and delight in the LORD in what he has revealed is his will of desire for us, we can rest in knowing that he is shaping our desires to fit his "will of direction."

Let me offer this recent example. One of my best friends is Steve. He works in management at UPS in Louisville. He is maybe 5 years from retirement and recently he was offered a significant promotion that would have raised his salary and benefitted his retirement check long term, but it would require him to work every weekend, which means he would miss church.

(Pastor's Pen continued)

Well, as I said before, Steve must not concern himself with God's "will of decree" except to know, believe, and rest in the truth that all that God does is good and wise. But Steve cannot responsibly jump to God's "will of direction" without asking first what God has already revealed to him in Scripture as his "will of desire."

Here was Steve's conclusion: God commands his people in Hebrews 10:25 to "not [neglect] to meet together" in corporate worship. This promotion would require him to disobey God's "will of desire." The revealed will of God is that his people immerse themselves in corporate body life and worship. So if Steve decides to ignore that clear command, then it is obviously not God's "will of direction" Steve is concerned with, but his own "will," which is at odds with God's. Now, let me offer one qualification here. There are some Christians who have works of necessity on the LORD's Day. We are certainly grateful for first responders, our law enforcement, doctors and nurses, but it does no one's soul good if this keeps a person out of church a majority of the time.

Now, pretend this promotion did not take Steve away from church or require him to disobey God in other areas. Other issues that come into play are things like whether your spouse is on board, does this fit your giftings, or will this take you away from your children too much when they are at an age they really need your presence? If all of these other issues are green-lighted, it becomes an issue of freedom for Steve.

At the end of the day, if we will seek to obey God in what he has clearly revealed, everything else will take care of itself. Proverbs 3:5 promises, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths."

Conversely, if you are not seeking to obey him and trust him in what He has revealed to you in Scripture, your capacity to discern his "will of direction," will be significantly hampered. I hope this helps.

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian



praise
WORTHY

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR MUSICAL
SUNDAY, MAY 3 | 6 PM

Our Joyful Noise Kids Choir will present their spring musical in the evening service on Sunday, May 3rd. This choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Eliza Ogle, is so excited to share this musical with each of you as they take us on a journey to "Happy Hiveland." There we will meet many fun and unique bees that will familiarize us with the teachings of Jesus found in the beatitudes. You will not want to miss this night so please join us and bring a friend.



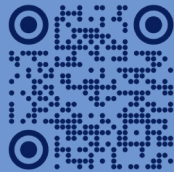


missions MEMO

SUMMER COMMISSIONING

On Sunday, April 26th, at the conclusion of the evening worship service, we will commission individuals who will be serving at camps and in various locations around the world this summer. Please have two people join you at the altar to pray for you.

CLICK [HERE](#) OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMER COMMISSIONING ON APRIL 26TH



ESL CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP

APRIL 24TH @ 5:30 PM

If God is calling you to work with our international ministry or if you want to learn how to better communicate with internationals, please join us for our English as a Second Language Certification Workshop on Friday, April 24th. We will begin at 5:30 PM (dinner provided) and end at 9:00 PM, continuing into Saturday, April 25th, from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM (breakfast & lunch provided). To sign up for training and/or if you have any questions, call Jerry in the church office at 334-887-7094 or email at jferguson@lakeviewbaptist.org or Marie Foshee at mfoshee@lakeviewbaptist.org.

Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

How Your Gifts Resource Missionaries

\$200

for print materials for a new church plant

\$400

for a portable baptismal and heater

\$2,000

monthly worship facility rent

\$50,000

one year of support & benefits for a first-year church planter

Gifts received through May 17



youth NEWS

SUMMER RETREAT | REGISTER AND SPONSOR

Summer Retreat is coming up this July 3–7 for our Lakeview Youth at Ridgecrest in North Carolina. Summer Retreat is our annual getaway full of discipleship, fellowship, worship, and fun. We encourage all youth-aged students to sign up and join us!

Each year, we ask our Lakeview family to help financially sponsor some students who otherwise would not be able to attend. We are currently in need of full or partial scholarships. The total cost per person is \$429. If you are interested in serving as a sponsor, please contact Aaron Wine or Claire Breedlove. Join us in praying even now for a powerful week in the lives of our students!

COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS

APRIL 28TH | 7 PM

Lakeview Women is hosting Coffee and Connections on April 28th at 7:00 PM at the home of Kam Nelson. Our guest speaker is Joan Moreman. Please join us for coffee, desserts, and fellowship!



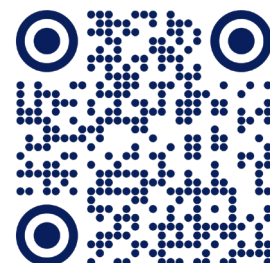
CARPENTERS FOR CHRIST TRIP

MAY 22–29

Lakeview's Carpenters for Christ are partnering with Glen Baptist Church's Carpenters for Christ for the 2026 project at Church 247 in Inman, SC, May 22nd–29th, 2026.

Glen Baptist will be leading the project. If you're interested in joining us, you can register through the Glen Baptist website [here](#), or you can scan the QR code below.

If you have any questions, please contact Bobby Thompson at Bobby.Thompson@CarpentersForChrist.com.





children's CHATTER

SCRIPTURE MEMORY BANQUET SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Our annual Scripture Memory Banquet honoring this year's medalists will be on Sunday, April 26th, following the morning worship service in the fellowship hall. Pizza lunch will be provided for all scripture memory medalists and their families.

VBS | "EMERALD CROSSING" | JUNE 22-26 REGISTRATION TODAY

In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids need to know there is a God who cares for them. Boys and girls entering K5 through 6th grade are invited to join us for Lakeview's VBS 2026 – "Emerald Crossing!" During VBS, children will journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They will discover the life of the shepherd-king, David, and will learn how to cross from worry to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. Join us for an adventure across the lands! Invite your friends to come along!

Register online at lakeviewvbs.com. Registration is available online now through June 14th. Children entering grades K5–6th in the 2026–2027 school year are invited to join us! Pre-registration is required. More information about Vacation Bible School can be found on our VBS registration site or by contacting Haley Wine, Children's Ministry Secretary, at 334-887-7094 or hwine@lakeviewbaptist.org.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are available to help with this gospel-saturated, community event, we need you! We currently have a significant need for adult volunteers in the following areas:

- Preschool Adult Leaders (5-6)
- Buddies to assist with special needs children (5-6)

Please note that childcare is available for children of all volunteers. We will begin filling youth volunteer positions in the Youth Center during Sunday School. If you are interested in volunteering, you may sign up [here](#) or have any questions regarding the roles needed, please contact Jennifer at jvail@lakeviewbaptist.org.

VBS CRAFT DONATIONS:

- Like-new solid color t-shirts with minimal print on them.
- Plastic pringle can lids (just the lids).
- Glass jars: spaghetti sauce/quart-size only with labels/lids removed.
- Cereal boxes, flattened.
- 16–20oz water bottles (empty, but with the lid).

Please drop these items off in the lobby before June 14th. We really appreciate your help!



fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35 PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45 PM.

APRIL 22

Fried Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans
Rolls, Salad, Carrot Cake

APRIL 29

Hamburgers, Potato Salad, Spring Mix Veggies
Salad, Brownies

*Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. **Menu subject to change.***

sympathy

From the pastor, staff, and church family to:

Whitlee Wine and family in the death of her mother.

OUR newest

MAYSILEE ANNE CORBETT (MAISY)

Born: March 29th, 2026

Parents: Mason and Abby Corbett

Grandparents: David and Terry Corbett

stay connected

 @lakeviewauburn



REMEMBER IN prayer

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

MONARCH ESTATES

Bill Thornton

THE PHOENIX AT OPELIKA

Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause

AZALEA PLACE

Barbara Blankenship
Susan Lazenby

BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

Ira Hayes

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Dennis Clark
Nelda Kennedy
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Iize West

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

CHAPMAN HEALTH CARE

Jerry Knause

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge

APRIL 19 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,270

EVENING SERVICE _____ 543

APRIL 19 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$68,623.93

RESTRICTED _____ \$16,926.00

LAKEVIEW LIFE | VOL. 67, NO. 16

“ WE BELIEVE THAT GOD’S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ”



Lakeview
BAPTIST CHURCH

1600 E Glenn Ave | Auburn, AL 36830



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WEBSITE | www.lakeviewbaptist.org



FAX | 334-826-6512



PRAYER REQUESTS | 334-887-8783