

THE BELL



SEPTEMBER
Volume 21 Number 09

UPCOMING WORSHIP

September 5

"It's Time to Fall in Love
(Again) with Nature"
Genesis 1:20-25

September 12

"Being Part of Creation"
Genesis 1:28-31

September 19

"Nature Has Rights"
Psalm 24

September 26

"Naturae Divina"
Ezekiel 31:3-7

October 3

"God Loves ALL Creation"
Psalm 148

*To worship with us on
Zoom, register once at
bit.ly/reg4worship. To
worship with us in person
(when the in-person
option is available),
register for each week at
bit.ly/inpersonsignup.*

"Beguiled By Creation" 3
Contacting The Staff 2
Zoom With the Kids 7
Special Offering 6
Climate Corner 4
Fellowship 7
Blue Vinyl 6
Calendar 9
Prayers 8

NOTICE

Town Hall Meeting

September 12

FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

See Article on
Page 3 for details.



Niles Discovery
Church

3660 Niles Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536
(510) 797-0895 <http://nilesdiscoverychurch.org>

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

PASTOR TO HOLD CONFIRMATION CLASS ORGANIZING MEETING



Every so often, Pastor Jeff offers a Confirmation Class to people 8th grade and above (adults are welcome to take the class, too, though mostly it is youth who attend). The purpose of the class is to give the students what they need (information, experience, and time for reflection) to choose whether or not they want to confirm their identity as Christians.

Each student has their own, unique story about their spiritual journey. For some students, a Christian identity was claimed on their behalf by their parents when they were baptized as infants. These students may use the class to help them decide if they want to claim that identity as their own now that they are maturing into adulthood. Some students come from families that are new to church and they use the class to learn more about Christianity and if it's right for them. For other students, this is a time to discern if they want to claim a Christian identity through the sacrament of baptism. Those who choose to confirm their identity as Christians do so through the rite of Confirmation.

Pastor Jeff is holding an organizing meeting for parents of potential Confirmation Class students who are 8th grade and above on Wednesday, September 15 (7:30-9:00 p.m.). Potential students are welcome to come too, so if you are considering participating in the Confirmation Class, even if you're out of high school, register at bit.ly/2021-22CCorgmtg.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send announcements and articles as you write them to Mikele at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. She will post them on our [News blog](#) as she receives them and will submit them for publication in the following issue of *The Bell* (if appropriate in terms of timing). The deadline for submissions for the October 2021 edition of *The Bell* is 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 16.

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 or to meet in person as you would like; their contact information is at right.

Vacations, etc.: Pastor Jeff is on vacation through September 6.

Pastor Brenda's mobile

510-828-4107

calendly.com/pastorbrenda
brenda@nilesdiscoverychurch.org

Pastor Jeff's mobile

510-579-8851

calendly.com/revjss
jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org



Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff
Spencer



Associate Pastor
Rev. Brenda
Loreman



Admin
Mikele
Kearny



Bookkeeper
Cecilia
Le



**Accompanist and
Organist**
Jenny Lin

“BEGUILED BY CREATION” WORSHIP SERIES BEGINS SEPT. 5

From September 1 (World Day of Prayer for Creation) to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis) each year, members of denominations across the Christian community and around the globe celebrate the Season of Creation by praying and acting together to protect our common home. For the past few years, our congregation has marked this season with a worship series – as we will again this year.

Beguiled by Creation is the name of this year’s worship series. “The urgency of protecting our common home has never been clearer,” Pastor Jeff said last month after the release of the “Sixth Assessment Report” by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. “I hope people will be involved in just that way. And yet, I think that we as Christians can bring something special to



that urgent struggle: the *why* of protecting our common home. We’re going to focus on that *why* during this series.”

“I’m hoping that we will all fall in love with nature again,” Pastor Jeff said.

“We will let our experiences with the Bible and with nature inform us during this series,” Pastor Brenda said. “Reflecting on a flower can reveal truth just as reflecting on a passage of scripture can. We’ll encourage this.”

The series concludes on October 3, the day before the Feast of St. Francis. That worship service will include a blessing of

the animals video. Everyone in the church is encouraged to send photos and brief videos of the animals in their lives (including toy animals) to Pastor Jeff to include in the video. The hard deadline for submissions is Monday, September 27.

TOWN HALL MEETING PROVIDES INFORMATION, INVITES FEEDBACK

SEPTEMBER 12, FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

In early August, the Cabinet decided to suspend hybrid worship services (the worship services that include both a Zoom option and an in-person option) and have our worship services only on Zoom as COVID-19 numbers spiked because of the virulence of the delta variant of SARS-CoV-2. After that decision, START and the Cabinet have worked on establishing criteria for both starting up hybrid worship services and allowing groups to meet on the church campus.

At their meeting on August 16, Cabinet voted to establish the following criteria for resuming hybrid worship and meetings in the church building:

- Two-week rolling average of new COVID-19 cases in Alameda County under 1000;
- Two-week rolling average test positivity rate less than 2%;
- Hospitalizations for COVID-19 trending down.

These criteria reflect the COVID-19 data that was pres-

ent in mid-June, when Alameda County entered the “yellow” tier and the state of California officially reopened. At that time, new cases were under 500, the test positivity rate was .5%, and hospitalizations were the lowest since the pandemic began. By contrast, current new cases are over 4,000, the test positivity rate is 4.4%, and hospitalizations are trending up, similar to what they were in February of this year.

Another timely topic will also be introduced— our potential participation in a pilot “safe parking” program. In collaboration with the City of Fremont and other churches and nonprofits, the safe parking program will provide safe overnight parking for unhoused persons who are living in their cars.

These important issues will be explained in greater detail, questions will be answered, and feedback will be sought at a Town Hall Meeting following the worship service on September 12. You are encouraged to stick around after worship to attend this meeting.

CLIMATE

#FRIDAYSFORFUTURE CALLS FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

September 24

The climate crisis does not exist in a vacuum. Other socio-economic crises such as racism, sexism, ableism, class inequality, and more amplify the climate crisis—and vice versa. Addressing the climate crisis is not a single issue. Different struggles and liberations are connected and tied to each other. Recognizing that the different people in different places experience the climate crisis differently, Fridays For Future is calling for a Global Climate Strike on Friday, September 24, to “uproot the system.”



“The time to join the masses and follow the lead of the environmental defenders and workers has been long overdue,” the organization says on their website. “Reparations to the Most Affected People and Areas must be paid for the historic injustices of the richest elite, drastic emission cuts in the Global North, vaccine equity, cancellation of debt, and climate finance are only the beginning of these. Together we will fight for a just future where no one is left behind. The historical victories of collective action have proven the need for the youth to stand united with the multisectoral, intergenerational struggle for a better future for all; a future where people and planet are prioritized.”

As of our press deadline, three actions have been planned in the Bay Area. You can learn more at fridaysforfuture.org/September24/.

ONE TRILLION TREES INITIATIVE

By Leonard Lloyd

Niles Discovery Church has become an official pledge organization in the US chapter of this international initiative. The purpose of the action is to plant one trillion trees all over the world between 2020 and 2030, in order to offset the excess of carbon dioxide in the earth’s atmosphere.

Trees are second only to the oceans of the Earth, in their effectiveness at converting CO₂ to oxygen. We breathe in oxygen and convert it to CO₂ and trees partner with us in converting our CO₂ back into O₂. The current global warming crisis is a result of an extreme imbalance in this exchange. We are producing far more CO₂ than the oceans and plants can convert, causing an acidic ocean and temperature rise in our atmosphere and oceans.

Continued, see “Trees, Trees, Trees” on Page 5

CO
RR
NE
FE
RR

TREES, TREES, TREES

The Green Team of Niles Discovery Church has pledged to plant 1,000 trees in this ten-year time period. Working with the Tri-City Urban Forest Alliance (TUFA) we have grown 270 seedlings so far, primarily native coastal oaks. Many of these seedlings were raised from acorns at the homes of Green Team members, expanding the nursery capacity. These seedlings will be planted in the tri-cities and surrounding areas, as part of a long-term plan to increase our local tree canopy.

Many parts of the world have lost vast amounts of oxygen-producing trees from humanity's destruction and/or fire. In California, burned forests are being restored with thoughtful and scientific approaches.

The US chapter of One Trillion Trees is administered by the non-profit organization, American Forests (americanforests.org). Another tree-planting organization, Arbor Day, is also a pledge member and accepts donations in honor of loved ones and friends. The organization will send cards to gift recipients, reporting how many trees will be planted in their name, making good gifts that outlast us all.



OPTING OUT FROM MILITARY RECRUITER CONTACTS

High School students get lots of attention from recruiters of all sorts. The two most common are college recruiters and military recruiters. If you don't want your child to be contacted by military recruiters, you can take action.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), later reformed by the Obama administration into the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), says that a student's parent or legal guardian can choose to withhold the student's contact information (name, address, and telephone number) from being released by their school district or school to military recruiters. Students who are age 18 or older are eligible to opt themselves out. This must be done within a month of the beginning of the school year and must be done each year.

A way the Defense Department gets around this rule is by purchasing information from consumer information brokers. This information is gathered into the Joint Advertising and Marketing Research Studies (JAMRS) and given to military recruiters. Parents must send a separate opt-out request to JAMRS to keep their child's information from being transferred to the military.

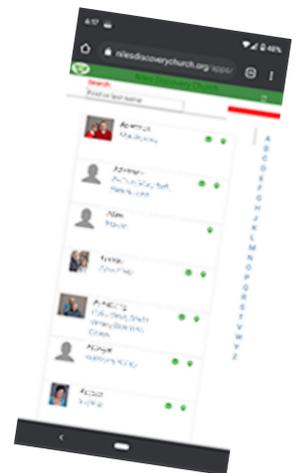
A sample letter to send to the school district's superintendent's office can be found at j.mp/3gBijYh. More information about JAMRS and a sample letter for them can be found at j.mp/3ihvvC8.

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Niles Discovery Church has developed its own, inhouse photo directory app, replacing the now-defunct Life Touch app we have been using since 2019. As the church grows in membership, the photo directory makes it easy for people to put names to faces.

To access the app, go to bit.ly/NDCPhotoDir. A passcode is needed to gain access to this app. The passcode will be sent to everyone who is currently in the photo directory by September 3rd. If you do not receive a passcode by then, please send an email request for the passcode with your name and the contact information you want included in the directory to photodirectory@nilesdiscoverychurch.org.

The photo directory is maintained by the church. If you want to change your contact information or update your photo, please send an email to photodirectory@nilesdiscoverychurch.org with the updated information. You can also send feature requests, bug reports, etc. to Jim Thomas (james@nilesdiscoverychurch.org), to help improve the app.



SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING: CHANGING THE WORLD ONE GIFT AT A TIME

The September Special Offering is for Heifer International. For over 75 years Heifer International's program has empowered families to change their lives – by turning hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity. Their approach offers more than just the giving of a handout; Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. You can learn more at www.heifer.org.



The offering will be received during the entire month of September. 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 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 bit.ly/2020specialoffering.

At the time of press, our August Special Offering of school supplies made it possible for 68 backpacks, 3 full bags of crayons, pencils, glue sticks, etc., 2 full bags of paper, spiral notebooks, composition books, and 1 lunch box to be delivered to Fremont Family Resource Center. In addition to all this generosity, \$755 has been received, enabling the purchase of more much needed supplies. As usual, the congregation of Niles Discovery Church showed their kindness and giving hearts in the most amazing way.



Second Saturday Documentary Series Presents: *BLUE VINYL*

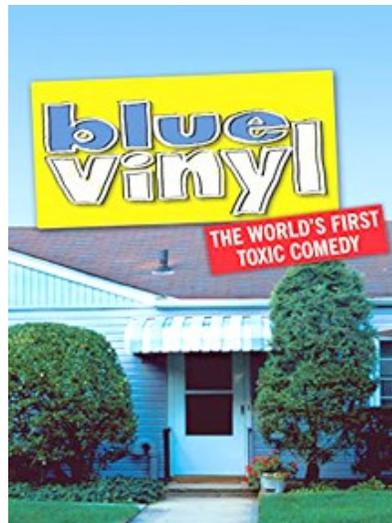
Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Judith Helfand and co-director and award-winning cinematographer Daniel B. Gold set out in search of the truth about polyvinyl chloride (PVC), America's most popular plastic. They unearth the facts about PVC and its effects on human health and the environment.

As part of our Second Saturday Documentary Series, *Blue Vinyl* will be shown via Zoom Saturday, September 11 at 1:30 p.m. There will be a discussion immediately following the film. You can register for this screening and other films in the series at bit.ly/SSDSZoom.

Skeptical of her parents' decision to “re-side” their Long Island home with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) — the seemingly benign cure-all of suburbia — Helfand sets out with Gold to discover the potentially toxic effects of

With humor, chutzpah and a piece of vinyl siding firmly in hand,

PVC, which is used in building everything from automobiles to computers, medical equipment, and children's toys. With a tender-hearted agenda and a piece of blue vinyl siding firmly in hand, Helfand and



Gold travel to the vinyl-manufacturing capital in Louisiana, enlist the help of a “green” builder in California, and journey as far as Venice, Italy — where 31 executives from a PVC-producing company await trial for manslaughter in a landmark conspiracy case.

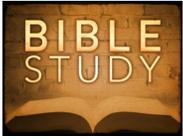
Unexpectedly taking twists and turns in a filmmaking pursuit that most ordinary homeowners would never dare to take, the film is a heartfelt, sobering, and shockingly hilarious exploration of the complex relationship between consumers and industry.

A detective story, an eco-activism documentary, and a rollicking comedy, *Blue Vinyl* puts a human face on the dangers posed by PVC at every stage of its life cycle, from factory to incinerator. Consumer consciousness and the “precautionary principle” have never meant more.



REGISTRATION 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.



NEW TIME FOR MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Monday Morning Bible study continues to Zoom 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The scripture studied is typically the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship service. Everyone is welcome. Register at bit.ly/mmbsreg.



DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Daytime Fellowship meets on the third Monday of the month (which is September 20, 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 (bit.ly/mmbsreg).



LAP ROBE TYING GROUP

This group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, January through October, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They have a combined meeting for November and December on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving. Currently, the group is working on the patio, and you will need to bring your own lunch. The September meeting is Wednesday, September 23. To be added to the email list or for more information, please contact Judy Molander (925-201-7335 or jumolander@aol.com).

There are lap robes to be donated to anyone who wants/needs one. If you have a suggestion of an organization that could benefit from the gift of some lap robes, please let Judy Molander know.



ZOOM WITH THE KIDS RETURNS

Zoom with the Kids, the Wednesday afternoon Zoom gathering for children in the church with Pastor Jeff (and sometimes Pastor Brenda) returns on September 8.

Because our church has decided to pull back from hybrid worship (for the time being), the restart of our children's Sunday School classes has been delayed. So, Zoom with the Kids is starting up again.

If your children would like to participate in Zoom with the Kids, and if they weren't registered for the gathering before, they need to register at bit.ly/zwtk. Previously registered kids will get a reminder with the meeting link on September 7.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

SERRA CENTER IS LOOKING FOR CAREGIVERS/LIVING SKILLS INSTRUCTORS

Serra Center is a non-profit agency in its 46th year of providing compassionate care for over 80 adults with developmental disabilities residing in community-based licensed Residential Care Homes, Independent and Supported Living Services in Fremont and the greater Bay Area. We are currently seeking Caregivers and Living Skills Instructors to provide training in activities of daily living, socialization and community integration to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Training occurs in our residential group homes or the individual's home. Please visit us at serracenter.org/.

OPEN POSITIONS: Full-time and Part-Time schedules; day hours, paid sleep hours and overnight awake hours

Days, hours and location can be combined to create full-time or part-time schedules based on client needs and applicant availability

WHAT WE OFFER: Casual and professional work environment; flexible work schedules.

Full-time Benefits: Medical, Dental, Vision, Pension Plan (employer/employee funded), Employee Assistance Program, paid Vacation, 11 paid Holidays

Part-time Benefits: Paid Sick Leave, Employee Assistance Program

PRAYERS FOR THESE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Marian Wolfe;
Cindy Corey;
Bruce Roeding;
Grace Rankin;
Ginny August;
Martha LeRoy;
Barbara P. King;
Jan Quilici;
Judy Zlatnik;
John Zlatnik;
Helen Boyer;
JoAn Parker;
Charlie Smith;
Becky Moreno;
Isabel Moreno;
Nancy Attinger;
Diana Roeding;
Charlotte O'Donnell;
Penn Boyer;
Isaiah Espinoza-Carter;
Diane Kindle;
Steve Rosellini;
Sandra Frisbey;
 Ron Adamson's friend **Debra Witter;**
 Ron Adamson's sister **Joanne Orput;**
 Jesse Church's father, **Jim Church;**
 Diane Harvey's sister, **Linda;**

Judy Smith's friend, **Diane Sanchez;**
 Pastor Jeff's step-mother, **Pat Hadley;**
 the sister of Pastor Brenda's friend
Alliene Turner;
 Priscilla Taylor's father-in-law and
 mother-in-law, **Steve and Angie Taylor;**
 Priscilla Taylor's friend, **Kathy Cavalli;**
 Rich Gallegos' mother, **Esther;**
 Joy Barnitz's dear friend **Rev. Jeffrey**
Cheifetz;
 Helen Boyer's sister-in-law, **Marjorie**
Boyer;
 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;
 Sandra Wong's friend, **Nichelle;**
the sister of a CleanStart client;
 Joy Barnitz's friend, **Polly Baxter;**
 Joy Barnitz's friend **Rachel;**
 Joy Barnitz's friend **Alison;**
 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;
 Michael Thomson's sister, **Mary**
Thomson;
 Alison Kieft's friend, **Judy Huff;**
 Alison Kieft's sister-in-law, **Debbie**
Thompson;
Alison Kieft's friend undergoing cancer
 treatment;
 Grace Rankin's brother, **Jim Carstairs;**
Katy Wharton's mother;
 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:**

the family of Marjorie Fremont who died on July 29;

John Zlatnik and his family as they grieve the death of John's
 sister, Helen Metropoulos on July 13;

Roberta Boyd and her family as they grieve the death of
 Roberta's sister, Judy on June 25;

the family of Dorletta Larsen, who died on June 24;

Cindy Sojourner and her family as they grieve the death of
 Cindy's brother-in-law Frank on June 16;

Coreen and George, friends of Joy Barnitz, as they grieve the
 death of friends and colleagues who died in the mass
 shooting at the Valley Transportation Authority (where

George is a manager) on May 26;

Audrey Cutler and her family as they grieve the death of
 her husband, Bill Cutler, on May 5;

Melissa Palleschi and her family as they grieve the
 death of her brother, Gene Hayden, on May 4;

Randy Fewel's family as they grieve the sudden death of
 her former husband on March 29;

The family of Judi Eaton who died on February 3;

Doug Swint and his family as they grieve the death of
 Doug's mother, Geraldine Swint, on February 1.

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

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Pastor Jeff on Vacation Flea Market/Parking Fundraiser 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship (Zoom only)	30 11:00 AM Bible Study	31	1 12:00 PM Move My Spirit Poetry 3:30 PM Green Team	2 10:00 AM Retirement Re-invention Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-in	3	4 4:00 PM Facilities Cleaning
5 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	6 Labor Day - Office Closed 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings	7	8 11:15 AM START Meeting 12:00 PM Move My Spirit Poetry 1:00 PM GNV: Online Gathering 3:00 PM Zoom with the Kids 4:30 PM SSDS Producers Meeting	9 8:00 AM Bell Deadline 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-in	10	11 Conference/Ann...emntations 1:30 PM Second Saturday Documentary Series 4:00 PM Facilities Cleaning
12 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Town Hall Meeting	13 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Finance Committee	14 10:00 AM GNV-Board of Directors Meeting 6:45 PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting	15 12:00 PM Move My Spirit Poetry 3:00 PM Zoom with the Kids 3:30 PM Green Team 7:30 PM Confirmation Class organizing gathering	16 10:00 AM Retirement Re-invention Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-in	17	18 4:00 PM Facilities Cleaning
19 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	20 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Daytime Fellowship 7:15 PM Cabinet	21	22 10:00 AM Lap Robe Tying Group 12:00 PM Move My Spirit Poetry 3:00 PM Zoom with the Kids 7:30 PM Care Team meeting	23 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-in	24 Global Climate Strike	25 4:00 PM Facilities Cleaning
26 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship	27 11:00 AM Bible Study	28 10:00 AM GNV-Board of Directors Meeting 1:00 PM Cyber Geezers 6:45 PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting 7:30 PM Book Group	29 12:00 PM Move My Spirit Poetry 3:00 PM Zoom with the Kids 7:00 PM GNV: Online Gathering	30 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-in	1	2 Conference Annual Meeting 4:00 PM Facilities Cleaning



Niles Discovery Church

Rev. Jeffrey Spencer,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Brenda Loreman,
Associate Pastor
36600 Niles Blvd.,
Fremont 94536

Phone: 510-797-0895
nilesdiscoverychurch.org



**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 bit.ly/NDCemailsignup 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 anymore.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org