



LOPC NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2022

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

LOPC 2.0 ANNOUNCEMENT

We all saw the devastating pictures from Hurricane Ian last week. Our hearts were moved, and we were broken for all those going through such devastation. I know Evie and I spent a good deal of time checking in on family and friends in Florida and South Carolina. When we are broken like this we long, we yearn, to step in and take action. That is why we do Sheds of Hope. That is why several women from our women's ministries met last week to prepare flood buckets and hygiene kits to immediately be sent out to Florida and those affected by the storm. Our hearts are moved to bring healing to brokenness.

In 1996, six families stood at a crossroads. They saw a mission field here in Lake Oconee, and they caught a vision of the heart of God. They were moved by the spiritual brokenness of people who don't know Christ, and they were moved to take action. They saw God's love for this community and his heart for this community, and they stepped out in faith and allowed God to use them to birth LOPC.

Here we are in 2022, and we, too, stand at a crossroads. Lake Oconee is still a mission field. People here - young and old - need the love and compassion of Jesus. And God still has a heart for this community.

LOPC 2.0 is all about being moved to action by the brokenness of the community, the brokenness of those who don't know Christ. They may look pretty happy and together on the outside. Tim Keller says that if you are bitten by a poisonous spider in the middle of the night, you are *pretty* dead, but you are dead; and if you are mauled by a lion, you are *ugly* dead, but still dead. So, whether you are pretty dead or ugly dead, you're still dead. If they don't have

Christ, they are without hope. Are we as moved by this spiritual brokenness as we are by the physical brokenness we see with our eyes? Do we see with the eyes of our hearts? Do we reflect the heart of God?

LOPC 2.0 is all about fulfilling God's call to us in the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations." I was struck the other night at the Here's Life Africa presentation of John Parker telling us how, at the age of 54, he didn't retire but resigned from his job to pursue ministry, specifically because he felt he wasn't taking seriously our Lord's Great Commission. And now, he is on the board of Here's Life Africa, which uses the Jesus Film to present the gospel to millions of people in East Central Africa. I think I recall him saying the film has presented to approximately 72 million Africans with 32 million receiving Christ.

So here we are at a crossroads. LOPC has always taken the Great Commission seriously, but our community is changing. It always has many retirees moving in, but now we are seeing explosive growth of young families. Do we see this as a mission field? Do we see this as a mandate to which we are called to obedience and faith? LOPC 2.0 is a call to obedience, faith, and action.

The Scriptures tell us that without vision the people perish. What is our vision? Well, imagine a church in the next three to five years that has infants and toddlers in the nursery, kids in Sunday school classes and worship, a thriving youth ministry, young and old alike studying the Scriptures together and growing in grace together in deep community. A church of young and old alike committed to evangelism and missions, experiencing renewal, and taking the gospel to the local community and partnering with others to see the gospel go to the nations.

What is it going to take to get there? Well, LOPC 2.0 seeks see the Lord bless us with 1.5 million dollars to build a staff team which will work to equip us in our ministry to the community. We have been blessed with beautiful facilities, that, like everything else in our lives we are not the owners of, but stewards of. We need not to replace, but to refresh our facilities with a view to updating some things in order to reach what is becoming a much more diverse community.

Over the next six weeks, we will be inviting every one of you to attend a small, informational vision meeting where some of the elders and I will be presenting the vision of LOPC 2.0 and asking us to consider what our part in this story might be. This is not about asking for money. This is about asking you to go before God and seek Him for what He is calling you to in your participation in His mission to reach this community with the gospel. Like I said, this is about obedience and faith. We have been called by our sovereign God at this time and in this place to go and make disciples of all nations, and to seek the welfare of the city to which he has called us.

Think about it. What is the gospel all about? It is not about God opening His doors and saying, "Well, you're all invited, just come up here to heaven and join me." No! The gospel is about God (in the person of Jesus) going, leaving heaven, and coming/going to us, to seek us and to restore us through His life, death, and resurrection. He did that for us. Will we be a "go" church and go to the community?

Let me close with this. I have been struck this week by the words of the psalmist

expressing his heart, his desire as he grows old. "So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come," (Psalm 71:18).

Let's do that together. May God awaken us to bring healing, renewal, and peace to Lake Oconee and the world to His glory.

Pastor Jeff Birch

Jeff Birch: Lured to the Lake

Lure of the Lake

Did you know that Pastor Jeff Birch was the featured guest in a recent local podcast? *Lure of the Lake*, owned and hosted by Robbie King, posts a new episode every Friday in which he highlights a Lake Country resident. His interview with Pastor Jeff covers everything from the modern church to *Lord of the Rings*. Give it a listen. You'll be encouraged!



Combined Adult Sunday School

On October 16 and 23, our Adult Sunday School classes will meet at 9:15 in the sanctuary to welcome special guests. Mark your calendars!

Sunday, October 16

Missionary Guest, John Gordy
Campus Minister with Reformed University Fellowship
Valdosta State University

Sunday, October 23

Missionary Guest, Hernando Saenz
MNA Hispanic American Ministries Coordinator

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 at 706-484-0600.

Women's Ministry

On Tuesday, September 27, the Women's Ministry put together flood buckets and hygiene kits to be distributed through Mission to North America (MNA) disaster relief. While there was plenty of laughter and joy in fellowship, this group of volunteers was serious about getting these provisions ready for use! We love seeing our people serve both joyfully and faithfully.





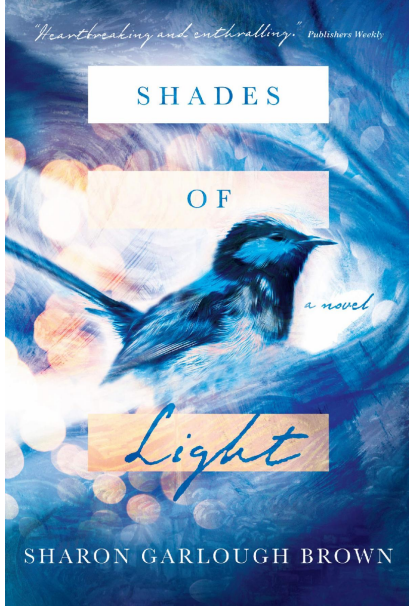
Women Connecting to Women in Prayer

All women are invited to join with other women to pray. We meet in the church library on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. This month's facilitator will be Karen Tepper.



Book Binders

Book Binders met on September 16 to



discuss *A Light on the Hill* by Connilynn Cossette, a novel about the cities of refuge in the Old Testament.

The meeting for October will be Friday, October 28, at 10 a.m. in room 112 at the church. The book will be *Shades of Light* by Sharon Garlough Brown, a novel that explores how people of faith deal with friends, family, and church members who suffer from depression. Though the subject is serious, the novel is not at all depressing! Hope to see you there.

Mary Ann Johnson



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


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

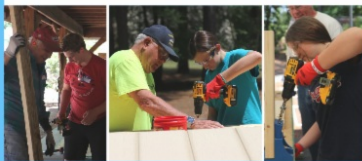


Sheds of Hope

Do you know a student in middle or high school who would like to join Sheds of HOPE for our student build dates in October? It's a great opportunity to earn service hours while being in a safe and fun environment. Please help us by sharing this exciting opportunity with anyone who might be interested. Church membership is not required, and neither is woodworking experience.



open to
students
6th-12th
grade



Sheds of HOPE youth build

- Friday, October 28 (9 am - 3 pm)
 - Saturday, October 29 (9 am - 3 pm)
- STUDENTS WELCOME TO JOIN US!**

HELP PROVIDE A SAFE PLACE
for families who have lost their homes to disasters

Public welcome!
Church membership is not required.

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. For information about youth events, please contact Jan Murray.



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

October 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.



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

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.

Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church | 113 Scott Rd., Eatonton, GA 31024

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