

The Fellowship Post

Mira Vista
United Church of Christ

September 2013

Light A Candle for Children Prayer Vigil

I am so happy to return again as your pastor! Words cannot express my gratitude for this time away, but I am delighted to share with you stories of my adventures and learnings. My hope and prayer was and still is for you also to know the summer of your dreams, but if not yet, remember— it's not too late to live and love wherever we're planted.



I am saying "yes" to any invitation to write, so this summer I contributed a brief meditation for the Disciples of Christ/United Christ of Christ [Light-a-Candle for Children Prayer Vigil](#) booklet. This year the Vigil begins Sunday, September 15 and concludes on Interfaith Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 20. The National Council of Churches' theme this year is **"Beating Swords into Plowshares: Creating a Peaceful World with Children."** You are invited to participate, and we will have daily prayer booklets, blogs, and daily emails available for you.

The text for my meditation is Psalm 144:12-14. *May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars, cut for the building of a palace. May our barns be filled, with produce of every kind; may our sheep increase by thousands, by tens of thousands in our fields, and may our cattle be heavy with young. May there be no*

breach in the walls, no exile, and no cry of distress in our streets.



Sons as Healing Sunflowers, Daughters as Foundations of Peace

Take a moment to imagine the world's sons as sunflowers reaching their full autumn height. Can you see them in your mind's eye?

These magnificent plants share their seeds, their oil, and their healing properties (by pulling radioactive contaminants from the soil).

Now imagine the world's daughters sturdy and beautiful as founding beams of homes and institutions: supporting the full thriving of all the world's children; drawing in and caring for the exiled; and responding to cries of distress.

Psalm 144 offers these hopeful images to us, images of hope rooted in the Holy One. To pray with these few verses is to root our hope in the God who seeds our prayers with longing and harvests our peaceful actions. To pray with these few verses is to become sunflowers ourselves, helping to heal a broken world.

Creator God, with your help we can see the world's children fruitful as sunflowers and sturdy as foundations for the future. We see all children nurtured in love and safety. Help us adults refuse to seed the world with guns and violence and to fully accept our one responsibility: creating a peaceful, just world for all children. Amen.

What's for Lunch?



Those of us who share lunch and a visit with each other each Sunday look forward to this weekly communion. Having managed without Barbara Cook's support for three months, we can appreciate even more the work of setting up, cleaning up and preparing her delicious dishes. Now that Barbara's back, could we all help by regularly bringing and sharing something to eat?

If it's difficult for you to prepare or buy something to share, you might ask another member to pick something up for you. Gifts of money help to pay for paper goods, coffee, cream, sugar, and birthday cakes. After lunch, cleanup of kitchen and hall and sorting of recycling still need to be done. If many of us share these tasks, we are soon finished.

Let's all enjoy lunch!

Sylvia Sugg

Solano Avenue Stroll

September 8th!

The **Solano Stroll is September 8** – be sure to stop by Mira Vista's booth at 1498 Solano Ave -- between Curtis Ave and Santa Fe 10am and 6pm!

How you can help:

Mira Vista T-Shirts. Everyone in the booth must wear a Mira Vista t-shirt. If you are not working the booth, would you loan yours out? Please let Latifah know and drop it off at the office!

Fun! We will be doing Pitstop Pet Blessings and wet sponges into pockets of injustice.

Prizes! We're giving prizes for the sponge toss game, so please bring your small gently used matchbox cars, beanie babies, and small giffies to the church! We will put them in a grab bag/treasure chest. *Thanks to Beth and Virginia for this idea!*

Booth staff! If you are interested in helping out at the booth please grab me at church or email me: wendywisely@earthlink.net

Thank you in advance!
Wendy

* * *

Gospel of Thomas, Logion 108.

Yeshua says, "Whoever drinks what flows from my mouth will come to be as I am and I also will come to be as they are, so that what is hidden may be manifest."



UCC NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

For the next few weeks, you will see Neighbors In Need (NIN) inserts in your Sunday bulletin: we will receive our annual NIN offering on **Sunday, Oct 6** and invite your heartfelt generosity.

The United Church of Christ's annual **Neighbors in Need offering**: 1) supports local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects; and 2) supports the UCC'S Council for American Indian Ministries.

UCCTakeAction.org and the **UCC Justice and Peace Network** work together to sound the alarm on a spectrum of justice and advocacy issues. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund initiatives and advocacy work, including federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our UCC American Indian brothers and sisters. One-third of the offering is shared with the UCC **Council for American Indian Ministries** (CAIM). There are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

21st

Iris Ridgway

23rd

Elisabeth Severson

29th

Carmen Anduiza

Anniversaries

18th

**Joan Thompson &
Ken Alborn**

20th

**Ruth Ann Clark &
Ardith Hayes**

25th

**Kathe Kiehn & Heinz
Lankford**

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United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
780 Ashbury Avenue El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 526-0110
office@miravistaucc.org
www.miravistaucc.org

Rev. Susan Meeter, pastor
revmeeter@miravistaucc.org



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Email: office@miravistaucc.org

Website: www.miravistaucc.org

Phone: 510 526 0110

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Noon Worship Holy Communion 	2 LABOR DAY!	3 Mira Vista prepares lunch, Souper Center, 10am 	4	5 Amazing Graces Resume, 7pm! 	6	7 Yoga 9am-10:15am 
8 Noon Worship <i>Solano Stroll!</i> 10am-6pm 1498 Solano Ave	9 Yoga, 5:30-6:45pm 	10	11	12  Amazing Graces, 7pm	13	14 Yoga 9am-10:15am <i>Ecc. Council for Davena & Vic,</i> 10am-2pm SF
15 Noon Worship	16 Yoga, 5:30-6:45pm 	17	18	19  Amazing Graces, 7pm	20	21 Yoga 9am-10:15am 
22 Noon Worship	23 Yoga, 5:30-6:45pm 	24 Mindfulness Group, 7pm @ Susan's 	25	26 Amazing Graces, 7pm 	27	28 Yoga 9am-10:15am 
29 Noon Worship Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Steven Sterner, PSR	30 Yoga, 5:30-6:45pm 					

Worship for September 2013

September 1, 2013, 12 noon

Holy Communion Sunday
Pacha Mama (Prayer of the Earth)
Luke 14:12-13; Hebrews 13:1-2
Practicing Communion

September 8, 2013, 12 noon

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Luke 14:25-33
Giving Up Our Possessions

September 15, 2013, 12 noon

Luke 15:1-10
Searching for the Lost Cause

September 22, 2013, 12 noon

Luke 16:10-13
Faithful with your True Wealth

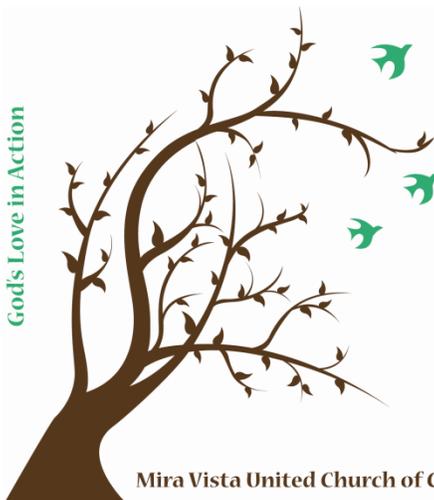
September 29, 12 noon

Psalm 91, *In the Shelter of the Most High*
Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Stephen Sterner,
Acting President of Pacific School of Religion

50 years after the March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom, still plagued by the scourges of racism, militarism and corporate greed: *now* may we renew our commitment to lift up God's dream for the cosmos. As we dream, I invite you to explore with me sayings from the Gospel of Thomas, to add spice to the familiar stories of Luke. (Thomas is a little-known book of wisdom from the early Jesus-tradition.)

Seeking and finding together, may we discover sources of energy and aliveness -- new rhythms, new depths, new tastes of life – in our common spiritual practice. Welcome home, supper's ready, God loves you!

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