



LOPC NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor Elect

Our Ultimate Hope

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:4-5)

These verses provide the Christian with a beautiful hope for their future and for the end of history. As we celebrate Easter, the Lord's resurrection, and the defeat of death, let's spend a few moments focusing on our ultimate hope and its significance for our day-to-day lives.

My favorite time of year is the period between the beginning of March and the middle of April. As an avid sports fan, I believe that it is the pinnacle of the sports calendar. You have March Madness (which, if you don't know is the college basketball tournament), opening day of the baseball season, and the Masters golf tournament. Epic to be sure. Also, during this time of year you have Easter, and, at least for me, all these things serve to remind me of new life and the renewal of all things. In other words, our ultimate hope.

We are a people in need of a living, powerful hope and we live in a world desperately in need of hope. Listen to the language used in Revelation. Death, mourning, crying, pain. That is the context in which we live. We see it all around us. That is the context in which your neighbors live. And what do we need? Hope. Hope is what can not only sustain us but galvanize us to live authentically and powerfully in the present. Tim Keller defined hope this way: *“How you handle your present is completely determined by what you believe your future to be. A hope is a future prospect, something so great and so good that it makes it possible to face the hardships, to face the difficulties. It makes it possible to feel everything you do, even the greatest sacrifices, are meaningful, not pointless.”* (Timothy Keller, *The Amazing End of History*, Timothy Keller Sermon Archive, Logos Bible Software).

Our ultimate hope is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We look forward, we ache, we groan for the new heavens and new earth. To the degree that we allow our hearts to be melted by that future prospect, it will transform us in the present. I love how theologian N.T. Wright put in his book, *Surprised by Hope*, *“What we say about death and resurrection gives shape and color to everything else. If we are not careful, we will offer merely a 'hope' that is no longer a surprise, no longer able to transform lives and communities in the present, no longer generated by the resurrection of Jesus himself and looking forward to the promised new heavens and new earth...The resurrection is indeed the foundation for a renewed way of life in and for the world.”* (N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*, pp.25,294).

Life is hard. We do not sugarcoat it. But Easter changes everything. Wouldn't it be incredible if we let it change us not only at Easter time but every day? Let's be a people of hope, offering hope to our own hearts, each other, and our neighbors around us.

Rev. Jeff Birch

Holy Week Services

Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 1 (6 pm)

*Cantata: The Lenten Sketches

Friday, April 2 (12:00 pm - 12:40 pm)

Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 4 (9 am & 11 am)

*Easter Sunday Services

***registration requested**

All services will be livestreamed.

Officer Rotation and Election

We want to say a special thank you to the officers who are rotating off this year. They are Elder Wes Hunt and Deacons Doug Attaway, Lincoln Bellefeuille, Bill Boughner, Bobby Craig, Fred Harris, and Charlie Walker. Thank you for your faithful service!

Newly elected officers were ordained and installed on Sunday, March 28. They are Deacons Bill Benzur, Bill Burmeister, Ron Dickerson, Brent Johansen, and Paul Slifko. Deacon Ken Johnson was reinstalled.

Tabletalk

TABLETALK magazine for April 2021 is now available and can be picked up in the narthex.

TABLETALK

APRIL 2021 \$5



LUTHER ON TRIAL:
THE
DIET
OF
WORMS

Bible Conference at Dayspring PCA



A Bible Conference will be sponsored by Dayspring PCA in Forsyth, GA, on May 7-9, 2021. LOPC church members are welcome to attend, and registration is not necessary.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Dale Ralph Davis, former pastor and Reformed Seminary Professor. He will be speaking Friday, May 7, at 7:00pm and twice on Saturday, May 8, at 4:00pm and 7:00pm (as well as Sunday morning worship service at Dayspring).

If you have any questions, you may contact Dave Martin at: dave-martin@juno.com or 478.284.2487.



Meal Support

The Women's Ministry will coordinate meals to be provided for those in need due to illness, injury, recovery from hospitalization, or after childbirth. Please contact Brenda Roberts at 404-316-8579.

Church App

 Join realm[®]
and stay connected!

*Call or come by the church office for assistance
with installing the church's mobile APP!*

Check us out on social media!

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[facebook.com@lakeoconeepca](https://facebook.com/lakeoconeepca)



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[instagram.com@lakeoconeepca](https://www.instagram.com/lakeoconeepca)

MNA Disaster Response



Sheds of HOPE

The Sheds of HOPE team completed four sheds during our March build!

The team will add more fun to our next shed build scheduled for **April 22 – 26**. We are inviting our LOPC Youth to join us that weekend, along with other teens from the lake area. Our guests will have a hands-on opportunity to learn and help build floors, walls, rafters, doors, hardware kits—everything needed to build a Shed of HOPE. We'll share stories, laugh a lot and enjoy the fun of working together with fellow Christians. Best of all we'll serve our Lord together by helping our brothers and sisters in need who have lost their homes due to tornadoes or other disasters! So, if you are in grades 6 – 12 and want to join in the fun, please call and reserve your place!

For more information on this ministry, please contact Dick Forrester at 706-473-7442 or by email at dhforrester155@plantationcable.net.

Sheds of HOPE

April build dates

- Thursday, April 22
- Friday, April 23
- Saturday, April 24
- Monday, April 26 (as needed)



Build times are 9 am - 3 pm.

Youth Ministry

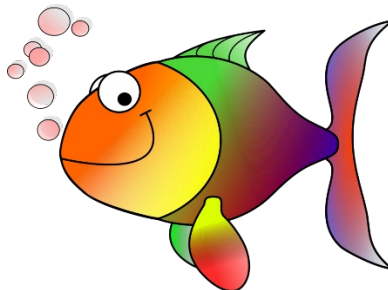


The LOPC Youth Group meets on **Sundays from 5-7 pm at LOPC** where there will be food, fun, and Bible Study - and we WANT YOU to join us! We are looking for all middle and high school kids in and out of LOPC. Youth Group is for rising 6th grade students through high school.

Children's Ministry

"God established a testimony...which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children that the next generation might know...so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God..."

Psalm 78:5-7a



Feedback

What would you like to see in our monthly newsletter?



Please reply to Meagan at socialmedia@lopc-pca.org

April Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 1st

Mid-Morning Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Easter Cantata (Sanctuary) 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 2nd Good Friday (Office closes at Noon)

Good Friday Service..... 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 3rd

Sunday, April 4th

Morning Worship Celebration (Early Service)..... 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Celebration (Second Service)..... 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group meeting (Pavilion) 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 5th

Tuesday, April 6th

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (via Zoom)..... 8:00 a.m.

Men's CBS (LOPC)..... 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 7th

HFG led by Harold Parker (Rooms 110-112) 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 8th

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 9th

Saturday, April 10th

Sunday, April 11th

Morning Worship Celebration (Early Service)..... 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Celebration (Second Service)..... 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group Meeting (Pavilion) 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 12th

Tuesday, April 13th

Men's CBS (LOPC)..... 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14th

Thursday, April 15th

Mid-Morning Ladies Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 16th

Bulletin Helpers..... 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 17th

Sunday, April 18th

Morning Worship Celebration (Early Service)..... 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Celebration (Second Service)..... 11:00 a.m.

Youth Group meeting (Pavilion / Room 108) 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 19th

Tuesday, April 20th

HFG led by Wes Hunt (Narthex) 6:30 p.m.

Men's CBS (LOPC)..... 7:00 p.m.

Deacons meeting (Conference Room) 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21st

Thursday, April 22nd

Friday, April 23rd

Bulletin Helpers.....	10:30 a.m.
Saturday, April 24th	
Sunday, April 25th	
Morning Worship Celebration (Early Service).....	9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship Celebration (Second Service).....	11:00 a.m.
Youth Group meeting (Pavilion / Room 108)	5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 26th	
Session meeting – date/time is subject to change (Conference Room)	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 27th	
Men’s CBS (LOPC).....	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 28th	
Thursday, April 29th	
Friday, April 30th	
Bulletin Helpers.....	10:30 a.m.

Our Purpose

Our Vision

Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church exists to make, equip and deploy followers of Christ who love their families, neighbors and the world for the glory of God.

Our Mission

This church exists to:

- Glorify God
- Nurture and equip God's people
- Mobilize the church to build God's kingdom