



# AUGUST 2021

## LOPC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2021

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

### **A New Definition of the Dog Days of Summer**

I must admit that when I arrived at LOPC three months ago, I never expected that I would need a month off to recover from Covid. But, then the providence of God can be surprising and is always good. This has been a very challenging time for Evie and me, but in the midst of it all we have so much to be thankful for.

Let me brag on this congregation for a moment. You all have been incredible. From the prayers and cards to the emails and calls and meals, we have been lavished with nothing but love and support. As frustrated as I have been to be absent from you, you have made it clear that we are not in control and that we are loved. Your love has been incredible.

The second thing this trial has reminded me of is my profound weakness. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul is praying to the Lord about his thorn in the flesh. And this is the Lord's response to him. "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Now, I would love to tell you that I have it all together when it comes to cultivating this passage in my life. But I have a confession to make: nothing is harder for me than admitting my weakness. Asking for help, feeling like I'm disappointing people, being frustrated with myself - these are all signs that I have a long way to go in my Christian growth.

It is in the midst of the depth of these struggles that the Lord's precious promise becomes more and more real. His grace is sufficient for me, for his power is made complete in my weakness. Wow! The Lord and his grace is always so counter-intuitive to how I most naturally think and feel. I always feel like I need to measure up and be good enough, and yet the Lord says that life in Christ is completely based on the opposite premise: that I am not good enough, I don't measure up, but Jesus is, and I am in him. I am seen and treated by the Father in Christ. So, Jesus is good enough, and I am in him. Oh, the wonder of God's grace.

This is not what I intended for my summer. But it is exactly what the Lord had planned for me, and thus for us as his people. Praise the Lord that his grace is sufficient.

Pastor Jeff Birch

## Global Partners Visit on August 15

Jim and Carin, our MTW (Mission to the World) missionaries will be with us for a brief overview of their ministry on Sunday August 15, 2021. LOPC has provided prayer and financial support to their ministry since 2003. Please come and be with us during the morning worship service at 10:30 am. They will also have an informational display concerning their ministry before and after the service in the Narthex.

Jim and Carin have worked with MTW since 1999. They served as part of a church planting team in Eastern Europe until 2011. Since 2013, Jim and Carin have worked in NYC with South Asian immigrants. Most of the immigrants are from Bangladesh and are from a Muslim background. They minister to this community through helping meet felt needs in areas of English language, after school tutoring and citizenship. Through this outreach, God has opened the hearts and minds of a number of people who now worship Him in a local Bangladeshi underground church. Jim and Carin have one son (Nathan) who is a rising junior at Covenant College.

## 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

Ladies, make your plans now to join us for our gathering on Thursday, August 5, at 10 am in rooms 111-112. Evie Birch will be our guest speaker. Evie is excited to be with us and to spend time together getting to know the ladies of the church better. You don't want to miss this special time with Evie and the other ladies of LOPC. No RSVP is necessary.

*Brenda Roberts*

*President, LOPC Women's Ministry*



# T.E.A. time

WITH EVIE BIRCH

Presented by the Women's Ministry of  
Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church

# BOOK BINDERS

- Friday, August 13
- 10 am
- Rooms 111-112

Book Binders will meet on Friday, August 13, at 10 a.m. in Rooms 111-112 at the church. Our niche at Book Binders is to be a group of women at LOPC who read fiction from a Christian perspective. Bring books to share if you want, titles for us to consider for discussion, and/or recommendations for personal reading. Special Alert: come with an appetite. We will have a special cake created for us by Jan Harris, drinks will also be provided.



## 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

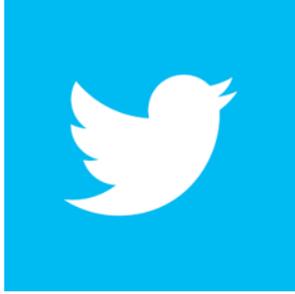
Join realm<sup>®</sup>  
and stay connected!

*Call or come by the church office for assistance  
with installing the church's mobile APP!*

Check us out on social media!

**facebook**

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



## MNA Disaster Response



### Sheds of HOPE

The LOPC Sheds of HOPE ministry fundraiser will continue through August, but thanks to God's grace and your generous giving so far, we're confident that we'll reach our \$25,000 goal and we'll be able to continue building sheds this fall.

Our next shed build is scheduled for September 20 – 23. We're planning to build 4 sheds, as usual. Whether the sheds will go into storage at the MNA Disaster Response warehouse in Rome, GA or directly to a disaster site will depend on the timing of this year's storms.

We're planning another Youth shed build October 14 – 18. We'll welcome middle and high schoolers from the LOPC Youth Group and our community to join us for this weekend build, which will be our second Youth build in 2021. If you're in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher, we hope you'll plan to join us for the fun!

We're expecting some visitors from other churches to join us for our November 15 – 19 shed build. They'll work alongside us, learn how to build sheds and use what they learn to build another Sheds of HOPE team at their home church. We enjoy meeting fellow Christians, making new friends and growing the Sheds of HOPE ministry.

Thank you for your support of Sheds of HOPE. We hope that the Holy Spirit will

move you to join us or support us with your donations. We covet your prayers, especially for the families who will be blessed by receiving Sheds of HOPE in their time of need.

 **SHEDS**  
**of HOPE**  
fundraiser  
 **July - August 2021**



Sheds of HOPE provides free dry storage sheds to families who have lost their homes to disasters such as floods, tornadoes, fires, and hurricanes. To date, **over 100 sheds have been given to families** throughout the southeast, including Eatonton!



With the inflation of building materials, the cost of each shed has nearly doubled. LOPC Sheds of HOPE needs your help to raise **\$25,000 by the end of August 2021** to fund the remaining 12 sheds in 2021 and provide funds to begin building sheds in 2022.



Want to help? Here's how to give:

- cash
- **check (payable to LOPC with "Sheds of HOPE" in memo line)**

Sheds of HOPE is a ministry of  
Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church.



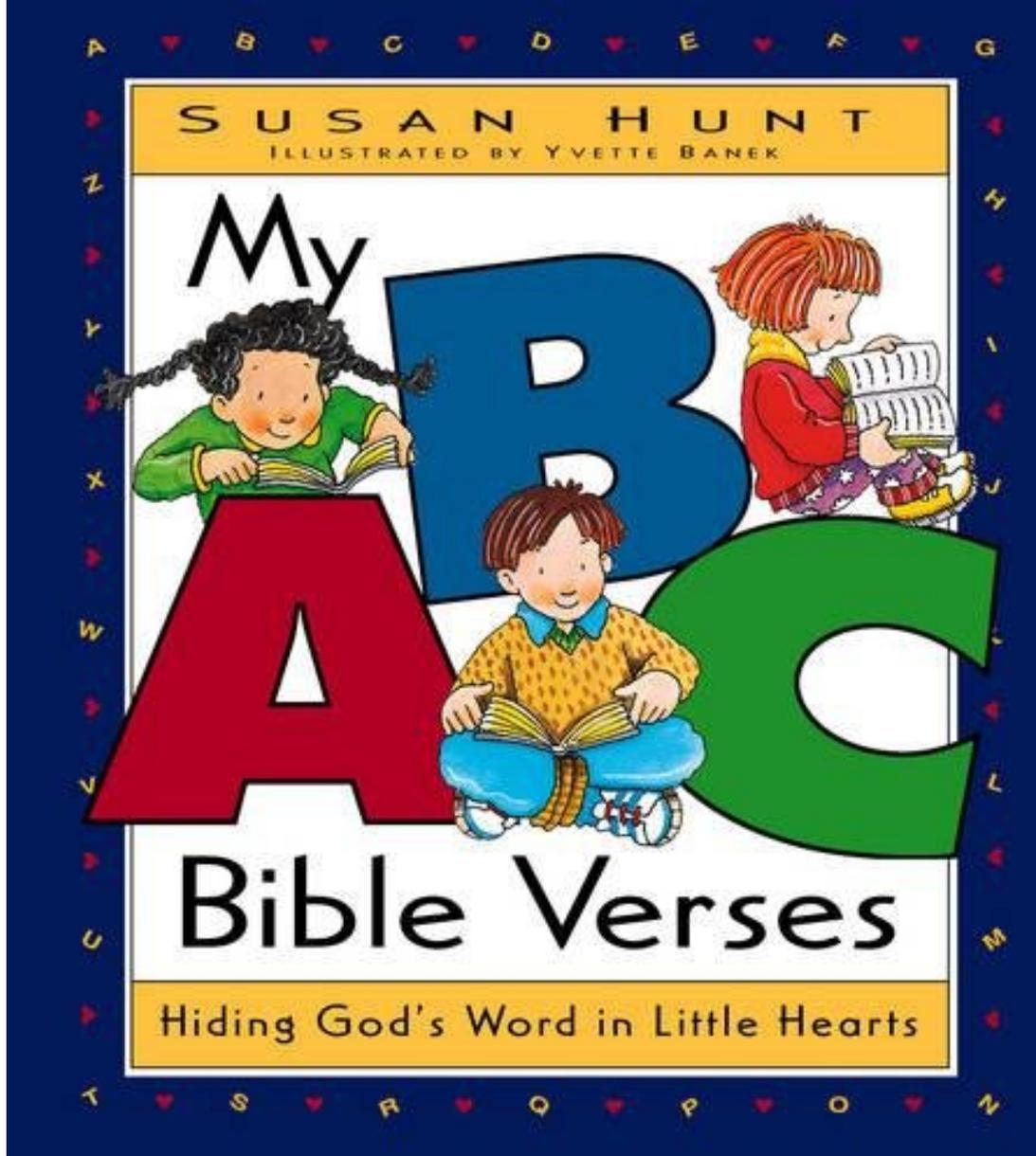
SCAN ME

## 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*

# August Calendar of Events

## Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

Youth Group meeting (LOPC) ..... 5:00 p.m.

## Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Home of Karen Hildebrand)..... 7:30 a.m

## Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

## Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

T.E.A. Time with Evie (Rooms 110-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)..... 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

Bulletin Helpers..... 10:00 a.m.

## Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

## Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> ..... Communion observed

Youth Group meeting (LOPC) ..... 5:00 p.m.

## Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>

## Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Home of Karen Hildebrand)..... 7:30 a.m.

CBS Servants Team Meeting (Rooms 108-109) ..... 9:30 a.m.

## Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

## Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Morning Ladies Bible Study (Rooms 110-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)..... 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>

Bulletin Helpers..... 10:00 a.m.

Book Binders (Rooms 111-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.

## Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

## Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

Missionary Guest ..... during MWC

Youth Group meeting (LOPC) ..... 5:00 p.m.

## Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>

## Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (home of Karen Hildebrand)..... 7:30 a.m.

Deacons Meeting (Choir Room)..... 6:00 p.m.

## Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

CBS Leaders Training (Rooms 110-112) ..... 8:30 a.m.

## Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

CBS Leaders Training (Rooms 109) ..... 8:30 a.m.

Mid-Morning Ladies Bible Study (Rooms 110-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)..... 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

Bulletin Helpers..... 10:00 a.m.

## Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

## Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

Youth Group meeting (LOPC) ..... 5:00 p.m.

## Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Home of Karen Hildebrand)..... 7:30 a.m.

## Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

Session meeting – date/time is subject to change (Conference Room) ..... 6:00 p.m.

## Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Morning Ladies Bible Study (Rooms 110-112) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Choir rehearsal (Sanctuary)..... 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>

Bulletin Helpers..... 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**

Youth Group meeting (LOPC) ..... 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

Early-morning Ladies' Bible Study (Home of Karen Hildebrand)..... 7:30 a.m.

## 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.