



GET TO KNOW PASTOR TARA BETH LEACH

FAMILY & HOBBIES

As a family, we love spending time outdoors. Nearly every vacation, we can be found traveling across the country in our camper to a National Park. The boys love getting lost in nature by kayaking, mountain biking, fishing, or hiking. Jeff and I love summiting mountains, and spend our days dreaming about which mountain we will conquer next.

Nothing refills my cup quite like quality time with friends and family. Whether it's a cup of coffee with a good friend or family game nights, I seek quality time as much as possible. In addition, I have been an avid equestrian throughout my life with seasons of taking a break. I look forward to picking up the sport again one day.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

I have been reflecting a lot on Ephesians 3:14-21.

Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus has been my own prayer for Good Shepherd:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his

Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

INSPIRED BY

Harriet Tubman – an abolitionist and preacher – faced structures of evil and boldly got into 'good trouble' by paving the way for freedom.

CHERISHED MOMENTS

I have been richly privileged through the years in preaching for local churches as well as national platforms. I'll never understand why these doors open, but every day I am always asking the Spirit, "what is the next faithful step God is asking me to take today?"

Every day is all about stewardship – stewarding moments, time, and gifts. I'm grateful for the places the Spirit has brought me.

GOOD SHEPHERD & GOD'S PRESENCE

When I first stood on the platform to preach my first sermon nearly 15 years ago, I never imagined that the then 25-year-old would one day lead this church. Over the years, I have referred to Good Shepherd Church as my 'first love.' Since leaving Good Shepherd, God has taken me on a journey of learning how to lead and pastor through valley experiences and mountain top experiences. I feel more ready for this role than ever. Good Shepherd is a church with a rich history of passionate worship and missional work both globally and locally. To think that I get to now partner with this beautiful flock on 1310 Shepherd Drive is a dream made reality. Only God could orchestrate such a story. I look forward to many years of living on mission together.

Every time I worship at Good Shepherd Church, I am amazed at the presence of the Spirit of God. While I know that God is always a present God, when the people of God engage in passionate worship, the Spirit of God sometimes feels palpable. I believe this posture before God will only lead to greater flourishing.

I am excited to raise my children with the good and faithful flock at Good Shepherd. I am excited to partner together imagining how we might together link into the missional imagination of our Triune God.

Tara Beth Leach is a pastor, preacher of the Word, and a writer. She is currently a Pastor at Christ Church of Oak Brook in the western suburbs of Chicago. She previously served as Senior Pastor of First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena ("PazNaz") in Southern California.

Tara Beth is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University and Northern Theological Seminary. She is the author of *Emboldened*, *Radiant Church*, and *Forty Days on Being a Six*. Outside of her home church duties, she speaks widely at conferences, retreats, and universities across America on Church Leadership, Women in Ministry, and the call to be a Radiant Witness.

Tara Beth has two beautiful and rambunctious sons, and has been married to the love of her life, Jeff, since 2006.





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