

THE BELL



Niles Discovery Church

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

CALL TO ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2019 Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 3, following worship, in the fellowship hall at Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont, California. Your attendance is prayerfully and urgently requested.



The only items on the agenda are receiving the Annual Financial Report and discussing, amending, and adopting the proposed budget for 2019. Annual Financial Reports will be available at the church by January 20, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP SERMON SERIES COMING IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY



Starting January 13, our pastors will be preaching a seven-part sermon series on church membership.

“Brain storming about the series and reading some reflections from members of our church, Pastor Jeff and I came up with somewhere around 20 questions we think worthy of consideration,” Pastor Brenda said. “Hopefully we will at least touch on them during the series.”

“This series grew out of a question about our bylaws,” Pastor Jeff explained. “The bylaws say that uniting with the church as a member is a reaffirmation of baptism. Some have questioned whether or not that is still an appropriate understanding and requirement of membership in our congregation at this time in our world’s history.”

According to Pastor Jeff, “The series will look at church history, evolving traditions, scripture, and personal experience as we think through these questions.”

“We hope this series will help our congregation move toward a consensus on this overarching question: What should be the requirements for membership and what should be our expectations of members?” Pastor Jeff said.

Pastor Jeff said that as of the press deadline for this edition of *The Bell*, some of the sermons will include some interaction from the congregation. He also said that Town Hall Meetings are planned to follow the worship services on the Sundays of the last two sermons in the series, February 17 and 24. He said he was working to secure childcare for those meetings.

INTERFAITH HARMONY DAY PLANS ANNOUNCED

The Tri-City Interfaith Council and local Human Relations Councils invite you to their annual Interfaith Harmony Day event, featuring a Concert and Conversations of Love from over ten faith traditions. Be part of the Power of Love Extending Harmony on February 2, 2019, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Niles Discovery Church. Contact Cindy Sojourner at cindy@sojournings.org for more info.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

January 6

“Seek, Follow, Be the Star”
Matthew 2:1-12

January 13

“An Historical and Ecumenical Look at Baptism”

January 20

“Baptism in the UCC, the DOC, and What’s Emerging”

January 27

“What Does It Mean to be a Church?”

February 3

“What Does It Mean to Join a Church?”

February 10

“What Does It Mean to Join a Church (part 2)?”

February 17

“What Is an Appropriate Liturgy for Baptism?”

February 24

“What Is an Appropriate Liturgy for Membership?”

Jeff's Jottings

"Don't forget, you're going to die." That is a message I get on my smartphone five times a day.

I know it sounds crazy, but I actually purchased an app to remind me of my mortality. The app, "WeCroak," not only sends these alerts at random times, it invites me to open the app to read one of 600 quotes loaded on it. As far as I can tell, the quotes are picked randomly as well. So far, I've found the simple reminder of my mortality more impactful than the quotes. But the quotes do slow me down a little, which is good.



Because I'm not an early riser, this reminder of reality is sometimes there to greet me when I first look at my phone. I was at a lunch with a colleague recently when my phone buzzed. I looked my friend right in the eye and said, "Remember, you're going to die," not quite quoting the app. He looked at me quizzically, wondering what prompted my non sequitur. I shared a little info about the app and he said he might download it, hoping it might form a spiritual discipline in preparation for Lent. I downloaded it in preparation for a four-part educational series the Ministry of Social Concerns Team is holding starting this month, "Leave Peace Not Chaos"

(read more about it on page 7) and the documentary we're showing on January 12 (read more about "Into the Night" on page 8).

WeCroak is based on a Bhutanese aphorism: "To find happiness, contemplate death five times a day." I've found it to be not so much an invitation to contemplate my death as it is an invitation to pray. There's something a little Muslim about that, which makes me smile.

Writing about the app in The Christian Century magazine, United Church of Christ pastor Matt Fitzgerald says, "Five times a day sounds excessive, almost gleeful, like a dog rolling in rotting fish. But if you've been refusing the reality of death for years, an occasional reminder is easy to bat down. And those of us who encounter death regularly might be the best at defending ourselves. It's a skill we've honed."

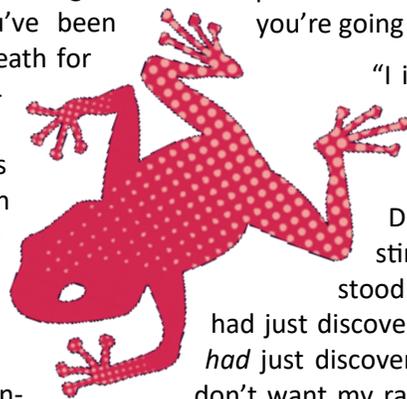
He's right that clergy encounter death more frequently than most people. Most medical professionals and first responders probably encounter it more than clergy, and certainly undertakers do, but other than those professions, us clergy types may need the reminder, the chipping away at our defenses, more than most.

Perhaps I haven't had the app long enough to have experienced the "cumulative wallop" Fitzgerald

says it "inflicts." "It will force you to consider the grave personally. It doesn't happen immediately. The app's effect unfolds like a slow-motion bomb, wrecking whatever defenses you've erected to protect yourself from death's sting. The bizarre thing is, WeCroak made me happy as it blew me apart."

I wonder what will happen to me.

My favorite story Fitzgerald tells in his article is of how he was trying to get his teenaged son to wash the dishes. Fitzgerald asked; the teen ignored him. Fitzgerald insisted; the teen refused. Fitzgerald was getting ready to explode, and his phone buzzed. "Don't forget, you're going to die."



"I inhaled sharply," Fitzgerald writes. "My eyes watered. Death's scent and sting stopped me. I stood silently as if I had just discovered something. I don't want my rage lodged in my child's psyche. I spoke softly to my son. I was happy."

I'm not suggesting you download WeCroak. I am suggesting you don't let denial of the reality of your mortality keep you from participating in our January documentary or in the "Leave Peace Not Chaos" series over the next four months.

Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Pastor Jeff's personal blog is at 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.



PATHWAYS TO BELOVED COMMUNITY: LOOKING BACK AT 2018 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019



The end of the year is a great time to reflect on accomplishments during the past year and to look ahead to the next year. The Pathways to Beloved Community (P2BC) strategic project was given a green light in the fall of 2017. The team meets regularly on the third Sunday of the month starting at about noon. Core team members include: Joy Barnitz, Helen Boyer, Susie Claxton, Diane Harvey, Alison Kieft, Iris Nicholson and Cindy Sojourner. Beth Newell played a key role in our research on Just Peace UCC churches; recently Judy Zlatnik has joined our meetings when she can.

So, what has resulted in 2018? In February, Anti-Racism training conducted by the Disciples of Christ trainers was held at our church and about 15 people from the church participated. As a follow-up to that, several folks took training offered by our UCC Conference. In

Continued; See **“REVIEWING & ANTICIPATING”** page 4

HOMELESSNESS STUDY GROUP HAS SEVERAL PROJECTS SIMMERING

Like a chef keeping many pots on a low simmer, the Homelessness Study Group (HSG) is working on several projects

Volunteering for the City's Warming Center

The city of Fremont has set up a Winter Shelter/Warming center and is asking for volunteers to help prepare and serve food. There are two shifts daily that need help. The HSG met on December 16 to coordinate participation from Niles Discovery Church.

Hosting the City's Mobile Hygiene Unit

Fremont acquired the Mobile Hygiene Unit and established five locations where it will come, on a round-robin basis, to serve people who are unhoused. Niles Discovery Church is one of those locations. The service is scheduled to begin as soon as the logistics are worked out. John Smith and Jim Thomas

Continued; See **“HELPING THE HOMELESS”** page 4



SMOOTH ROADS FOR MOBILE FOOD VAN

In the spring and summer of 2017, our church adopted a Strategic Plan to create opportunities for our members to have more chances to interact with individuals in our community. At the same time, Tri City Volunteers (TCV) received a donation of a mobile food pantry. It was a wonderful coming together of opportunities! We established a steering committee with three members: Michele McConville, Marilyn Singer, and John Zlatnik.

Typically, teams of three are involved in one to two deliveries each month. One or two people pick up the loaded food van from the Tri City Volunteers Center. The other participants drive directly to the site. When the van arrives, local residents assist with unloading and set up. Food is distributed for one hour, thus

Continued; See **“EXPANDING IN 2019”** page 5

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.



We Are One

After taking a hiatus in November and December, the “We Are One” rallies, held on the fourth Thursday of the month, 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the corner of Paseo Padre and Walnut in Fremont, resume this month. The theme for the January 24 rally hasn’t been announced by the press deadline for this edition of *The Bell*, but will be included in Sunday announcements once it is set. The “We Are One” rallies are sponsored by the Tri-City Interfaith Council, of which Niles Discovery Church is an affiliate.



CURBS GET A FACELIFT

The Ministry of Property Team decided it would be helpful for people navigating our parking lots to have some of the curbs painted white. You can see the results of the first coat, thanks to hard work of Diane Harvey.



SUMMER CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

It's hard to believe, but the summer dates for Camp Caz and Camp Tam are posted on the Conference's website. You can access it here: <https://ncnucucc.org/yomcreg/>

We will share the Community of the Great Commission camp dates as soon as they're announced.

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REVIEWING & ANTICIPATING

June, a similar number of people from the church participated in Bystander Intervention Training, which the team encourages folks to attend. Bystander Intervention Training was sponsored by the Tri-Cities Interfaith Council, Compassionate Fremont, Alameda Library and the Human Relations Commission/Resource Council of both Fremont and Union City.

Over the summer, the team discussed whether to propose that Niles Discovery Church become a Just Peace Church, a UCC designation. We presented what we had learned at the Town Hall held in September. People were excited by all the activities we are doing as congregants and we concluded the Town Hall with the realization that we already ARE a Just Peace Church, so we should claim it alongside our Open and Affirming designation.

What's up for us in the new year? Assembling a Just Peace Church submission and obtaining Cabinet approval is a priority. Developing an interfaith tool to share over a cup of tea, coffee, cocoa or maybe even a light meal is also on the agenda. Please let us know if you want to join the team to work on an activity; contact Joy at joy-barnitz@gmail.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Niles Discovery Church has closed its Post Office Box and is only receiving mail at the church building. Please make sure all correspondence (including automatic pledge payments from your bank) goes to the street address: 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont 94536. Thank you.



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HELPING THE HOMELESS

are meeting with Arquimides Caldera of the Fremont Human Services Department to work out the scheduling of the Unit.

Niles Discovery Church kitchen commercial upgrade

HSG has asked for an inspection of our kitchen by the City of Fremont to determine what we can be approved for, regarding its use in feeding the homeless. We plan to reach out to the County Health Services Department to get an inspection to find out what we need to do to get a Commercial Kitchen permit. HSG is also looking at applying for a Community Development Block Grant to fund upgrades to the kitchen.

Making hygiene kits

Hygiene kits are being assembled on an ongoing basis, as the HSG receives items on the Hygiene Kit list (found on the information table in the Fellowship Hall). Please bring items to Tarrah Henrie or Jim Thomas. Kits are primarily donated to people who are homeless via Abode Services, and are also available for those in need as we encounter them.

Even with all these projects, the HSG has not spent any money to date. If you would like to participate with the HSG, please contact Tarrah Henrie or Jim Thomas.



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EXPANDING IN 2019

the total commitment for our volunteers is about two hours twice a month. Some individuals work only once a month.

In December 2018, we had 29 people on the mailing list. Deliveries are currently being made to eight sites (twice a month). The goal is to provide emergency, nutritious food for three days. We try to adjust the food given in proportion to the family size.

TCV receives food from the Alameda County Food Bank in Oakland, and also receives donations from churches and grocery stores. An effort is made to offer a variety of vegetables, fruits, but also high protein foods, canned foods, cereals, and breads when they are available!

The exciting news is that a second mobile food pantry has been donated, and a third is in the planning stage! The goal is to reach 24 sites that are in need of nutritious food. Sister Elaine Sanchez, a Sister of the Holy Family, will be coordinating teams who will support the second food van.

The amazing thing about the mobile food pantry is how problem free the system has been. Much of this is due to the schedule prepared each month by Marilyn Singer, but also by each of the volunteers who arrives on time, works together as a team, and gets to know their clients who visit the van each week.

MODERATED musings MODERATED

by Jim Thomas



Happy New Year! The new year always reminds me of my Y2K New Year's party I threw on December 31, 1999. I remember having to go to the store to buy more food for the party. It was early afternoon, but when I got there, several shelves were picked clean. They had a run on items like water and canned goods, because some people were preparing for the end of civilization as we know it. Most of what I needed were perishables, so they were left untouched.

As crazy as all that was, I understand how scary it can feel during times of uncertainty. I knew a few people who believed that electronics would stop working, planes would fall out of the sky, cars would fail – and if I tried to tell them that their fears were unfounded, I was told I was being foolish for not preparing for even the possibility of disaster.

I also knew people who took advantage of this fear. There was even a tech supply store that had purchased containers and filled them with blankets, MREs, flash lights, first aid kits, etc. They priced it with a nice profit padding, and they had no problem selling them. Actually, these kits are useful for any disaster. I have a similar kit I made myself, called a go bag, that I keep in my truck.

There are other situations where I have seen people go off the rails, and for the most part, like Y2K, in the end it turns out it was all for naught. The common thread I see in these fears

Continued; See **"COMMUNITY SUPPORT"** page 7



YOUTH SUE GOVERNMENT; YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT PREACHER SOUGHT

In his sermon on October 28, Pastor Jeff mentioned the case, *Juliana v. United States*, a lawsuit filed by 21 youth and young adults, claiming that the government has violated their constitutional rights by supporting and subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, thus jeopardizing their futures. You can learn more about the lawsuit at <http://www.eachgeneration.org/>

Pastor Jeff is hoping that there might be a young person or two who would like to share why they support this lawsuit as one of our sermons in the coming months. If you're that person, please let him know right away.



NAME IT!

Please remember, for cash donations to be credited to your giving record, you must put the cash in an envelope and write your name on it.



TODAY, THE LIGHT IS SHINING

Today, the light is shining from not only the pink, the purple, candles lit. Today, the light is shining from more. More than overhead light fixtures, gold sequin fabric softening the resurrection cross. Today, the light is shining through the blues, "God hear our prayer." Through us, lifting up one by one, all grieving lost loved ones, home, a safe place. Through us, lifting up all longing for relief from pain, addiction, injustices. Today, light is shining in Love Came Down, your answer to prayer. In a Christmas Cantata overlapping old familiar Carols in new harmonies of peace, arrangements of hope, timbres of joy. Today, light is shining, radiating, in choir voices, choir faces, giving God's answer, strange answer to prayer. A baby. Baby Jesus. "Call him, Emmanuel" "A Way in a Manger." "Rejoice. Rejoice." Announce with the angels, the coming of "Peace on Earth." Today the light is shining through God, through Jesus. Everyone present and in Love with all humanity, all creation, shining, shining, shining too.

© Cindy Sojourner, 12/17/18 Written in response to the Cantata the church choir sang the day before in worship.

CONFERENCE MINISTER WILL HOST BOOK STUDY

The Rev. Diane Weible, Conference Minister of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, will be hosting an online Book Study on the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Di-Angelo. The study will consist of six one-hour discussions covering two chapters each session. All sessions will be held on Wednesdays (January 9 and 30, February 13 and 27, March 13 and 27, and April 10) at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please email Diane at dweible@ncncc.org, to let her know of your interest. The book can be purchased through Amazon or at most book stores.



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES OF THE MONTH

Social Media Ministry: If you enjoy using Facebook and Twitter, you can help boost our congregation's web presence. Currently, Pastor Jeff does all our church's social media and he'd love to hand that job off to someone (or a couple someones who will coordinate the work). Pastor Jeff can teach you some of the finer points and provide plenty of re-

sources to help you with this job. Just let him know if you would like to help.



Postering Crew: The idea is to have a small group of people who take responsibility for a handful of neighborhood shops and bulletin boards where they will put up flyers for events at Niles Discovery Church as they become available. Contact Pastor Jeff if you would like to be on this Crew.

LEARN HOW TO LET JUSTICE FLOW

If you're in the mood for praise, worship, teaching, and preaching; you'll want to attend the NCNC UCC Justice Revival on Saturday January 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Pioneer Congregational UCC, 2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. Workshops and activities will be available for adults and youth. Day care for young children will be available. This year's keynote speaker is the Reverend Traci Blackmon.

One workshop will provide information on the prison system, the racist culture prisons produce, and how people of faith can help those inside. The second workshop will guide participants in steps they can take to provide LGBT Teens with safe spaces to process and talk about their experiences plus build meet new friends. Pastor Casey Tinnin will talk about his own involvement working with LGBT Teens.

General Admission is \$35. Tickets are available online at: https://ncncc.secure.force.com/default/CnP_PaaS_EVT_ExternalRegistrationPage?event_id=a2C1C0000IikoAUAR.



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

is the lack of information (or the preponderance of mis-information). I expect there will be more to come.

So, let us make a resolution to not go crazy when things get scary. Well, it's okay to go a little crazy, because scary is scary, but we have a great community and if we find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty, know that our community will have our backs.

LEAVE PEACE NOT CHAOS - END OF LIFE PLANNING

News coverage of a well-known celebrity dying without a will points out the resulting difficulties. A family's crisis over critical medical decisions dominates a news cycle. This news may inspire action, but we find both contemplating our own death and initiating a family discussion difficult. Who do we want to act for us if we become incapacitated? Could our financial affairs be resolved with ease? What are our wishes for our final days? Do we need to reevaluate our established plans and documents?

The Ministry of Social Concerns (MSC) Team believes that talking about these and other questions will move us toward new understandings and a sense of peace; therefore, they are sponsoring a



series of conversations to spark thought and action on end of life planning.

Four conversations are scheduled for the fourth Sunday of January through April. A light lunch will be served at noon in Ford Hall with the presentations and discussion from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The topics for each session are listed below:

- ◆ January 27 - Wills and Trusts, other useful documents
- ◆ February 24 - Advanced Directives
- ◆ March 24 - Hospice
- ◆ April 28 - California End of Life Legislation

For more information, contact Judy Zlatnik or other MSC members. Invite interested friends and family to attend, too.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS' MID-WINTER RETREAT PLANNED

The Middle School Mid-Winter Camp (for students, grades 6 to 8) will be on February 16 through February 18, 2019, at Christian Church of Pacific Grove. Deborah Streeter, a United Church of Christ Minister, will be the Blue Theology Leader (ocean stewardship and spirituality). The weekend will include service projects, plant restoration, communion on the beach, hikes and a visit to the local lighthouse. More details and registration can be found at j.mp/mwyr2019. Early bird registration is \$125 if you register by January 18. The church is offering a \$50 scholarship to all student participants. Ingerd Svaerd will be attending as our adult representative. Please contact Beth Armstrong if you want to access the \$50 scholarship.



Senior High youth have a Conference-sponsored retreat the same weekend in the Redwoods with lots of games, hikes, dancing, and worship. Youth are encouraged to bring their friends even as they enjoy meeting new people at this event. This is a great way to explore more about yourself, your community, and your faith. Early bird discount ends January 18. Space is limited. Registration is available at j.mp/shmw2019. Again, speak to Beth Armstrong if you want to take advantage of the \$50 scholarship.



John and Judy Zlatnik invite you to their open house on January 26 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

RSVPs are helpful for planning; however, if you find yourself available at the last minute, please stop by!



JOIN THE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

There is still time to sign up for the NDC Friendship themed progressive dinner taking place on Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The attendees will be separated into groups. Each group will visit one home for hors d'oeuvres and another for salad. Everyone will end up at the church for the main course of chicken and dessert. If you choose to participate, you will be told what dish to bring and given maps to members' homes. This is a wonderful chance for us to be social and get to know each other! To sign up, contact Melissa Palleschi.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

January's special offering is for Tri-City Volunteers. Tri-City Volunteers runs the largest food bank in southern Alameda County. They grew out of the organizing work of two members of our predecessor congregations and we continue to have a strong partnership with them, most recently as the congregation TCV turned to launch the mobile food pantry program (see page 3).



The offering will be formally received on Sunday, January 13. As with all our special offerings, you are welcome to give at any time (always make checks payable

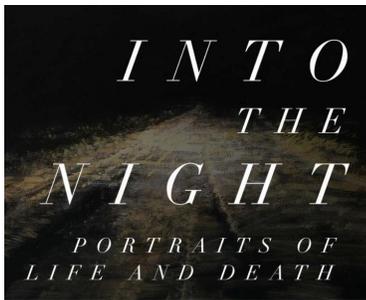
to Niles Discovery Church). You can also give online: go to <http://nilesdiscoverychurch.org/> and click the "donate" button at the top of the page.

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 bit.ly/specofferings or call the church office we will mail you one.

Thanks to your generosity, the December Special Offering raised \$2,322 for Puente de la Costa Sur.

SECOND SATURDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES

DOCUMENTARY INVITES US TO CONSIDER OUR OWN DEATHS



We may not like thinking about it and we certainly don't like talking about it, but the reality is simply this: we are all going to die. We don't know how. We don't know when. And still, death will come for us all.

January's "Second Saturday Documentary" invites us to get past our denial and engage with this reality. *Into the Night: Portraits of Life and Death*, by Director Helen Whitney, explores the various ways we think about death – not death in general, but our own death in particular. It invites us to seek an answer to the great unanswered question, How do we live with death in our eye?

To borrow from Dylan Thomas (whose poem opens the film) do we go gently or raging against the dying light? Do we depart with equanimity or with anger? With clenched fists or more commonly with denial? Or do we see death as something to be fought and even possibly conquered, a challenge increasingly pursued by some of the brightest scientific minds? Finally, what are the stories we tell ourselves? Whether shaped by religion, science, art, the natural world, the power of love, do these narratives sustain us or do they fall away when we suddenly find ourselves 'with skin in the game.'

Into the Night features nine fascinating men and women from all walks of life, all ages, believers and unbelievers, well-known and obscure. For them, death is no longer an abstraction. Whether through a dire prognosis, the imminence of their own death, the loss of a loved one, a sudden epiphany, or a temperament born to question, these are people who have truly awakened to their mortality.

A free screening of the documentary will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m., in the sanctuary. The screening will be followed by a discussion, led by the Rev. Tim Weible, a Board Certified Chaplain currently serving with a hospice agency in the Bay Area.

Into the Night creates a safe, smart place that allows us to talk about a subject of universal importance. It is the conversation we yearn to have, but too often turn away from in fear and distress. Yet our culture is at a critical turning point, driven in part by the baby boomer generation that is insisting on a new openness and on this deeper conversation.

The Second Saturday Documentary Series is co-sponsored by Niles Discovery Church and the San Jose Peace and Justice Center. Learn more about the series at <http://bit.ly/nilesssds>.



**MILDRED REYNOLDS
LAP ROBE TYING GROUP**

The Lap Robe Tying Group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October, (and this year was able to add a gathering in November, thanks to when Thanksgiving fell), from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The next meeting will be January 23. Let Judy Molander know if you plan to attend as lunch is provided.

During 2018 the group made 78 lap robes. Several lap robes were displayed in the main hall for everyone who came into our building to see. This year, 8 lap robes were given to members and friends of our congregation, 6 to Hillside Senior Care, 6 to Abode Services, 6 to Meals on Wheels, 3 to hospice care, 12 to the Veterans Hospice, 10 to Paradise Fire Victims, 9 to the Brown Road Homeless Shelter, and 7 to LOV. Hillside Senior Care reports they are especially helpful when transporting their clients from the care facility to medical appointments. Others have said they are useful when you want "a little extra" for warmth on cool evenings. More are available if anyone wants one.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Did you know that there is a substitute for the styrofoam packing "peanuts" that live forever? You can get packing peanuts made of cornstarch that are compostable. Start asking for them and keep the plastics out of our oceans.



DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

The Daytime Fellowship meets on the third Monday of the month (which is Martin Luther King day, January 21, this month), September to June, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. One of our pastors leads a Bible study (typically looking at a scripture for the coming Sunday's worship service). This is followed by a time for visiting with each other as we eat our brown bag lunches and a provided dessert. Sometimes there is a little bit of business that needs to be taken care of. The gathering typically ends around 1:00. Everyone is welcome.



**WILD WOMEN OF THE WEST
GATHERING ANNOUNCED**

The dates for the 2020 Wild Women of the West Inter-Regional have been announced. They are June 12 through 14, 2020 in Las Vegas. You might want to put this on your calendar now.

First Christian Church of Las Vegas will host. The theme is "Seeking Grace in the Desert" and one keynote speaker has been confirmed: Rev. Lori Tapia. Other leadership for this event is being secured.

The costs are anticipated to be between \$150 and \$200 for registration, and housing/hotels should be significantly cheaper than in Scottsdale (the location of the 2018 gathering). At a recent meeting in Vegas, one of the planning team members stayed at a no-frills hotel near this church for \$23 a night.

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. The office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

Pastor Jeff's is on Friday, and his day off is Saturday. His email is jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

Pastor Brenda is not in the office Thursday-Saturday. Her email is brenda@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. Pastor Brenda is on vacation through January 3.

Cecilia Le's hours during the new semester are Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Her email is cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

Though Sandra Lange has accepted a full-time job, she is still coming in a couple times a week while we continue our search for a new Office Administrator. You can continue to reach her at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. She will get back to you when she can.

Church
510-797-0895

Pastor Jeff's mobile
510-579-8851

Pastor Brenda's mobile
510-828-4107



Please Pray For...

BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:

Jerry Mulcahy;
 Jerry Hollands;
 John Zlatnik;
 Charlotte O'Donnell;
 Marilyn Rasler;
 Judy Hollowell;
 Helen Boyer;
 Mindy Adkins;
 Becky Moreno;
 JoAn Parker;
 Susie Claxton;
 Penn Boyer;
 Cindy Corey;
 Bill Ball;
 Maxine Foster;
 Suellyn Steigmeyer;
 Dean Hunter;
 Nancy Attinger;
 Jack Rankin;

Mike Kean;
 Diana Roeding;
 Edrea Espinoza;
 Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;
 Ryan BoyerTaylor;
 Judi Eaton;
 Ken Young;
 Diane Kindle;
 Sandra Frisbey;
 Mark Twist's father, **Arnold**;
 Amy Gunnarson's great-niece **Syra**;
 Sharon Yool's brother, **Harry "Butch" Lewis**;
 Michael Thomson's sister,
Mary Thomson;
 Susie Claxton's sister, **Argyle Claxton**;
Mindy Adkin's 100-year-old aunt;
Mindy Adkin's brother;
 Alison Kieft's friend, **Darryl**;

Grace Rankin's brother, **Jim Carstairs**;
 Debbie Keesis' and Denise Church's brother, **Darren**;
John Wharton's father;
Katy Wharton's mother;
 Alison Kieft's sister-in-law, **Debbie Thompson**;
Janet Butcher;
William "Butch" Butcher;
 Rich Gallegos' friend, **Jimmy**;
 Carol Easter's daughter, **Allison**;
 Maria Garnica's brother, **Victor Garnica**;
 Michele McConville's mom, **Marie Maguire**;
 Rich Gallegos' mother, **Esther**;
 Ken Young's friend, **Marlene Balan**;
Jo Carroll, Suzy Mahusay's sister;
 Carol Easter's mother, **Barbara**.

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

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SEEKING TO LIVE CLEAN AND SOBER LIVES.

PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY.

PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE.

PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST HOMES AND OTHER PROPERTY, A SENSE OF SECURITY, OR LOVED ONES IN THE WILDFIRES.

PEOPLE WHO ARE TRAVELING.

ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Wally Osborne and family as they grieve the death of his daughter, **Arnaye Osborne** on December 3;
Ron and Alta Jo Adamson and their extended family as they grieve the sudden, tragic death of their beloved niece **Deanne**;
Sandra Wong's mother-in-law whose husband died in October;
the family of Gene Kilby as they grieve his death on September 20;

Vickey Kean and her family, as they grieve the death of **Barry Kean**, on Monday, August 20;

Marian Wolfe and her family, as they grieve the death of Marian's husband Don, on August 7;

the family of Rose Monroe who died on August 1;

Nancy Walker, as she grieves the death of her father on July 29.

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

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day (office closed)	2	3 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH) 7:30p-9p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	4	5 6p-8p Facilities Cleaning
6 9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30a-10a Choir warm-up (R1) 10a-12:30p Worship & Sunday School 7p-8:30p BSA Patrol Leader Council	7 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 12:45p-1:15p Staff Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Ministry Team Meetings	8 10a-12p Greater Niles Village (FH) 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 6:30p-8:45p BSA Troop 112 Meetings (FH & R3)	9 11a-12p Worship Planning Meeting (phone) 5:30p-6:30p SSDS Producers Meeting 6:45p-8:15p BSA Pack 112 Leader Committee (FH) 7:30p-9p Spiritual Direction Group A	10 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 10a-1p Serra Center Staff Training (FH) 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH) 7:30p-9p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	11	12 1:30p-4:30p Second Saturday Documentary Series 5p-9p ACA/AA Fellowship (FH) 9:30p-11:30p Facilities Cleaning
13 9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30a-10a Choir warm-up (R1) 10a-12:30p Worship & Sunday School 11:30a-12p Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3) 12:30p-2:30p MPCS Board Mtg (R1) 12:30p-2:30p Personnel Committee	14 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 12:45p-1:15p Staff Meeting 7p-9p Candelighters Board Meeting 7p-8:30p Ministry of Evangelism Team 7:30p-9p Finance Committee (R3)	15 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 5p-6p Bell deadline 6:30p-8:30p BSA Den 4 (FH)	16 6p-8p BSA Den 10 (FH) 7:30p-9p Personnel Committee (R2)	17 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 6:30p-7:30p BSA Den 5 (R3 & R4) 7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH) 7:30p-9p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	18	19 5:30p-8:30p AIAnon Family Groups (FH) 9p-11p Facilities Cleaning
20 9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30a-10a Choir warm-up (R1) 10a-12:30p Worship & Sunday School 11:30a-1p Pathways To Beloved Community mtg (R2)	21 Martin Luther King Day (office closed) 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 11:30a-2p Daytime Fellowship (FH) 12:45p-1:15p Staff Meeting 7:15p-9:15p Cabinet (FH)	22 10a-2:30p Greater Niles Village (FH) 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 6:30p-8:45p BSA Troop 112 Meetings (FH & R3) 7:30p-9p Book Group (Adamson's home)	23 10a-1p Lap Robe Tying Group (FH) 7:30p-9p Care Team meeting (R3)	24 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 5p-6p We Are One rally (Walnut and Paseo Padre) 7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH) 7:30p-9p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	25 10a-9p Progressive Dinner set-up (FH)	26 8a-5p Justice Revival (Sacramento) 9a-12p Work Party (inside and out) 5p-9p Progressive Dinner (FH) 9:30p-11:30p Facilities Cleaning
27 9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School (FH) 9:30a-10a Choir warm-up (R1) 10a-12:30p Worship & Sunday School 11:30a-12p Rainbow Ukulele Club (R3) 12p-2p Leave Peace Not Chaos (FH) 2p-3p Communion Elders (R3)	28 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 12:45p-1:15p Staff Meeting 6:30p-7:30p Cubs Pack 112, Den 6 (R4)	29 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH)	30	31 10a-11a FCSN cleanings 3:30p-4:30p Fall Prevention Class (FH) 7p-9:30p ACA Group (FH) 7:30p-9p Choir Rehearsal (Sanc)	Notes:	



Niles Discovery Church

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Niles Discovery Church

***The Bell* is First Class**

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