

The Shepherd's Crook



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2020

The Shepherd's Crook
is published for GSPC
members and friends.
303-452-5478
thegoodshepherd.org
office@thegoodshepherd.org

Ministers:

**All the Members of the
Congregation**

Bridge Pastor:

Bethany Benz-Whittington

Office Administrator:

Teddie McConnell

Choir Director:

Sara Tyburczy

Accompanist:

Dr. Jonathan Morris

Treasurer:

Joyce Matthews

Nursery Attendant:

Taya Mendez

Events Coordinator:

Diana Bennett

Centus Counselor:

Josh Parker, LCSW

Clerk of Session:

Mary Archuleta

Session Members:

Anna Bond

Fred Finke

Mary Ann Hood

Robin Kelly

Joyce Matthews

John Shaeffer

Paul Steward

Barbara Swanson

Hi friends!

After taking a survey about what book of the Bible to study this fall, we have landed on Amos! There was zero consensus about what should be studied, but there were comments like "one of the lesser knowns," and "Old Testament something." Now, admittedly, one of you did ask for II Timothy, which I decided not to do unless you want a very long screed about women in ministry. I assume you don't. But please, call me and we can talk about it!

So, with that said, next Tuesday (Aug. 4) at 11 am, we'll begin our study of Amos. This will be a six week series (see below how we'll break it up). Before beginning, I thought an overview of the book would be helpful. So, sit back and enjoy your coffee while you learn a bit about one of the most heinous and glorious prophets to ever prophecy.

THE BOOK OF AMOS

Amos was a sheep breeder of Tekoa in Judah, who delivered his oracles in the Northern Kingdom during the prosperous reign of Jeroboam II (786–746 B.C.). He prophesied in Israel at the great cult center of Bethel, from which he was finally expelled by the priest in charge of this royal sanctuary (7:10–17). The poetry of Amos, who denounces the hollow prosperity of the Northern Kingdom, is filled with imagery and language taken from his own pastoral background. The book is an anthology of his oracles and was compiled either by the prophet or by some of his disciples.

The prophecy begins with a sweeping indictment of Damascus, Philistia, Tyre, and Edom; but the forthright herdsman saves his climactic denunciation for Israel, whose injustice and idolatry are sins against the light granted to her. Israel could indeed expect the day of the Lord, but it would be a day of darkness and not light (5:18). When Amos prophesied the overthrow of the sanctuary, the fall of the royal house, and the captivity of the people, it was more than Israelite officialdom could bear. The priest of Bethel drove Amos from the shrine—but not before hearing a terrible sentence pronounced upon himself.

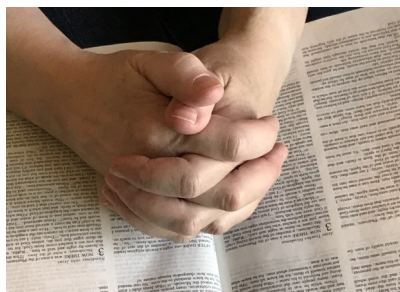
Amos is a prophet of divine judgment, and the sovereignty of the Lord in nature and history dominates his thought. But he was no innovator; his work was in keeping with the whole prophetic tradition calling the people back to the high moral and religious demands of the Lord's revelation.

Amos's message stands as one of the most powerful voices ever to challenge hypocrisy and injustice. He boldly indicts kings, priests, and leaders (6:1; 7:9, 16–17). He stresses the importance and the divine origin of the prophetic word (3:3–8); one must either heed that word in its entirety or suffer its disappearance (8:11–12). Religion without justice is an affront to the God of Israel and, far from appeasing God, can only provoke divine wrath (next page)



August Birthdays

Barbara Myers	August 1
Joan Moore	August 1
Andrea Conrad	August 4
Linda Keck	August 4
Ken Harris	August 5
Sara Tyburczy	August 7
Richard Roush	August 8
Noel Matthews	August 10
Erick Hartman	August 20
Carol Topp	August 23
Louise Schwartz	August 23
Pat McCune	August 28
William Keck	August 29



Prayer Needs

Jerry Wetzel's grandson, Jay Wolcott, who had a kidney transplant

Our military men & women
 Our first responders & health care workers
 Clients of our Food Bank
 Heather Chimhoga Orphan Care (HCOC) in Zimbabwe
 Guatemala Mission Partnership
 Highlands Camp and Retreat Center
 Our church, that it may thrive as it brings the good news to our area.

Bethany's message continued:

(5:21-27; 8:4-10). The Lord is not some petty national god but the sovereign creator of the cosmos (4:13; 5:8; 9:5-6). Amos alludes to historical forces at work through which God would exercise judgment on Israel (6:14). Several times he mentions deportation as the fate that awaits the people and their corrupt leaders (4:3; 5:5, 27; 7:17), a standard tactic of Assyrian foreign policy during this period. Through the prophetic word and various natural disasters (4:6-12) the Lord has tried to bring Israel to repentance, but to no avail. Israel's rebelliousness has exhausted the divine patience and the destruction of Israel as a nation and as God's people is inevitable (2:4, 13-16; 7:8-9). As it is presented in this book, Amos's message is one of almost unrelieved gloom (but see 5:14-15). A later appendix (9:11-15), however, ends the book on a hopeful note, looking beyond the judgment that had already taken place in fulfillment of Amos's word. The Book of Amos may be divided as follows:

Editorial Introduction (1:1-2)

Oracles Against the Nations (1:3-2:16)

Threefold Summons to Hear the Word of the Lord (3:1-5:9)

Three Woes (5:7-6:14)

Symbolic Visions (7:1-9:10)

Epilogue: Restoration Under a Davidic King (9:11-15)

I can't wait to dive into this book with you! See you soon!

Peace,
 Bethany

Teddie McConnell & David Wolters are still planning to be married at 11 am on August 9th, but will be live-streaming it on Zoom or Facebook instead of having guests who are physically present. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible.



Zoom Bible Study

Our study of the book of Amos will begin on August the 4th at 11 a.m.
 The link to connect is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85967114684>

Meeting ID: 859 6711 4684

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,85967114684# US (Houston)

+16699009128,,85967114684# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 859 6711 4684

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kblfz5owkr>

O Lord, what confusing days we live in.
We are reminded daily of our fallen nature,
of how we hurt each other and bring harm
to your creation.
We are truly lost without you.

We are lost without you
in the midst of this pandemic
that has taken such a great toll
on life and livelihood.

We are lost without you
as we witness our brothers and sisters
suffering injustice and systemic racism
for so very long.

We are lost without you
when we watch desperate people
seeking refuge and freedom
turned away at our borders.

We are lost without you
when violence of word and deed
become commonplace.
We are lost without you
as we enter yet another painfully divisive
election season that tears our country apart
instead of bringing us together.

O Lord, forgive us and have mercy.
Help us find ourselves in you.

In Christ we pray, Amen.

Resource: 180 Days of Prayer: Day 168 (adapted) |
Linda Badger Becker, Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Chair,
Special Offerings Review Task Force



*Some keep
the Sabbath
going to Church,
I keep it
staying at Home-*

*With a bobolink
for a Chorister,
and an Orchard,
for a Dome.*

- Emily Dickinson



photo by Teddie McConnell

Construction Update

GSPC Construction Update

As of July 30, 2020

Construction is moving toward completion. We are in the final stages of inspections and construction. Here is where we are as of Thursday afternoon, July 30.

Electrical inspections have been completed for all wiring, on the internal walls. Drywall is up and inspections have been completed. We are ready for painting.

Flooring will be installed after painting is completed. New flooring will be put in kitchen to match the rest of the fellowship hall. Ceiling gridwork is up and tiles will be installed next week.

Large glass doors have been installed. There has been a delay on receiving two of them but they should be here by the end of the week.

City of Northglenn is requiring a fire alarm system to be installed. Approval of the design is taking longer than expected but hopefully will be received by the end of the week. It will cover both levels. Once final approval has been received, wiring and ceiling can be completed. This was one big expense (\$20,000) we did not plan on but still can cover. It is being installed and will be monitored by Security Central.

The heating and air conditioning unit has been installed on the outside of the east side of the building. They are completing the hookup for it this week. A screen has also been installed to hide it from Melody Drive.

Sprinkler system has been repaired where necessary, and we now have good coverage for all grass and trees. Water is being poured on it, and it should be greening up shortly. Trees have been pruned and trimmed.

Exterior of the building has been repainted. Front main doors refinished. It all looks great.

Everything should be completed by the second week of August, barring any more delays.

Some of the other people that have been putting in extra hours keeping things going are Henry Heckart, Bob Swanson, Paul Coleman and Dick Kelly on the sprinkler system and lawn, Deb Hubner on the landscaping and flower beds, and Barbie Swanson and Joyce Matthews for suggestions and recommendations.

Please call me anytime if you have questions.

Noel Matthews



*May your roots go down
deep into the soil
of God's marvelous love.
And may you have
the power to understand,
as all God's people should,
how wide, how long,
how high, and how deep
God's love really is*

- Ephesians 3:17-18



photo by Teddie McConnell

**O give thanks to God, for God is good!
God's steadfast love endures
forever! - Psalm 107:1**



photo by Teddie McConnell

The Shepherd's Crook

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
10785 Melody Drive
Northglenn CO 80234

303-452-5478
thegoodshepherd.org
office@thegoodshepherd.org

Worship 10:00 a.m. online
www.thegoodshepherd.org



To bring the love
and teachings of Christ
to our community by:



GOOD
SHEPHERD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcoming all,
Serving together, and
Growing in faith.

Mission Statement
Revised and Adopted September 2018

