



# THE BELL



Niles Discovery Church

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

## WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL MONTH OF FELLOWSHIP (Sometimes Known As Flea Market Preparation)

On August 27—the last Sunday in August—downtown Niles hosts a large antique fair. On that day, downtown Niles Boulevard is closed to traffic, antique and food booths are set up, and hordes of bargain-hunters descend on the town, providing buyers for our own flea market and largest fundraiser of the year, right in our own Fellowship Hall. Between selling our cast-off treasures and renting parking spaces in our lot, last year we raised \$9,000.



To prepare for the sale, our congregation and friends clean closets, garages, and storage units and donate used but good, working items to the church. These wonderful treasures are sorted, priced, displayed, and sold throughout the month of August. This gives everyone a good chance to find some great bargains before the actual flea market takes place.



Starting Monday, July 24, unwanted treasure may be brought to the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., whenever office staff is in the church (see the schedule on page 5), or by appointment: call Alta Jo Adamson, The Flea Wrangler, at (510) 713-1333, and she will arrange to open the church.

Here are some suggestions for donations: tools, books, toys, games (with all

the pieces), jewelry, hats, purses, musical instruments, china, glassware, antiques, tools, collectables, knick-knacks, holiday decorations, linens, blankets, working small appliances, patio accessories, office supplies, children's small furniture, trunks, shoes, chairs, desks, and other small furniture, exercise equipment, sporting goods, and more! Please DO NOT bring: clothing, sofas and other large, heavy, furniture; large drapery rods, sinks, toilets, and soiled, broken, or non-working items.

Where is the fellowship we're talking about? Why, it's every day in August! We need weekday volunteers for all aspects of the sale—sorting, pricing, and selling. We can also use volunteers with trucks or vans to help with hauling items to the church.

The Saturday and Sunday of the Flea Market weekend are staffed by church volunteers in two-hour shifts throughout the day. These hours are especially important to fill. Generally speaking, the whole congregation rolls up its sleeves and pitches in, and it is actually loads of fun.

See Marilyn Singer during coffee hour to sign up for a work slot, and watch the announcements for further details.

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

July 2

A Cool Cup of Water  
Matthew 10:40-42

July 9

Guest Preacher:  
Marianna Sempari

July 16

Going Out in Joy  
Isaiah 55:10-13

July 30

The Unshakable Promise  
of God  
Romans 8:26-39



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## Jeff's Jottings

You always give me something to brag about.

I'm writing this in the days following the UCC Conference's Annual Gathering. From Thursday to Sunday, Pastor Brenda, Michele McConville, Val Parker, Joy Barnitz, and I got to hang out with people from United Church of Christ congregations all across Northern California and Nevada. We met for worship and workshops and business, to hear reports and to share stories, to eat together and to sing together.

I have enough history in the Conference to have friends who live in various corners and time and again they would ask me, "How are things going at Niles Discovery Church?" And time and again I would tell them how wonderful I think our congregation is and how blessed I feel to be pastoring here.

One of the themes that came up several times was how generous our congregation is and what a big heart our congregation has. They might ask me for examples and I would point out how quickly we raised the money needed for our solar panel system, or how quickly we topped off the needed money for the organ, or how in just one Sunday (without any pre-publicity) we raised enough money to cover the purchase of almost all the



children's picture books for our Sunday School classes.

And then there are the special offerings we receive each month. Like you, I pick and choose which of the special offerings will get my support; there are some that I am more passionate about than the others. Still, month after month, we as a community give hundreds of dollars in special giving.

On top of that, our Treasurer Beth Rasler reports that people are keeping up with their pledges to the General Fund, and giving from people who did not make a pledge is more than we budgeted for. Pastor Brenda and I had every intention of writing a thank you note to each of you who made a pledge last fall to financially support the ministry of our congregation in 2017. Neither of us have gotten to our portion of the list because our church has such a big heart.

On Sunday morning, Pastor Brenda and I were sitting at a table together and we were asked who was preaching (this was June 18). We said that our church is so awesome, we don't need to be there for worship to happen, and then we explained how we are moving forward on our Strategic Plan and the preaching was being

done by five champions of potential new service projects to help us discern which are going to get the congregation's focus this year. I think I made some crack about how our church is so caring that it was going to be difficult to make a decision. It turns out, that wasn't a joke.

At the Cabinet meeting on June 19, we discussed the results of the post-worship planning meetings. The number of people at each meeting was pretty even. It wasn't obvious that any one project just shouldn't get our focus this year. So, in keeping with the timeline adopted when the Strategic Plan was chosen, We will be moving ahead with all five projects, although three of them need more development at this time (see "Cabinet Approves Strategic Plan Projects" on page 3).

We are a generous, loving congregation that, following the example of Jesus, welcomes all people, grows in our relationship with God and each other, and serves our neighbors near and far. And that's why it's easy to brag about you.

Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

P.S. It is time to put together a team to lead our pledge campaign this fall. If you would like to be part of it, please let me or Pastor Brenda know.

**Pastor Jeff's personal blog is at [jeffsjottings.wordpress.com](http://jeffsjottings.wordpress.com). He is publishing his sermons there so you can leave feedback or comments. He has started another blog, "Does God Care When My Mom Kills Slugs?" where he answers kids' theological questions. You can read it at [askrevjss.wordpress.com](http://askrevjss.wordpress.com).**



## CABINET APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS

During our worship service on July 18, the congregation heard from the champions of our five Goal One projects, and then attended meetings after worship to learn more information about the five project plans. Although overall worship attendance was smaller than usual, attendance at the meetings after worship was enthusiastic, and each meeting had a healthy number of people attending.



In its meeting on Monday, June 19, the Cabinet carefully considered all the options for moving forward, and decided that two of the projects were more “shovel-ready,” and could begin immediately, while the other three projects—which all had significant backing from the congregation—needed more planning and organizing before moving forward. In other words, we will move forward with all five of the finalist projects, but three will begin later in the program year, when they are more developed. In particular, the Cabinet wants all the projects to specify how they will be hands-on, multigenerational, and multicultural.

The projects we will proceed with immediately are the Mobile Food Van and the Habitat for Humanity housing project in central Fremont. The other three projects—supporting St. James School in Kenya, the Homeless Supplies ministry, and the Anti-Racism/Interfaith project—will be started when the champions and their project teams have more thoroughly fleshed out the project plans.

If you are interested in participating in the planning or executing of these projects, please see the Project Champions: John Zlatnik (Mobile Food Van); Bill Palleschi (Habitat and St. James School); Rich Godfrey (St. James School); Jim Thomas (Homeless Supplies); Joy Barnitz (Anti-Racism/Interfaith).

## Somebody’s Having A Birthday

Back when Peg Tait was still driving, she enjoyed being a member of Niles Congregational Church.

When she stopped driving, she started attending Fremont Congregational Church – because she could walk there. Back when she was still attending Niles, she once told me that she wanted me to do her memorial service when the time came, but I had to promise not to reveal how old she was.



Well, Peg is having a birthday this month. It’s a big one, but I can’t tell you which big one it is. Fremont Congregational Church will be celebrating on Sunday, July 9, with lunch and a cake after worship (11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and you’re welcome to attend. Cards are encouraged, but no guessing as to which birthday this is. If you can’t attend the party, but want to mail a card, her address is 4671 Mayfield Drive, Fremont. 94536.

Pastor Jeff

## We Are One

### WE ARE ONE RALLY/VIGIL FOCUSES ON UNITY

The monthly “We Are One” rally/vigil, sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council and Compassionate Fremont will focus on “Unity” in July. Held on the fourth Thursday of the month, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the corner of Walnut and Paseo Padre in Fremont, the “We Are One” rally/vigils bring people together to stand up for the common value of compassion and respect that is found in all religious traditions. You are invited to make and bring signs that are peaceful, compassionate, and non-partisan.



### LET THE PPRC KNOW

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you. Contact any PPRC member – Mark Twist, Judy Molander, Cindy Sojourner, Ken Rasler, Debbie Keesis, Pastor Jeff Spencer and Pastor Brenda Loreman – if you have a concern about the life of the church that you want to explore. If you have a church relationship that’s hurting and want some assistance in healing it, speak to one of them.



## School Supplies, ALREADY!

Once again, the Ministry of Christian Education will collect school supplies to be distributed by staff at the Family Resource Center (FRC) in Fremont.

The FRC is a collection of co-located social services agencies that serve the Tri-City area. Most agencies serve children and youth, directly or indirectly. The items sought this year are the same as previously: backpacks (for kids under 12 and for high school students) and lunch boxes (non-gender specific, and no gang colors—red/blue). General school supplies are also needed.

Last year the congregation gave very generously: about 40 backpacks, 25 lunch boxes and many bags of school supplies. It was much appreciated by both the FRC staff and the families they serve.

School starts before Labor Day this year, so we will start collecting earlier than usual. Near the end of July, look for donation boxes in the office and inside the west (main) church entrance.

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The July Special Offering will go to replenish the Pastors' Discretionary Fund. This money is used by our Pastors to help out

families in emergencies. During the past year, our Pastors have been able to help church families keep rent paid, phones connected, prescriptions filled, and lights on thanks to your generosity. They've even helped pay for a cremation.

This offering will be officially received on Sunday, July 9. As with all our special offerings, you are welcome to give at any time (always make checks payable to



Niles Discovery Church). You can also give online: go to our [church webpage](#) and click the "donate" button at the top of the page.

Niles Discovery Church receives a special offering each month. With that many possibilities for special giving, you may need to choose which ones are most important to you. You can see the schedule of special offerings at <http://bit.ly/speoff2017> or call the church office and we will mail you one.

Thanks to your generosity, \$762 was contributed to the June Special Offering to support the evangelism efforts of our two denominations.

## SECOND SATURDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES

### CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER'S CONTINUING FIGHT HIGHLIGHTED IN DOCUMENTARY

*John Lewis – Get in the Way* chronicles more than a half century of one man's non-violent fight for civil rights. The 2017 film will be shown July 8 at 1:30 p.m. as part of the free Second Saturday Documentary Series at Niles Discovery Church.

Congressman Lewis, D-GA, has been at the center of civil rights history since 1960 when he was arrested as a 20 year-old participant in the Nashville Lunch Counter Protest. He was a leader of the Freedom Riders and the youngest speaker during the 1963 March on Washington where the Reverend Martin Luther King told the crowd, "I have a dream." In 1965, Lewis led the Bloody Sunday March in Selma, Alabama, where he and many others were beaten by police and television cameras carried the cruelty into American living rooms.

Using never-before seen interviews with Lewis and other civil rights activists recorded over the course of the last 20 years, filmmaker Kathleen Dowdy paints a picture of a man still striving to speak truth to power – now as a Capitol Hill insider.

There will be a moderated discussion following the screening.

The Second Saturday Documentary Series is co-sponsored by Niles Discovery Church and the San Jose Peace & Justice Center.





## WHAT'S "SPIRITUAL DIRECTION GROUP A"?

If you read our church calendar (the second to last page of each edition of The Bell) really carefully, you might have noticed that there's a group that meets on the third Wednesday of the month called "Spiritual Direction Group A" and you may have wondered what it is. Here's an attempt to describe it.

As the name implies, it's a group of people who are doing something spiritual. That "something" includes praying together in silence, paying attention to how God seems to be active or absent from our lives, and talking about our relationship with God as



we walk through our lives. It's not a therapy group, though it is supportive. It's not a meditation group, though we spend time in contemplation. It's led by Pastor Jeff most weeks, but sometimes a member of the group leads it.

It's called "Group A" because there is a hope that other small groups of people might want to form such a group. Both Pastor Jeff and Pastor Brenda have training as Spiritual Directors and are both open to helping additional groups form. If you're interested, speak to either of them.



# WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

## MILDRED REYNOLDS LAP ROBE TYING GROUP



The lap robe tying group continues to work throughout the summer. The next meetings July 26 and August 23. If you know of someone who would like a lap robe, notify Judy Molander or Alison Kieft. We have lap robes available now. There is no charge for the lap robes; all material and labor is donated. All women are invited to the meeting, but let Judy M. know if you plan to attend as lunch is provided.



## DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

The Daytime Women's Fellowship is on hiatus until the fall.



## EVENING FELLOWSHIP

The Evening Women's Fellowship is on hiatus for the summer. Our next meeting will be September 13, 2017.

**FALL RETREAT AT MISSION SPRINGS:** Registration forms have not yet arrived but keep the dates open: September 22 through September 24, 2017. It promises to be an inspiring and rewarding weekend.

## PASTORS' AND OFFICE SCHEDULES

Because of appointments and meetings, it is difficult for our pastors to have regular, posted office hours. Please call your pastor if you would like to make an appointment or have him/her come by for a visit. None of the staff is available on Mondays, 12:30-1:00, because they are in a staff meeting. The office will be closed on July 4.

**Pastor Jeff's** Sabbath is on Friday, and his day off is Saturday. His email is: [jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org](mailto:jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org). Pastor Jeff will return from the Dis-

ciples of Christ's General Assembly on July 15.

**Church**  
510-797-0895

**Pastor Jeff's mobile**  
510-579-8851

**Pastor Brenda's mobile**  
510-828-4107

**Pastor Brenda** is not in the office Thursday through Saturday. Her email is: [brenda@nilesdiscoverychurch.org](mailto:brenda@nilesdiscoverychurch.org). Pastor Brenda will be on vacation

July 24 to August 13.

**Cecilia Le's** hours are Mondays, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Her email is: [cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org](mailto:cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org).

**Sandra Lange's** hours are Mondays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Her email is: [admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org](mailto:admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org). Sandra will be on vacation the week of July 16.



# Please Pray For...

## BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:

Charlotte O'Donnell;  
 Cindy Corey;  
 Becky Moreno;  
 Barry Kean;  
 Matt Espinoza;  
 Dean Hunter;  
 Isabel Moreno;  
 Rebecca BoyerTaylor;  
 Maureen O'Donnell;  
 JoAn Parker;  
 Jack Rankin;  
 Diana Roeding;  
 Edrea Espinoza;  
 Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;  
 Penn Boyer;

Ryan BoyerTaylor;  
 Ken Young;  
 Sandra Frisbey;  
 Jerry Hollands;  
 Jan Filip;  
 Janet Butcher;  
 William "Butch" Butcher;  
 Diane Kindle;  
 Peg Tait;  
 Carol Easter's daughter, Allison;  
 Maria Garnica's brother, Victor Garnica;  
 Riki and Mark Twist's granddaughter,  
 Sophia Martin;  
 Michele McConville's mom, Marie  
 Maguire;

Dorletta Larsen's cousin, Carol Garret;  
 Dorletta Larsen's daughter-in-law, Chris  
 Dungan;  
 Rich Gallegos' mother, Esther;  
 Mark Twist's father, Arnie;  
 Ken Young's friend, Marlene Balan;  
 Tom Olkowski's brother, Paul;  
 Ed Espinoza, Penn Boyer's and Isaiah  
 and Aiyanna Espinoza's grandfather;  
 Jo Carroll, Suzy Mahusay's sister;  
 Carol Easter's mother, Barbara;  
 Dorothy Williams' daughter, Belinda  
 Williams.

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY SEEKING TO LIVE CLEAN AND SOBER LIVES.

### ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Mike Foster and his family as they grieve the death of his mother, Jan Richards, on May 16;

Charlotte O'Donnell and her family as they grieve the death of her husband, John, on May 7;

The family of the Rev. Donald Willoughby Joyner Anderson, pastor emeritus of Niles Discovery Church, as they grieve his death on February 21;

Pastor Brenda and her brother Jeff as they grieve

the death of their mother, Rosemary Loreman on February 3;

Kaleb Archer, his mother Martha McFarland, and his grandmother Kay McFarland, as they grieve the death of Kaleb's father Richard Archer;

The family of Jean Crossley as they grieve her death on January 31.

## PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING ON THEIR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, INCLUDING ISABEL.

PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED AND UNDER-EMPLOYED, ESPECIALLY MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH, that they find employment that fills their hearts and souls.

## PEOPLE WHO ARE CARING FOR SICK, FRAIL, AND/OR ELDERLY FAMILY MEMBERS.

THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL SAFETY OF ALL SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES AND AS UN PEACEKEEPERS, INCLUDING PEOPLE FROM OUR CONGREGATION AND OUR FRIENDS (including Chris Swint, Scott Swint, Ben Gonzales).

THESE LEADERS OF OUR CONGREGATION: members of the Cabinet; Pastor Jeff Spencer; Pastor Brenda Loreman; the Care Team.

PEACE THROUGHOUT THE EARTH, offering thanks for all who work to bring God's compassion and merciful justice through non-violent methods to the world.

A reminder about this prayer list:

If you have a prayer request that you'd like added to this list (or removed) please let Pastor Jeff know.

## July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						<b>1</b> ◀ From Jun 28 Pastor Jeff at General Synod	
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
◀ From Jun 28 Pastor Jeff at General Synod					Pastor Jeff at General Assembly		
10a-11a Worship & Sunday School	12:30p-1p Staff Meeting	4th of July - office closed		3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)		1:30p-4:30p Second Saturday Documentary Series (Sanctuary)	
7p-8:30p BSA Patrol Leader Council meeting (R3)	7:30p-9:30p Ministry Team Meetings	3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)		7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH)			
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
Pastor Jeff at General Assembly						Sandra vacation	
10a-11a Worship & Sunday School	12:30p-1p Staff Meeting	3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)		1:30p-2:30p Worship Planning Meeting	3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)		
11:30a-12p Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3)	5p-6p SSDS Producers Mtg (R3)		6:45p-8p BSA Pack 112 Leader Committee (R3)		7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH)		
	7p-8p Finance Committee (R3) 7:30p-9:30p MCE meeting (R2)		7:30p-9p Spiritual Direction Group A (R1)				
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
Sandra on vacation							
10a-11a Worship & Sunday School	12:30p-1p Staff Meeting	3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)		7:30p-9:30p Care Team meeting (R3)		3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)	
	7:15p-9:15p Cabinet (FH)	5p-6p Bell deadline		7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH)			5:30p-8:30p AIAnon Family Groups (FH and Kitchen)
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
10a-11a Worship & Sunday School	Flea Market set-up in Fellowship Hall to Aug 25 ▶ (FH)						
11:30a-12p Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3)	Pastor Brenda is on vacation to Aug 13 ▶						
	12:30p-1p Staff Meeting	9:45a-11:45a Greater Niles Village (R3)		10a-1p Lap Robe Tying Group (FH)		3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (Sanc)	
		3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (Sanc)		5p-6p We Are One rally/vigil		7p-9:30p ACA Group (R1)	
		7:30p-9p Book Group (Adamson's home)					
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Notes:					
Flea Market set-up in Fellowship Hall to Aug 25 ▶ (FH)							
Pastor Brenda is on vacation to Aug 13 ▶							
10a-11a Worship & Sunday School	12:30p-1p Staff Meeting						



## Niles Discovery Church

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Niles Discovery Church

### ***The Bell is First Class***

This edition of The Bell was graciously edited by Priscilla Taylor. 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](http://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 leave a phone message at the church office (510-797-0895) so we can note in our database that you don't need The Bell via the US Mail any more.

