



# March 2021

## LOPC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

From Rev. Jeff Birch

Anticipation. It's an amazing experience. Your senses are heightened. It's a combination of excitement and waiting. And, let's face it, waiting is hard. I don't know about you, but waiting is not my strongest virtue. I recall that, as a child growing up (I was the oldest of three boys), my parents made us wait on Christmas morning for 7:00 am to get them up and to begin the festivities. Typically, around 5:30, my brothers and I would congregate in one of our rooms and anticipate the big moment. My parents had to have their morning coffee secured, cameras focused, and then we were allowed to descend the staircase, so they could get a picture of our first reactions of witnessing the loot. It was an incredible moment and one of my favorite memories of growing up.

Now, I am experiencing anticipation again. This time, I am anticipating the opportunity to meet you and worship with you on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be my privilege to get to preach the gospel at the morning services and then anticipate the Lord's will (which is always good, acceptable and perfect) for the vote at the congregational meeting to follow. It is an honor to be considered as your next pastor, and I am hopeful and look forward to, if it is the Lord's will, a fruitful partnership in gospel ministry together.

As I think about the possibility of ministering in central Georgia, and the fact that this is the month of March, a theme emerges in my mind. That theme is mission. During the month of March, much of the world celebrates St. Patrick's Day. But I wonder how much of the significance of St. Patrick's life is not only misunderstood, but not even considered. See, St. Patrick was primarily known for being a missionary to Ireland. His life was dedicated to the salvation of the people of Ireland. I am reminded of a quote by the Old Testament theologian Christopher Wright. *"Fundamentally, our mission (if it is biblically informed and validated) means our committed participation as God's people, at God's initiation and command in God's own mission within the history of God's world for the redemption of God's creation."* (Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*, p.23)

This means that it is our privilege, as a church, to participate in God's mission. And this brings me back to anticipation. I have great anticipation about the possibility of joining you all at Lake Oconee to see what God wants to do in and through us and to serve central Georgia in His very own mission. That makes me incredibly hopeful and excited about the future.

Rev. Jeff Birch

## Candidate Weekend

The Pastor Candidate Weekend is scheduled for **March 14**, when Jeff & Evie Birch will be joining us for worship, and Jeff will be preaching in both services. A congregational vote will take place after each service and by email.

## Officer Election Dates

Last fall, we nominated candidates to fill the offices of Deacon and Elder. The nominated Deacons and Elders who were re-nominated to fill two year-terms were elected and installed in January.

An additional six men were nominated to fill the office of Deacon and have been in training. They will soon complete their training and will be presented to the congregation for election.

We normally would hold a congregational meeting to elect the candidates. However, because of the difficulties presented by the Covid circumstances, we will conduct the election virtually via email. The virtual congregational meeting will be conducted beginning **March 22**.

Jim Hildebrand, Clerk of Session

## Daylight Saving Time: March 14





**DON'T FORGET TO  
SPRING FORWARD**

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR  
CLOCKS **AHEAD** 1 HOUR  
SATURDAY NIGHT

Mark Your Calendars: Holy Week Services

## *Holy Week Services*

**Palm Sunday, March 28**

Services @ 9 am & 11 am

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**

Easter Cantata @ 6 pm

**Good Friday, April 2**

Good Friday Service @ noon

**Easter Sunday, April 4**

Services @ 9 am & 11 am

**All Holy Week services  
will be livestreamed.**

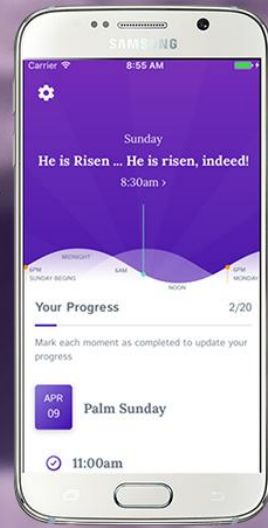
EasterNow Phone App





# EasterNow

Experience the events of the Passion Week in real time. EasterNow provides step-by-step notification of Easter events and locations from Palm Sunday until Easter Morning.



brought to you by  MinistrySafe

Developed in the U.S. by the founders of MinistrySafe, EasterNow is a free phone app that walks users through Passion Week with an integrated map, scripture, and deeper analysis. From Palm Sunday through Easter Morning, you'll receive notifications on your phone in real time, meaning that you'll get alerted about a Passion Week event at the time it occurred.

## HOW TO DOWNLOAD

If you have a smartphone, visit the App Store (for Apple users) or Google Play (for all other phones). Search for EasterNow and look for the app symbol that's in the upper left corner of the graphic above. Choose "get" or "download." If you'd like to install the app but don't know how, Meagan can be of assistance! Email [socialmedia@lopc-pca.org](mailto:socialmedia@lopc-pca.org), call the church office at 706-484-0600, or drop by Monday-Friday!

## 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. Please contact Brenda Roberts at 404-316-8579.

## Church App



*Join* realm<sup>®</sup>  
*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

The first Sheds of HOPE build date for 2021 is coming up in just over two weeks! We also have a special **weekend** build in April (Thursday, April 22 - Monday, April 26), so if you know students who would like to participate, please get the word out!

For more information on this ministry, please contact Dick Forrester at 706-473-7442 or by email at [dhforrester155@plantationcable.net](mailto:dhforrester155@plantationcable.net).

A graphic for 'Sheds of HOPE' with a yellow and black striped border at the top and bottom. The main text 'Sheds of HOPE' is in white, with a house icon replacing the letter 'O'. Below this, the text 'March build dates' is followed by a list of dates. To the right of the list is a black hammer icon with the text 'volunteers welcome' written on it. At the bottom, it says 'Build times are 9 am - 3 pm.'

Sheds of HOPE

**March build dates**

- Monday, March 15
- Tuesday, March 16
- Wednesday, March 17
- Thursday, March 18 (as needed)

Build times are 9 am - 3 pm.

Youth Ministry

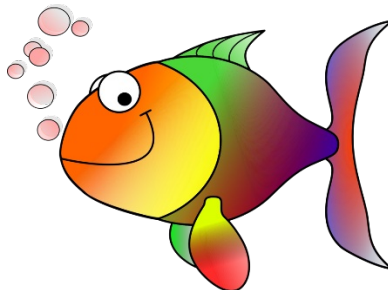


The LOPC Youth Group meets on **Sundays from 5-7 pm at LOPC** where there will be food, fun, and Bible Study - and we **WANT YOU** to join us! We are looking for all middle and high school kids in and out of LOPC. Youth Group is for rising 6th grade students through high school.

## Children's Ministry

*"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*



## Feedback

What would you like to see in our monthly newsletter?





Please reply to Meagan at [socialmedia@lopc-pca.org](mailto:socialmedia@lopc-pca.org)

## March Calendar of Events

### Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

GriefShare (Room 111-112) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (via Zoom)..... 8:00 a.m.

HFG led by Wes Hunt (Narthex) ..... 6:30 p.m.

Men's CBS (LOPC)..... 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

HFG led by Harold Parker (Rooms 110-112) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

Mid-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom1 and Rooms 110-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

### Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

### Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

Youth Group meeting (Pavilion) ..... 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Scholarship Committee Meeting (Rooms 110-112) ..... 12:00 p.m.

GriefShare (Room 111-112) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom)..... 8:00 a.m.

HFG led by Kent Schumacher (via Zoom)..... 6:30 p.m.

HFG led by Dick Forrester (Choir Room) ..... 6:30 p.m.

Men's CBS (LOPC)..... 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

### Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

### Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> ..... Communion observed

..... Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)

Youth Group meeting (Pavilion) ..... 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> ..... (reminder to put out Easter banner)

Sheds of HOPE Build (Pavilion) ..... 9:00 a.m.

GriefShare (Room 111-112) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (meets in Hildebrand home)..... 7:30 a.m.

Sheds of HOPE Build (Pavilion) ..... 9:00 a.m.

Deacons meeting (Choir Room) ..... 6:00 p.m.

HFG led by Wes Hunt (Narthex) ..... 6:30 p.m.

Men's CBS (LOPC)..... 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

Sheds of HOPE Build (Pavilion) ..... 9:00 a.m.

HFG led by Harold Parker (Rooms 110-112) ..... 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

Sheds of HOPE Build (Pavilion) ..... 9:00 a.m.

Mid-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Zoom1 and Rooms 110-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.



Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
Youth Group meeting (Pavilion) .....	5:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
Session meeting – date/time is subject to change (Zoom) .....	6:00 p.m.
GriefShare (Room 111-112) .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
Early-morning Ladies’ Bible Study (Zoom).....	8:00 a.m.
HFG led by Kent Schumacher (via Zoom).....	6:30 p.m.
HFG led by Dick Forrester (Choir Room) .....	6:30 p.m.
Men’s CBS (LOPC).....	7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> .....</b>	<b>(Palm Sunday)</b>
Youth Group meeting (Pavilion) .....	5:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	
GriefShare (Room 111-112) .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup></b>	
Early-morning Ladies’ Bible Study (meets in Hildebrand home).....	7:30 a.m.
Staff meeting (Conference Room) .....	10:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup></b>	

## Our Purpose

### 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