



LOPC NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

All Things New

Happy New Year Everyone! I sure hope you had a marvelous new year. Evie and I so enjoyed our time away and are thrilled to be back and are so excited for a new year. Travis and Ellen are here and are up and running (see Youth Group announcement below). You got to enjoy Mike Palombo preaching and bringing the Word this past Sunday, and we are excited for him to go before presbytery and, Lord willing, to be joining us by the beginning of March. Please pray for Mike as he is examined by the Central Georgia Presbytery on January 27-28. There is so much to look forward to as 2023 is a year of implementing the vision of LOPC 2.0.

Looking back, when we entered 2022, I was calling it a year of New Beginnings, as we were moving past Covid, and I was beginning my first full year of ministry here at LOPC. And what a year it was! At the beginning of the year, I never anticipated that we would be doubling down on our vision, launching a major stewardship campaign, and adding significant staff, to work with us to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lake area. Join me in praising God for His grace and faithfulness and for all that He has done. David praises the Lord in Psalm 9, ***“I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:1-2)***

Now, as we enter 2023 it is time to start implementing all these plans. I am always excited about the new year. It is always a hopeful time for me. I love all the focus on new. I love new beginnings, starting over, and the commitment to renewal. But it can also be overwhelming. It can be a time of great anxiety where

we have all these expectations, but also fears of what may happen. We can easily fall prey to fear and anxiety.

That is where we need the promise of the gospel. Revelation 21 is a vision of our promised future given by our Lord to John. John is given a vision of where history will finally end up. And what a glorious end it is. A new heaven and a new earth, the holy city coming down out of heaven to earth, the dwelling place of God finally being fully with His people, and the end of all death, mourning, crying, and pain. This is our future reality, the hope that both sustains and fuels us in the present.

But it is all future. The revelation says, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” He hasn’t done that yet. In the present we still experience suffering and pain, and much of it is quite significant. We never want to minimize our suffering. We need to learn, as followers of Jesus, how to lament. But I also want you to see something else here that is promised. In the midst of all this future hope, v.5 reads, “And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new'.” He who was seated on the throne is Jesus, our King, ruling and reigning as glorified Lord. And look at what He is up to. He is right now, present tense, making all things new. That is how Jesus is spending His time. That is His mission. He is making all things new, bringing about cosmic renewal, gradually, slowly, sometimes not even looking like it; but all the same, He is building His kingdom, comprehensively renewing all things.

And how does He do this? Through the church. We are His instruments in making all things new. And thus, as we begin 2023 and begin to implement the vision of LOPC 2.0, this is what we are to be about. Jesus promises He is making all things new, so let us join Him, armed with that promise in seeking to see God bring healing, renewal, and peace to the lake area through our ministry of word and deed. May we see God glorified as we bring the gospel to children, youth, families, retirees, single folks, the lost and the found in this area. May we fully believe and rely on Jesus’ wonderful promise, “I am making all things new.”

Pastor Jeff Birch

Youth Group Begins THIS Sunday!



We are excited to announce that Youth Group (led by our new Youth Director, Travis Skillingstad) will begin *THIS* Sunday, **January 8, from 5-7pm**. We will meet at the church in rooms 101-102. Dinner will be provided as we join for a time of fun, fellowship, and opening God's Word together. All students in grades 6-12 are welcome. We hope to see you there!

All Things New

Starting 2023 Off in Style

When the first workday of 2023 is also a chance to officially welcome Travis and Ellen Skillingstad, we roll out the red carpet with a staff breakfast and a few New Year accessories! We are looking forward to working with this sweet couple, and if you'd like to stop by and say hello in person, their office is located in the former library (across from the main office).



It's a Girl!



The Birch Family Is Growing

2023 is full of new faces, and it's not just the Skillingstads. Meet Maggie, a 10-week puggle (pug + beagle) who will be joining the Birch family next week. Jeff and Evie hope that she'll be a wonderful playmate for their other young puggle, Gracie. Will there be peaceful acceptance or enough drama to fuel a reality TV series? Stay tuned!

Inquirers' Class



INQUIRERS' CLASS

New to LOPC?



Interested in church membership?

Want to know more about being a Christian?

Join us for the Inquirers' Class!

Friday, January 20 (6 - 9 pm)

Saturday, January 21 (9 am - 3 pm)

  Contact the church office to register.

GriefShare Begins February 20

Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend



GRIEF SHARE®

Monday afternoons (13 sessions)

beginning February 20

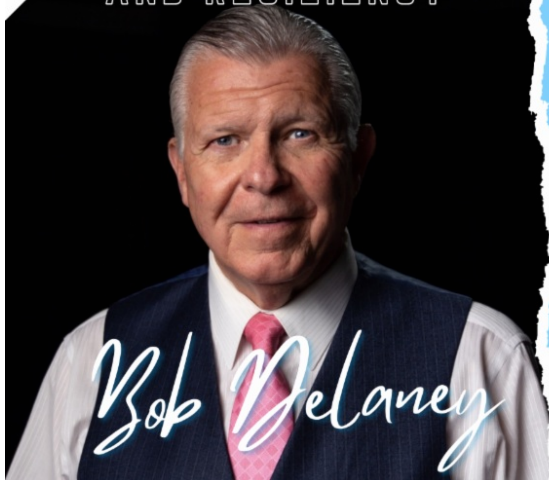
3:00 - 5:00 pm at LOPC

\$20 (includes workbook)

Women's Ministry

HOSTED
BY LOPC

TRAUMA AWARENESS AND RESILIENCY



GUEST SPEAKER

BOB DELANEY: LEADERSHIP CONSULTANT,
AUTHOR, & LAKE COUNTRY RESIDENT

DATE/TIME & VENUE

MONDAY JANUARY 30, 2023, AT LOPC
6:30 PM-7:30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM)

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO:

- ATHLETES
- FIRST RESPONDERS
- HEALTHCARE WORKERS
- MILITARY/VETERANS
- TRAUMA SURVIVORS
- OVERSCHEDULED FAMILIES

THIS IS A FREE COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENT
SPONSORED BY THE LOPC WOMEN'S MINISTRY.

Make plans to attend the **Trauma Awareness & Resiliency** event at LOPC on Monday, January 30, 2023, from 6:30-7:30 pm with guest speaker, Bob Delaney. Bob has helped many to understand and identify symptoms of trauma and the impact it has on the individual and the ripple effect to family and friends. This is a free community-wide event hosted by the Women's Ministry. Childcare will be available for birth-3 years. **Doors open at 6 pm.**

BETTER *together*

a TEAM BASED approach to
Women's Ministry



Women's Leadership Training Conference
February 23-25, 2023 • Atlanta, Georgia

cdm *Women's*
MINISTRY

Are you a woman attending LOPC? Then you are part of the Women's Ministry of the church. The Women's Leadership Team is inviting any woman who wants to encourage and equip other women, to attend the PCA Committee DM annual Women's Ministry Leadership Training Conference "Better Together" in Atlanta. It will be held February 23-25, 2023, at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Conference Center. Registration closes on January 19, unless filled before that date. Informational packets are available in the brochure rack located near the ladies restroom. You can also get more information on the website at women.pcacdm.org and click on the Events link. **If you are interested in**

Women Connecting to Women in Prayer

All women are invited to join with other women to pray. We meet in the conference room at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. This month's date is Tuesday, January 10, and the facilitator will be Karen Tepper.



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.

MEAL SUPPORT UPDATE: The Women's Ministry Leadership Team is looking for one or two sisters in Christ who are willing to take on the meal support ministry for 2023. This volunteer would be responsible for calling women on the meal support team (who have already agreed to make meals) and coordinate the meal support. Thank you for considering supporting this valuable ministry.

Where In the World is Amy Reber?

Bon Voyage

You may have noticed that our choir director & pianist, Amy Reber, wasn't here last Sunday. Amy and a group of students are currently making their way through a 15-day tour of Europe, having conquered Paris and then Poland (see photo). We're not sure where they'll end up next, but Amy is already missed here, and we look forward to having her back, soon!



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!



@LAKE OCONEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

facebook

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



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



Sheds of HOPE & Little Free Library

The Sheds of HOPE team at LOPC not only builds dry storage sheds for families in need, but they have also created shed replicas and donated them for use in partnership with Little Free Libraries. In this picture supplied by the Boys and Girls Club of Greensboro, we can see some of the families who frequently use the library. Star Wars fans will love their reading material, but we love those smiling faces even more!



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

January 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
PC

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 StudyParker Home Fellowship Group (HFG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(CBS) Ladies' Community Bible StudyChoir Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bulletin Helpers	

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 lopc@lopc-pca.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

