

LOPC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023



From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

Dependent Prayer

*“Perhaps you don’t drift the way that I do, but I constantly forget the deep hole of depravity from which the Lord’s mighty love rescued me. Drifting does not take any effort at all; just stop cultivating the knowledge of Christ, and the evil current of secularism does the rest. All passion for the lost seems increasingly a fading memory. Jesus weeping over Jerusalem, Paul willing to be cursed for the sake of his countrymen, those things become very remote to the point of being unreal.” (C. John Miller, *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, p.70)*

I was very thankful for our congregational meeting the other day. I was thankful for the work and service of so many to further the work of the gospel in our community. I was grateful for the vulnerability and honesty of so many who asked questions, raised concerns, and gave input for us as leaders. I am grateful for the leaders, the session, deacons, staff, and facilities task force, for their work, sacrifice, and commitment to see the Lake country **“filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea,” (Habakkuk 2:14)**. I love being a part of a church that is committed to the

Scriptures and the gospel.

Why are we doing LOPC 2.0? Why are we renovating our facilities? Why do we do anything we do? If it is not to love God more deeply with our whole being, if it is not simply because we are following Jesus, if it is not connected to our discipleship, we are doing it for the wrong reason. For example, why do we give? God does not ask for our money because He needs it. He doesn't need anything from us. He asks us to give because it transforms us. God is interested in our hearts. God wants us.

And so, we are doing LOPC 2.0 because we are following Jesus. And following Jesus transforms us. So, this is about our discipleship, our love for God, our following Jesus into the community. Jack Miller's quote above reminded me of this when he confessed (as I must as well) just how easy it is to drift, especially to drift away from our love for God. He confessed how easy it is to lose passion for the lost, to drift from loving our neighbors like Jesus wept over Jerusalem, to forget that Paul, more than simply being a theologian, had a such a love for his fellow countrymen that he prayed to be cut off from God for the sake of their salvation. It is way too easy to drift from having a burden for the people in our community.

So, how do we respond? Dependent prayer. But not any old prayer. I want us to pray for ourselves. For our transformation, for our renewal. I want us to pray dependently, remembering Jesus' promise to us given in John 14. ***Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it," (John 14:12-14).***

These are incredible promises. Jesus promises that because He is going to His Father, we will do even greater works than he did, and that is because when He goes to the Father, He pours out His Spirit on His church. Jesus is saying it is due to the gift of the Spirit that we will do these greater works. Then, he promises that whatever we ask in his name, he will do, for the purpose that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Jesus' passion is the glory of the Father. What is our passion? What is it we want most? Searching questions, I know, and I must ask them of myself every day. But incredible promises. Jesus promises that whatever we ask in his name he will do in order to glorify the Father. That should give us incredible confidence as we approach God in prayer.

I long for renewal in my own heart and life and for us as a church. I am grateful for LOPC 2.0 because it challenges me, and it challenges us. It challenges us to reflect on our own spiritual condition, to do so knowing we have the freedom to be honest because the gospel is true. The gospel tells us that there is no condemnation in Christ, that we are forgiven, that God accepts us as righteous, that He adopts us as His children, that we are not alone since He has given us His Spirit. The gospel is the power of God for salvation and I long for us to be rooted in the gospel for the renewal of Lake Oconee and the world.

Click here for a PDF of the LOPC 2.0 booklet provided at the congregational meeting this past Sunday. Hard copies can be picked up in the narthex.

Fall Discipleship Plan

Missional Community Groups

- **Missional Community Lifestyle Training:** As we launch our small group ministry in the fall called Missional Community Groups, we are providing a time of envisioning and training. We will meet on August 16, from 5:30-7:00pm. Missional Community is a family of disciples sent on mission to grow, serve, and go make disciples. On August 16, we will discuss how we serve as missionaries, sharing the Gospel and serving where we live, work, learn and play. This is for those interested in leading or attending a group. We will share a meal together at 5:30pm with the church providing the main course (lasagna) and attendees providing a side to share. See the signup sheet in the Narthex to register.
- **Missional Community Pilot Groups (formerly Home Fellowship Groups):** We will Launch a Missional Community Pilot Group on September 20th on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:00pm through December 6th in the Narthex/Sanctuary. This Pilot Group is our onramp to Missional Community Groups. It will be a six-week small group experience where we will lay the foundation for Missional Community Groups with discussion around tables. We will share a potluck meal at 5:30pm and continue with small groups for Adults and Youth, an Elementary Kids Club with a Bible Study, and nursery for children ages birth-three at 6:00pm.

Sunday Learning Communities (formerly Sunday School classes)

Our Sunday School ministry called Sunday Learning Communities will begin September 10 for all ages. Adults and youth will meet in the Sanctuary, infants-toddlers will meet in Choir Room 102, and elementary will meet in Choir Room 101.

- **Adult/Youth Learning Community:** The adults and youth will meet together in the sanctuary and study *God's Big Picture* by Vaughn Roberts. Vaughn Roberts gives you the big picture--showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the kingdom of God.
- **Elementary Learning Community:** Elementary age children will study the *Jesus Storybook Bible* Old Testament section.
- **Toddler Learning Community:** Toddlers will explore God's creation and utilize a curriculum called *Building Little Pillars: Teaching the Foundations of the Christian Faith*.

FALL DISCIPLESHIP PLAN (all ages)

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (MCG) (formerly Home Fellowship Groups)

TRAINING
AUGUST 16
5:30-7:00 PM

PILOT GROUP LAUNCH
BEGINS WED, SEPT 20
5:30-7:00 PM @ LOPC

on-ramp to
MCGs starting
in Jan 2024

6-WEEK STUDY
MEETS 1st & 3rd WEDS
THROUGH DEC 6
5:30-7:00 PM @ LOPC

Adults* &
Youth

Elementary
Kids' Club

Nursery for
birth-3 yrs

LEARNING COMMUNITIES (LC) (formerly Sunday School classes)

BEGINS SUN, SEPT 10
FOR ALL AGES

Adult/Youth LC
*God's Big
Picture*

Elementary LC
*Jesus Storybook
Bible*

Toddler LC*
*Building
Little Pillars*

*Infants and toddlers will be together in Choir Room 102.

For a higher resolution image, click
here.

For a printable PDF version, click
here.

Back 2 School Bash Highlights

Front Page Superstars

If you read the Lake Oconee News, you may have seen some LOPC folks on the front page of the "Community" section or on the newspaper's FB page. Mike Palombo, Bill & Luciann McCartney, and Travis & Ellen Skillingstad participated in the Greene County Back 2 School Bash held in the GCHS gym on Saturday, July 29. Over 30 vendors and sponsors were on hand to provide free school supplies to approximately 700 students from preK-12th grade. Our volunteers supplied composition books and pencil sharpeners and were able to interact with numerous students and their families while providing information about LOPC. [For the full article, click here.](#)



Last Family Fun Night of the Summer!



FAMILY FUN NIGHTS



- ✓ FREE DINNER
- ✓ FUN ACTIVITIES
- ✓ FOR KIDS & FAMILIES OF ALL AGES
- ✓ REGISTRATION APPRECIATED
- ✓ TOTALLY FREE!



REGISTER AT:
LOPC-PCA.ORG



AUGUST 25 :
SUBS & SPORTS



Families of all ages are invited to join us for Family Fun Night of the summer on **Friday, August 25, at 5:30 pm!** The theme is "subs & sports." This is for both our church family and the community, so please invite friends and neighbors! **[Click here to register.](#)**

Women's Ministry



Women's Ministry

Sign up to be a Secret Sister!

- Pray for and encourage another sister in Christ!
- Remain anonymous until the big reveal in 2024!



Sign up
in the narthex!

Sweet friendships refresh the soul and awaken our hearts with joy.
Proverbs 27:9

All ladies in the church are invited to participate in praying, caring, and sharing with other sisters in Christ. If you'd like to participate, please complete the "All About Me" registration form found at the sign-up table in the narthex. Sign-up will be through the month of August, with Secret Sisters chosen and assigned randomly by the first week in September. The program will continue through July 2023. It's wonderful to have someone who prays for you daily and is there to send an encouraging note or share an act of kindness monthly. We'll be keeping

our "sisters" a secret, so don't let anyone know whose name you have.

LOPC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Save THE Date!

Saturday, September 23 @ LOPC

TAMI RESCH
FOUNDER,
TRAINER,
COACH, &
COHORT LEADER
AT ALONGSIDE U



Hope is timeless and always in style!
Come learn how to wear yellow -
even when it's not your color!



Women Connecting to Women in Prayer

The Women 2 Women prayer time will resume on **Tuesday, September 12th, at 1:00 pm in room 109** for another faithful time of prayer. Sue Burmeister will be the facilitator.



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 podcasts and social media!



MISSED A SERMON? SHARE A SERMON!



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[instagram.com@lakeoconeezca](https://instagram.com/lakeoconeezca)

MNA Disaster Response



Sheds of HOPE

The next Sheds of HOPE build is scheduled for September 11-15. Newcomers are welcome, and woodworking skills are always appreciated but not necessary! We'd love to have you join us!



Over the next several months, we would like to introduce the various LOPC ministry teams to our newsletter readers. We hope that this will help newcomers learn more about us and will provide additional information for those looking to serve.

Assimilation Ministry

The goal of the Assimilation Ministry is to help new people who have visited LOPC get to know the life of the church. The team's responsibilities include greeting guests and creating a welcoming atmosphere. John Morrison is doing a fantastic job coordinating the greeters and would love to hear from anyone interested in volunteering. The Assimilation Ministry also follows up with visitors and helps coordinate the visitors' luncheons with hopes that those who participate will move toward membership.

Children's Ministry



During the Doxology, children ages 4 years - 2nd grade are dismissed for Children's Worship. We will be using the curriculum from Grapevine Studies. Grapevine's mission and vision are to, "Provide teachers a tool to confidently teach God's Word to their students while introducing them to the Gospel. We believe all students can understand the Bible and respond to the Gospel. Our desire is to see all students learn the process of Bible study in order to become confident and skilled in studying and eventually teaching God's Word."

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

August Calendar of Events

The best way to see upcoming LOPC events is by visiting our website. You can view upcoming events in three user-friendly formats.

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"> Early Morning Ladies' Bible Study (CBS) Men's Community Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible Study Parker Home Fellowship Group (HFC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (CBS) Ladies' Community Bible Study Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin Helpers 	

[Click here for the LOPC website calendar.](#)

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.

Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church | 113 Scott Rd., Eatonton, GA 31024

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