



LOPC NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

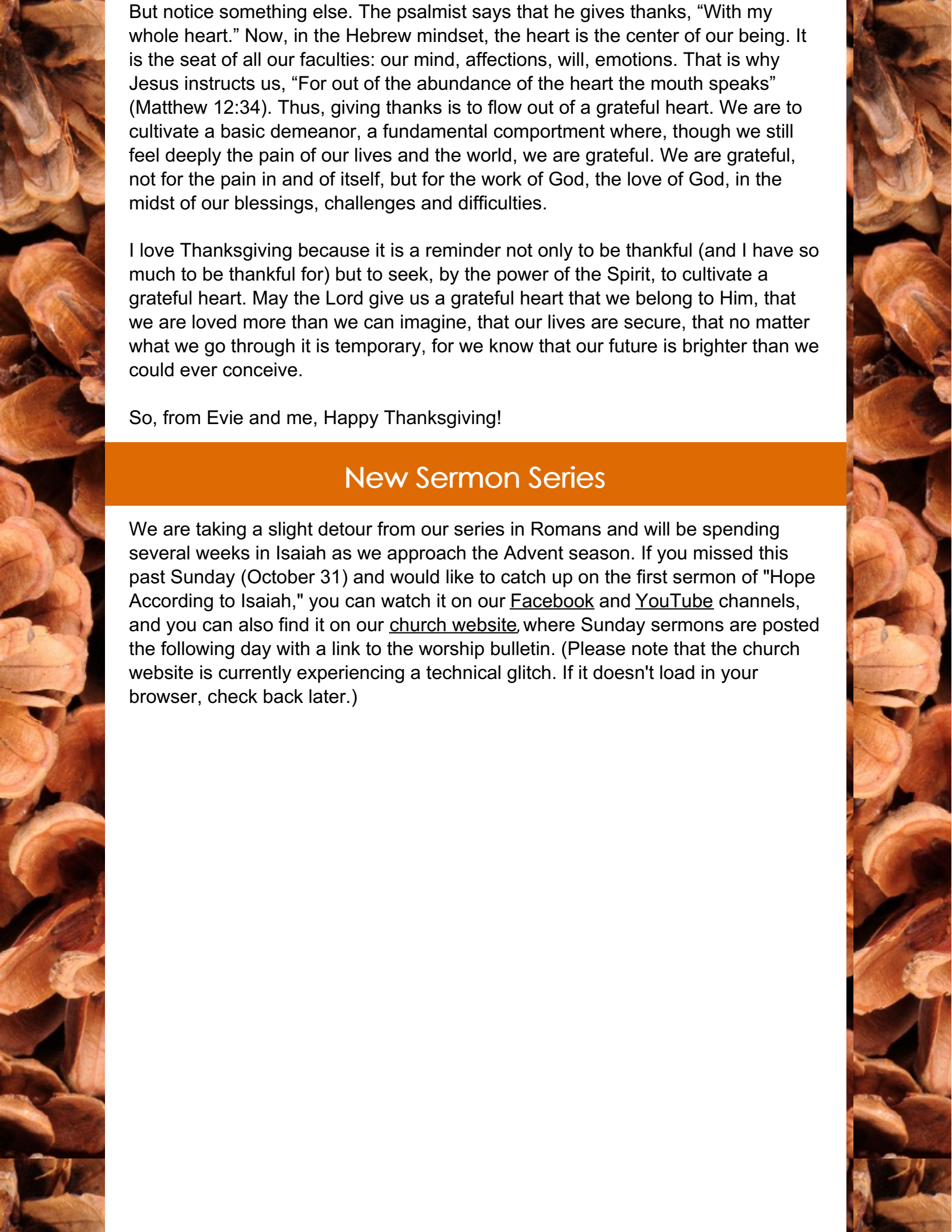
From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

A Grateful Heart

I must admit that my favorite season of the year is fall. I am loving the fall season here in the Lake Country. Evie and I are excited to experience a bit of the change of the seasons. Cooler temperatures (but not too cool), football season, and probably my favorite holiday: Thanksgiving.

Now, while it is easy at Thanksgiving to focus on the food and the football, for the follower of Christ, our real focus is on giving thanks. But I want to propose that there is a difference between simply giving thanks and cultivating a grateful heart. Take a look with me.

The psalmist says, "I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart" (Psalm 138:1). Now, obviously we are to give thanks for particular things. The psalmist here even says, "I give you thanks, O LORD." We should count our blessings, and we should, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). So, yes, we are to give thanks in all things, both the blessings and the trials or afflictions.

A decorative border of autumn leaves, likely maple or similar, surrounds the text. The leaves are in various shades of orange, red, and brown, with some showing detailed vein patterns. They are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern, creating a rich, textured background for the text.

But notice something else. The psalmist says that he gives thanks, “With my whole heart.” Now, in the Hebrew mindset, the heart is the center of our being. It is the seat of all our faculties: our mind, affections, will, emotions. That is why Jesus instructs us, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Thus, giving thanks is to flow out of a grateful heart. We are to cultivate a basic demeanor, a fundamental comportment where, though we still feel deeply the pain of our lives and the world, we are grateful. We are grateful, not for the pain in and of itself, but for the work of God, the love of God, in the midst of our blessings, challenges and difficulties.

I love Thanksgiving because it is a reminder not only to be thankful (and I have so much to be thankful for) but to seek, by the power of the Spirit, to cultivate a grateful heart. May the Lord give us a grateful heart that we belong to Him, that we are loved more than we can imagine, that our lives are secure, that no matter what we go through it is temporary, for we know that our future is brighter than we could ever conceive.

So, from Evie and me, Happy Thanksgiving!

New Sermon Series

We are taking a slight detour from our series in Romans and will be spending several weeks in Isaiah as we approach the Advent season. If you missed this past Sunday (October 31) and would like to catch up on the first sermon of "Hope According to Isaiah," you can watch it on our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels, and you can also find it on our [church website](#), where Sunday sermons are posted the following day with a link to the worship bulletin. (Please note that the church website is currently experiencing a technical glitch. If it doesn't load in your browser, check back later.)

Hope

ACCORDING TO ISAIAH

November 6: Daylight Saving Ends



Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 6!

Mark Your Calendars!



This year, LOPC will be participating in an Ecumenical Christmas Cantata that includes the host church, Greensboro First United Methodist, and two others (First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro and Episcopal Church of the Redeemer). Join us for a fantastic evening of worship through music on Sunday, December 5, at 4 pm. **The cantata will be held at Greensboro FUMC's South Campus: 4741 Carey Station Rd, Greensboro GA 30642.**

Car Decals Available

Our new logo is now available as a 4" circular car decal, and best of all, it's free! Pick one up in the Narthex.



Women's Ministry

From the President



What a fun day the ladies of LOPC had touring historic downtown Eatonton! We visited the Uncle Remus Museum and heard tales about Brer Rabbit and Joel Chandler Harris' writings. Next, we went to the Plaza Arts Center as we stepped back in time to the early days of Eatonton. We even saw a classroom setting from many years back. As our guide pointed out, the whole building would have been full of such classrooms as The Plaza actually is a renovated old school building.

The highlight of our trip was lunch at a B&B called Dot 2 Dot. It is a beautiful historic home built in 1884. We enjoyed walking through the house seeing each beautifully decorated room, and even venturing up the grand staircase to gaze at the red, blue and gold bedrooms.

Of course you can't go to Eatonton without visiting the Artisan Market and doing the driving tour of homes. The rain held off and a good time was had by all.

Brenda Roberts

President, LOPC Women's Ministry





The Plaza Arts Center

Thank you to our generous Plaza Partners





Ladies' Advent Tea

The annual Ladies' Advent Tea is back on the calendar, and you'll want to be here the evening of December 7, 2021, at 6:30 pm. **More details will be sent out soon.** In the meantime, save the date, ladies!

Ladies' Advent Tea

Tuesday, December 7, at 6:30 pm

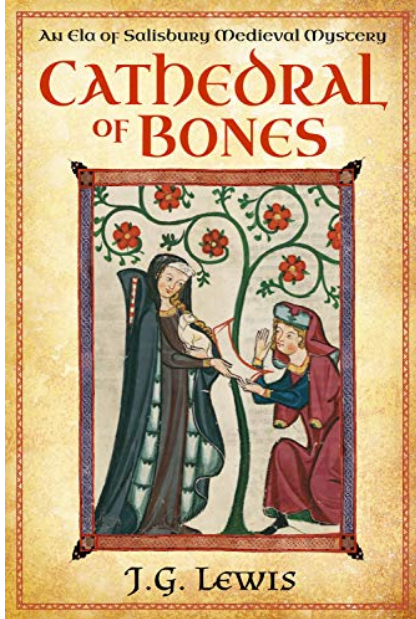


To register for attendance and/or hosting a table,
please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Registration deadline is Sunday, November 28.

Book Binders

Book Binders met on Friday, October 15, to discuss *Boaz Brown* by Michelle Stimson. The lively discussion covered many topics from the book including connections to the book of Ruth, having a prayer room in your home, and being willing to listen to God as He changes your heart. Our next meeting is **Friday, November 19, from 10 – 11 at the church**, when we will discuss *Cathedral*



of Bones by J.G. Lewis. Despite the gruesome title, this mystery is a fascinating novel about a real woman from the Middle Ages who assumes her husband's role of sheriff after his death. Her prayers before and after every move she takes in her investigations is inspiring and based on documentary evidence.



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.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Look for upcoming info about our special December seminar, "Griefshare: Surviving the Loss of a Spouse."

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Grieving? Know someone who is?
Prepare for the holidays
and find hope for the future.



Thursday, November 11

6:30-8:30 pm

Rooms 110-112

Cost: FREE (workbook provided)



**Registration is encouraged.
Contact Norma Graham at 478-234-2287
or click here to register online.**

If you missed hearing the "Community Spotlight" interview on Dock103.9 with

Doug Hesse and GriefShare Director, Norma Graham, [click here to listen to parts 1 & 2.](#) (Scroll down to the links underneath the GriefShare graphic.)

Get to know LOPC!





INQUIRERS' CLASS

New to LOPC?
Interested in church membership?
Want to learn what it means to be a Christian?

Join us for the Inquirers' Class!

- **Friday, November 12th (6 - 9 pm)**
- **Saturday November 13th (9 am - 3 pm)**

This two-session class is offered several times a year and answers many questions regarding the church. Although there is no pressure to join the church, the class is a prerequisite for membership at Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church. Childcare is available upon request.



Registration forms are available in the narthex,
or contact the church office to sign up.

[Click here with questions or to register!](#)

Church Christmas Decoration



Who: elves needed

What: decorating the church for Christmas

When: Saturday, November 27 @ 9:30 am

Sign up sheet available in the narthex or
call the church office at 706-484-0600.

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

November build dates:

- Monday, 11/15
- Tuesday, 11/16
- Wednesday, 11/17
- Friday, 11/19



Build times are 9 am - 3 pm.

SHEDS OF HOPE

If you're new to LOPC, our Sheds of HOPE ministry is part of the Mission To North America's Disaster Response. Dry storage sheds are constructed and delivered to families who have lost their homes to disasters. There is no cost to the recipients, and the sheds are maintained for free for two years. The Sheds of HOPE build dates are coming up in two weeks. If you would like to volunteer to serve, we have room for you! [Click here](#) for a video introduction to Sheds of HOPE. For more information, please contact Dick Forrester at dhforrester@icloud.com

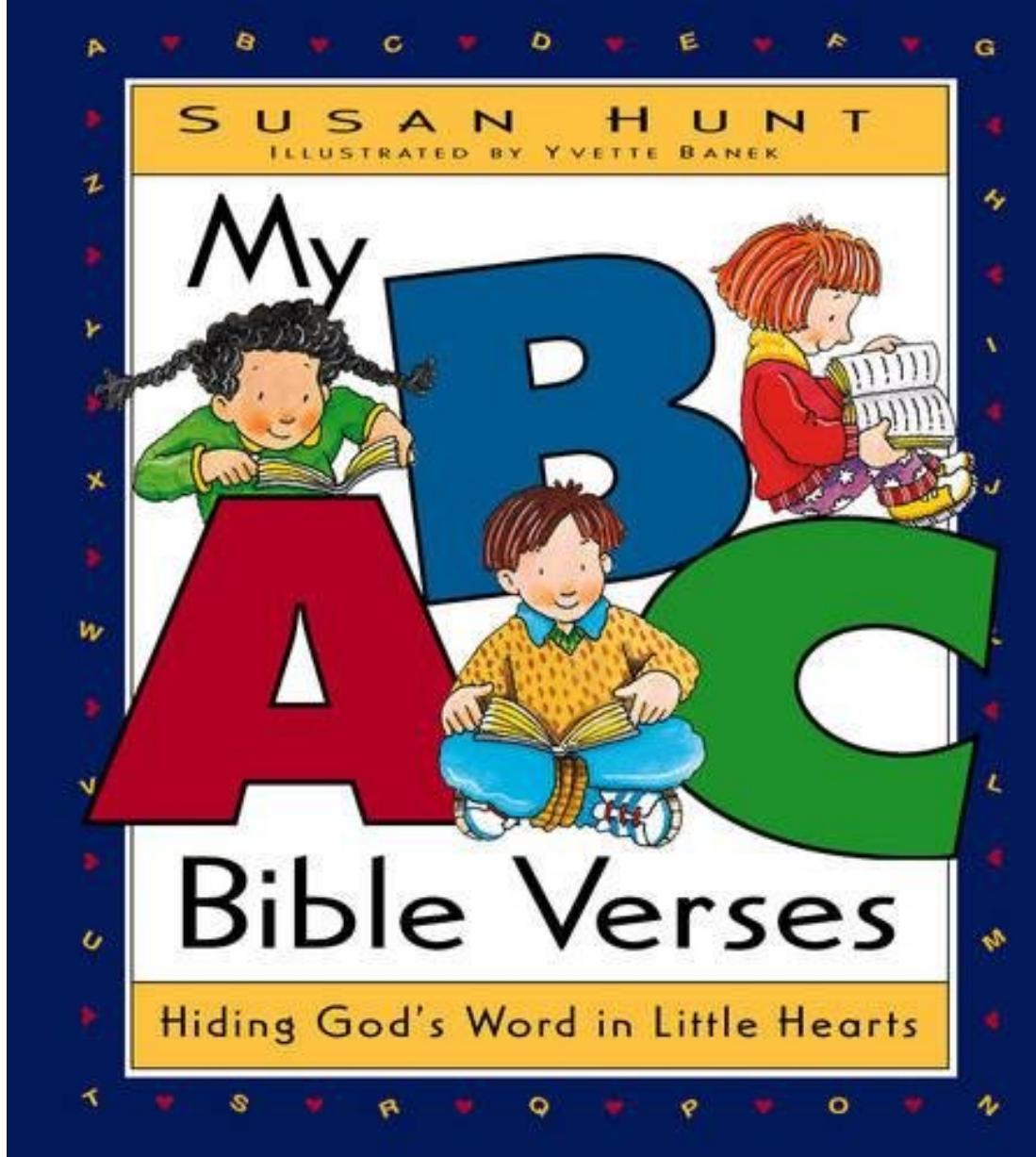
Pastor Jeff Birch doesn't claim this backpack full of sermon props, so we're hoping someone out there knows the owner, who just happens to have excellent taste in Hot Wheels, yo-yos, and Rubik's cubes. Items can be picked up at the church office, but you might have to play a round of paper-rock-scissors with Yvonne and Meagan before we relinquish them.

Youth Ministry



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



During the Doxology, children ages 4-6 are dismissed for Children's Worship. 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 worship God, nurture and equip God's people, and mobilize the church to build his kingdom.

Newsletter Archive

Missed a newsletter? [Use this link](#) to visit the archive at the member portal on our website. If you don't have the password, contact the church office, and we'll be happy to provide it.