



# March

2023

## LOPC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

### *Give Thanks to the LORD*

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever,” (Psalm 136:1).**

There is much that I am thankful for these days at LOPC. There is much to be encouraged about. I love the buzz that is quite noticeable these days around LOPC 2.0. Did you hear the singing at worship this past Sunday to "Because He Lives,"? It gave me chills. And think, we have the privilege of being a part of Jesus' resurrection ministry to the Lake Oconee area. Talk about amazing grace! God is committed to using us for His glory.

What am I excited about? Well, the refreshes to our facilities have begun. I give thanks to the LORD for our facilities task force consisting of Bob Patton, Tommy Evans, Dick Forrester, Brent Johansen, Gale Weaver, and Cornealia Patton. They are working tirelessly to come up with a plan that will update our beautiful facilities to make them fresher, brighter, and lighter. Our ministry teams are working hard coming up with plans for the year that are in alignment with our LOPC 2.0 vision "To live out the gospel in Word and Deed with the hope that God will bring healing, renewal and peace to Lake Oconee and the nations for His glory."

And this past weekend we welcomed Mike, Whitney, and Ellie Palombo to our church family as Mike begins to serve as our Assistant Pastor. Mike will be working in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, outreach, and spiritual formation helping us to apply our vision to all areas of the church's life. I can't tell you how excited I am to be working with this team of Mike, Travis, Ellen, and

looking forward to a new worship leader (whom we don't yet know) who will help us to launch a second service to exalt the Lord and His grace in a more modern expression. Can you imagine what things will look like around here when we have the beauty of our God-exalting traditional service led by Amy and our wonderful choir, and a God-exalting, liturgical, contemporary service, along with both internal and external ministries to bring the hope of the gospel to Lake Oconee? I think it is quite an exciting vision.

There is, indeed, so much to be thankful for. Which is why our enemy, the devil hates what is going on and would love to destroy our unity and the expansion of God's kingdom. Make no mistake, he hates when God's kingdom moves forward, and will do whatever he can to oppose it. So, this is a time when we all need to commit all the more to bold, kingdom-centered prayer, where we continually ask the Lord to protect us, to keep us focused on the vision He has given us.

The Lord has given us a wonderful opportunity to serve him in the expansion of His kingdom here at Lake Oconee. I truly believe this is an amazing time in the life of our church. I am excited to see what the Lord is going to do, and I love having the opportunity to serve with and among you. May the Lord grant us the faith to move forward with passion and boldness for the glory of the Lord. Yes, let us give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor Jeff Birch

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### **New Sermon Series**

Now through April 9, we're taking a detour from our "Romans" series as Pastor Jeff Birch leads us through "Lent: Encountering Jesus." This special series will provide snapshots of Jesus from Luke's gospel and culminates with Easter Sunday. It's a great time to invite family, friends, and neighbors to be our guests for worship.

Holy Week @ LOPC



Palm Sunday, April 2

Worship @ 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Communion @ 7 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Service @ noon

Family Movie Night @ 4 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9

Easter Brunch @ 9 am

Worship @ 10:30 am

# Holy Week

Daylight Saving Begins Next Weekend!

**March 11**

REMEMBER TO  
**SPRING  
FORWARD**  
NEXT SUNDAY

Family Ministry Kickoff



# Family Ministry KICKOFF

## SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, March 29  
6-7:30 pm  
The Pavilion

Save the date for the Family Ministry Kickoff! All families of children birth-18, all current volunteers with children's or youth ministry, and anyone who is considering volunteering are invited to join us on Wednesday, March 29, from 6-7:30pm. We will be in the Pavilion with light desserts. This will be a time of fellowship and fun as we talk about upcoming events and ideas for the future! If you have considered volunteering with children of any age in any capacity, come hear the many different ways you can partner with our families!

## Prayer Partners



# Prayer Partner

Partnering children & youth  
with members for prayer

Interested in serving  
the next generation?  
Consider becoming a  
prayer partner!

For more information, contact Susan Atkins.

Are you an adult who is passionate about passing the faith on to the next generation? Please consider being part of the Prayer Partner Program. This program will match a child or youth (birth through high school age) with an adult in the congregation in order to provide the child with another adult in their life, other than their parents and relatives, who knows their name, cares about them, assures them they are not alone facing day-to-day challenges, and makes them



feel that they matter by promising to pray faithfully for them. It will involve regularly asking your partner, or their parents in the case of very young children, for prayer requests. Prayer partner matches will be made based on availability. The commitment is intended to last for one year but may continue longer, if desired. Once the adults have signed up, kids will be matched with an adult of the same gender, and we will have a get-acquainted lunch after church where adults and children can learn a little about each other. If you haven't completed a background check at LOPC, contact the church office to get that simple process started. Our kids are valuable to God and are worth the investment!

## ESL + Women's Ministry



On Sunday, March 5, the ESL volunteers had a unique opportunity to throw a baby party for one of our ESL students and her husband. They are expecting their first child and don't have family nearby. They were overwhelmed and very appreciative of the presents from LOPC and time shared as everyone celebrated the gift of life. Gospel verses were read, and Pastor Jeff asked a blessing for the parents and baby. Decorations were provided by the Women's Ministry leaders. Their baby is due in seven weeks, and that's when they'll find out if it's a boy or girl. Please join us in praying for this sweet family!

## GriefShare

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



The Women's Ministry Leadership Team rolled out the red carpet for the arrival of LOPC's new Assistant Pastor, Mike Palombo, and his family (wife, Whitney, and daughter, Ellie) by stocking their pantry and providing some extras ahead of their move-in day. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped provide pantry items and other goodies to welcome this new family to LOPC!

### Women Connecting to Women in Prayer

All women are invited to join with other women to pray. We meet in Room 109 at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. **This month's date is Tuesday, March 14, and the facilitator will be Barb Rountree.**





## 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<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 podcasts and social media!



**MISSED A SERMON? SHARE A SERMON!**



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## MNA Disaster Response



### Sheds of HOPE

The Sheds of HOPE team at LOPC is planning a special build in March to work alongside some students from GA Tech and to help train a group from another church. Please continue to pray for this ministry and the work they do.

## 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*

## March 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.



**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"> <li>Early Morning Ladies' Bible Study</li> <li>(CBS) Men's Community Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible Study</li> <li>Parker Home Fellowship Group (HFG)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(CBS) Ladies' Community Bible Study</li> <li>Choir Practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Helpers</li> </ul>		

# 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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