



Niles Discovery Church

United in God's love for everyone's journey ... no exceptions.



APRIL

Volume 14 Number 04

UPCOMING WORSHIP

April 6

*"Spiritual Practices:
An Altar in the World"*
Luke 10:38-42

April 13

Palm Sunday

Holy Week Cantata
presented by our Choir

April 17

Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m. Service
At Fil-Am UCC

April 18

Good Friday

7:30 p.m. Service
at Fremont
Congregational UCC

April 20

Easter Sunrise

6:30 a.m. Service
at Niles Towne Plaza

April 20

Festival Easter Service
"Holding On, Letting Go"

John 20:1-18

April 27

"Believing Without
Seeing"
John 20:19-31



The Bell



PLANS MADE FOR HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR

Plans have been made for special worship services for the holiest week of the year.

The week begins with Palm Sunday (**April 13**) when the choir will present the cantata, "Wondrous Love", at the **10:00 a.m. service**. The cantata draws its primary text from the book of Matthew, beginning with Palm Sunday and continuing with scenes leading up to Christ's crucifixion and burial. The interspersed choral selections serve as poignant reflections on the gospel text, and help to underscore Christ's 'wondrous love' for us. The collection includes choral works by Holt, Koerts, Niles, Dengler, and more.

The service on Maundy Thursday (**April 17**) will be held at Filipino-America UCC, 4587 Peralta Ave., Fremont at **6:30 p.m.** The service will take place around the dinner table and will include a simple soup & bread supper.

Fremont Congregational will host the Good Friday (**April 18**) service at **7:30 p.m.** It will be a meditation on the seven last words of Christ.

We will celebrate the resurrection with an Easter sunrise service at the Niles Town Plaza at **6:30 a.m. (April 20)**. The service will include singing, story, and communion. As we have in the past couple years, we hope to be able to head over to the Nile Café after the service for breakfast (this still needs to be confirmed with Han).

The celebration of the resurrection will continue at the **10:00 a.m. festival Easter service**, held in the sanctuary. Joy will abound with choruses of "Alleluia," special anthems from the choir, and communion.

DRAFT "RULES OF ORDER" TOPIC FOR APRIL TOWN HALL MEETING

A Town Hall Meeting will be held following worship on **Sunday, April 27**, to discuss the draft "rules of order" for congregational meetings proposed by the Cabinet. The church's bylaws state that the congregation is responsible for adopting rules of order, which hasn't happened since the bylaws were adopted. You can pick up a copy of the proposed "rules of order" in Ford Hall this month prior to the Town Hall Meeting. The rules will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 11.

Annual Meeting



ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET

The Cabinet decided to hold the 2014 Annual Meeting on **Sunday, May 11**, following worship. Your attendance is prayerfully and urgently requested. Business includes adopting "rules of order" for congregational meetings; electing Officers, Standing Ministry Team chairs, and Endowment Fund Committee members; and any other business presented from the floor.



THE CONSTRUCTION CORNER

After finally obtaining our building permit at the very end of February, work on the new building went full steam ahead during March. The final demolition work was completed, and preparation made for the foundations of the new parts of the building. The concrete was poured by the end of the month, and the framing began for the new walls and roof.



The supports for the moment frame are in place, awaiting rebar and concrete. The moment frame is a steel structure that will support the roof of the sanctuary over the new chancel.



The front entryway will have a new accessible walkway.



The rebar is set in place, supporting the moment frame base.



The site of our new fellowship hall, offices, and classrooms.



The expansion of the choir/multi-purpose room is ready to be poured.



The pad for the fellowship hall and the new offices and classrooms is ready for concrete.



The plumbing lines for the new bathrooms and kitchen are set.



Through Grief to Hope

As I sit down to write this column, I have just finished a draft of our Good Friday worship service, which we will hold with our sister congregations from the Fremont area at Fremont Congregational. This year, we've chosen to offer a meditation on the "seven last words of Christ." The seven last words of Christ is a harmonization of the phrases that Jesus says from the cross in the four gospels. As with the other stories of and about Jesus throughout the gospels, he doesn't say the same things in every gospel. Each gospel gives its own account of the crucifixion; there are some sayings that are in more than one account, and some sayings that are unique. At some point in history, someone compiled the final words of Jesus from all four gospels into a sort-of chronological list, and this list of final words is now often used as part of the liturgy at Good Friday services.



We are accustomed to such harmonization with the Advent story; the familiar children's Christmas pageant is always a conflation of the birth stories of Matthew and Luke. Just as harmonizing the Christmas story tends to keep us from seeing the unique aspects of each birth narrative, harmonizing the crucifixion stories keeps us from seeing the unique messages each gospel has for us. It's important to read each account separately and appreciate each one individually for the wisdom it offers.

All that being said, there is also a certain power in seeing these last words of Jesus, one after the other and all at once. It is a potent reminder of the pain and suffering he experienced, of the agony and abandonment he felt, and the great cruelty alive in the world then, and now. It also reminds us of the borderless forgiveness Jesus practiced, the care he demonstrated for his family and friends, and the ultimate trust he placed in God.

Seeing the last words of Christ together emphasizes the suffering of Christ—which is something we modern folks tend to want to avoid. We'd rather move right ahead through Lent straight to the joyful celebration of Easter, without stopping to contemplate the agony and sadness of Good Friday. But I think we do ourselves a disservice by doing this. For one thing, witnessing the suffering of Jesus reminds us that God has experienced the ultimate suffering, and so we worship a God who knows us, knows our own suffering and who suffers along with us. Seeing the suffering Christ also reminds us that there is indeed still great injustice, oppression, and suffering in the world today and renews our call to ease the agony of others, as Christ would have us do.



Finally, just as only the presence of the darkness allows us to see the glory of the stars, it is only through the darkness of Good Friday that we are able to really appreciate the great joy and miracle of the Resurrection on Easter morning. Just as Jesus knew he had to go through the whole experience, so too, do we have to go through Good Friday in order to have the whole Easter experience.

I hope you'll move through grief to hope this year, and join me at this year's Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, and celebrate the Resurrection with me on Easter Sunday.

Blessings,

Pastor Brenda



"LIGHTS, BIKES, BLESSINGS!"

Consider shedding some light on the Brucie Bike Blessing in downtown Niles on April 26. Reflective ankle wraps and rear bike lights that



blink and use AAA batteries will be collected for Puente.

Puente de la Costa Sur serves many folks who travel by bicycle along dark roads and lack simple safety gear to help make them visible to drivers. Contributions of these or any other safety items can be brought to the Bike Blessing. For more information see "Brother Brucie Bike Blessing" on page 7.

You can also give donations to any member of the Ministry of Social Concerns. Learn more about the work of Puente at: <http://puentedelacostasur.org/>



WHERE ARE WE MEETING?

Several groups have changed meeting locations. It may be helpful to make a note of these.

The **Cabinet** will still meeting on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m., at Suju's Coffee, 3602 Thornton, Ave., Fremont. Arrive a little early if you're going to get a cup of something to drink during the meeting. Cabinet meetings are open to all church members (except when they are discussion personnel matters).

The **Construction Team**'s regular meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. During April, they will meet at the Palleschis' home.

The **Daytime Women's fellowship** still meets on the third Monday of the month at

Continued; See "Meeting Locations" page 5



REGISTRATION OPENS FOR UCC SUMMER CAMPS

Online registration is now available for the summer camps at Cazadero and Tamarack. Our church is offering general camperships to all children and youth from our church, plus needs based camperships. However, you *must* speak with Pastor Jeff to be eligible for these camperships **BEFORE** you register. Online registration is at www.ncncucc.org/outdoorministries.

We will share information about summer camps at Community of the Great Commission when it becomes available.

The Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ, has scheduled several camps at Camp Cazadero:

July 11-13 – You and Me Camp

(kids entering grades K to 3 and their adult companions)

July 13-19 – Sr. High (entering grades 9 to 12)

July 19-26 – Counselor in Training (entering grade 12 and graduates)

July 20-26 – Junior (entering grades 3 to 6)

July 27-Aug 2 – Jr. High (entering grades 6 to 9)

Aug. 8-10 – Adult Spiritual Retreat

The Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ, has scheduled several camps at Camp Tamarack:

July 20-26 – Junior/Jr High (entering grades 5 to 8)

July 27-Aug 2 – Senior High (entering grades 9 to 12)

The Christian Church Northern California Nevada Region has scheduled several camps at the Community of the Great Commission:

June 5-8 – Adult Camp (for ages 18 to 118)

June 22-28 – Junior (entering grades 4 to 6)

June 22-28 – Chi Rho Camps (entering grades 7 to 9)

June 28-July 1 – Grandparent and Me Camp

(grandparents [or adopted grandparents])

and kids entering grades K to 4)

June 29-July 5 – CYF Camp (entering grades 10-12, plus just graduated)



Women's Fellowship News



DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

The morning group met for the first time at Fremont Congregational Church on March 17. We received a warm welcome and were joined by a member of their congregation. Pastor Jeff led the Bible discussion of Matthew, chapter 6, verses 1 and 5 through 14 from the Sermon on the Mount. We talked about where and when we pray as well as what can be included in prayer. We enjoyed lunch and conversation after the study. Judy Molander provided a St. Patrick's Day cookie for dessert.

Next meeting:

Dena Hokom and Dorletta Larsen will be hostesses for next month's meeting on Monday, April 21 at Fremont Congregational Church.



MILDRED REYNOLDS LAP ROBE TYING GROUP

The Lap Robe Tying Group met at the home of Judy Molander on February 26. 7 lap robes were completed. Sandi Reeder is still collecting the lap robes to be donated to hospice at Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto.

Future meetings:

The March 26 meeting will be at the home of Alison Kieft and the April 23 meeting will be at Judy Molander's home. The meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sewing/quilting skills are not required. Let Dorletta Larsen know if you plan to attend as lunch is provided.

If you would like one of the lap robes or know of someone who would like one, please let Dorletta know. We have both men and women designs.

EVENING FELLOWSHIP



The Evening Women's Fellowship met at the home of Irene Vollbrecht. Dorletta Larsen gave a report on the Gathering of Women (Spring Retreat) that she and Helen Boyer had attended on March 8. Denise Turner, member of the region staff for Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada had been on the Woman to Woman Trip to Mexico in September. She shared many events of her trip.

Future meetings:

April 9

At the home of Judy Molander

May 14

At the home of Dorletta Larsen

June – August

Summer Break



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WOMEN

Quadrennial (DOC and UCC women) will be June 24-29 in Atlanta. Registration has been extended to April 1.

Fall Retreat will be at Mission Springs September 12-14. Sharon Watkins, general minister and president of Christian Church in United States and Canada will be the featured speaker. Registration materials will be available in June.

MEETING LOCATIONS

11:30 a.m. Now the meetings are at Fremont Congregational Church, 38255 Blacow Rd.

The **Congregation** continues to gather on Sunday mornings at 255 H St. The Adult Sunday School class meets at 9:00 a.m. in Ford Hall. The choir warms up at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Worship still starts at 10:00.

The **Choir** rehearses on Thursday evenings, 7:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. They always welcome new members.

The **Ministry Teams** continue to meet on the first Monday of the month at 255 H St.



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE BY APRIL 14

All Ministry Teams, Committees, and Officers are reminded that Annual Reports are due to Cecilia by April 14. That will give her enough time to format and copy Annual Reports so they are available on April 27, in preparation for the Annual Meeting on May 11.



Emeritus Lunch

Join church people living at Emeritus in Fremont (formerly known as Merrill Gardens) and at least one of our pastors for lunch on April 8 at noon. If you would like to participate (whether you live at Emeritus or not), please call Irene Vollbrecht (510-792-4642) to let her know by the Monday morning preceding the lunch. Non-residents of Emeritus in Fremont are welcome, but it costs \$11.

RECYCLING AT NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH

LOCATING THE FOOD BARRELS FOR TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS & RECYCLING CONTAINERS



Please continue to bring your food donations and your recycling to church. To drop off your items, exit the Sanctuary through the door on the right (also exit to former choir room and Sunday School rooms). The recycling containers are in the patio to the right and food and clothing barrels are immediately to your left.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CONCERN'S CONTINUES TO COLLECT & RECYCLE ALL ELIGIBLE REDEEMABLE CONTAINERS!



Our new recycling angel, Rich Gallegos, is happy to report that as of February 11, the MSC's account in support of Josue Issac Orellana, our El Salvadoran boy supported through World Vision, totaled \$384.64. We recently earned an additional \$75.79 from redeeming aluminum cans and plastic beverage containers. Most beverages packaged in aluminum, glass, plastic and bi-metal containers are eligible. Redemption value is 5 cents for each beverage container less than 24 ounces and 10 cents for each container 24 ounces or greater. We recently paid our 2014 annual pledge to World Vision.



We'd love to do more and dream of supporting a young woman in Africa for secondary school!

Donate redeemable cans and bottles by bringing them to church or contacting Judy Zlatnik jzlatnik@yahoo.com or Rich Gallegos rich.a.gallegos@gmail.com.

RECYCLING TONER CARTRIDGES & CELL PHONES FOR SCRIP

Keep bringing in your toners, cartridges and old cell phones for the Scrip recycling. The container is in the office. Our campers thank you!

LET THE PPRC KNOW

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you. Contact any PPRC member – Ron Adamson, Mark Twist, Judy Molander, Judy Hollowell, Dena Hokom, Annie O'Hare, Pastor Jeff Spencer, and Pastor Brenda Loreman – if you have a concern about the life of the church that you want to explore or you have a church relationship that's hurting and want some assistance in healing it.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The April special offering will be split between the Conference and the Region to extend their ministries. If you have benefited from the camping programs, a pastoral search, education resources, pastoral oversight, or lay leader training, you know the value of our Region

and Conference.

This offering will be officially received on April 13, and, as with all our special offerings, you can give at any time.

Thanks to your generosity, the March special offering for One

Great Hour of Sharing/Week of Compassion raised \$1672 by the press deadline.

You can see the schedule of special offerings at <http://bit.ly/10BKKGy> or call the church office and Cecilia will mail you one.

BROTHER BRUCIE BIKE BLESSING: A RIDE-BY BLESSING FOR BIKES, TRIKES, AND MOTORCYCLES



Niles Discovery Church will be sponsoring the Brother Brucie Bike Blessing on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the south parking lot of the Niles Town Plaza. Bruce Kieft very much wanted the church to sponsor a bike blessing, and we are holding this in his honor.

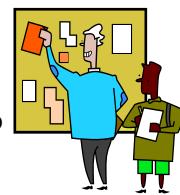
During the blessing we are also accepting donations of bicycle safety equipment for Puente de la Costa Sur. For more information see "Lights, Bikes, Blessings!" on page 4. Puente de la Costa Sur is a community resource organization that serves the people in the San Mateo County South Coast communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio. It was founded by UCC minister Rev. Wendy Taylor.

To make this a success we need your help on the day of the event, particularly from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please sign up on the poster in Ford Hall or call Melissa Palleschi: 510-894-2520.

Come with your best "Brother Brucie" attitude, Invite your friends, and volunteer to help!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Members and friends of Niles Discovery Church are invited to submit short notices that may be of interest to the rest of the congregation. Note, no commercial notices or partisan political announcements are allowed (to keep us from running afoul of regulations). Niles Discovery Church makes no representations or endorsements about the events or services listed.



CITY OF FREMONT "Zero Waste Workshop"

The CITY OF FREMONT invites you to a "Zero Waste" Workshop" on **Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** in the Niles Conference Room, 39550 Liberty St. Learn from "Waste Sleuth" Todd Sutton about 10 simple and no-cost things you can do to become more sustainable. RSVP at www.fremontzerowaste.eventbrite.com, by calling 494-4451, or by emailing rdifranco@fremont.gov.



MISSION PEAK CHAMBER SINGERS "The A Cappella Art"

On **April 5**, the Mission Peak Chamber Singers will present "The A Cappella Art" at the Veteran's Memorial Hall on 2nd St. in Niles. This group is a community based chamber choir of 35 singers, including Niles Discovery Church member Lisa Lahowe. Tickets are available online at <http://mpcs-veteranhall.bpt.me>. \$15.00 general admission, \$12 for students and seniors. For more information, visit www.chambersingers.org.

FREMONT'S EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Fremont's Earth Day celebration will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 11:00 a.m. To 3:00 p.m.**, at the Anderson Auditorium, 2500 Mowry Ave. (Washington West). You can drop off syringes and needles, confidential documents for shredding, and unused medicines. There will be a mercury thermometer exchange. Learn more about recycling and waste reduction, saving energy at home, eco-friendly gardening and composting, and local sustainability programs. Kids' activities include a bike rodeo, eco-tainment, face painting, Earth Day art, and more.

GOLDEN GATE MEN'S CHORUS "Northern Passages"

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus (the chorus Pastor Jeff sings with) will present their next concert, "Northern Passages", on **Saturday, May 17, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, May 18, 2:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.** The concerts are held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th St., San Francisco. Tickets and more information are available through the chorus' website, www.ggmc.org.



PASTORS' SCHEDULES

Due to meetings and appointments, it is difficult for Pastor Jeff Spencer and for Pastor Brenda Loreman to hold regular office hours. It's a good idea to call before you drop by to make sure the one you want to see is in. Please call your pastor if you would like to make an appointment or have him/her come by for a visit.

Church
510-797-0895

Jeff's mobile
510-579-8851

Brenda's mobile
510-828-4107

Pastor Jeff's Sabbath day is Friday and his day off is usually Saturday. Pastor Jeff will be on vacation April 7-13.

Pastor Brenda takes Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays off.

Cecilia Le's hours for the first half of 2014 are Monday mornings and all day (8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Please Pray For...

BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:

Rollie Eaton;
Jack Rankin;
Jean Kneisler;
Diana Roeding;
Don Anderson;
Diana Roeding;
Diane Kindle;
Girven Hunter;
Ken Young;
Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;
Sarah Boyer;
Ryan BoyerTaylor;
Doug Higgins;
Fred Anderson;
Julia Parks;
Otis Highbaugh;
Carol Baer;
Ray Erickson;

Lily Ono and her family;
Rod Reyes' niece, Tatiana;
Bill Palleschi's father, Bill Palleschi;
Doug Swint's dad;
Doug Swint's mom;
Mike Foster's mother, Jan Richards;
Carol Easter's mother, Barbara;
Nancy Walker's mother and father;
Rod Reyes' grandmother;
Isaiah and Aiyanna's grandfather
Ed Espinoza;
Dorothy Williams' daughter
Belinda Williams;
Shirley Dunlap's son **David Dunlap**;
Shirley Dunlap's sister **Nancy Cook**;
Joy Hurst's mom **Ruby Hurst**;
Rick Gallegos' former boss' son, **Chris McNabb**.

ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Judy Molander and her family as they grieve the death of her husband Frank on March 23;

Beth Armstrong and her family as they grieve the death of her father Jerry Rauscher on February 1;

Saundra Jordan and her extended family as they grieve the sudden death of her brother Randall Freitas on December 21;

Janet Butcher as she grieves the death of her twin sister Joan on December 19;

Ron Adamson and his family, including his sister **Joanne Orput**, as they grieve the death of Ron's brother-in-law Alden on November 12;

Leigh-Anna Nielsen and Diane Hinton as they grieve the death of Diane father on November 1;

Peg Tait, whose partner for over a decade, Phil, died on September 29.

FAMILIES, INCLUDING FAMILIES IN OUR CONGREGATION, where there is conflict and disturbance, thinking especially of the children who are powerless and vulnerable in these situations.

PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR IN NEED OF IMPROVED SHELTER.

THE SAFETY (AND IN SOME CASES SAFE RETURN) OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION, OUR FRIENDS & LOVED ONES SERVING IN THE MILITARY, including: **Chris Swint, Scott Swint, Ben Gonzales**, and Marilyn Singer's grandson **Brian White**.

PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED & UNDER-EMPLOYED, especially members of our church, that they find employment that fills their hearts and souls.

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:30p Spiritual Direction Group A (Harvey's)	3 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 9a Adult Sunday School (FH)	7 Pastor Jeff on vacation	8	9	10	11	12
9:30a Choir Warm-up	6:30p MCE meeting	12p Merrill Gardens lunch	7p Evening Women's Fellowship (Molander's)	7:30p Choir Rehearsal		9a Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
10a Worship & Sunday School	7:30p Ministry Team Meetings	7p Construction Team (Palleschis')				
11a Tastings						
13 Pastor Jeff on vacation	14 Annual Reports due to Cecilia	15 5p Bell deadline	16	17 Maundy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19
9a Adult Sunday School (FH)				6:30p Maundy Thursday Service (Fil-Am UCC)	7:30p Good Friday Service (Fremont Congregational Church)	
9:30a Choir Warm-up				8p Choir Rehearsal		
10a Worship & Sunday School						
20 EASTER	21 11:30a Daytime Women's Fellowship (Fremont Congregational Church)	22 7p Construction Team (Palleschis')	23 10a Lap Robe Tying Group (Molanders')	24 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	25	26 Brother Brucie Bike/Blessing (Niles Town Plaza)
6:30a Easter Sunrise Service (Niles Town Plaza)	7p Cabinet (Suju's Coffee)	7:30p Book Club				
9:30a Choir Warm-up						
10a Worship & Sunday School						
27 9a Adult Sunday School (FH)	28	29	30 7:30p PPRC meeting (O'Hares')	Notes:		
9:30a Choir Warm-up						
10a Worship & Sunday School						
11:30a Town Hall Meeting (FH)						
12:30p Communion Elders mtg						



NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH

Rev. Jeffrey Spencer,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Brenda Loreman,
Associate Pastor
PO Box 2265
255 H Street
Fremont CA 94536

Phone: 510-797-0895
nilesdiscoverychurch.org



NILES DISCOVERY
CHURCH

The Bell is First Class

If you received this issue of *The Bell* through the US Mail, then you received it first class. You can help reduce our costs (roughly \$1.50 per issue you receive in the mail) by receiving *The Bell* via email. Simply go to our website www.nilesdiscoverychurch.org, look for the “Our Email Lists” paragraph toward the bottom of the front page, click on the link, and start filling out the forms. You can select what email lists you want to join – for the newsletter, the weekly prayer requests, the weekly announcements, and more. Then, please let Cecilia Le in the church office (510-797-0895; cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org) know that you don’t need *The Bell* via the US Mail any more.

