

LOPC NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

Resurrection Hope

It's finally spring, and I am loving spring in Georgia. Even the pollen isn't getting to me (at least not yet) too bad. This time next week, Lord willing, I will be receiving for me what has been a lifelong dream of going to the Masters. I won't say the men's names who are taking me, but I am beyond grateful to them for making this bucket list item come true for me. I'm probably driving Evie nuts with how often I talk about it.

The only thing that makes me a bit sad is that I will not get to share this with my dad, who was called home to be with the Lord earlier this year. I would have loved to be able to share this with my father. He was the one who introduced me to golf, and playing golf together was one of our sweetest memories. It was something we shared that bonded us together.

But, as I say often, death does not get the final word, resurrection does. During April, we will be celebrating Easter, the culmination of Holy Week, where we recount the story of the gospel, from Jesus' entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, all the way to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and finally, the glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Our ultimate hope is in Christ's resurrection from the dead. Jesus is resurrected and ascended on high, where he has inaugurated his kingdom and will one day return to consummate his kingdom in a new heaven and new earth. Even though the Old Testament may not have known all the details, it would be a mistake to assume that they were unaware of the hope that we share as the people of God.

Listen to this prophecy of Isaiah found in Isaiah 25. "On this mountain the LORD

of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation", (Isaiah 25:6-9).

Wow! What an incredible hope! He will swallow up death forever. He will wipe away the tears from our faces. Many of us are suffering in profound ways, and oh, what a hope to know that one day Christ Himself will wipe the tears from our eyes. We will enjoy a feast, the fulfillment of the union and communion with God and others that we were built for. Everything we do now is a foretaste of that final consummation. As we are enjoying our Easter brunch, let us be reminded of that final feast we will one day enjoy in God's new world. As we worship together, let us pray that those who may not typically attend worship have the veil over their eyes removed and surrender to Christ. And since this feast is for all peoples, let us take this opportunity to consider what friends or neighbors we might invite to join us on Easter Sunday. Easter provides a wonderful opportunity to invite others to church and to welcome those that are visiting, reflecting the wonder and beauty of Christ.

I pray that as you go through this Easter season you will be reminded of the hope that we share in Christ and his resurrection.

Pastor Jeff Birch

Holy Week Schedule & Details (April 10-17)

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10:30 am

The beginning of Holy Week is the celebration of the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem. During the service, as we open worship with singing, our children will march down with palm leaves commemorating the welcome given to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. Please have them in the hall by the choir room by 10:20 a.m. There will be adults to supervise them so you can be seated. If your child or grandchild would prefer you walk with them, you are welcome to do so. Please contact Valerie Hunt at valeriebh76@gmail.com if your child or grandchild will participate.

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 pm

We will observe the Lord's Supper that Christ instituted at the Last Supper.

Friday, April 15

Good Friday Service @ noon

On this solemn day, we will gather to reflect on the cross of our Savior.

Sunday, April 17

Brunch @ 9am (followed by Children's Easter Activity)

Easter Worship @ 10:30 am

During the service, we will worship celebrating the glorious resurrection of our Lord. There will be no Sunday school classes or Children's Worship. Be sure to come for our Easter Brunch and Children's Activity (for children through 5th grade) before the service. Please remember to sign up for the Easter Brunch. You can sign up at the Welcome Center in the church narthex this Sunday or call the church office at 706-484-0600.

Services will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

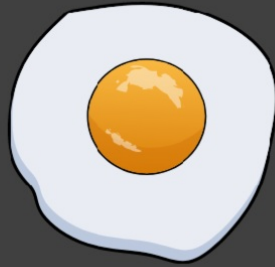
Sign Up for the Easter Brunch!

A collage of various Easter brunch items including waffles, pancakes, eggs, and breads. The text is overlaid on a dark grey rectangular background.

Easter Brunch

*Sunday, April 17
9:00 am
The Pavilion*

Sign up at the Welcome Center in the church narthex this Sunday or call the church office at 706-484-0600.



Brunch followed by children's Easter activity!

- for children through 5th grade
- takes place before the 10:30 am service

Sign up for the brunch in the narthex or by calling the church office.



PARTNER WITH US AS WE READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2022:



hard copies
(available at the church)



weekly eblast



weekly Facebook
post

Women's Ministry

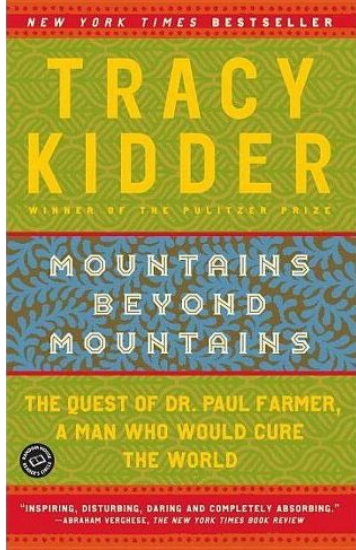
There was a small group of ladies that met on Thursday, March 24, and drove down to Macon for the Cherry Blossom Festival. We had a delightful lunch at Michael's on Mulberry. It was a great time of food and fellowship. The trees we were expecting to see were a disappointment, however! We were too early to catch the cherry blossoms in full bloom. We saw several booths in Central City Park and even a "Transformers" car show! Maybe next year, we'll time it just right!

Lynne Fowlkes, President
Women's Ministry Council



Book Binders

Book Binders will meet on Friday, April 15, from 10 – 11 in Room 111 at the church, before the Good Friday service. We will be talking about *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder, a biography of Dr. Paul Farmer, world famous specialist in infectious diseases and pioneer in health care for



Haiti. From a childhood living in a converted Blue Bird bus to Harvard to Haiti to national figure, his story reads like a novel – all lived with the imperatives of Matthew 25 on his heart and on his mind. Join us!

Mary Ann Johnson



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.

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!

facebook

facebook.com@lakeoconeepca



instagram.com@lakeoconeepca

MNA Disaster Response



Sheds of Hope

The next Sheds of HOPE build is scheduled for **April 21-13 and April 25 (as needed)**. This shed build has been scheduled with students in mind, so if you know of a middle schooler or high schooler, please encourage them to participate! Volunteers are welcome, and experience isn't required, though it's helpful!

For more information about Sheds of HOPE, contact [Dick Forrester](#).

SHEDS



OF

HOPE



Youth Ministry



The LOPC Youth Group meets on **Sundays from 5-7 pm at LOPC** where there is 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



During the Doxology, children ages 4-6 are dismissed for Children's Worship. We will be using curriculum from ***Teach Me to Worship*** through April 2022.

Teach Me to Worship is adapted from a curriculum originally developed by the staff at Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Maitland, FL. The curriculum presents and explains common elements of worship that the universal church has used throughout the ages. The material is available in PDF format which allows ministry leaders to download and print the material according to their schedule and need. A subscription to the curriculum includes unlimited access to the curriculum, handouts and activities for the children, letters to parents, training videos and worship music.

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

April Calendar of Events

We've streamlined our calendar view to make it easier to read across different devices! The best way to view upcoming LOPC events is by

visiting our website.



Events

Click on any of these three for viewing options.

Featured Events Calendar View List View

March 2022 Filter by Category

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">01 Early Morning Ladies' Bible Study(CBS) Men's Community Bible Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">02 Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible StudyParker Home Fellowship Group (HFG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">03 (CBS) Ladies' Community Bible StudyChoir Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">04 Bulletin Helpers	5

Love God, Love One Another, Love the Community

Our Vision

Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church exists to worship God, nurture and equip God's people, and mobilize the church to build his kingdom.

Newsletter Archive

Missed a newsletter? [Use this link](#) to visit the archive at the member portal on our website. If you don't have the password, contact the church office, and we'll be happy to provide it.