

LOPC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

In an effort to honor your time on a holiday weekend, this newsletter is a slimmed-down version of our regular monthly publication. Merry Christmas from the LOPC pastors and staff!



From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

Behold His Glory

2023 has been quite a year, and December has been an amazing month to close out the year. From the finishing of our building updates and our grand reopening to an amazing Cantata with our choir leading us in worship, I have been so richly encouraged by our times together gathering to worship and serve our glorious Lord. I am grateful for all of you and your hard work and participation in making this a special time in the life of LOPC.

As we come to Christmas and the close of the year, I want to give you a brief encouragement to consider as we gather for worship. John 1:14 is a verse we like to quote at Christmas time, but it is actually a verse we should return to often. John 1:14 speaks to us of the inbreaking of God into this fallen world to accomplish salvation. It says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Eugene Peterson, in the Message puts it this way: "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside

and out, true from start to finish.” Tim Keller calls the incarnation, “The ideal becoming real.” I don’t know about you, but this utterly astonishes me with surprise.

Has the Christmas message become old hat to us? Oh, I pray not! What does a word do? It communicates, it reveals. Jesus communicates to us who God is so that we behold his glory. He has come in a way we can understand. In the flesh. Peterson calls it moving into the neighborhood. He comes to us. He doesn’t expect that we come to him. This should all blow us away.

Scholar and theologian N.T. Wright puts it this way. “How can you live with the terrifying thought that the hurricane has become human, that the fire has become flesh, that life itself has walked into our midst? Christianity either means that or it means nothing. It is the most devastating disclosure of the deepest reality in the world, or it is a sham, a total nonsense. Most people, unable to cope with saying either of those two things, are condemned to live in the shadow world in between.”

Friends let’s not live in the shadow world. May our lives be given to worshipping, “this hurricane that has become human, this fire that has become flesh.” May we continually be amazed that He has done all this for us, and may we recover our child-like wonder that we get to behold His glory.

May you all have a most Christ-filled Christmas!

Pastor Jeff Birch



December **Dates to Remember**

**December 24 @ 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service**

**December 31 @ 10:30 am
Morning Worship
(no Sunday School)**

Help Needed

Volunteers Needed
TO TAKE DOWN DECORATIONS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29 @ 9:30 AM



Sign up in the narthex to help us take down our Christmas decorations!

New Year, New Outreach



PICKLEBALL RIBBON CUTTING

- **SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024** •
1PM - 4PM AT LOPC



CONNECT
across the
COURTS



COMING TO LOPC JANUARY 8, 2024

- created for Mothers of Preschoolers
- meets twice per month
- childcare provided
- provides community & encouragement

For more information, visit
mops.org/join
or contact Jan Driessnack

Women's Ministry



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.

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

December 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.



LOPC
Lake Oconee
Presbyterian Church

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 01(CBS) Men's Community Bible Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible Study 02Parker Home Fellowship Group (HFG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(CBS) Ladies' Community Bible Study 03Choir Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bulletin Helpers 04	5

[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

[Unsubscribe lopc@lopc-pca.org](mailto:unsubscribe_lopc@lopc-pca.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data](#)

Notice

Sent by bylopc@lopc-pca.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!