

LOPC NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024



From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

Welcome to 2024

Welcome everyone to 2024! It's hard to believe I actually wrote that. But it is true. 2024 is here and I wish you all a most blessed and joy-filled New Year. I must admit I love the new year for many reasons. First, I love new beginnings. It

gives me an opportunity to do a heart check and a heart reset.

Now, I say *reset* of my heart rather than *resolutions* that I know I won't be able to keep. I am not speaking against resolutions. For many resolutions work very well, but for me, I can sometimes make it to mid-January, but by then I am slipping, and eventually they just sort of fade away. But a heart reset is different. A reset allows my heart to renew its focus on Christ and the beauty and wonder of the gospel. I am reminded through the gospel that I am fully forgiven, accepted, and declared righteous in Christ. I am reminded that, through Christ and His substitutionary work, I am also adopted into God's family as His son. I am His child that He fully delights in and cherishes. I am reminded that I am united to Christ, and that as Jesus tells us in John 15 that my main job is to abide in Him and His love. I love the opportunity that the new year provides me to reset my heart on Christ and to live out of the realities of the gospel.

The new year also provides us an opportunity as a church to reset our ministries. In the new year, we can not only evaluate what has worked well and what has not, but we can also dream and aspire to where we believe God is calling us. And one of the areas that I want to be a focus for us in 2024 is that of shepherding. That is why one of the ministries we are doing a "reset" on is our care teams. Care Teams are led by elders and deacons who then shepherd a flock in order to care for the needs of our members. This ministry was launched a few years ago, and the session has decided that 2024 would be a great time to re-launch. With many new members along with new leadership we decided that now was an opportune time to reset this ministry.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and He provides the model for how we are to care for one another. In John 10 we read, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me," (John 10:14). The Care Teams allow us the opportunity of forming relationships. We have the opportunity of connecting, of getting to know one another, of providing practical care, of being a family.

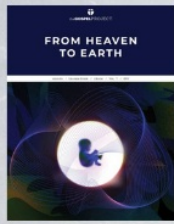
This is, we believe, God's vision for the church, and this is what is also attractive to the world. The world is starving for authentic relationships, for a place to belong. I think one of the reasons the old television program *Cheers* was so popular was that, as the theme song reminded us, "It was a place where everybody knows your name." Shouldn't the church take the lead in providing such a place of belonging?

I am excited about 2024. It is a joy to serve as your pastor, and I pray that the Lord will bless our efforts as we seek to be what He calls us to be. May everything we do be done to God's glory.

Pastor Jeff Birch

Sunday School Begins January 7

SUNDAY SCHOOL *for all ages*



The Gospel Project
For: Adults, Youth, & Children
***Youth & Children use age-appropriate curriculum and meet in their respective rooms.**



Gospel Shaped Worship & Gospel Shaped Living
For: Adults

For more details on class offerings, [click here](#).

New Year, New Outreach Opportunities



**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

Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the new Lake Oconee area's MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) chapter! As we partner together to minister to our community and to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in this new year, we are so excited to see all that God will do! MOPS will meet on the **second and fourth Mondays of each month at LOPC** with our Kick-off meeting on January 8th, beginning at 9:00am - 11:15am.

The purpose of MOPS is to encourage and equip moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women, and leaders in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with the local church. The end of the holidays can leave many women feeling isolated and alone. Our goal at MOPS is to cultivate authentic relationships to give these moms a place to connect and to be affirmed.

To learn more or to register, [click here](#).



PICKLEBALL GRAND OPENING




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



ESL CLASSES English as a Second Language

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
CLASSES BEGIN JAN 14



-  Teachers and assistants needed for all levels.
-  You don't have to know a second language!
-  Training and curriculum are provided.

Women's Ministry

LADIES MID-MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Hinged

a study of Ephesians

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10
10:30 AM - NOON

A hinge is a piece of hardware that connects two things for a useful purpose. When a door hinge is working, we rarely notice, but there are other hinges in life that are far more vital; being vitally connected to Christ and His Church. **Women of all ages** are invited to come and study the book of Ephesians which “hinges” on those two ideas. Being vertically connected to Christ and focusing on what God is calling us to do to live covenantally. When we get things backward, life becomes unhinged. Infact, almost any struggle or failure in our lives can be traced back to forgetting who God is and what He is calling us to be. We are signing up women now so we can order books in time for our study which will begin on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. to noon. If you need childcare, let us know and we will arrange to have a nursery available.



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.

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.

Events

Click on any of these three for viewing options.

Featured Events | Calendar View | List View

March 2022

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 (HFG) 	<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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