



LOPC NEWSLETTER JUNE 2022

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

A Missional Church

“And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me’.” (Isaiah 6:8)

Last month we began looking at what it means to be a missional church. This is a focus for us as we explore what it means to be obedient, in this time and place, to the commission that Jesus gave to go and make disciples of all nations. Our vision needs to be rooted in obedient surrender to not only the Lord’s grace in our lives but also in His purpose for us.

So, what is a missional church? Alan Hirsch, a leading thinker in missions today, defines a missional church as follows: *“A working definition of missional church is that it is a community of God’s people that defines itself, and organizes its life around, its real purpose of being an agent of God’s mission to the world. In other words, the Church’s true and authentic organizing principle is mission. When the church is in mission, it is the true Church. The Church itself is not only a product of that mission but is obligated and destined to extend it by whatever means possible. The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every*

community of faith that adheres to Jesus. To obstruct this is to block God's purposes in and through his people."

I love that statement *"The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every community of faith that adheres to Jesus."* Isaiah finally got that when he heard the calling of God asking, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" And Isaiah answered, "Here am I, send me." Isaiah understood that the mission of God was to flow directly through him.

Do we understand that? Do we get it? God wants His mission of renewing Greensboro and Eatonton and the Lake Oconee area through us, His people. He wants to heal relationships, restore marriages and families, and bring people to Himself. He wants to forgive them and reconcile them to Himself through us, His people. We exist as a sent people, *"Organizing our life around our real purpose of being an agent of God's mission to the world."*

What does this mean practically for us, as individuals and as a church? First, we need to ask ourselves are we living gospel-centered lives? Isaiah only became "missional" after he experienced the power of the gospel in his life. It was only after he was confronted with the glory of God, his own and his people's sinfulness, and the wonder of God's restoring grace and forgiveness, that he was liberated to hear the call of God and respond. Apart from the gospel, we will always be self-centered and self-absorbed. Apart from the gospel constantly renewing us, we will only be concerned with building bigger ministries, bigger churches, bigger reputations, but not necessarily building the kingdom of God.

Second, we need to evaluate everything we do in terms of our real purpose of being an agent of God's mission to the world. That means all our teaching, all our fellowship, and all our ministries must be done with at least an eye towards their missional purpose. Mission is not simply to be a department of our ministry, but our ministry is to be understood from a missional perspective. In other words, this requires a particular way of thinking about everything we do. It affects the questions we ask, the decisions we make, and how we do what we do.

In a short article such as this, there is no way to answer every question or to be completely comprehensive in handling our subject matter. But hopefully, this will challenge some of our thinking and encourage us to be, both as individuals and as a church, all we can be for the glory of God. Let us have our lives count as we seek to serve our magnificent Savior.

Called Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 5, following the worship service for the purpose of giving a brief presentation of the 2022 budget. There will also be a short briefing on some security measures for the church.

Officer Nominations

It's time once again to prayerfully consider men to be nominated for church officers for the class of 2022. Nominations will be received for the office of Elder

and Deacon from Sunday, May 29 to Sunday, June 26. Nomination forms with instructions for the nominating process will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday. As you consider men for nominations, please review the biblical qualifications for church leadership as listed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Please speak directly with anyone you wish to nominate beforehand to ensure they are willing to serve in the capacity of and elder or deacon prior to submitting their name.

Summer Sunday School Schedule

The Session has decided that we will not be having children's and adult Sunday School for July and August. Our last Sunday will be **June 26th**, and this allows us to prepare for a great fall. 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.

June Events

PATRIOTIC PICNIC

Sunday, June 26 ★ 12 pm ★ The Pavilion

LUNCH PROVIDED

BURGERS AND DOGS
SIDES
DESSERT
DRINKS

FUN IN THE SUN

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
WATERSLIDE
BOUNCE HOUSE

Sign up in
the narthex to:

- attend
- join the
cornhole
contest



SHORTS & CASUAL ATTIRE
OKAY FOR WORSHIP

Sign up in the narthex or [click here](#) to email the church office.



CPR TRAINING

for members/regular attenders

Space is limited to 12 people and is open to men & women.

Register by June 23 on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Monday, June 27

**LOPC (rooms 110-112)
from 9 am - noon**

Training provided by
Putnam County EMS.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT LYNNE FOWLKES
AT 248-672-8873

Women's Ministry

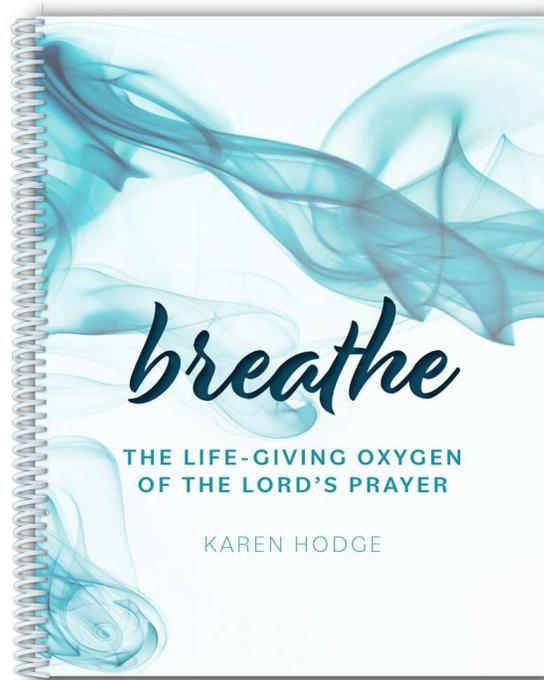


The Women's Ministry enjoyed a unique opportunity early in May to support the First Call Pregnancy Center in Greensboro. We (18 of us from LOPC) car-pooled into downtown to the Wildflower Center for a fashion show! There were lots of people in attendance as well as lots of food, items for a silent auction, and a raffle. And there were fashions and jewelry by Melinda and Sarah Spivey. The overall effort for afternoon raised \$21,000 for the Pregnancy Center! A fun day was had by all.

We also have a few more ideas in the works as we move forward. Late August (29th) is the next firm date, so be sure to save that evening for a surprise event, to be announced soon.

Meanwhile, your council is working on several more ideas. We'll let you know details soon. Don't forget our suggestion box on the nametag table in the hallway next to the sanctuary.

Lynne Fowlkes, President
Women's Ministry Council



While summer is synonymous with vacation, the one thing you don't want to take a vacation from is daily time in God's Word. If you're looking for a study to help keep you connected, we encourage you to consider *Breathe*, authored by Karen Hodge, the Coordinator for PCA Women's Ministry.

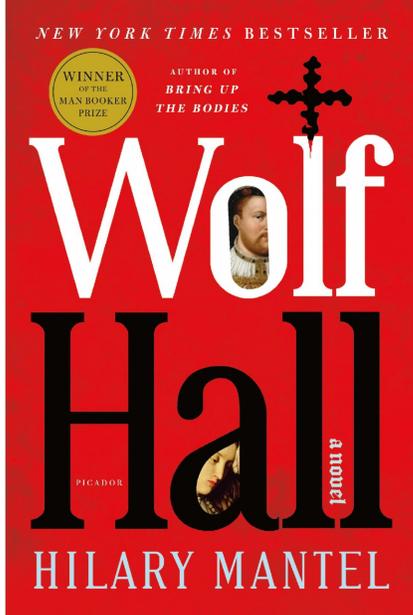
The grand purpose of this six-week Bible study is to consider in the context of community what it might look like if the words of the Lord's Prayer were written over every aspect of our lives, homes, work, church, and community—to spend time unpacking how our position in Christ impacts our posture in prayer. This curriculum can be done independently or as a group. (If you're interested in hosting a *Breathe* fellowship once or twice during the summer, contact Sue Burmeister.)

If you're interested in a copy of the book, LOPC will be placing a group order on Tuesday, June 7, through the PCA Bookstore. **Contact the church office by noon that day (June 7)** to add your name to the list. Books are \$15, and you can pay when you pick up your copy.

Book Binders

Book Binders met on Friday May 20, to talk about *A Noble Calling* by Rhona Weaver. What a great discussion about how faith was woven into this story so seamlessly. We agreed that it was a well-written, compelling novel that was hard to put down.

On Friday, June 17 at 10 a.m. at the church, Book Binders will discuss *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel, an award-winning novel about Thomas Cromwell and England in the



1500s. If you think matters of faith and politics are complicated today, you only have to read this book to be reminded of the complexities of the past – the Reformation was a time of great upheaval! Come join us as we talk about another well-written and compelling work of fiction.

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!*

Check us out on social media!

facebook

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



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

MNA Disaster Response



Sheds of Hope

Three of the sheds recently built by the LOPC Sheds of HOPE team were sent to Sevierville, TN, in the aftermath of a wildfire outbreak that burned nearly 2,500 acres and incinerated 219 homes. This is the area just west of Dollywood, a popular theme park, and short distance from the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the nation's most visited national park with more than 14 million visitors each year. Further to the west in Seymour, another fire consumed another 700 acres and burned more structures.



For more information about Sheds of HOPE, contact [Dick Forrester](#).

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](#) [Q](#)

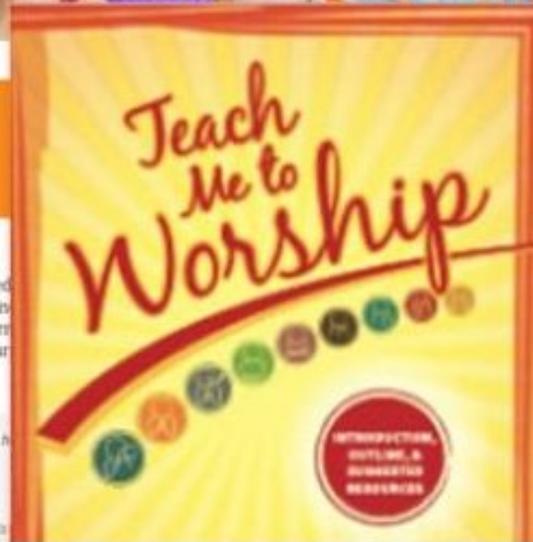


Purpose

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



Ages

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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

June Calendar of Events

We've streamlined our calendar view to make it easier to read across different devices! The best way to see upcoming LOPC events is by visiting our website.



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 (HFG) 	<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.