



LOPC NEWSLETTER JUNE 2021

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

Our Father

Memorial Day 2021 is the unofficial beginning of summer and has just come to an end. Thank you to all who have served in our military, sacrificing and giving for our country. We honor and commemorate those who have given their lives in service to our country. We say thank you to you and your families.

Wow, what a difference a year makes! This time last year, we were still in the beginning stages of the pandemic, things still basically shut down, trying to navigate and figure out things like livestream worship. Through it all, LOPC has done an amazing job of carrying out ministry amid a most challenging year.

Now, here we are a year later, and things are opening back up. We are back in person, but livestream continues as we have seen just how tremendous a ministry this is to so many, both near and far (thank you to all who serve in this area).

As June begins, let's think for a minute about Father's Day and, as Christians, our relationship with our heavenly Father. Many of us have had and still have

wonderful relationships with our earthly fathers. I know I have been blessed with a father who loves me and has given so much to and for me. I am grateful for my dad, and I am incredibly thankful for all the dads, granddads and great-granddads, and for all the men of the church.

But, like any holiday, this holiday can be painful for some. We may not be a father yet and wish to be. We may have lost our father, whether recently or not so recently. Or, we may have had a difficult relationship with our father, and we find it difficult to relate to our heavenly Father because we see him through that lens. We still live in a fallen world.

I want you to know that your heavenly Father sees and understands that challenge. But let me encourage you to press on seeking to see God, our Father, as the Scriptures reveal him. We read in Galatians 4:6-7, "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

I find it tremendously encouraging that God loves us so much that he has given us the Spirit to help us understand and know in our experience the reality that God is our good Father. The Spirit of Jesus works in us to make the Father's love real and personal to us. May we continue to cultivate communion with "our Father" both individually and together as a family.

So, what a difference a year makes! I so look forward to getting to know you all so much better, as it is a joy to be a part of the LOPC family.

Rev. Jeff Birch

Installation Service for Jeff Birch





Reverend Jeff Birch's installation service was Sunday, May 23, with special guest speaker, Dr. Bryan Chapell, President Emeritus of Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. It was a wonderful morning of worship, and what a sight to see so many gathered in person for a historic day in the history of LOPC! If you were unable to join us, you can [link to the archive on our website by clicking here.](#)

From Pastor Marion Clark

I just read my first ever e-letter to you dated October 16, 2014. I think I wrote a day after pulling into the rental house at Harbor Club. We are soon to leave our fourth residence in the area. (I don't know why neighbors complain about the noise wherever we move.)

Ginger and I want to thank our church family for being a family to us. We thank the Lord for the blessings he has poured out on us these six and half years. We cannot think of a better scenario to finish our church ministry career than being at this church in this location. You have encouraged us daily.

You speak of the hard year our church has gone through, thinking that it has been a burden on me. In truth, I enjoyed every day. I like to preach. I like to write. The only downside for me was not being able to visit you in the hospital.

We are excited to begin a new stage in life that many of you have already entered, so you know what lies ahead of us. We plan to settle somewhere north of Houston, TX. Eventually I hope to do supply preaching for small churches and to travel. No doubt you will hear from us from time to time. I feel especially good about retiring knowing the good pastor in whose hands I leave you.

We love you and give thanks to God for the love you have shown us.

Starting a new adventure,

Marion and Ginger (and Calvin)

Photos from Marion and Ginger Clark's Farewell Sunday (May 31, 2021)

The service from Sunday, May 31, 2021, can be accessed by [clicking here](#).







New Sermon Series

BEGINS
JUNE 6

ΓOMANS

GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP



Part I (chapters 1-4): Gospel Vision

Retirement of Johna Unger, Nursery Director



After ten years of overseeing our nursery, LOPC member and baby whisperer, Johna Unger, is stepping down. In her time as Nursery Director, Johna has made sure that our little ones have the best in care and surroundings. She could often be found in the building first thing on Sunday mornings, making sure that each

room was ready for our smallest VIPs. On days when a worker might not feel well, Johna, herself, filled in and covered. She also helped draft our nursery protocol and made sure that every detail of nursery service was considered. Johna's faithful service has made a difference for many families, and we are grateful for her and the way she has loved and cared for our children. Thank you and bless you, Johna!

Baby Bottle Campaign Ends June 20



1

Take a bottle and fill it with change. Cash and checks (to "Caring Solutions") are ok, too!

2

Return bottle to LOPC by Sunday, June 20.

Your change helps men and women facing pregnancy to choose life!

Caring Solutions of Central Georgia helps men and women work through the challenges of unplanned pregnancy and provides compassionate, life-affirming care, as well as the support they need so that they can choose life for their child.

Clients receive nationally accredited medical care and answers to their questions. Through the GPS Initiative, they are guided, prepared, and supported in healthy pregnancy, parenting, and life skills education and support. And, ultimately, they are pointed to the hope of the gospel. Caring Solutions cannot continue to reach these precious lives without the support of friends like you. Because of you, men and women facing a pregnancy decision are enabled to choose life!

From May 9 - June 20, LOPC will be sponsoring a baby bottle campaign to benefit Caring Solutions. A display will be set up in the narthex. By taking a baby bottle and filling it with change, you can help “change” someone’s life. Your support makes a difference!

Women's Ministry



From the President

There were 15 ladies from the church who toured the UGA State Botanical Garden on May 11th. Evie Birch was not able to go with us, but she met us in the church parking lot and sent us off with a very inspiring prayer.

Brenda Roberts

President, LOPC Women's Ministry



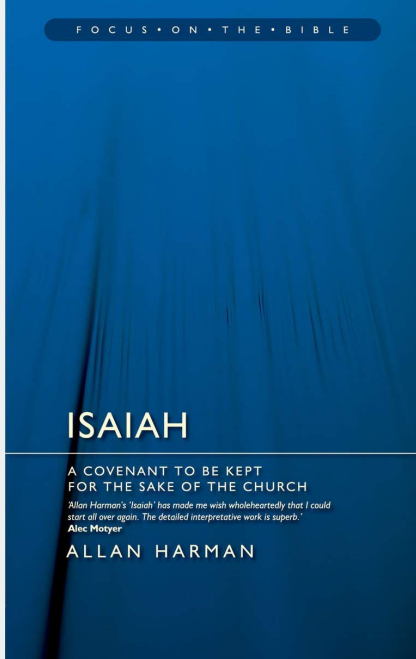






Early Morning Ladies' Bible Study

Beginning June 8, the Early Morning Ladies' Bible Study will resume meetings at 7:30 a.m. This ladies' group, led by Karen Hildebrand and Jan Murray, meets every Tuesday morning for deep study in the word, discussion, and prayer. For more information, contact Karen Hildebrand.



Mid-morning Ladies' Bible Study

Beginning June 10, the Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible Study will meet every Thursday from 10 – 11 a.m. at the church in rooms 110-112, and via Zoom for remote participants. Sue Burmeister will lead the study from the book *The Attributes of God*. For more information, contact Sue.



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](https://facebook.com/lakeoconeepca)



[twitter.com@lakeoconeepca](https://twitter.com/lakeoconeepca)



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

MNA Disaster Response



Sheds of HOPE

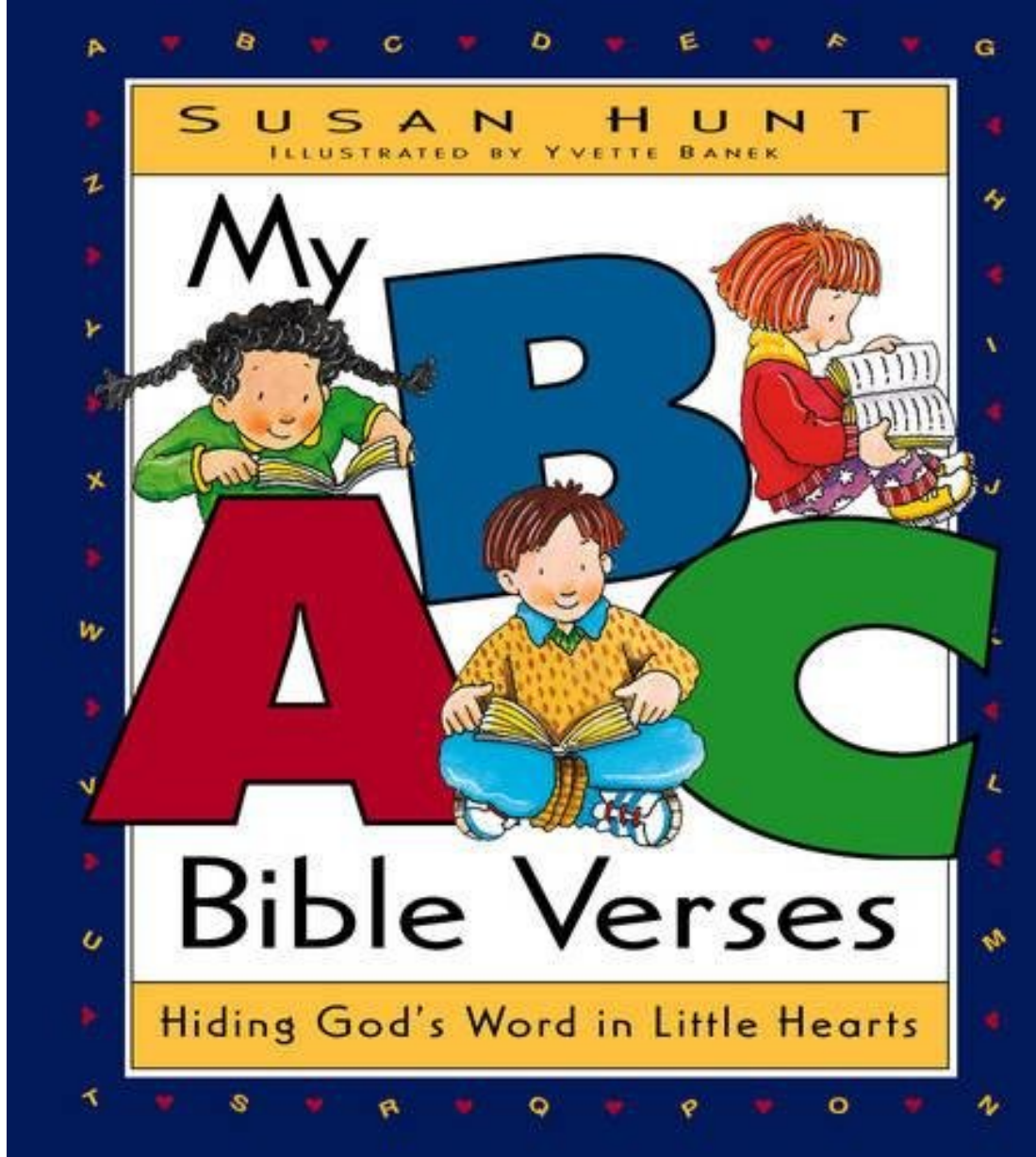
During the June 7 – 10 build, the LOPC Sheds of HOPE team will complete the 100th Shed of HOPE (also, the 101st and 102nd since we build 4 at a time) since the beginning of the Sheds of HOPE ministry in January, 2017. Sheds of HOPE from LOPC have been given and set up for our brothers and sisters affected by disasters in GA, SC, NC, VA, FL, LA, MS and TN. This week, a truckload of Sheds of HOPE, most of which were built by LOPC, will be delivered to the MNA Disaster Response regional depot in Dallas, TX, to be held in readiness to provide relief in future disasters. God has richly blessed the Sheds of HOPE ministry with willing, experienced and gifted volunteers as well as prayer support and resources from PCA members and friends & neighbors in our communities, and by giving us the opportunity to serve him by helping demonstrate the love of Christ to his children in need.

A poster for the Sheds of HOPE build. It features a black and white background with yellow and black diagonal stripes at the top and bottom. The title 'Sheds of HOPE' is written in white, with a house icon replacing the letter 'O'. Below the title, the text 'June build dates' is followed by a bulleted list of dates: Monday, June 7; Tuesday, June 8; Wednesday, June 9; and Thursday, June 10 (as needed). Below the list, it says 'Build times are 9 am - 3 pm.' To the right of the list is a graphic of a hammer with the text 'volunteers welcome' written on its handle.



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



Children's Worship resumed on Sunday, May 23, and is offered for ages 4-6. We are using Susan Hunt's **My ABC Bible Verses** for curriculum.

Knowing the Bible can help you know God better. Here is a colorful, story-filled way for even the youngest child to take God's Word to heart—and learn the alphabet too! Presented in an easy-to-use story format that applies individual Bible verses to real-life situations, this illustrated book for 3- to 7-year-olds is perfect for reading to your children or grandchildren, and great for use in churches, Christian schools, Bible clubs, or home schools. It can also be easily adapted for family devotions with young children. The ABCs are building blocks to your child's formal education. And these verses are the building blocks of the soul—the building blocks that can lead to eternal life.

-Crossway.org

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...

Psalms 78:5-7a

Love God, Love One Another, Love the Community

Our Vision

Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church exists to make, equip and deploy followers of Christ who love their families, neighbors and the world for the glory of God.

Our Mission

This church exists to:

- Glorify God
- Nurture and equip God's people
- Mobilize the church to build God's kingdom