

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista United Church of Christ

October/November 2017

Melinda's Musings

Where words fail, music speaks. -

Hans Christian Anderson

I'm writing this reflection in the wake of yet another mass shooting that occurred this time in Las Vegas. And I'm mindful of the still unfolding tragedy in Puerto Rico that began with hurricane Maria, but is being exacerbated by a slow and anemic governmental response.

As the disaster response coordinator for our UCC conference, I am also privy to many, many emails from the disaster community and it has been heartbreaking to read about wildfires, floods, and hurricanes BEYOND those that have made the news such as Harvey, Irma, and Maria, plus the Western wildfires in Montana, Washington, Oregon, and California. Every single Red Cross volunteer I know is deployed somewhere. The needs are staggering and continuing to multiply as each disaster is followed by another.

Then there is the "disaster" after the "disaster" as I listen to friends on social media berate one another for one reason or another. My atheist friends have been attacking anyone who offers "prayers" for those who are impacted. And the "praying" people are all over the map in terms of how to be of service and help for those in need. Meanwhile, virtually all comments and posts on social media are instantly sorted to the political silos and the unity of purpose and action that is so desperately needed gets stymied.

In addition, a number of community members, their families, and friends have been struggling with mental health struggles of various sorts. It



is a hard time for many folks individually and collectively.

In part because it really works for me, (and for Tom!), we have been focusing on music in worship during the month of October. Each Sunday, we are using a different piece of music as a means for exploring our spirituality in a new way. Do join us each Sunday and be blessed by our shared experience of this healing practice.

What role does music play in your spiritual life? What gets in the way?

Love,
Melinda

Creating the GOOD table

by Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain

We are still on the lookout for a licensed chef who can help us test the food model with a food truck, but we are now beginning to look at available real estate to see how the market has or has not changed and what spaces might work for our business plan. If you'd like to help, contact Colleen Rodger.

Meanwhile, our jazz nights at the Natural Grocery continue to draw a nice crowd and are lots of fun. If you haven't been to one yet, do come on **Sunday, Nov. 5th, 6-8:30p**. Our community office hours from 2-5p on Thursdays also continue at Catahoula coffee in Richmond. Stop by for a good cup and great conversation!

Marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

by Rev. Dr. Melinda V. McLain

On October 31, 1517, Fr. Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses (complaints) on the door of All Saints Church in Wittenberg and sparked the Protestant Reformation of the Christian church. For many of us raised in American churches, we cannot really imagine the church as it was 500 years ago. And the reforms Luther sought have now become such a part of the fabric of what it means to be church today that most of us are completely unaware of how profoundly this movement has shaped our current understandings of theology, the sacraments, and the practice of ministry.

Inspired by a series of essays recently published by the United Church of Christ's Still Speaking Writer's group, we will be crafting our worship services in November to reflect on some of the big ideas that come from the Reformation. Our exploration will then continue in discussion and study during La Mesa.

Some of the topics will include: ***Guess What? You're a Priest, Which Do You Prefer, an Angry God or a Cheap Gospel?, "Total Depravity", and Luther's Sins—and Ours.***

This is a chance to go a bit deeper on some of the "big" topics of theology, but we also promise that our own worship will continue to have its big-hearted Mira Vista flavor! If you'd like a copy of the book of essays, just ask Pastor Melinda for a copy.

News from the Pews

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of longtime member **Frank Schansman** as per his daughter Barbara. Mira Vista sponsored Frank and his family when they immigrated from Holland many years ago. We give thanks to God for the life of Frank Schansman.

Associate Minister for Worship Arts Tom Emanuel has just moved to Alameda! Wish him well in his new housing.

Special happy birthday to our office manager, **Diane Young**, who is spending three weeks in Europe to celebrate her 70th birthday. Bon Voyage! She will be out of the office from Oct. 17- Nov. 6

Our **Moderator Brian Campbell-Miller** has recently taken on the task of serving on the grievance committee for the Contra Costa Board of Realtors. Not sure whether to send congratulate him or offer our sympathy.

Colleen Rodger and **Melinda V. McLain** will be traveling to New Mexico October 23-28 so that Melinda can spend some study leave at the Monastery of Christ in the Desert where she is a novice oblate.

October Celebrations

Birthdays

11th Joann Pavlinec
11th Michael Wisely
13th Bonnie Hariton
17th Diane Young
17th Latifah Abdullah
25th Ali Edney (Amy Ukena's daughter)



November Celebrations

Birthdays

10th Heinz Lankford
13th Amy Ukena
19th Mathilde Hollander
24th Ty Kavanaugh-Lynch
25th Elise Hariton
28th Maria Lewis



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

edge of hearing

by Tom Emanuel

did you—

did you catch that?

it's the secret
whispering pines
discuss so
surreptitiously

the tune a field hums
after April showers,
resonant as earth and
photosynthesis

echo left over
when the final droplets
of Beethoven's Ninth
have evaporated into
Joy

ears can't detect this,
though fingertips might
(if only I could stretch them far enough)

—ah, there—
it's gone again!

- - -

but—you're nodding—
as if you
heard it too

- - -

oh thank goodness

I'd started to worry I was
the only one





Mira Vista United Church of Christ

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2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12n Worship with Holy Communion followed by Social Action Team @ La Mesa Neighbors in Need special 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	5 Community Office Hours with Pastor Melinda each Thursday @ Catahoula Coffee, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	6	7
8 11a Mira Vista picnic & worship @ Bonnie & Dan's	9 Indigenous People's Day	10	11	12 Community Office Hours, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p Council meeting, 7p	13	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 Pastor Melinda & Colleen on study leave, Monastery of Christ in the Desert, October 23-28	24	25	26 Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	27	28
29 12n Worship followed by La Mesa <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	30	31				

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	2 Community Office Hours with Pastor Melinda each Thursday@Catahoula Coffee, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	3	4  It's time to "Fall Back!" Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday at 2am
5 12 Noon Worship & Holy Communion. During La Mesa in November, we will have informal discussions about the Reformation tied to worship service. Live jazz w/ Amy Ukena and Hans Raag @El Cerrito Natural Grocery, 6-8:30p. <i>FREE - invite your friends!</i>	6	7 Mira Vista prepares lunch, GRIP Souper Center, 10am 	8	9 Community Office Hours, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p Council meeting, Melinda's office, 7p	10	11
12 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa	13	14	15 Mindfulness Circle @ El Cerrito Royale, 7p	16 Community Office Hours, 2-5p Interfaith Meditation @Sycamore UCC, 6p	17	18
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26 12 Noon Worship followed by La Mesa	27	28	29	30 Community Office Hours, 2-5p		

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!

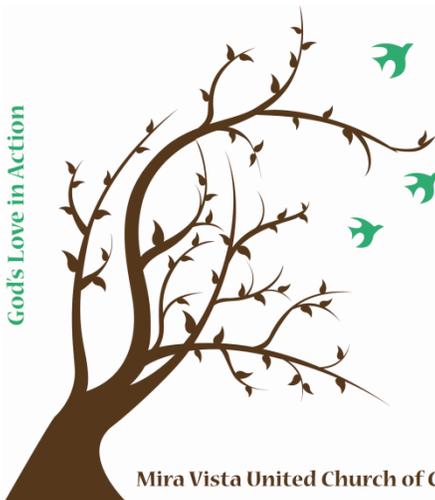
Oct. 15	“Surely . . .”	Psalm 23
Oct. 22	“On the Mountaintop . . .”	Psalm 99
Oct. 29	“Among the Trees” <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	Psalm 1
Nov. 5	“Guess what! You’re a priest!” <i>Social Action Team meets during La Mesa</i>	
Nov. 12	“Sola Scriptura”	
Nov. 19	“Totally Depraved or Cheap Grace” <i>Tom Emanuel preaching</i>	
Nov. 26	“Ecclesia Semper Reformanda”	

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780 Ashbury Avenue
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Address Change Requested

Dated Material
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God's Love in Action



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