



LOPC NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

A Grateful Heart

I absolutely loved Pastor Marion's sermon recently on giving thanks from Psalm 100. It was a perfect reminder of how much I have to be thankful for. It was also convicting as to just how often my heart is not marked by the gratitude it ought to be.

One of the items that stood out to me from his sermon was his illustration of counting your blessings. And, oh, how many blessings do I have to count! Let me name a few:

First, I am grateful to have actually arrived at Lake Oconee and to begin the work of serving you as your pastor. I have anticipated this for a long time, and it feels wonderful to actually get started. I am grateful for the love and welcome you have shown Evie and me. You all have revealed beautifully to us the love of Christ.

As I count my blessings, especially during this month of May, I am grateful to the Lord for the gift of Mother's Day. I am grateful for Evie being the mother of our son, Joel. I have been profoundly blessed by my wonderful mother, Dana, and the

love that she has always expressed. I have also been extremely blessed by my relationship with my mother-in-law, Evie's mom, Shirley. The Lord has given me the privilege of being blessed by these wonderful women.

I also recognize that holidays like Mother's Day can also bring up suffering of many kinds. Please know that the Lord understands and feels your pain. May His presence be close and comfort you. We also see you.

May we all give thanks for the women in our lives who have blessed us and shown us love and faithfulness. Your kindnesses, your sacrifices, your giving is so appreciated. And thank you, Pastor Marion, for your encouragement to us in this area of giving thanks, and for your many years of service. Blessings to you and Ginger.

Rev. Jeff Birch

Installation Service for Jeff Birch



Reverend Jeff Birch's installation service will be Sunday, May 23, with special guest speaker Dr. Bryan Chapell, President Emeritus of Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri and noted theologian, pastor, author, and speaker. Two services will be offered that Sunday at 9 am and 11 am. The 11 am service will be livestreamed through our Facebook and YouTube channels.

Save the Date!

Marion and Ginger Clark's last Sunday at LOPC will be May 30. In their honor, a farewell luncheon will be held immediately following the worship service, and

we'll be sending out details very soon. In the meantime, please save the date!

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021



MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

New Logo & Website

Many of you read the emails that we sent out regarding the new church logo and website. If you didn't receive them, [click here](#) (for logo) and [click here](#) (for website). Both will launch the week following Jeff Birch's first Sunday on May 2.



Baby Bottle Campaign for Caring Solutions



- 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

Congratulations to Our Scholarship Recipients!



Front row (L to R): Katie Ciavola, Jada Wingfield, Tiffany Hernandez-Salinas, Kamron Wright
Back row (L to R): Scholarship Committee members Mardel Kolls, Mary Ann Johnson, Rush Utley, Valerie Hunt

Since 2016, the Dr. Ellen Cauthen Utley Scholarship Fund at LOPC has awarded almost \$20,000 to over 20 high school seniors from Greene and Putnam Counties. On Sunday, April 18, LOPC was honored to have our 2021 recipients and their families join us during our annual Scholarship Recognition Sunday. This year's recipients are: Katie Ciavola (Lake Oconee Academy); Jada Wingfield (Greene County High School); Tiffany Hernandez-Salinas (Greene County High School); Kamron Wright (Greene County High School). Not pictured is Andreanna Adams from Putnam County High School.

Congratulations to these outstanding members of the Class of 2021!

First Call Fundraiser

Third Annual Spring Fashion Show

To Benefit

First Call Pregnancy Center



Tuesday May 18, 2021

1:00-3:00 pm

@ The Corry House

6561 Union Point Highway, Union Point, Georgia

Tickets \$25 -all proceeds benefit FCPC

Order Online @ FirstCall.me

12 pm Raffle & Early Shopping

Hosted by



Spivey Jewelry & Fashion

(706) 717-4995 SpiveyJewelry.com



Women's Ministry

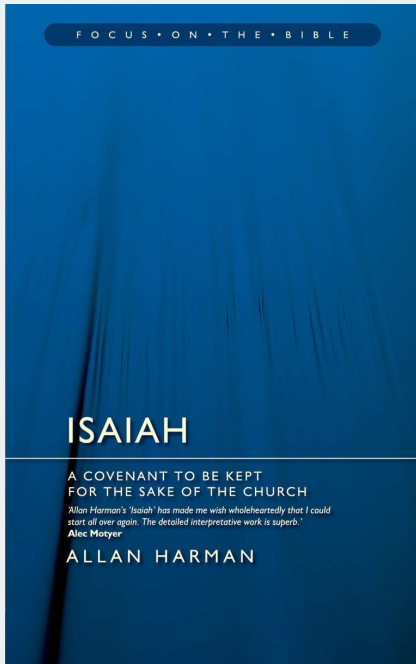


From the President

Hi, ladies:

After two trips to the State Botanical Garden at UGA were cancelled due to rain, the Women's Ministry has rescheduled for **Tuesday, May 11th**. We'll meet at church at 9 am to carpool to Athens. We hope you'll join us!

Brenda Roberts
President, LOPC Women's Ministry



Early Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Early-Morning Ladies' Bible Study will begin a new study May 4 on the book of Isaiah, using Allan Harman's commentary. The group will continue to meet via Zoom at 8:00 a.m. through the month of May.

Beginning June 1, the group will resume in-person meetings at 7:30 a.m. in the home of Karen Hildebrand. This ladies' group, led by Karen Hildebrand and Jan Murray, meets every Tuesday morning for deep study in the word, discussion, and prayer.



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

We were pleased that several students from local schools joined us April 23 for our first Sheds of HOPE Youth Build. They were interested, learned quickly, worked hard and made a real contribution to the day's work. And by all accounts, everyone had fun!

With these four sheds completed, the LOPC Sheds of HOPE team has built 98 shed kits. Since the beginning of the LOPC Sheds of HOPE ministry, our sheds have been given to families in need in GA, SC, NC, FL, AL, LA and TN. We have trained Sheds of HOPE volunteers from other churches across the southeast and we helped train a team of volunteers from GA Tech during an event at the MNA Disaster Response warehouse in Rome, GA.

God has richly blessed the LOPC Sheds of HOPE ministry in countless ways, including the talent, expertise and experience of our volunteers; the moral and financial support of the LOPC congregation and community; the invaluable behind-the-scenes work of the church staff; the support of local suppliers and vendors; and the financial support we've received from MNA Disaster Response and our church community. This financial support has become even more important as the cost of materials rises sharply in today's economy.

The next Sheds of HOPE build date is June 7-10.



Youth Ministry

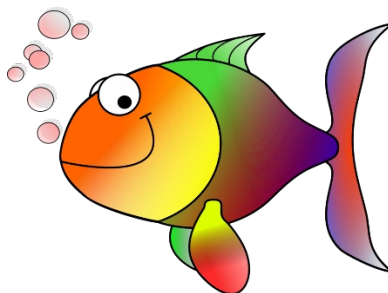


The LOPC Youth Group meets on **Sundays from 5-7 pm at LOPC** where there will be food, fun, and Bible Study - and we **WANT YOU** to join us! We are looking for all middle and high school kids in and out of LOPC. Youth Group is for rising 6th grade students through high school.

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



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