



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

September 9, 2026

Our mission: To **Worship** God, to **Serve** our neighbors, to **Proclaim** the Good News

*Please check out the **church calendar** available on our website.*

www.goodshepherdwv.org

From the Rector

One of the things I appreciate most about the Episcopal Church is our willingness to recognize the Gospel in other places. If there are other churches out there, preaching the Good News, we are happy to work with them in helping to grow God's Kingdom here on earth. That doesn't mean we always have to agree on every scriptural interpretation or sacramental practice. It means that we lean in on the places where common mission is found.

The following contemplation on Moses is an excerpt of a Facebook post written by a non-denominational pastor of a church near Nashville, Todd Coconato. I suspect a lot of what he preaches might be different from typical Episcopal understandings of scripture, but his take on Moses is fantastic. He writes,

"Moses' life is one of the clearest pictures in Scripture of what it looks like when God takes an ordinary, imperfect person and uses them to accomplish something extraordinary. It was not smooth. It was not quick. It was not always comfortable. But it was deeply purposeful. When you study his life, you begin to see patterns, principles, and truths that still speak directly to us right now. Here are ten key takeaways we can learn from Moses' life.

First, God's calling is not limited by your past. Moses was raised in Pharaoh's house, then became a fugitive after taking a man's life. By every human standard, he disqualified himself. Yet God called him anyway. Your past may explain where you've been, but it does not determine where God can take you.

Second, preparation often happens in hidden places. Moses spent forty years in the wilderness before he ever led anyone. That season was not wasted. God was shaping his character, humbling his heart, and preparing him for leadership. What feels like delay is often divine development.

Third, God uses imperfect people who are willing to say yes. Moses argued with God at the burning bush. He doubted his ability. He made excuses. Yet he ultimately obeyed. God is not looking for perfection. He is looking for surrender.

Fourth, intimacy with God is the true source of authority. Moses did not lead out of personality or charisma. He led because he had encounters with God. The burning bush, the mountain, the tent of meeting, all of it points to one thing. When you know God, everything changes.

Fifth, obedience unlocks the miraculous. When Moses stretched out his staff, the Red Sea parted. When he obeyed God's instructions, provision came. The miracle was not in Moses, it was in his obedience. God still responds to obedience today.

Sixth, leadership comes with pressure and opposition. Moses dealt with complaints, rebellion, and constant criticism. The very people he led often pushed back against him. If you are called to lead, you must be prepared to stand firm when it is not easy.

Seventh, humility is essential for longevity. The Bible describes Moses as very humble, more than all men on the face of the earth. That humility is what allowed him to carry the weight of leadership without becoming corrupted by it. Pride disqualifies, but humility sustains.

Eighth, intercession matters more than we realize. Moses stood in the gap for the people again and again. There were moments when judgment was coming, and Moses cried out to God on their behalf. His prayers made a difference. Never underestimate the power of standing in the gap.

Ninth, obedience still matters even at the end. Moses' story reminds us that details matter. When God told him to speak to the rock and he struck it instead, there were consequences. This is not about fear, it is about understanding that obedience is a lifestyle, not a one-time decision.

Tenth, the promise is bigger than the person. Moses led the people toward the Promised Land, but he did not enter it himself. Yet his assignment was still successful. Sometimes your role is to build, prepare, and lead others into what you may not fully step into yourself. That is Kingdom thinking.

When you look at Moses' life, you see a man who walked with God, wrestled with God, obeyed God, and ultimately fulfilled what God placed in his hands. His life reminds us that God is still looking for people who will trust Him in the wilderness, obey Him in the moment, and stay faithful to the end."

For the past two weeks, we have heard about Moses, and we will continue to hear about him into October. I believe these ten key points are worth your meditation. I am also curious to hear what other take aways you might have from his incredible story.

Katie Beth+

My 2nd favorite part about *Learning From London* by Brian Switzer

My second favorite part of *Learning from London* was the Monday Prayer Walk led by Mark and Carrie Bishop. The morning began simply: breakfast at the Highbury Centre, followed by Daily Prayer before we headed into the city. The prayer walk became more than a memorable outing; it offered a simple, repeatable practice for seeing a neighborhood with spiritual attention and asking how the church might worship, proclaim, and serve in the same movement.

We took the Tube and exited at Tower Hill, where we had an excellent view of the infamous Tower of London, a historic citadel and castle on the north bank of the River Thames. Famous high-status captives held within its walls included Anne Boleyn, Sir Walter Raleigh, Guy Fawkes, and Lady Jane Grey, and conditions ranged from comfortable house arrest for nobility to severe torture in the dungeons for traitors and heretics. Against that charged backdrop, we met Mark and Carrie of The Order of the Pigeon, a dispersed urban Christian community in East London focused on peace-making and contemplative intercession. Prayer walking the local streets, neighborhoods, and pedestrian crossings is one of their core spiritual rhythms.

During introductions, we gathered near the Roman and Medieval city wall, whose history reaches back to around 200 AD. Their methodology was simple: walk, look, listen, pray, repeat. When something stood out or seemed important, we were invited to pray quietly or out loud and offer it to God. We did not need to wait until the group stopped; this was prayer as we went, through quiet observation and spoken prayer. We also practiced asking questions that could lead to prayer: Do you know what that building is? What do you think God is doing here? What is the history here? Can we pray for that person or place?

I thought about starting this in the Pink Church community and what it could look like for us. Even if we only walked around the block, what might our eyes see? What needs would become visible? What could we lift respectfully to God in prayer? What might God stir in us? Would our neighbors join us? What about inviting other pastors and churches, or the mayor, police chief, or senators? Can you picture a small group of pink-shirted evangelists roaming the neighborhood, listening, praying, and talking with neighbors?

Is this worshiping, proclaiming, or serving? Yes — all three at the same time.

Interesting things to do with our friends at other local churches (while wearing a pink t-shirt?)

- "Disentangling and Discerning Scripture" event on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 9am to 4pm at 219 11th Street, Parkersburg hosted by The West Virginia Faith Collective in partnership with Jubilee Justice and St. Paul's United Methodist. It's a one-day workshop that aims to equip people with tools for studying scripture, collectively putting those tools to use to explore questions about human sexuality and Christian Nationalism in light of the Gospel. There are three options for registration: morning session only, afternoon session only, or all day. There is a small cost to defray travel expenses for speakers and the meal (if you stay for the lunch). Register at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/westvirginiafaithcollective/2327207>
- FPC Fun Day is a free family event on Saturday September 19 from noon – 2 PM at First Presbyterian Church, 1341 Juliana St. in Parkersburg. There will be giant inflatables, family games including a cake walk and mini-golf, live bluegrass music, and a free lunch. Rain or Shine, all are welcome
- First Christian Church at 1400 Washington Avenue is celebrating their 100th anniversary on Saturday Sept. 19th with an Open House from noon – 4 PM. This event features antique cars, alpacas, music with Moon King, kids' activities and an ice cream social in the church hall.

Need a Pink Church t-shirt?

There is an order sheet in the Welcome Center for the **Think Pink** t-shirts that some of us already have. We need to order at least 20. While we plan to order some extras, it would be best to order your shirt with your size so we have one to fit you. The cost is \$15 for sizes through XL and the cost goes up a bit as the size increases – all the way up to 6X. We hope to order the shirts within the next couple of weeks. If you can't get here to order your shirt you may call the office and we will add you to the list.

UTO (United Thank Offering)

UTO invites individuals to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. Your discipline might include dropping a coin in a UTO box every time you are grateful for something.

Little blue boxes are available in the Welcome Center for your use. We will collect them during the service on **September 13**. You can also bring or mail in a check with UTO in the memo line. Read more about UTO here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>

Rental space available. Any ideas?

We continue to look for one or more tenants for rooms in the Christian Ed wing. We can be flexible about which spaces a future tenant could use. If you know of any businesses or non-profits that would be a good fit for us, both in terms of mission and space needed, please pass your suggestion to a staff or vestry member or ask the agency/program to contact the church directly so we can provide further details.

Bell Tower

Phoenix Associates have been working on the bell tower, the **Proclaim** part of last year's Capital Campaign. Last week a new pull-down stairway was installed so our work crew no longer will be climbing up from the outside to get to the bell. The next step will be applying the new stucco where it had to be replaced. The new stucco will need to cure for a month before it can be painted. Please pray that this can all happen before cold weather (or more rain) arrives.



Before



After



Prayers of the People

After experiencing some heartfelt prayers from some of our members, we have decided to offer this opportunity once a month from June through the end of the church year (November). **If you would like to write some prayers to be used during the service on the 2nd Sunday of the month, please let Linda know so she can put you on the schedule.** So far Brian, Linda, Dave and Warren have contributed prayers – let's hear from some of the rest of you! November is still available. Helpful information on composing your prayers can be found in the August 5th edition of the Staff.



Altar Flowers

Several dates are available between now and the end of the year for your donation(s) in memory of loved ones or to honor special occasions. They are Oct. 18, and 25, November 8, 15, and 22. The cost is \$40/vase. Call the office to reserve your date and give us the information we should include in the bulletin.



Shepherd's Closet Rummage



The September sale raised \$333 for our Adopted Families Christmas project and we got rid of a lot of excess summer clothing. If you can come in to help Deb make the switch to cold weather clothing, please give her a call to arrange a time. Her cell # is 518-637-1734.

Books for the Little Free Library

We are in good shape for kids for quite a while - thank you!

As fall approaches, it would be great to have more cookbooks, fiction and non-fiction for adults.



Inreach Opportunities

We show our care for other members as we listen to each other, spend time together, support each other in our church ministries, share a hug during the peace, help in times of need and celebrate special moments. Those who can't be here in person are also valued members. If you or a loved one would like a card, a visit, a meal, or a home communion, please call the office and we will connect you with someone who would love to be asked to help.

♥ Pastoral Care

Someone is in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (these are our normal hours as of September 1st). If you need pastoral care outside office hours, contact Toni DeVore or Linda Crocker (see below). Additionally, the Eucharistic Visitors can offer a visit and/or home communion to those who can't come to church – just ask!

♥ Prayer Chain

We have a group of people who pray for those having emergency situations – surgery, accidents, or other crises. Linda Crocker makes the calls using the One Call system when she is notified by a church member of an immediate need. If you want to be added to the prayer chain let Linda know (304-210-5591). **God hears all our prayers** – you don't need a special gift to pray for healing and comfort for those in distress. All prayer chain calls remain confidential.



♥ Intercessory Prayers:

During your prayer time use the lists below to remember those who have asked for our prayers:

Good Shepherd Parish Prayer List

Victims of war and violence	Mary Gevas – healing	Marlene Smith- healing
Flood Victims	Gene Allander – healing	Diane Cottrill – healing
Peter Gevas – healing	John Curry – healing	Jone Johnson – healing/strength
Ann Stevens– healing	Amanda Morris – healing	Buck Harris – strength/healing
Larry Landrith – healing	Marcia Doyle – healing	Deb Hepburn-McKinney – healing
Angela Kelley – healing	Gary Freeman - healing	



Safety for all those serving in the Armed Forces

Donovan Burns, Sterling Slusher, Peter Keiser



Those needing healing from cancer

John Stevens	Alana Dailey	Gary Greer	Lois Switzer	Rudi Miksa
Faith Beha	Mirtala Smith	Everett Gilmore	Charles Sterchak	Ellen Faymon Ben
Buskirk	Courtney Rodriguez	Jeff Alkire		

Death

Jerry Shaw

Outreach Programs

- ♥ **Donuts** - We make day-old donuts available to our neighbors and the homeless. Thank you to McHappy's and to those who make sure the donuts are picked up daily.
- ♥ **Little Free Library** – Filling the church neighborhood with books to read. Your donations are always welcome.
- ♥ **Last Sunday Supper** – The next meal will be Sunday, August 30. Set-up and cook at 1 PM or help serve and clean-up at 5:15 PM. We begin serving at 5:30 and continue until about 6 (or earlier if we run out of food). We are usually out of the building by 7 or 7:15.
- ♥ **Food Pantry** – If you can help hand out food bags to the unhoused or assemble food orders in the pantry for our housed clients, the current need is someone on Monday afternoon and Thursday morning. We also need subs occasionally. Contact Linda if you can serve a few hours weekly or just as needed. Also, **we need your used bags**, doubled if possible.



Coming Up:

September 12 - "Disentangling and Discerning Scripture" (see above)
September 13 – UTO Ingathering
September 19 – FPC Fun Day (see above)
September 19 – 100th Anniversary celebration at First Christian (see above)
September 27 – Last Sunday Supper



Found on Facebook – interesting ideas for your contemplation

Many Anglican Churches are preparing to observe 'The Feast of Creation in Christ' this September.

The new liturgical festival elevates the doctrine of creation to a more prominent position in Christian worship, filling a gap in the liturgical calendars of churches that previously did not celebrate Christ's role in the creation of the world.

The Feast of Creation in Christ will be celebrated annually on the first Sunday of September, close to the start of the Season of Creation (also called Creationtide) - an ecumenical season of prayer and action for the environment that runs through to 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

Several Anglican churches have already begun to institute the festival, including the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, the Episcopal Church (TEC), the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada and The Church of England.

The growing momentum for this new liturgical festival was also reflected in a resolution by the Anglican Consultative Council, which passed during ACC-19. It encourages the adoption of the Feast of Creation in Christ in Member Church calendars, while also leaving space for churches to draw on ecumenical materials or develop their own. For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/4xeJGi7>



Contact Information:

The Rev. Katie Beth Miksa	304-428-1525, ext. 4	rector.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Ginger Smith, Parish Administrator	304-428-1525, ext. 1	gingersmith.goodshepherdwva@gmail.com
Linda Crocker, Parish Ministries	304-428-1525, ext. 5	LLBC100@msn.com or text 304-210-5591
Toni DeVore, Senior Warden	304-991-2259	drtd51@gmail.com

One Call system 1-877-698-3261

This is the way we notify our members of important announcements.

Caller ID will say that the call is from Good Shepherd, but it is really from One Call.

Call the number above if you need a message from the church repeated.

If you are not receiving messages, contact Linda to be added to our call list.

Support our Ministries

