



August 2022 Newsletter

Back to School

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

What Does a Missional Church Do?

For the last several of months, I have been speaking with you about being a missional church. We have explored issues of vision and purpose, and the idea that it is God who has a mission and that our job is to be His instruments in serving His mission.

This month, I want to get a bit more practical and give just a couple of examples of what a missional church does. What does a missional church look like? Let's look at a couple of things:

First, a missional church is a praying church. A cursory look through the book of Acts shows us the commitment of the early church to prayer.

"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers," (Acts 1:14).

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers," (Acts 2:42).

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness," (Acts 4:31).

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them," (Acts 16:25).

"And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all," (Acts 20:36).

The early church clearly believed that their power came from constant communion and dependence upon God.

Next, a missional church is involved in their community. A missional church gets up early on a Saturday morning to give away school supplies to nearly 500 students. A huge thank you to Harold and Teresa Parker and Russell Puppe, who joined Evie and me at Greene County High School to wish the kids going back to school a good year and making sure they were well

supplied with facial tissues, hand sanitizer, and knew about our upcoming ESL classes. Or a missional church comes out on a Tuesday evening to the church parking lot to participate in a National Night Out, affording an opportunity to interact with those who serve and protect our community in various emergency situations.

What do these things have in common? They afford us the chance to do life with and develop relationships with those around us. We get to hear others' stories and share ours, enter others' lives, and most importantly, share the true story of the whole world, the story of the gospel.

Remember, God is working in the lives of everyone we meet. We may not know what God is doing but we can have confidence that God is at work. We get the privilege of coming alongside what God is already doing to see where God might want to use us. We do this, remembering the instruction we receive in Peter's first letter, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).

Pastor Jeff Birch



Pastor Jeff Birch and Harold Parker loading enough tissue boxes and hand sanitizer for 600 students projected to attend the Greene Co. Back to School Bash!



L to R: Evie Birch, Jeff Birch, Teresa Parker, Harold Parker, Russell Puppe. Russell represented the ESL Ministry at LOPC and handed out all 50 ESL brochures to interested families!



Back to School Bash held on Saturday, July 30, at the Greene County High School Gym.



Thanks to our team of volunteers!

August Calendar Challenge

In his new sermon series, "Why the Church?" Pastor Jeff Birch has been preaching on what a missional church looks like. So why not put what we're learning into a 31-day streak to love our neighbors and community well? Click on the button below to download and print a copy of the August Calendar Challenge. If you participate, we'd love feedback!

August a month of intentionally loving your neighbor
But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jeremiah 29:7)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<i>FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL FOR GREENE CO., PUTNAM CO., & LOA</i>	1 PRAY FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS	2 READ MARK 15	3 POST A FAVORITE VERSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA	4 INVITE SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW WELL TO LUNCH	5 MEMORIZE MARK 15:39	6 DO SOMETHING NICE FOR A NEIGHBOR
7 THANK A CHURCH VOLUNTEER	8 PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH LEADERS	9 READ PSALM 10	10 TELL SOMEONE HOW THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED YOU	11 LEAVE A NOTE IN THE MAILBOX FOR YOUR CARRIER	12 MEMORIZE PSALM 10:12	13 TELL A STORE CLERK THEY'RE APPRECIATED
14 TEXT/EMAIL YOUR PASTOR TO ENCOURAGE HIM	15 PRAY FOR A MISSIONARY	16 READ ROMANS 6	17 PRAY FOR THE LAST PERSON YOU CALLED OR TEXTED	18 MAKE A SCRIPTURE CARD & PLACE IT ON YOUR FRIDGE	19 MEMORIZE ROMANS 6:4	20 TAKE A MEAL TO SOMEONE WHO IS HOMEBOUND
21 DONATE TO ONE OF YOUR CHURCH PARTNERS	22 PRAY FOR THE GOOD OF SOMEONE YOU DISLIKE	23 READ 1 SAMUEL 15	24 PRAY FOR THE ESL CLASSES STARTING SEPT 11	25 MAKE A VISIT OR SEND A CARD TO A WIDOW OR WIDOWER	26 MEMORIZE 1 SAMUEL 15:22	27 SUPPORT A LOCAL BUSINESS <small>(and leave a great online review)</small>
28 REACH OUT TO A RELATIVE WHO LIVES FAR AWAY	29 TAKE A WALK & PRAY FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS	30 REACH OUT TO SOMEONE ON THE PRAYER LIST	31 TAKE A CARE PACKAGE TO SOMEONE WHO LIVES ALONE			

[Click here for a color 11x8.5.](#)

[Click here for a b/w 11x8.5.](#)

National Night Out



On **Tuesday, August 2, 2022**, Sebastian Cove HOA is sponsoring National Night Out, an annual event happening across the U.S. on the first Tuesday in August. **This year, our local NNO will be held at the LOPC parking lot from 6-8 pm.** We are inviting the people that live around us in Thunder Valley, Blue Heron Cove, Lakeview Senior Gardens, Stone Crest, and members of LOPC to join in thanking our emergency personal, sheriff department, fire department, and Putnam County Hospital staff for the service they provide to keep us safe. The event sponsors will provide hot dogs, chips, and beverages. This is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and to recognize our first responders.

No Sunday School in August

The Session has decided that we will not be having children's and adult Sunday School for July and August. Our past experience shows that we have reduced SS attendance during these months due to summer travel schedules. This will also give our teachers a break as they get ready for Sunday School to resume in September. It's been a great year, and we look forward to picking up this vital ministry. Thank you all so much for your participation in Sunday School.

ESL Volunteers Needed

ESL English as a Second Language CLASSES



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

-  Teachers and assistants needed for beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.
-  You don't have to know a second language!
-  Training and curriculum are provided.

Russell Puppe is spearheading our "English as a Second Language" Outreach Ministry program that will be starting this Fall. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry at LOPC, contact the church office 706-484-0600. You do not need to speak another language (Spanish) to be a part of this ministry. Classes are being planned to start September 11 and will be held every Sunday from 3 - 6PM at the church (school system vacations excluded). We review a bible verse and share the gospel during each session. Teacher guides and student workbooks are provided. Training is available.



An ESL training session took place on Sunday afternoon, July 31. If you couldn't attend but are interested in volunteering, we have room for you! Contact Russell Puppe for information.

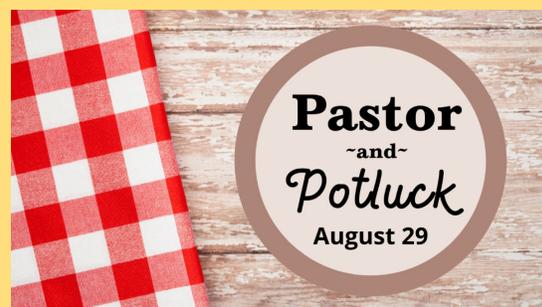
Women's Ministry

Ladies,
We have some new things to introduce this month! Details are below, and we hope you can join us!

Lynne Fowlkes, President
LOPC Women's Council

Pastor & Potluck

Our usual "Mugs & Muffins" that occurs on the fifth Monday of the month has changed for August. This month, we'll have a new event on the fifth Monday, and it's called, "Pastor & Potluck." Our Senior Pastor, Jeff Birch, will be our speaker for this event. We are asking attendees to bring a light supper dish or hors d'oeuvres to share. If the weather is agreeable, we'll meet at the Pavillion. If not, we'll be in rooms 110-111. **The time for this event is 6:00-7:30 pm on August 20**, and we request that



everyone please sign up in the narthex with your name and what you plan to bring. **Please remember that Pastor Jeff has a food allergy, so we request dishes without onion!**



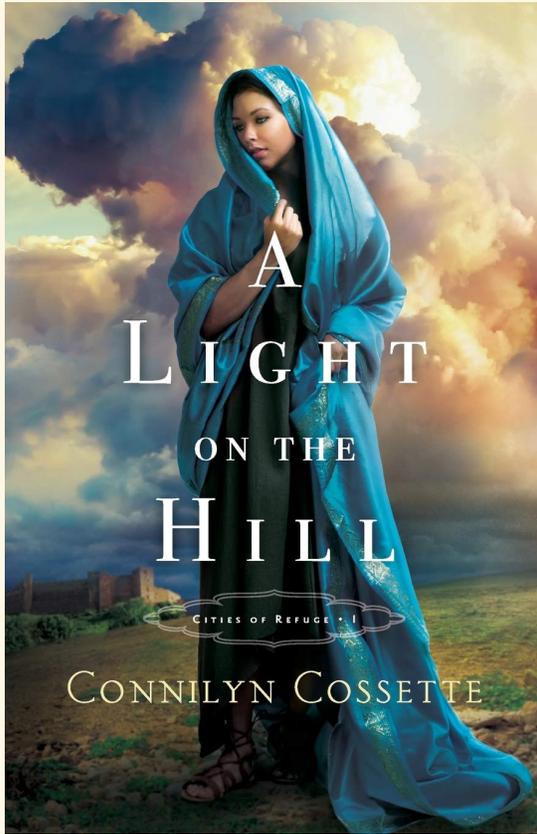
The Victory Train of Greensboro

We have a new service opportunity this month, as well. The Victory Train of Greensboro is looking for people to make and assemble packets that will be delivered to households in Greensboro with preschool children. The idea is to help them get ready for school. **We'll meet at Lakeside Church on August 23 at 10:00 am for two hours.** We'll have another sheet for sign-ups for this activity, as well. It involves light work such as gluing cut-up pieces for the packets. If we can get a group of 10-12 people, we can go together and have some fun doing it!



All women are invited to join with other women to pray. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month. There will be rotating women facilitators walking us through prayers as we pray for our church, community, state, country, and world as well as our church leadership and each other.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 2 at 1 pm (LOPC Library)



Book Binders

Book Binders met on Friday, July 15, for an invigorating discussion of *Daughter of Rome* by Tessa Ashfar. This novel about Priscilla and Aquila and their friend, Paul, as they moved from Rome to Corinth to Ephesus, was well-written and well-researched. The author's notes for this book shed a lot of light into the scriptural and historic references that underpin this author's fiction. Thanks to Sharon Kramer for bringing this book to our attention!

On Friday, August 19, we will have a "bring a salad to share" luncheon at 11 a.m. at the home of Mary Ann Johnson. At the luncheon, we will share ideas about books to read in the coming year. The book for September 16 has been chosen: ***A Light on the Hill*** by Connilyn Cossette, a novel about the cities of refuge set up in the Old Testament.

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

Join  realm[®]
and stay connected!

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

Find us on social media!



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



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

MNA Disaster Response



Save the Date

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

to benefit Sheds of HOPE

September 23



LOPC Sanctuary

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

Teach Me to Worship

Member Home Curriculum Outline Training Videos Curriculum Download Contact My Account

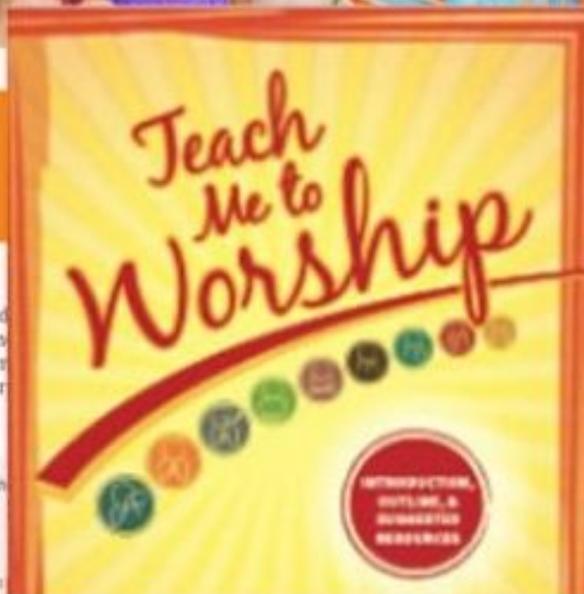


Purpose

Teach Me to Worship is adapted from a curriculum originally developed by the staff at Orangewood Presbyterian Church in Maitland, FL. The curriculum presents and explains common elements of worship that the universal church has used throughout the ages. The material is available in PDF format which allows ministry leaders to download and print the material according to their schedule and need. A subscription to the curriculum includes unlimited access to the curriculum, handouts and activities for the children, letters to parents, training videos and worship music.

"It's theologically sound. It's a great resource for our ministry."

"The lessons are theologically sound and easy to use."



Ages

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"The lessons are theologically sound and easy to use."

During the Doxology, children ages 4-6 are dismissed for Children's Worship. We will be using curriculum from **Teach Me to Worship**.

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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

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



