

THE BELL



UPCOMING WORSHIP

November 1

PLEDGE SUNDAY

"The Greatest of These"
1 Corinthians 13

November 8

"Progressive Prayer"
Matthew 6:5-15

November 15

"What We Do
While We Wait"
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

November 22

"God Will Change
Your Name"
Genesis 32:22-32

November 29

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"I Believe in the Sun:
Hope for Tomorrow"
Isaiah 40:1-11

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TIME CHANGE COMES IN THE WEE HOURS OF NOVEMBER 1

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1 at 2:00 a.m. That means it's a good idea to set those clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Halloween night.



“FAITHFUL, HOPEFUL, LOVING” PLEDGE CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES NOVEMBER 1



The pledge campaign for 2021 concludes with Pledge Sunday, November 1. During worship that day, the congregation will dedicate the pledges of financial support that have been made. If people have mailed in their selfies as requested in the campaign letter that was mailed on October 22, the worship service will include a short film of celebration.

November 1 is also All Saints Day, and Pastor Jeff is working on an additional short film celebrating our beloved dead—family members, mentors, and dear friends. The deadline for submission of those pictures was October 22.

Thank you for your participation in these film projects and for your continued financial support of the ministries of our church.

LET THE PPRC KNOW

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) wants to hear from you. Contact any PPRC member – Ken Rasler, Inger Svaert, Roberta McReynolds, Leonard Lloyd, and Pastor Jeff and Pastor Brenda – 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.

CONTACTING THE STAFF

Because of the shelter in place orders, please do not come into the office. You can call the office 510-797-0895 to leave a message for any staff member.

Mikele Kearney’s email is
admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

Cecilia Le’s email is
cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

You are encouraged to use the pastors’ Calendly apps to make an appointment for a phone call or a Zoom meeting if you have the need. Their contact information is on the right.

Minister in Training

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Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff
Spencer



Associate Pastor
Rev. Brenda
Loreman



Minister in Training
Maggie
Guekguezian



Admin
Mikele
Kearny



Bookkeeper
Cecilia
Le



Accompanist and
Organist
Jenny Lin

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES WILL “FILL THE NIGHT WITH MUSIC AND LIGHT”

There’s probably not a person out there who would say this hasn’t been a truly awful year. We are all suffering in some way from a global pandemic, a racial reckoning, the ravages of climate change, a deeply divided political climate, and the grief and loss felt from social and physical isolation and significant changes to daily life. As we come to the close of the year, all these burdens weigh even heavier as we contemplate how to celebrate precious holiday rituals without the closeness of family and friends.

The Ministry of Spiritual Life Team pondered all these things as we planned how to “do” Advent this year. How would we create special worship moments without our sanctuary and our beautiful liturgical art? How can we celebrate the holidays without singing, or candles?

In our planning, we were inspired by the words of an anonymous Jewish poet during the Holocaust:

I believe in the sun, even when it’s not shining
I believe in love, even when feeling it not
I believe in God, even when [God] is silent

This poignant poem has been set to music by the composer Mark Miller (he also composed our familiar “Let’s Walk Together” song), and his lovely composition, “I Believe,” forms the musical foundation for our Advent worship series this year, “I Believe Even When... Fill the Night with Music and Light.” Each week, we’ll sing a verse of “I Believe” and light one of the Advent candles of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Each week, we’ll hear the story of a “Carol of Resistance,” a traditional holiday song that has a deeper message

behind it of hope over despair and resistance to oppression.

Even though we can’t be present in our sanctuary, we’ve decorated it for Advent, and we’ll be shooting video there to include in worship. Even though the choir can’t gather to sing together, they’re making individual recordings to be edited into a “virtual choir” for our worship services. Even though we can’t light the Advent wreath together in person, we’ll be lighting our own wreaths at home, together in worship (see the article on page 5 to sign up to get your very own “Advent in a Box”).



Although we can’t be together in person, our Zoom worship throughout the season will be filled with candlelight and special music. We can believe that God is present, that Jesus will be born, even when our lives are difficult, and our hearts are breaking.

As we move through the holiday season, it’s helpful to remember that ours is not the only time contorted by myriad disasters. The history of humanity is fraught with pain—especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and that leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. Even in the depths of despair, in a time marked with conflict, God offers us a powerful alternative: hope for the future, the power of love to transform, joy even in the midst of grief, and an active path to reconciliation and peace. This Advent, let us fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still “believe, even when” we are discouraged.

NEW NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for newsletter submission has moved from the Wednesday after the Cabinet meeting (on the third Monday of the month) to the Wednesday *before* the Cabinet meeting. Please send your newsletter articles, columns, photos, and poetry to Mikele at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. The deadline for submissions for the December edition of *The Bell* will be Wednesday, November 11.



POST-ELECTION SACRED SPACE

Pastor Jeff and Pastor Brenda will be hosting two post-election Zoom gatherings on Wednesday, November 4, as a prayerful place for people to gather after the election. “Whatever the outcome of the election on November 3—whether we will feel like celebrating or mourning, or whether we just don’t know the outcome, I think we’ll need to pray about it,” said Pastor Brenda. “These gatherings will be an opportunity to spend time together in prayer, and to share our feelings with each other in a safe and brave space.” There will be two gatherings, one at 10:00 a.m. (register at bit.ly/postelectionAM), and one at 7:30 p.m. (register at bit.ly/postelectionPM). Drop into whichever time fits your schedule.

CLIMATE



GO GREEN FOR EVER

“JUST DO IT!”

By Sandra Wong for the Green Team

CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY
9/26/2020

On a beautiful sunny Saturday, a group from the Green Team and friends, set out to pick up trash at our local Quarry Lakes Regional Park. We were armed with masks, gloves, bags, and extension grabbers for a fun day of fellowship and community service. Some Green Team members who could not come, cleaned up around their homes and neighborhoods. There were many hikers that day and one asked what we were doing. She had not heard of California Coastal Cleanup Day and thanked us for doing this.

One of our most interesting finds was from Richard Godfrey. His Nike “Just Do It” T-shirt says it all - that we should all “Just Do It” when it comes to making our planet a better place for future generations.

So consider bringing a bag and gloves with you the next time you go on a walk. Keep them in your car or backpack so that they are a visible reminder for you. Once you start looking for trash, sadly, you’ll realize that it is everywhere, especially plastic pollution which is harmful to our waterways. The Green Team hopes to make this a yearly church event. But in the meantime, start cleaning up around you!



ADVENT IN A BOX

Thanks to the creative power and skill of Sandy Thomas, Niles Discovery Church is making a limited number of "Advent In a Box" kits for households that are active in the life of our church. Each box contains an Advent Wreath (or the makings of one for those who like to do a little DIY crafting) for use in worship and at other times in the life of your family. They will be delivered the week before Advent begins to people who sign-up. Sign up at bit.ly/AIAB2020; the sign-up deadline is November 5.



"GRIEF RELIEF" GROUP CONTINUES



Recognizing that dealing with all kinds of loss is not easy, recognizing that the work of grief is hard, Niles Discovery Church started a "Grief Relief" support group last month. It continues to meet on the second and last Tuesdays of the month, at 7:30 p.m., through the end of the year. The group meets on the now-familiar Zoom platform and is facilitated by our own Reverend Timothy Weible, Chaplain for Bridge Hospice.

"These sessions are an opportunity for us to speak of our feelings, concerns, and hopes," Tim says. "Recognizing and naming our grief is an important step toward finding healing and peace. In the process, we will discover that we are not alone, and we will support one another as we each share our griefs."

If you would like to participate, register at bit.ly/griefrelief2020.



IS IT TIME TO FORMALLY JOIN THE CHURCH?

INQUIRERS CLASS SCHEDULED

The Pastors have scheduled an "Inquirers Class" for people who are interested in learning more about what formal membership in the church entails. The class will be held on Sunday, November 15, at 11:30, after the breakout coffee hour rooms are closed.

Participants will talk some about how the church is structured (committees, leadership, etc.), the liturgy of receiving new members, baptism, and general questions and responses. The length of the class will depend on how many people are there and how many questions get raised. Pastor Brenda (who will be leading the class) will work on covering the most vital things at the beginning of the class, so if people need to leave, they can.

If you are planning on coming to the class, it is helpful to know ahead of time so Pastor Brenda can email information to you ahead of time, though this is not required. If you want to attend the class but your schedule simply does not permit it, please let the pastors know and they will work with you to find another way to cover the same material.

The pastors hope we will receive new members in January. Liturgically, the second Sunday of January is great, but more important is picking a Sunday when people can be in Zoom worship. Those details will be worked out during the class.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

By Beth Armstrong, Chair

A big Thank You to all of our families with children. Your heartfelt conversations with the Ministry of Christian Education (MCE) Team members and Pastor Brenda were appreciated and heard.

Our main quest was to gather information from you about how we can best provide faith formation experiences for the children and youth of the church – since we will not be back worshipping in our building at least through the rest of 2020. We heard almost unanimously that while emailed Sunday School-type lessons were used by some families during the summer, everyone’s lives are just too hectic and screen-focused to be able to face these kinds of lessons during the school year. Therefore, we will not be continuing these during the fall. Advent will bring some home family activities from the Ministry of Spiritual Life Team, with perhaps some add-ons from MCE.

We also sought feedback about Zoom with the Children, Pastor Jeff’s opportunity to stay connected with the kids in our church family. A few kids attend pretty regularly, and so this connection seems to be working for them. Parents expressed concerns about the time, and about adding more screen time at the end of the school day. Pastor Jeff will continue to assess the time and number of kids attending and may make some modifications. We will want and need your feedback on this, too.

One thing that came through loud and clear from several parents is that the church has not succeeded in staying connected with our kids and youth like it has with many adults. Many parents would like their children to have face-to-face time with their Sunday School classmates and perhaps some teachers, too. We heard this as both a spiritual and emotional need of our children and youth. MCE would like to address this need.

We envisioned a Saturday afternoon when small groups of our kids and youth would go for a bike ride, starting at Niles Community Park (across the street from 255 H Street) and continuing along the creek. To make this work logistically and as safely as possible, we realized we would need some parent leaders for each of the small groups. Kids would have likely been divided up by age, depending on how many signed up. In addition to

following COVID-19 safety procedures (masks, distancing, etc.), we would follow our Safe Church policies, so some of the adults would have to be cleared to work with children and youth (at least one to a group). An alternative to bike riding was discussed for young children.

We had hoped for the event to take place in November but when we presented this idea at the October Cabinet meeting, there was an overwhelming concern voiced for the health of our church families and that it is too early to do any kind of face-to-face meeting.

We continue to hope to do something like this. We realize that when it happens, parents will need to decide if it is appropriate for their children to participate. Different family situations and health conditions mean that what is appropriate for one family may not be for another. We hope that there would be some opportunity for at least some connection for all the kids – perhaps something as simple as a drive by in the park as the gathering begins.

Let us know at mce@nilesdiscoverychurch.org if you would be interested in this kind of event for your kids sometime in the future, presumably after the new year, and if you can help lead a group. There is plenty of time between now and then to become a cleared worker, if you aren’t already. If you have ideas for other events or activities, please let us know those, too. Thanks again!





INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE MOVES ONLINE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 59th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is going online. It will still be held on the Monday before Thanksgiving, November 23, at 7:30 p.m., only it will be delivered via the Zoom platform.

To register for the service – advanced registration is required – go to tinyurl.com/tcicTS2020.

The service will include prayers, readings, recorded music, and dance offered by several different faith and spiritual communities in the Tri-Cities. It will also include a brief sermon by TCIC President, the Rev. Jeffrey Spencer, which he has tentatively titled “Chairs and the Table.”

You can download a flyer for the event at bit.ly/TS2020flyer.



A SMALL DONATION CAN HELP A COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISH BIG THINGS

The November special offering will be used to support the ministry of Puente de la Costa Sur, a community resource center serving migrant agricultural workers and their families in San Mateo County's South Coast communities of Pescadero, La Honda, Loma Mar, and San Gregorio.

Puente advocates for these communities by leveraging resources, fostering economic prosperity and security, and promoting individual and community health and wellness. You can learn more at mypuente.org. You can give to this offering the entire month of November by mailing a check or donating online at nilesdiscoverychurch.org/give by selecting Puente from the Special Offering options.



Niles Discovery Church receives a special offering each month; with so many opportunities for special giving, you may need to choose which ones are most important to you. You can see the complete schedule of special offerings on the church's website (bit.ly/2020SpecialOffering).

Thank you to everyone who contributed generously to the October special offering for our two justice-related denominational funds, the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need Offering and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)'s Reconciliation Offering. We collected \$868 for these important causes.

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NOVEMBER'S DOCUMENTARY EXPLORES COURAGE IN THE TIME OF WAR:

WHERE HOPE SHINES IN THE DARKEST PLACES

The Oscar-nominated documentary *The Cave*, which looks at civilians besieged by the Syrian War, will be shown

Saturday, November 14, at 1:30 p.m., as part of the Second Saturday Documentary Series.

This month we are going to try steaming the film while we are gathered on Zoom and then have the discussion immediately after. We are hoping this approach will more closely align with the pre-pandemic structure of events. To register please go to bit.ly/SSDSZoom. Our discussion will be led by Ms. Jana Kadah, a Syrian-

American student who has done work with the Syrian refugees in Europe.



so many, hope and safety lie. Pediatrician and managing physician Dr. Amani Ballour and her colleagues Samaher and Dr. Alaa have claimed their right to work as equals alongside their male counterparts, doing their jobs in a way that would be unthinkable in the oppressively patriarchal culture that exists above.

This documentary delivers an unflinching look into the subterranean hospital known as the Cave, where, for

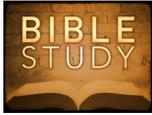
Following the women as they contend with daily bombardments, chronic supply shortages and the ever-present threat of chemical attacks, *The Cave* paints a stirring portrait of courage, resilience, and female solidarity.

Although the subterranean hospital is now gone, *The Cave* documentary exists as a record of the extraordinary haven that a brave group of doctors – women and men – built beneath the earth's surface. "In mythology and literature, the underground is where people suffer and kill," Feras Fayyad, the film's director, reflected. "But Dr. Amani and her fellow doctors turned the underground into a place of surviving, where these incredible women did something every day to change their society."

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

REGISTRATION NOW REQUIRED

To enhance the safety of your Zoom experience, we are now requiring advanced registration for Zoom meetings held on the church's Zoom account. You only need to register once for a repeating event. Find the registration links in the descriptions of the scheduled events.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Monday Morning Bible study continues on Zoom from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30p.m. Typically the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship service is studied. Everyone is welcome. Register [here](#).



DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Daytime Fellowship meets on the third Monday of the month (which is November 16, this month), Bring your lunch to this monthly Zoom gathering. We share the same meeting link as the Monday Morning Bible Study, so join by registering for the Bible Study [here](#).



LAP ROBE TYING GROUP

The group will meet via zoom on December 2. If anyone wants to participate, please contact Vickey Kean at (510-792-4336). She has the work and supplies (lap robes ready to tie, yarn, needles etc.) for completing projects. Vickey also has the finished lap robes if you want to get one or more for a family member or friend. If you would like to get on the lap robe tying group email list, contact [Jim Thomas](#).



Photo by Cynthia Sojourner



Photo by Cynthia Sojourner



Photo by Cynthia Sojourner



Photo by Priscilla Taylor

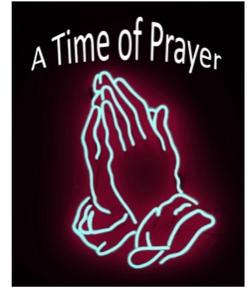


Photo by Priscilla Taylor



Photo by Priscilla Taylor

**PRAYERS FOR THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES
BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:**



John Hollowell;
Helen Boyer;
Amy Gunnarson;
Karen McCready;
Mark Edwards;
Bill Cutler;
Judi Eaton;
Cindy Corey;
John Zlatnik;
Keith Moody;
Ginny August;
Grace Rankin;
Becky Moreno;
Isabel Moreno;
Nancy Attinger;
Diana Roeding;
JoAn Parker;
Charlotte O'Donnell;
Penn Boyer;
Dean Hunter;
Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;
Diane Kindle;
Sandra Frisbey;
 Doug Swint's mother, **Geraldine;**
 Joy Barnitz's dear friend Rev.
Jeffrey Cheifetz;

Helen Boyer's sister-in-law, **Marjorie Boyer;**
 Marjorie Fremont's daughter, **Lisa;**
 Bob Monkman's mom, **Patrica Hanadel;**
 Vickey Kean's brother-in-law, **Tom Kean;**
 Barbara P. King's son, **Jason King;**
 Cindy Sojourner's friend Saemi's brother **Don Ladue;**
 Priscilla Taylor's friend, **Lana Artemoff;**
Associate Conference Minister Rev. Davena Jones;
 Joy Barnitz's friend, **Machelle Christiansen;**
 Karen and Keith Moody's friend, **Jerry Miller;**
 Sandra Wong's friend, **Nichelle;**
 Pastor Jeff's sister, **Sally;**
the sister of a CleanStart client;
 Joy Barnitz's friend, **Polly Baxter;**
 Susie Claxton's sister, **Caroline;**
 Becky Moreno's brother-in-law **Vince;**
 Bee Newell's nephew **Matt Hovland;**
the mother of Bridget Lucey-Cose's co-worker, **Will;**

Sharon Yool's daughter;
 Dana and Chris Hoskins' friend **Heidi Benton;**
 Dana and Chris Hoskins' friend **Dan Scheib;**
 Dana and Chris Hoskins' friend **Melvin Pierce;**
 Amy Gunnarson's great-niece **Syra;**
 Michael Thomson's sister, **Mary Thomson;**
 Alison Kieft's friend, **Judy Huff;**
 Alison Kieft's sister-in-law, **Debbie Thompson;**
 Grace Rankin's brother, **Jim Carstairs;**
Katy Wharton's mother;
Janet Butcher;
William "Butch" Butcher;
 Rich Gallegos' mother, **Esther;**
 Carol Easter's daughter, **Allison;**
 Carol Easter's mother, **Barbara;**
 Maria Garnica's brother, **Victor Garnica;**
 Suzy Mahusay's sister, **Jo Carroll.**

PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Randy Fewel and her family as they grieve the death of her mother, Patricia Fewel, on September 30;

The family of Cecile Litherland, who died on August 20;

Riki Twist and her family as they grieve the death of Riki's father on June 9;

Steve Armstrong and his family as they grieve the death of Steve's brother to the coronavirus on May 4 and the death of Steve's sister-in-law on April 4;

Michele McConville and her family as they grieve the death of Michele's husband Mark McConville on April 22;

Joy Barnitz's friend, **Allison Moore**, as she grieves the death of her father in early April.

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

FOR TEACHERS WHO ARE FACING ALL KINDS OF PROFESSIONAL UNCERTAINTIES, TEACHING STRESSES, AND A DANGEROUS VIRUS, AND FOR ALL THEIR STUDENTS.

PEACE THROUGHOUT THE EARTH, OFFERING THANKS FOR ALL WHO THROUGH NON-VIOLENT METHODS ARE BRINGING GOD'S COMPASSION AND JUSTICE 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.

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School	11:30a-12:30p Bible Study	Pastor Brenda on Study Leave				
10a-11a Worship	12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit		12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit	Mikele on Vacation		
	7:30p-9:30p Ministry Team Meetings		3p-3:30p Zoom with the Kids	10a-12p Retirement Reinvention Group		4p-6p Facilities Cleaning
			3:30p-4:30p Green Team	7:15p-8:15p Community Drop-In		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pastor Brenda on Study Leave		10a-12p GNV-Board of Directors Meeting	Veterans Day - office closed	7:15p-8:15p Community Drop-In		1:30p-4:30p Second Saturday
Mikele on Vacation						
9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School	Pastor Jeff on Vacation					
10a-11a Worship	11:30a-12:30p Bible Study	7:30p-9p Grief Relief group	11:15a-12:15p START meeting			4p-6p Facilities Cleaning
	12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit		12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit			
	7p-8:30p Ministry of Evangelism Team		1p-2p GNV: Online Gathering			
	7:30p-9p Finance Committee		3p-3:30p Zoom with the Kids			
			5:30p-6:30p SSDS Producers Meeting			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School	11:30a-12:30p Bible Study		11:15a-12:15p START meeting	10a-12p Retirement Reinvention Group		4p-6p Facilities Cleaning
Mikele on Vacation	12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit		12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit	7:15p-8:15p Community Drop-In		
Pastor Jeff on Vacation	12:30p-2p Daytime Fellowship		3p-3:30p Zoom with the Kids			
10a-11a Worship	6p-7p Candlelight Vigil for Homeless Dead		3:30p-4:30p Green Team			
11:30a-12:30p Inquirers Gathering	7:15p-9:15p Cabinet		5p-5:30p The Bell Deadline			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Pastor Brenda on Vacation						
9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School	11:30a-12:30p Bible Study	10a-12p GNV-Board of Directors Meeting	11:15a-12:15p START meeting	THANKSGIVING DAY		4p-6p Facilities Cleaning
10a-11a Worship	12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit	1p-2:30p Cyber Geezers	12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit			
	7:30p-9:30p TCIC Thanksgiving Service	7:30p-9p Book Group	3p-3:30p Zoom with the Kids			
		7:30p-9p Grief Relief group	7p-8:30p GNV: Online Gathering			
			7:30p-9p Care Team meeting			
29	30	Notes:				
9a-9:50a Adult Sunday School	11:30a-12:30p Bible Study					
10a-11a Worship	12p-5p CleanStart Mobile Hygiene Unit					

All events, unless otherwise noted, are on Zoom



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 mail. 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 <http://bit.ly/NDCemailsingup> 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 or email the church office (510-797-0895; admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org) so we can note in our database that you don't need *The Bell* via the US Mail any more.



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world
for all
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