



## LOPC NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

### *The Church as Witnesses*

The dictionary definition of a witness is, “to see, hear, or know by personal presence and perception.” Also, “to testify to, give or afford evidence of.” In Isaiah 43:10 we read, ***You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.*** I love the book of Isaiah. Here is another place in Scripture that we are reminded of the vision that we have been emphasizing during LOPC 2.0 of the church as witnesses to the glory and hope of the gospel.

The church receives this role as the new Israel right before Jesus’ ascension when He commissions His apostles in Acts 1:8. ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***

As the church, the new Israel, we receive the same call and commission that they did: to witness to the reality of God. Having seen, heard, and known by personal presence and perception, we are to testify, to give and to afford evidence of the reality of God. Our lives and testimony, in other words, our words and deeds, life and actions should give evidence that there is no other God, that there never has been and there never will be. As Isaiah puts it, we have been chosen to know God, believe in God, and understand that God alone is God.

Amazing! What a call! What a commission! Our lives, our relationships, our attitudes, our actions, our demeanors, everything about us is called to represent

to the world that God is God. That is what it means to be different. To be set apart. To be holy. To be a contrast society.

What are some of the implications of this role? Let me mention just a couple. First, everything we do has a missional aspect to it. That is, everything we do, both as individuals and as a body, is done representing God. We embody the reality and truth of God everywhere in our daily lives. As my missions professor Harvie Conn put it, "The church must recapture its identity as the only organization in the world that exists for the sake of its nonmembers," (*Harvie Conn, Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace*). Everything we do is missional.

That means we represent God to a watching world at home, in our neighborhood, at school or work, in what we say or do in all our social networking. This means we should always be checking our attitudes, words, and actions. What does what we say or how we come across reveal about God? We are always witnessing to the God we profess, either truthfully to who He really is, or we are giving a false or distorted witness.

Also, this means that everything we do is for the purpose of bringing and representing God to others. We do not do anything for ourselves. Our decisions, if they are to glorify God, should be governed by how they affect others. We should be asking questions like *Will what we are doing reveal and proclaim God to our community and city? Will this help Lake Oconee, Greene, Putnam, and Morgan counties to come to know the reality of God?*

This lies at the heart of what Paul spoke to the Ephesians about when he said, ***So that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:10)***. What an amazing statement. God's intention is that the church would display by their life and witness, their love and ministry, the manifold wisdom of God to the rulers and authorities. Incredible!

As it says in Isaiah, we are God's servant, chosen to know, believe and understand that He is God. What an awesome privilege, to be chosen to be kingdom servants. To display through our ministry of word and ministry of deed, the manifold wisdom of God. This lies at the heart of the vision of LOPC 2.0.

Pastor Jeff Birch

Celebration Sunday & Church Picnic



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

*Come celebrate our past and build our future!*

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY PICNIC

Come on out and celebrate with us what the Lord has done through the LOPC 2.0 campaign. During the Sunday service on November 13, we will announce what the Lord has raised during the campaign. Following the service, everyone is invited to join us in the pavilion for a catered lunch by Rock Eagle. **If you plan to attend, please register by noon on Friday, November 4. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex, or you can call or email the church office.**

Picnic menu:

turkey & dressing, green beans, sweet potato casserole, rolls, and peach cobbler

### Volunteers Needed



volunteers needed  
for Christmas decorating

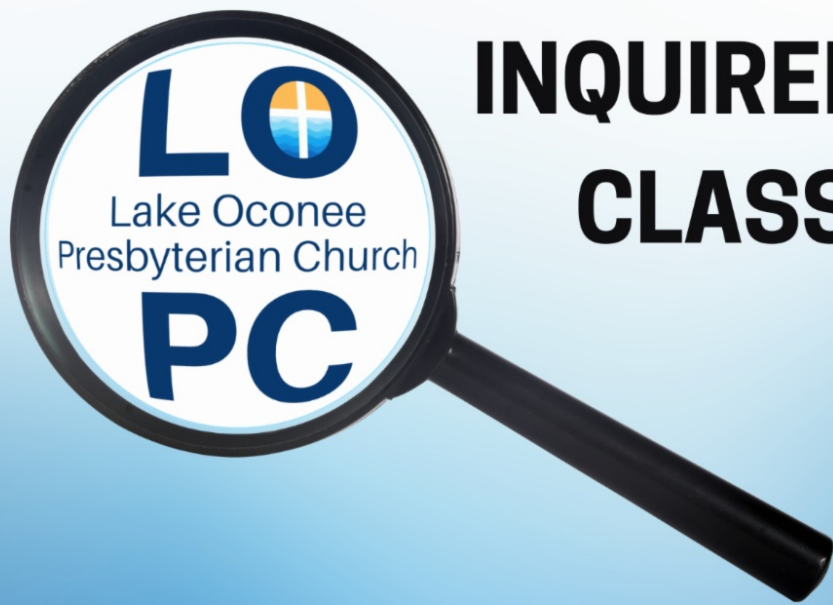
**Saturday, November 26 @ 9:30 am**

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



Inquirers' Class





# INQUIRERS' CLASS

Are you new to LOPC? Are you interested in church membership? The Inquirer's Class is a great place to start. **The next class will be December 2-3.** Childcare is available upon request. See the sign-up sheet in the bulletin to register for the class or [RSVP](#) to the church office by Monday, November 28, if you plan to attend.

- Friday, December 2 at 6-9PM
- Saturday, December 3, 9AM – 3PM

ESL Ministry

FREE

# ESL CLASSES

English as a  
Second Language



for adults of all levels



Sundays 4pm - 6 pm



Registration: September 11, 2022  
Classes begin: September 18, 2022  
**Students may enroll throughout the semester on any Sunday at 4 pm.**



The ESL Ministry continues to grow with new students each week. Praise God! We are still in need of more volunteers for childcare, class helpers, and vacation/traveler relief. Pray for our volunteers and our students. Remember we share the gospel in every class. Pray for God's and LOPC's mission to be fulfilled. Also, you can keep sharing the news about our classes as they are designed to accept new students any Sunday when we are holding classes.

New GriefShare session: Oct 2 - Dec 18



GriefShare is a support ministry for those who have lost loved ones. A new group began **Sunday, October 2, at 2:00 pm** at LOPC. To register, contact the church office.

## Women's Ministry

### Oh, Baby!

On Saturday, October 29, the LOPC Women's Ministry hosted a baby shower for Grace Thomas, due December 9. Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to sharing news of Baby Thomas' arrival in early December. Please keep the Thomas family in prayer as the big day approaches!







**Save the Date!**

LADIES' *Advent Tea* 2022

*December 6*  
*6:30 pm*

Table hosts needed!  
Contact Lynne Fowlkes.

➤ More details coming soon.

### **Women Connecting to Women in Prayer**

All women are invited to join with other women to pray. We meet in the church library at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. This month's date is Tuesday, November 8.



**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!**



@LAKE OCONEE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

## MNA Disaster Response



### Sheds of HOPE & Little Free Library

The Sheds of HOPE team at LOPC not only builds dry storage sheds for families in need, but they have also created shed replicas and donated them for use in partnership with Little Free Libraries. In this picture supplied by the Boys and Girls Club of Greensboro, we can see some of the families who frequently use the library. Star Wars fans will love their reading material, but we love those smiling faces even more!



## Youth Ministry



The Youth Group is for rising 6th grade students through high school. We are looking for all middle and high school kids in and out of LOPC.

## 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...*

*Psalms 78:5-7a*

# November 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.

LOPC  
Lake Oconee  
Presbyterian Church  
PC

## Events

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 01</li><li>(CBS) Men's Community Bible Study</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible Study 02</li><li>Parker Home Fellowship Group (HFG)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(CBS) Ladies' Community Bible Study 03</li><li>Choir Practice</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bulletin Helpers 04</li></ul> | 5        |

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.



Notice

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