



## LOPC NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

From Jeff Birch, Senior Pastor

### Running the Race

***Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).***

One of the reasons I love sports as I do is that I am reminded of the many lessons my dad taught me using sports. Whether it was golf and learning things like patience (I'm not sure how well I learned that lesson) or the teamwork of basketball, I have learned a lot through sports.

My favorite sport has always been baseball. Are you tiring yet of my constantly talking about the NY Yankees? I hope not. One of the things that I have always loved about baseball is the length of the season and the fact that it is not a sprint but a marathon. For so many, 162 games is too long of a season, but I love the fact that a team is tested through a six-month season, having to endure ups and

downs, peaks and valleys, and must endure in order to win.

In Hebrews 12, the writer is encouraging the people of God to endure in running the race. He is comparing life to a race and lets us see just a couple of lessons for us here in this passage. First, notice the text says, “the race that is set before us.” In other words, while we run the race it is one that is set before us, in other words by God. He writes and defines our race for us. It is not up to us. That ought to be very freeing for us. We are not in control of our own race. In fact, it is not our race to define, write, or control. What does the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism say? “What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death, am not my own, but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.” Take heart, my friends.

And how do we run this race? Again, we are told that the key is “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.” Jesus ran a race, too. And where did His race lead? To the cross. And what was it that compelled Him toward the cross? The text tells us that it was for the joy that was set before him. Part of that joy was us, you and me. As the bride of Christ, we are His joy.

Does that move you? I hope so. That is incredible. We are Christ’s joy. It is only that promise of the gospel that can strengthen us to run the race that is set before us, wherever it may lead. Christ ran a race first. A race that was set before Him. A race that led to the cross and led to our eternal security in Him.

## Home Fellowship Groups (HFG) and Bible Studies

**Wood HFG** – **Restarts October 3**. Led by Harley Wood, they meet the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the home of Dick & Barbara Pomarolli. **The group will hold their October 3 meeting at the church in rooms 110-112.**

**Parker HFG** – **Restarts October 6**. Led by **Harold Parker**, they meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church in rooms 110-112.

**Hunt HFG** – **Restarts October 6**. Led by **Wes Hunt**, they meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in various homes.

**Forrester HFG** – **Restarts October 13**. Led by **Dick Forrester**, they meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

**Tuesday Early-Morning Ladies' Bible Study** – Led by Karen Hildebrand and Jan Murray, they meet by Zoom **every Tuesday** at 7:30 a.m. (year-round) for deep study in the Word, discussion, and prayer. All women are invited.

**Wednesday Mid-Morning Ladies' Bible Study** – Led by Sue Burmeister, they meet **every Wednesday** from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the church in rooms 110-112, and via Zoom for remote participants.

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

The Women's Ministry has scheduled, "A Trip Back in Time to Eatonton," on Thursday, October 7. Ladies, plan to meet in the LOPC parking lot at 9:15 am that morning, and we'll travel together to downtown Eatonton to visit museums, do some shopping, and enjoy lunch together. We hope you'll be able to join us for a day of local history, great food, and top notch fellowship!

Our original plan to was visit the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers. However, due to the spike in Covid cases, the monastery has closed to the public. We hope to reschedule a trip to tour the grounds and abbey once they re-open.

*Brenda Roberts*

*President, LOPC Women's Ministry*

*The Women's Ministry invites you to*  
**A Trip Back in Time**  
*to Eatonton*



**Thursday, October 7**  
**meet at LOPC at 9:15 am**

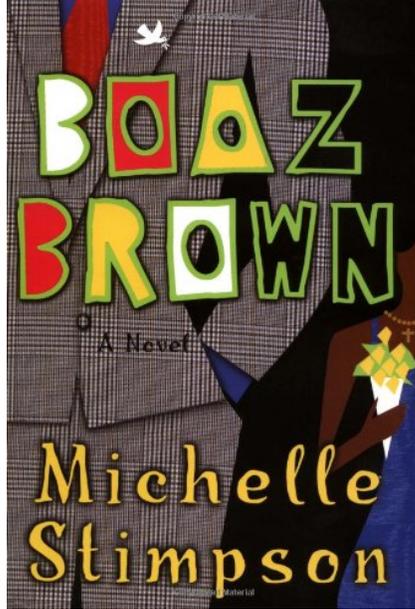
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Uncle Remus Museum • Historical Museum  
Old School Historical Museum  
Wall of Honor • lunch at Dot-2-Dot Inn (\$15)  
Artisan Market • downtown shops

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**Book Binders**

Book Binders met at the home of Mary Ann Johnson on Friday, Sept. 17, for a rousing discussion of *Ruby's Slippers* by Tricia



Rayburn. The connections to the Jan/Feb 2021 byFaith (our denominational magazine) article entitled "Evangelism and Gen Z" were explored as they related to the book.

On Friday, October 15, from 10 to 11 at the church in room 110, we'll meet to talk about *Boaz Brown* by Michelle Stimson. Every woman wants an ideal mate, but what qualities does he need to have? As a woman of faith, the heroine has high standards. As a woman of color, she has personal, cultural, and family expectations to deal with that might surprise you. Join us in reading a book nominated for the Christy award, named for the famous Christian novel by Catherine Marshall.



### 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.

## GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

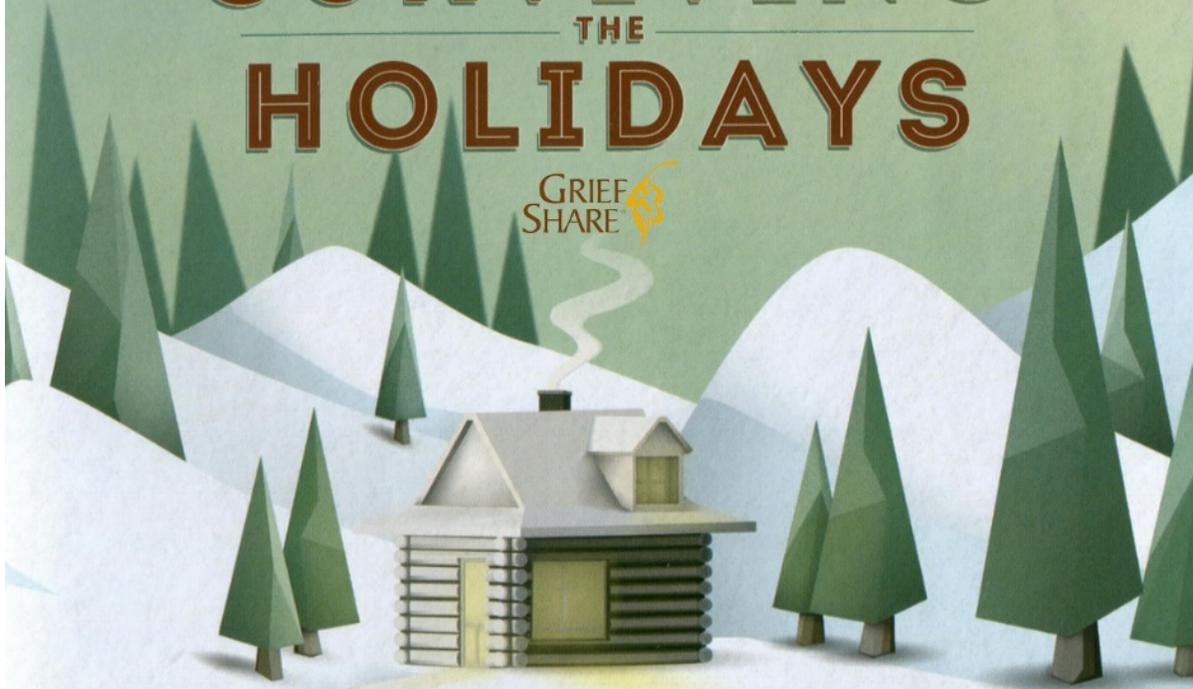
Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Look for upcoming info about our special December seminar, "Griefshare: Surviving the Loss of a Spouse."

# SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF  
SHARE 



**Lake Oconee Presbyterian Church**  
**Thursday, November 11**  
6:30-8:30 pm in rooms 110-112  
Cost: FREE (workbook provided)

Registration is encouraged.  
Call the church office at  
706-484-0600 to sign up!

Save the Date!



# Save the date!

**Who:** elves needed

**What:** decorating the church for Christmas

**When:** Saturday, November 27 @ 9:30 am

To sign up, call the church office at 706-484-0600.

Church App



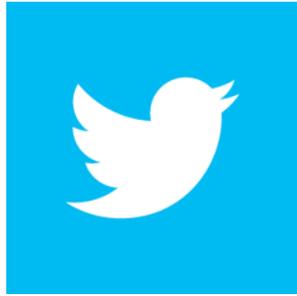
Join realm<sup>®</sup>  
and stay connected!

*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)



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



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

## MNA Disaster Response





# Sheds of HOPE youth build

- Thursday, October 14 (1 pm - 3 pm)
- Friday, October 15 \*(8 am - 4 pm)
- Saturday, October 16 \*(8 am - 4 pm)
- Monday, October 18 (as needed)

**\*Students are invited to join us during these times!**

limited  
space for  
students

open to rising sixth  
graders through current  
high school seniors

student  
registration  
required



God has continued to bless the LOPC Sheds of HOPE ministry. After his overwhelming blessing of our fundraiser, he led us through another successful shed build September 20 – 22. Besides giving us the financial resources to buy materials, he brought us two new volunteers who immediately blended into the team. He gave us a little rain to keep things interesting at the beginning, but then led us through a smooth build, full of fellowship and satisfying accomplishment. Best of all, by the end of work September 22, four more Sheds of HOPE were packed and ready to help bring relief to families suffering from disasters. The sheds were picked up Tuesday, September 28 and transported to the MNA Warehouse in Rome, GA, adding to the inventory of Sheds of HOPE held in readiness to serve coming needs.

The LOPC Sheds of HOPE team will add more fun to our next shed build **October 14-18** – we're inviting our LOPC Youth to join us, along with other middle schoolers and high schoolers from the lake area. Our guests will have a hands-on opportunity to learn and help build floors, walls, rafters, doors, hardware kits – everything needed to build a Shed of HOPE. We'll share stories, laugh a lot and enjoy the fun of working together with fellow Christians. Best of all we'll serve our Lord together by helping our brothers and sisters in need – who have lost their homes due to tornadoes or other disasters! **So if you're a rising sixth grader through high school senior and want to join in the fun, please call and reserve your place!**

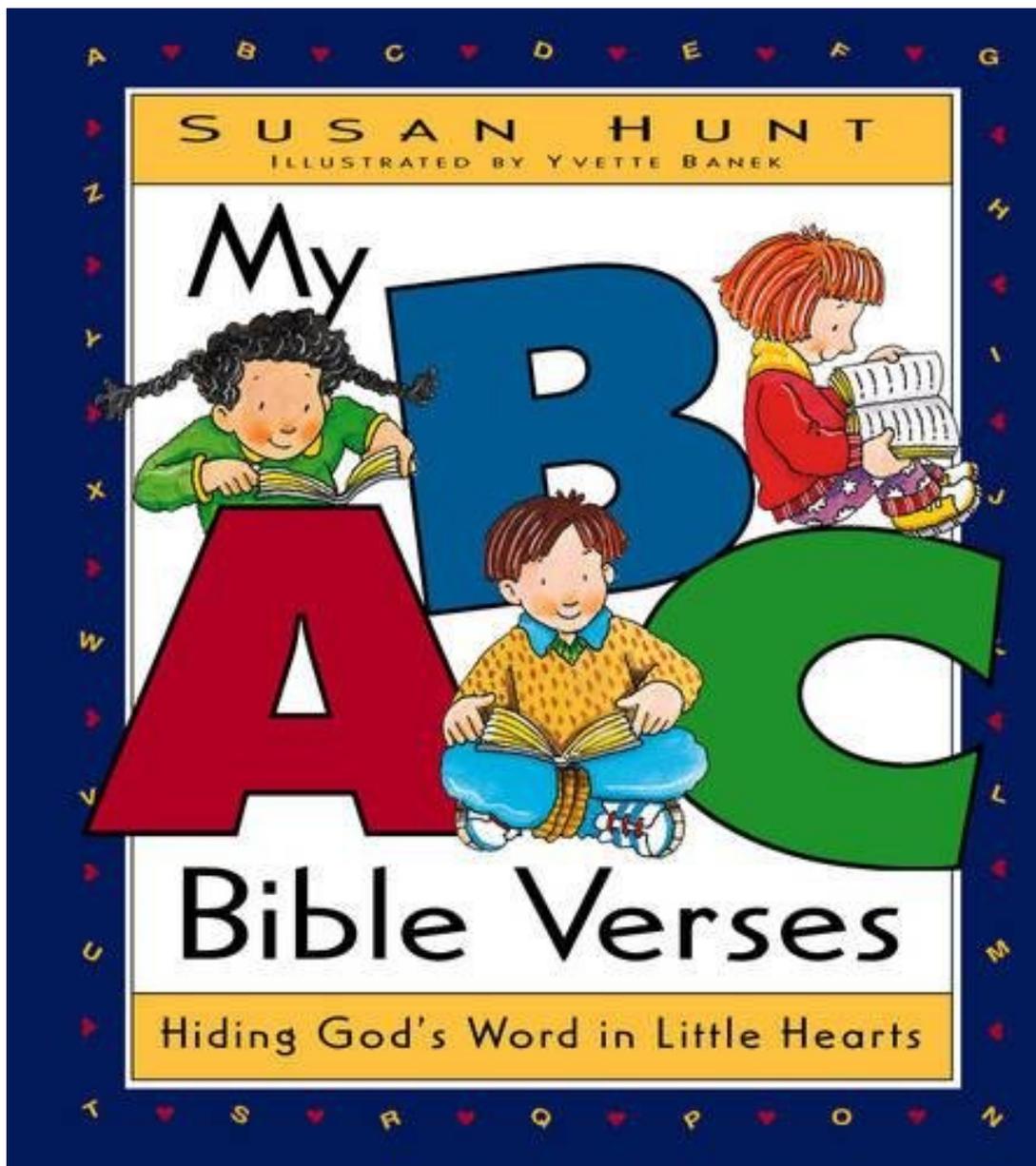
## Youth Ministry



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...*

*Psalm 78:5-7a*

## 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.