



LAKEVIEW *life*

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2026



pastor's
PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

Maybe you heard last week that an ESPN sports pundit was allegedly caught smoking marijuana on live television. What especially grieved me about this episode is that a good percentage of the public had no problem with it and many thought it was funny. In fact, several of the College GameDay hosts made light of it. Keep in mind College GameDay's core audience is young and impressionable. Some platforms report that over 74% of the audience falls between the ages of 13 and 24.

Of course, this is consistent with the January 2026 Pew Research Center Survey that revealed that 55% of Americans now support legalizing marijuana for both medical and recreational use, 63% under the age of 30 support legalization for both uses. Those stats are not surprising in that 24 states and the District of Columbia allow people to use marijuana for both medical and recreational reason.

Laws tutor us. What is legalized ultimately becomes moralized and normalized. This landslide began in 2012, when Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize the drug for recreational use.

Today, I want to briefly argue why I believe marijuana should not be used recreationally or legalized. I will leave the discussion of law regulated medical marijuana for another time.

As for whether we have the liberty to use marijuana recreationally, there is no lack of clarity that the Bible requires us to avoid drunkenness. Of course, marijuana is not mentioned in Scripture, but any substance that distorts a person's good judgment, minimizes moral restraint and the good physical coordination, or brings reproach on one's name or the gospel itself, falls within the pattern of meaning in those texts that forbid drunkenness.

Without a doubt, the recreational use of marijuana violates the biblical value of sobriety. 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8, "Let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober..." 1 Peter 4:7, "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and soberminded..." Ephesians 5:18, "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery..."

The book of wisdom, Proverbs, says this about drunkenness, "In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things" (23:32-33). In other words, it leads away from the kind of sober, self-controlled use of the mind for the glory of God.

Recreational use of marijuana distorts reality and numbs the user of the capacity to experience life as it truly is. Even a relatively small amount of THC puts the infrequent user into a fog. A larger amount can potentially cause paranoia. Regular marijuana use causes disengagement, dulling users into a long-term, slow, and subtle numbness. If you ask anyone who has formerly used marijuana on a regular basis, if he is honest, he will speak about this effect. In fact, studies show a high correlation between regular marijuana use and the clinical diagnosis of Amotivational Syndrome.

One final point along these lines. Several texts in Scripture mention “sorcery” among lists of sins and the practice of sorcery in the ancient world often included the use of mind-altering drugs. Consider Galatians 5:19-20, “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery (Greek, pharmakeia).... Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Or Revelation 9:21, “Nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries (Greek, pharmakon) or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” And Revelation 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers (Greek, pharmakos), idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be on in the lake that burns...”

The three related Greek terms in these texts (from the stem pharmak-) can certainly be used in a positive way to refer to the use of medicinal drugs to cure the sick (as in our English words pharmacist or pharmacy). Here they are used in a negative way. That is, they are used as mind- altering drugs (see Wayne Grudem’s Christian Ethics pages 690-691).

Let me speak just briefly to the massive problem of the legalization of marijuana. God has instituted human government to protect the people under it (Romans 13). There are many reasons marijuana is harmful for society. For brevity sake, let me offer two: for one, marijuana is the most common illicit drug found in drivers who die in accidents and according to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics, 19% of teen drivers have reported driving under the influence of marijuana.

Second, and perhaps the central reason marijuana recreational use is bad for a society, is the increase in crime. Wayne Grudem makes the argument that because of the loss of good judgment and moral restraint, and because of the need to finance drug addiction, the widespread use of marijuana leads to a significant increase in crime.

Consistent with Grudem’s assertion, consider the rise in crime in Colorado. As the first state to legalize recreational marijuana, Colorado has served as a test case for its impact on crime, including violent crime. So for instance, in Denver, areas near dispensaries had 85 more property crimes per year than those without. Colorado’s crime rate in 2016 increased 11 times faster than the 30 largest cities in the nation since legalization. A University of Colorado study found crime rates up to 1,452% higher in neighborhoods with at least one marijuana dispensary. Between 2013 to 2018, (Colorado legalized in 2012) violent crime went up 36.5% in the state.

So, if the Bible comes first in our calculations about this issue (or secondarily a sociological study), there is no conceivable argument for the recreational use of marijuana. Romans 12:1-2 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian

IMF26

THE CHURCH

SEPT 27-30

God's Chosen Instrument for His Glory Among the Nations

IMF 2026 FULL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

- 09:15 AM — Sunday School
- 10:45 AM — Morning Worship Service
- 06:00 PM — Evening Worship Service

MONDAY

- 06:15 AM — Men’s Breakfast | Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 AM — Lunch | Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 PM — Speakers | Fellowship Hall
- 04:45 PM — Dinner | Fellowship Hall
- 06:00 PM — Speakers | Worship Center
- 06:00 PM — Grades 1 – 6 | Kidzone

TUESDAY

- 11:30 AM — Lunch | Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 PM — Speakers | Fellowship Hall
- 04:45 PM — Dinner | Fellowship Hall
- 06:00 PM — Speakers | Worship Center
- 06:00 PM — Grades 1 – 6 | Kidzone

WEDNESDAY

- 09:00 AM — Ladies Brunch
- 11:30 AM — Lunch | Fellowship Hall
- 12:00 PM — Speakers | Fellowship Hall
- 04:45 PM — Dinner | Fellowship Hall
- 06:00 PM — Speakers | Worship Center
- 06:00 PM — Grades 1 – 6 | Kidzone
- 06:00 PM — IHOP | Youth Center
- 08:00 PM — College Panel | Fellowship Hall

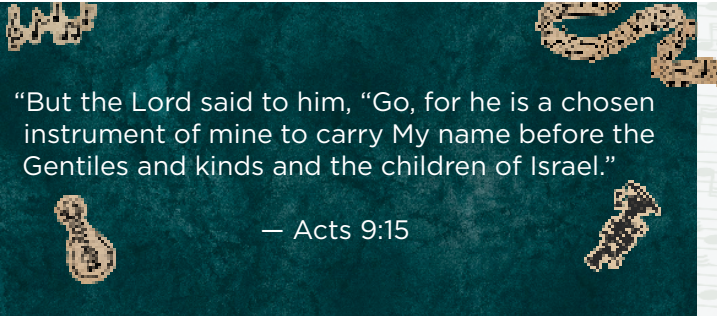


children's CHATTER

CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS FESTIVAL

We invite all 1st-6th graders to join us in the KidZone from 6:00 to 7:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during our annual Children's International Missions Festival (IMF). Children will embark on a World Tour and hear stories from the book, *God's Great Big Global Church* by Tim Challies and learn how God uses the Church, His chosen instrument, for His glory among the nations. Our theme verse will be Acts 9:15: "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

Additionally, the children will hear directly from Lakeview's sent ones and learn about their ministries, the various ways God is using them as "instruments" sounding His praise, and how we can support them. We hope to see your children there!



youth NEWS

YOUTH EVENT FOR IMF WEEK | IHOP WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH | 6:00PM

The youth ministry is excited to have our annual International House of People (IHOP) on Wednesday, September 30th, in the Youth Center from 6:00–7:15 PM. We will hear from church members that have recently been on short-term mission trips and enjoy pancakes and fellowship with one another. Please pray that this event might open the eyes of our students to see that they are called to take the good news of Jesus Christ to their neighbors and to the world.



mission's MEMO

MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Please join us on Sunday, October 11th, in the Fellowship Hall after the evening service to hear about our 2027 short term mission and ministry trips.



lamb's TALE

CHILDCARE WORKERS NEED

We have an immediate need for two childcare workers on Tuesday mornings for International Ladies' Bible Study. If you are available to help, please contact Marie Foshee, mfoshee@lakeviewbaptist.org.

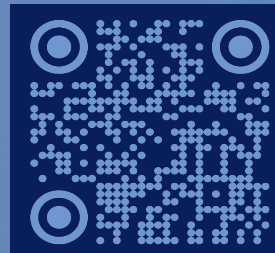


praise WORTHY

AN EVENING OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 6:00PM

Join us for a special evening of southern gospel music with our Celebration Choir & Orchestra. Not only will you hear southern gospel favorites by our choir and orchestra, but you will also enjoy solos, trios, and quartets. Come prepared to tap your toes and sing-a-long. It is sure to be a fun night.

VISTAS



An 8-week mission class offered to help you understand the redemptive work of God for the nations and your place in it! Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to register.

SUNDAYS AT 4:30PM BEGINNING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

fellowship MEAL

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

SEPTEMBER 23

Lasagna, California Blend Veggies,
Salad, Rolls, Pound Cake

SEPTEMBER 30

Fried Chicken, Mac & Cheese, Broccoli
Salad, Rolls, Peach Cobbler

*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.***

OUR *newest*

JOHN TILLMAN WYLIE
Born: September 19, 2026
Parents: Zach & MaryAnn Wylie
Grandparents: Tom & Betty McClendon

JOHN-WELLS LELAND INGRAM
Born: September 21, 2026
Parents: Matt & Caroline Ingram
Grandparents: Mitch & Anne Ingram

sympathy

From the pastor, staff, and church family to:

Scott Belton and family in the death of his mother.
Glen Gullede and family in the death of his mother.

thank YOU

Dear Church family,
Thank you so much for all the prayers of love and support after the
passing of Shannon's mom, our Nonnie. We are so very grateful for
Lakeview.
Shannon, Kelli, Thomas, Maddy, and Morgan Smith

REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge

MONARCH ESTATES

Bill Thornton

AZALEA PLACE

Barbara Blankenship
Susan Lazenby
Nita Sims

THE PHOENIX AT OPELIKA

Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause

BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

Ira Hayes

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Dennis Clark
Nelda Kennedy
Jane Parker
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Merry Tarrer
Ray Tarrer
Ilze West

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

CHAPMAN HEALTH CARE

Jerry Knause

SEPTEMBER 20 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,358

EVENING SERVICE _____ 581

SEPTEMBER 20 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$73,377.09

RESTRICTED _____ \$11,837.65

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“ 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. ”



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