

A Final Musings from Mark...

Changes are the order of the day for April this year. Westminster as a congregation will be moving from its building, assimilating with Trinity Presbyterian, and beginning new and exciting ministry.

Over the last few years, we have worked together to imagine a new future. When we began that journey, none of us could have known this was where it would lead. It is a faithful decision because you did not wait until there was no more money, or dwindling membership. What you have done is bold, unprecedented, and exciting for all of us.

While it is exciting it is also a time of mourning. The end we have been talking about is finally here. And in those moments, reality can bring a flood of emotions. Make sure to honor those feelings. Like Mary in the garden, you may have tears in your eyes, but so too, like Mary in the garden, there is an empty tomb. New life is coming, this is not the end. That is the heart of the faith we share – new life is coming and for that we can say, “Alleluia!”

Since this is the last letter I will write, I also want to reflect on our twenty-one years together. At a congregational meeting In June of 2004, Westminster voted to extend a call to the ministry and welcomed me and the family into your midst. I had no idea the shape of the journey then. However, in the very next meeting of the Session, it was reported that it was possible the congregation would run out of money in 2007. Your willingness to do new ministry, to try new things, and to join in the journey means that date was a tad off. The journey is nothing if not surprising. Please make sure to join in the celebration service of our ministry on April 14th at 11 a.m. Invite friends to join the celebration. We will be joined by Pilgrim and Union Ave, as well as other special guests for one last joint service.

Throughout the years we have been through much and done important ministries together. From running a coffee shop, to supporting fast-food workers organizing, Union Communion Ministries, Joint Worship Services, baptisms, marriages, funerals, and memorial services. We laughed together, broke bread together, shed tears together, and sang “Alleluias” together. It has been quite a ride!

The night before I was installed as your pastor, the balloon race went directly over our home, just as the search committee was coming to dinner to celebrate. Every year as I’ve watched the balloons fly, I am reminded of the promises we made together on that day.

Continued on page 2

A Glimpse of God’s Love on the Delmar Divide

Continued from page 1

On April 21st at 1 p.m. we will gather in the sanctuary one last time, to remember the shared ministry and to end the pastoral relationship in a congregational meeting at the end of the service. From there, we will each move forward into a future not yet fully known, though not together. But we know who holds the future and in that we can place our trust.

For those who are wondering what will happen next, here is what I know right now. For you, it is time to learn more about Trinity. Get to know people and ministries and get a sense of community rhythm. I encourage you not to make quick decisions or judgements. Relationships and forming new traditions and habits take time to develop. Never cease to trust that new life is coming.

For me, I will be taking time to figure out what is next. I have signed up to do supply preaching and will be taking training in Interim Ministry. Other than that, if I have learned anything from the last twenty-one years of the journey, it will unfold as it should. I deeply appreciate the support of severance that will enable me to work through this season of change without the addition of financial stress.

While Westminster church is coming to an end, Westminster's spirit of compassion and justice lives on in your community of faith at Trinity.

God Bless, and thank you for allowing me to be your pastor!

Peace and Grace,

Mark



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 7th 10 am – Worship at Trinity – Holy Humor Sunday!!!

During the first few centuries of the church, some theologians talked about the resurrection being the greatest trick God ever pulled on death and the devil. And for the week following Easter, people would play practical jokes and go for picnics, all in celebration of the laughter and joy God has given us.

In the past few years, some churches have started celebrating this tradition by having a Holy Humor service on the Sunday after Easter. While the pranks are gone (whew!) the laughter continues. Trinity will celebrate Holy Humor on April 7. Everyone is invited to wear funny costumes (and we will have some available too!) and during worship we will sing silly hymns and celebrate that even though there is still work to do in the world, God's love and laughter will have the final word!

April 2nd– April 9th Pastor Mark is on vacation. Pastor Mel will handle any pastoral care issues: Please call her cell if you are in need of pastoral care: 925-984-3405.



April 3 - Albert Cawns

April 10 - Cynthia Jones

April 29 - Barbara Lewis

April 30 - Bradley Proctor

April Sermons

April 7

At Trinity Presbyterian 10 am
worship time
Communion Sunday
Holy Humor Sunday –
see announcement

April 14

Westminster Celebration Sunday 11 am
Joint Worship with
Union Ave – Pilgrim Congregational -
and other special guests

April 21

Concluding Worship Service at
Westminster 1 pm

April 28

Worship at Trinity 10 am

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Via Zoom

Wednesdays at 12:00 noon

*Will only meet on April 3rd and April 17th
(Will not meet on April 10th)
We will finish the book on the 17th*

Finding Phoebe: *What New Testament Women
Were Really Like*
by
Susan E. Hylan

[https://zoom.us/j/94739016002?
pwd=YWYwa0R6cUUxeEJYaUhSV0tSQjZ4Zz09](https://zoom.us/j/94739016002?pwd=YWYwa0R6cUUxeEJYaUhSV0tSQjZ4Zz09)

or call 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 947 3901 6002
Password: 843849

ADULT STUDY Group

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. via **Zoom**
Will only meet on April 14th and April 21st
We will finish the book on the 21st

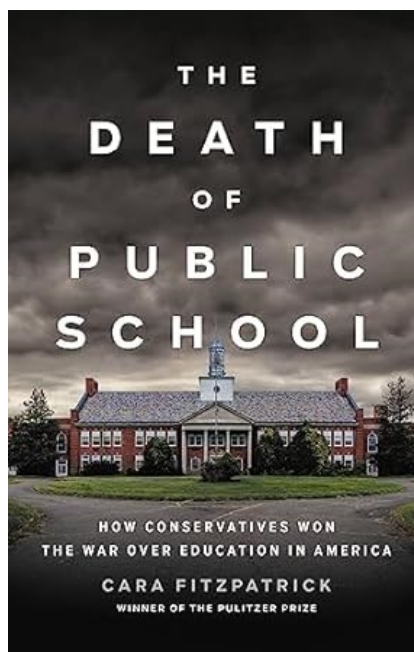
The Death of Public School
by
Cara Fitzpatrick

[https://zoom.us/j/99195541873?
pwd=c3Ila2hSRIRZQU12VzNhdm9sVmFUdz09](https://zoom.us/j/99195541873?pwd=c3Ila2hSRIRZQU12VzNhdm9sVmFUdz09)

or call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 991 9554 1873

Password: 485781





April 2024 Westminster Happenings

Check the calendar on the church website for the most current information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 p.m. - Trinity/Westminster Pastors Weekly Check-In	2 Pastor Mark Out of Office	3 12:00 p.m. - Bible Study Pastor Mark Out of Office	4 Pastor Mark Out of Office	5 Pastor Mark Out of Office	6 Pastor Mark Out of Office
7 Holy Humor Sunday 10:00 a.m. - Worship at Trinity Presbyterian Pastor Mark Out of Office	8 Pastor Mark Out of Office	9 Pastor Mark Out of Office	10	11	12	13
14 Celebration Sunday 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:30 a.m. - Adult Study 11:00 a.m. Worship Fellowship to follow	15 1:00 p.m. - Trinity/Westminster Pastors Weekly Check-In	16	17 12:00 p.m. - Bible Study	18	19	20
21 Concluding Worship at WPC 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:30 a.m. - Adult Study 1:00 p.m. - Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 a.m. - Worship at Trinity Presbyterian	29	30				



5300 DELMAR BLVD.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63112-3102

A Glimpse of God's Love on the Delmar Divide

