

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

April 2018

Melinda's Musings

by Pastor Melinda

If you can't laugh at it, it's probably idolatry. – Doug Adams

From the moment I realized that Easter Sunday would fall on April Fool's Day, I've been giggling and saying, "well the Easter sermon preaches itself this year". But just to enjoy this juxtaposition even more, our Easter liturgy will be "upside down" with a completely unexpected order of worship and a foolish Easter bonnet contest during La Mesa, our shared meal.

Many churches celebrate a "holy humor" Sunday each year. Tom Emanuel and I have decided that for Eastertide this year, the Sundays between Easter and Pentecost on May 20th, we are going to lean in to the "lighter side" of faith. Each Sunday, we will use a silly song, wacky image, or crazy hymn to explore the edges of the Christian tradition. Perhaps we will discover our own internal forms of idolatry or make hamburger of a few sacred cows!

While this celebration of the "foolishness of faith" will no doubt be fun, I imagine we may also shake loose some of the rigidity that can creep into our spiritual lives over time. We may also discover (or



perhaps recover) some wonder and awe to renew our spirits.

Recognizing absurdity and learning to laugh at ourselves - and even our faith - is very serious business. Because this is true, Doug Adams' test for idolatry works very, very well.

And idolatry, the worship of anything other than God, is the number one sin in the Bible and the first commandment of the commandments. We are called to love God . . . more than ourselves, our money, our stuff, and even our opinions!

At my ordination, my mother gave a charge that began with "Melinda will not be among those to inherit the earth" and of course, a big laugh followed. She continued, "she may not be meek, but she is faithful". It was the best compliment I ever received from her - mostly because it came with a side of laughter.

Laughter is healing, but also instructive. Anne Lamott has written that "laughter is carbonated holiness". May it be so.

Love and many blessings,
Melinda

Spirit is a dancer

by Tom Emanuel

After Emily Dickinson

Spirit is a dancer
 alive and free,
a singer bursting into Song—
 unexpectedly—

irritating neighbors
 and driving those
who dress in tweed and corduroy
 to close

their windows and lock
 their shutters tight:
“Doesn’t she know it’s the middle
 of the night?”

We’ve got to get up for
 work tomorrow—
we’ve appointments to keep with
 Time and Sorrow!”

But she’s too busy singing
 to invest
much time in Time, who’s only
 a suggestion (at best),

and she’ll go right on singing, yes
 go right on dancing too,
and she’ll go on believing
 (and what else could she do?)

until we’ve joined her in the street
 and thrown away our books,
‘cos if you dance like no one’s watching—
 someone might just look.



Nancy Lemon & Sylvia Sugg at the March for Our Lives in Oakland



Melinda & Ray Capiral performing at El Cerrito Natural Grocery

Good News Report: All-Day Retreat on April 28th

by Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain

At the March Council meeting, we scheduled an all-day retreat for **Saturday, April 28th** to ponder anew our plan for *the GOOD table*. In the meantime, **Colleen Rodger** and **Melinda V. McLain**, with help from **Brian Campbell-Miller** and **Bonnie Hariton**, continue to look for appropriate real estate, while figuring out what we need to learn from our experience with the mid-city property we looked at in December.

Do plan to come! 9:30a - 3p at Colleen and Melinda’s, lunch will be provided.

April Celebrations

1st Dan Hariton
4th Joan Thompson
7th BillWillcutts
7th Rev. Paul Honigs
10th Cordell Britt



**Happy birthday to each of you
with love from Mira Vista**



Mira Vista United Church of Christ

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2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12n Easter Worship with Holy Communion followed by La Mesa One Great Hour of Sharing offering Amy Ukena & Hans Raag @El Cerrito Natural Grocery, 6-8:30p	2	3 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10a 	4 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p Pastor Melinda hosts UCC Disaster Ministry April 4-7	5 No Community Office Hours Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p (led by Colleen Rodger)	6	7
8 12n Worship followed by La Mesa <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	9	10	11 Council meeting, 7p	12 Community Office Hours, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	13 Tom Emanuel to South Dakota April 13-17	14
15 12n Worship followed by La Mesa	16	17	18 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	19 Community Office Hours, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	20	21
22 12n Worship followed by La Mesa	23	24	25	26 Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	27	28 Mira Vista retreat @ Colleen & Melinda's, 9:30a-3p
29 12n Worship followed by La Mesa <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	30					

Our worship life together . . .

Join us on **Sundays at 12 noon** for our celebration with music and preaching, then stay for lunch because our worship continues as we share food and friendship together at our common table, **La Mesa**. Feel free to bring food to share as you are able. We celebrate the sacrament of **Holy Communion every First Sunday**. All are welcome at our table!

Apr. 1 The Foolishness of Easter John 20: 1-18
*In honor of the wonderful juxtaposition of Easter and April Fool's Day, all are invited to participate in our first (and possibly only) **foolish Easter bonnet contest** during our shared feast, La Mesa! Prizes will be awarded.*

Apr. 8 Complete Joy 1 John 1: 1-4
Tom Emanuel preaching

Apr. 15 Surprise! Luke 24: 36b -48

Apr. 22 Sheep! John 10: 11-18

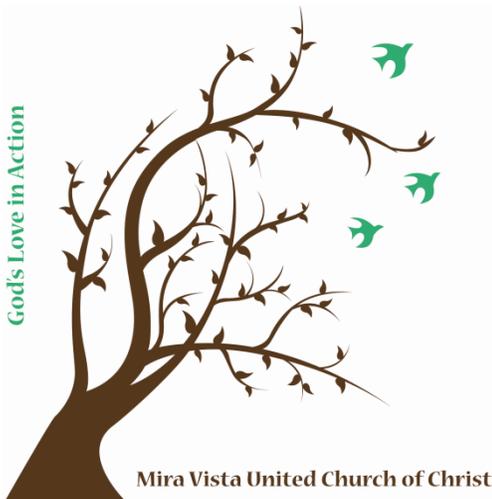
Apr. 29 Wine Country John 15: 1-8
Tom Emanuel preaching

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Address Change Requested

Dated Material

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