

THE BELL



JANUARY
Volume 23 Number 01

UPCOMING WORSHIP

January 1

New Year's Day
"Sacred Doing"
Matthew 2:13-23

January 8

"Looking Back"
Matthew 22:15-22

January 15

"Looking In"
Matthew 6:19-24

January 22

"Looking Out,"
1 Timothy 6:17-19

January 29

"Looking with Gratitude"
Acts 4:32-35

To worship with us on Zoom, register once at bit.ly/reg4worship.

To worship with us in person, register for each worship service at bit.ly/inpersonsignup.

Happy New Year!

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Niles Discovery
Church

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

36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536
(510) 797-0895 <http://nilesdiscoverychurch.org>

EVANGELISM TIP OF THE MONTH



Each month, the Ministry of Evangelism Team offers a quick, easy tip for sharing Nile Discovery Church with friends, family, and strangers. Don't let our church remain the best-kept secret in town—share the Good News!

This Month's Tip by Rev. Brenda Loreman, Associate Pastor at Niles Discovery Church:

Invite your friends and neighbors with young children to Sunday worship. They'll have an hour of peace and quiet in the sanctuary, knowing their kids are safely tended in the nursery.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS



Please send announcements and articles as you write them to Jeff Howe at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. He will post them on our [News blog](#) as he 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 February 2023 edition of *The Bell* is 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 12. In addition to typical newsletter news, we hope to fill each issue of *The Bell* with reflections, photographs, poems, and so forth by members and friends of the congregation.

CONTACTING THE STAFF

You can call the office 510-797-0895 to leave a message for any staff member.

Jeff Howe'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 to the below.

Office Absences:

Pastor Brenda is on vacation through January 3. Our pastors will be attending the Conference annual clergy retreat January 9 through 11.



Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff
Spencer



Associate Pastor
Rev. Brenda
Loreman



Admin
Jeff
Howe



**Technology
Director**
Jim Thomas



Bookkeeper
Cecilia
Le



**Accompanist and
Organist**
Jenny Lin

Pastor Jeff

Mobile: 510-579-8851

Make an appointment: calendly.com/revjss

Email: jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org

Pastor Brenda

Mobile: 510-828-4107

Make an appointment: calendly.com/pastorbrenda

Email: brenda@nilesdiscoverychurch.org

Annual Meeting



3

CALL TO ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2023 Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023, immediately following worship, in the sanctuary and on Zoom (in the worship Zoom meeting). Your attendance is urgently and prayerfully requested. Annual financial reports should be available in time for the January 15 Town Hall Meeting (see article below).



BUDGET PREVIEW TO BE DISCUSSED AT TOWN HALL MEETING

A copy of the proposed budget for 2023 will be previewed and discussed at a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 15, following the worship service. The meeting will be held simultaneously in the sanctuary and on Zoom. This will also be an opportunity to ask financially related questions in preparation for the Annual Budget Meeting, which will be

held on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Annual financial reports will be available in the church office in time for this Town Hall Meeting. If you need one emailed to you, please contact Cecilia by January 10 (cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org).

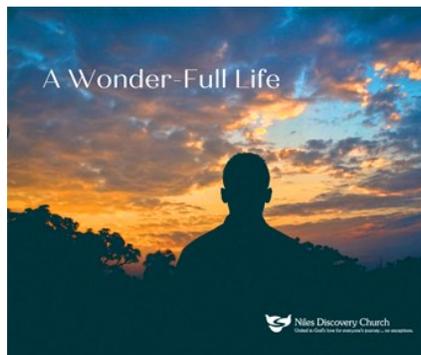
The proposed budget will have a substantial deficit and the Personnel Committee believes the congregation needs to discuss programming priorities and related staffing. A plan to facilitate this discussion will be presented at the Town Hall Meeting. You are encouraged to attend this meeting on January 15 – and, of course, the Annual Budget Meeting on Sunday, January 29.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERIES INVITES US TO CREATE “A WONDER-FULL LIFE”

What feelings are evoked when you consider your relationship with money? Probably not serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, and joy. For far too many of us the primary feeling is anxiousness. That may especially be the case when we look at the finances at church. With the market downturn over the past quarter, the congregation’s reserves have dropped substantially – as have the savings of many in the congregation. Pledges for the new year are down as well.

In response to this reality, our pastors are going to take us on a spiritual journey for four weeks, January 8, 15, 22, and 29, with a new worship series called, “A Wonder-Full Life.” In preparation for a new worship series, we

will have a community screening of the classic movie *It’s a Wonderful Life* on Sunday, January 1, at 6:30 p.m., on Zoom. Register at bit.ly/IAWLreg. Breakout rooms will be open to talk about the social and spiritual implications of the movie following the screening.



“In the classic film, *It’s a Wonderful Life*,” Pastor Jeff explained, “a money crisis creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters. Their reactions can help us look at our own relationships with money. Our looking

during this four-week series will be compassionate. My hope is that doing so will offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness, and help us see more of the wonder that fills our lives.”

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM SUPPORTS LOCAL TRIBE'S FEDERAL RECOGNITION EFFORTS

By Judy Zlatnik, Ministry of Social Concerns Team

Last month the Ministry of Social Concerns Team informed the congregation that we had directed \$1,000 from the congregation's "Making Amends" fund to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe is made up of individuals whose ancestors were indigenous to the San Francisco Bay region, who trace their ancestry through the Missions Dolores, Santa Clara, and San Jose, and who were also members of the historic federally recognized Verona Band of Alameda County. The Muwekma have many local activities, and their present overarching goal is to be an "officially recognized" tribe.

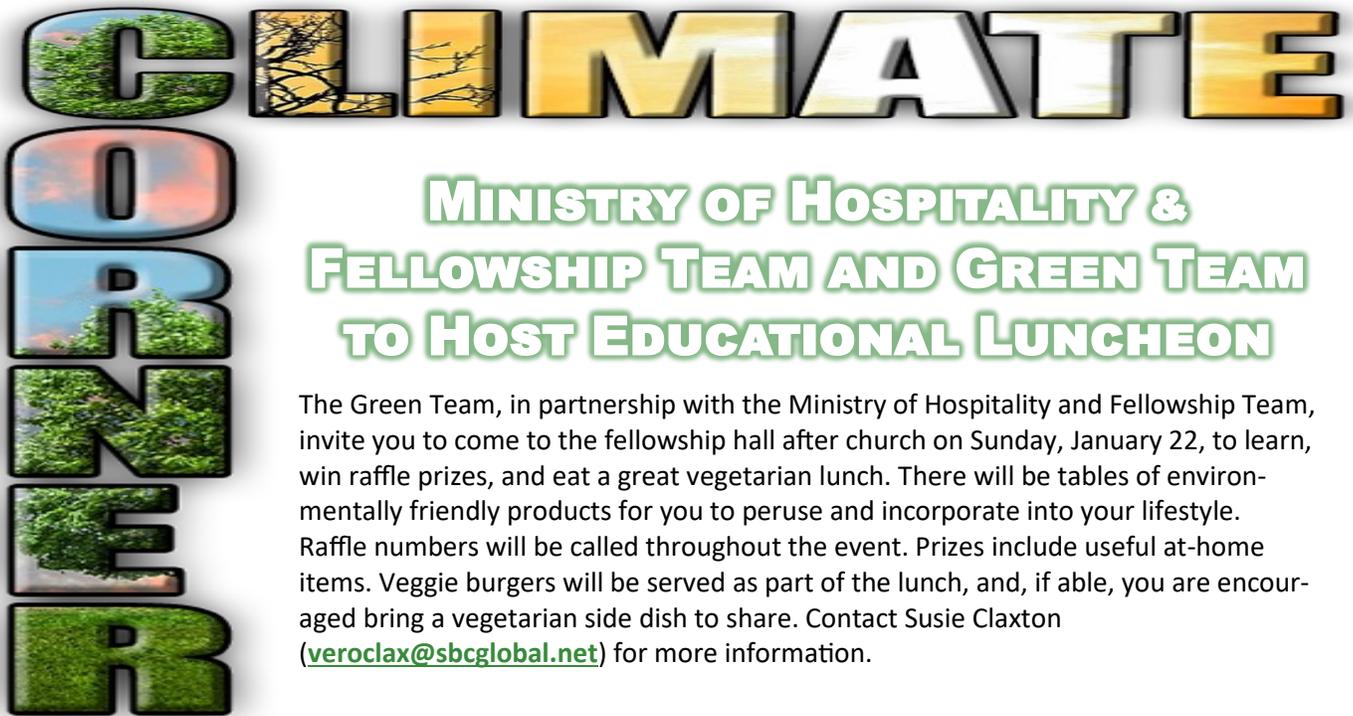
Muwekma Chairwoman Charlene Nijmeh has said "The process they created in 1978, called the Federal acknowledgment process (FAP), was only created to acknowledge those tribes who had never been recognized by the government, or those that were

recognized but had their status officially terminated. Muwekma was recognized by Congress in the early 20th century and our tribe was never officially terminated so it never made sense that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) would ask us to go through the FAP process which was designed to acknowledge the existence of a tribe. But we did not need to be 'acknowledged,' the BIA had already conceded that we were recognized by Congress and never terminated so why is it not obvious? We are still here." To learn more go to: muwekma.org.

For a podcast on how indigenous people—children and adults—were treated during California's early history, including laws that allowed them to be effectively "owned," check out aclunc.org/sites/goldchains/index.html. Email jzlatnik@yahoo.com if you would like these sites sent to you by email.

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG

One easy way to offer hospitality to first-time worshippers and newer members is to wear your name tag. Please pick up your name tag before worship and wear it throughout coffee hour. If you need a new one, please contact Jeff Howe, our Office Administrator. You can request that your preferred pronouns be included.



CLIMATE

GREEN

MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP TEAM AND GREEN TEAM TO HOST EDUCATIONAL LUNCHEON

The Green Team, in partnership with the Ministry of Hospitality and Fellowship Team, invite you to come to the fellowship hall after church on Sunday, January 22, to learn, win raffle prizes, and eat a great vegetarian lunch. There will be tables of environmentally friendly products for you to peruse and incorporate into your lifestyle. Raffle numbers will be called throughout the event. Prizes include useful at-home items. Veggie burgers will be served as part of the lunch, and, if able, you are encouraged bring a vegetarian side dish to share. Contact Susie Claxton (veroclax@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

PLEDGES DOWN SUBSTANTIALLY FOR 2023

While the fall pledge campaign initially received a strong response, the current total numbers are substantially lower than the pledges made in the fall of 2021 for 2022. We received 3 new pledges and 29 people were able to increase their pledges, more than making up for the 17 who needed to decrease their pledges. As of the press deadline, 10 households have not renewed their pledges at any level. This has resulted in a nearly \$35,000 decrease in the pledge total for 2023 even though we've received three more



pledges for 2023 than were received for 2022. This decrease will have an impact on the budget that will be discussed at the Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, January 15 (see article, page 3) and voted on at the Annual Financial Meeting on Sunday, January 29.

If you have not made (or renewed) your pledge for 2023 and would like to, please go to bit.ly/ndcpledges and make a pledge or contact our Bookkeeper, Cecilia Le, on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

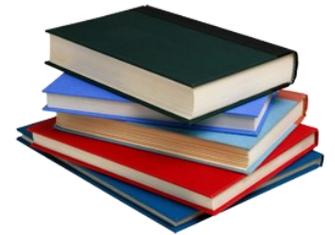
HOW DOES NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH IMPACT THE WIDER COMMUNITY BEYOND OUR DIRECT MINISTRIES?

One of the ways Niles Discovery Church impacts the wider community is through your volunteering. The church's Pastor Parish Relations Committee wants to know what organizations you give your time to. Please fill out an online form at bit.ly/PPRC2301 to let them know what organizations you volunteered with between September 1, 2021, and August 31, 2022. The PPRC would like to gather this information by January 15.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM CALLS FOR SPONSORS TO REPLACE SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM BOOKS

By Beth Armstrong, Ministry of Christian Education Team Chair

As in previous years, new additions to the Sunday School curriculum have been sponsored by members of the congregation. On Sunday, January 15, members of the congregation will be offered an opportunity to serve our children by sponsoring books to replace those that have disappeared from the curriculum boxes. Sponsors may add their names to the special bookplates in the books. To participate, please come to the fellowship hall on that day, or contact the Ministry of Christian Education Team (mce@nilesdiscoverychurch.org).



MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM TEAM WELCOMES INPUT FOR WEBSITE UPDATES



A meeting to discuss updating the church's website will be held on Wednesday, January 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email me@nilesdiscoverychurch.org for the meeting link, or to offer suggestions or leads on website designers.

SPECIAL OFFERING

This year, our January special offering will be for the Tri-City Volunteers Food Bank. This food bank serves over 6,000 families in Alameda County, providing nutritious food to the most vulnerable in our community. Many of their clients come from migrant families, are under-employed, or are facing unemployment due to disability, a lack of relevant work skills, or other barriers.



This offering will take place all month. 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 nilesdiscoverychurch.org

and click the “donate” button at the top of the page, go to the “special offerings” section and choose “Tri-City Volunteers” from the dropdown menu.

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 may view the complete list of special offering opportunities for 2023 at bit.ly/NDCSpecialOfferings. Many thanks to all who participated in last month’s special offering for the Homeless Task Force. We were able raise \$6,431.38 for this important ministry. Your faithful contributions are greatly appreciated.



Second Saturday Documentary Series Presents:

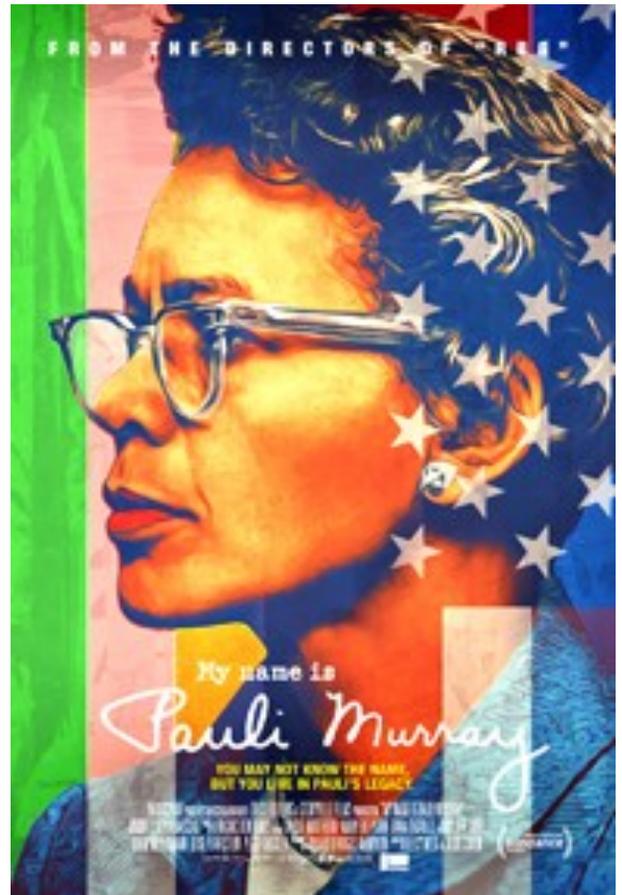
MY NAME IS PAULI MURRAY

“It may be that when historians look back at 20th century American history, all roads will lead to Pauli Murray ... civil rights, feminism, religion, literature, law, sexuality – no matter what the subject, there is Pauli Murray.” — Sarah Ware, Editor, *Notable American Women: a Biographical Dictionary Completing the Twentieth Century*.

An inspiration to the likes of Thurgood Marshall and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Pauli Murray lived one of the most remarkable lives of the twentieth century. They were the first Black person to earn a JSD (Doctor of the Science of Law) degree from Yale Law School, a founder of the National Organization for Women, and the first Black person perceived as a woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest.

Pauli Murray’s legal arguments and interpretation of the U.S. Constitution were winning strategies for public school desegregation, women’s rights in the workplace, and an extension of rights to LGBTQ+ people based on Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. *My Name is Pauli Murray* tracks the legacy of this indomitable individual who blazed a trail for black and non-binary folks during a critical time in the nation’s continuing struggle for equality among all peoples.

Join us for a special screening of this documentary, along with a discussion led by Rev. Brenda Loreman, Associate Pastor at Niles Discovery Church, on Saturday, January 14 at 1:30 p.m. You can register for this screening and others by visiting bit.ly/SSDSZoom.



FELLOWSHIP NEWS



REGISTRATION REQUIRED

To enhance the safety of your Zoom experience, we require 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.



MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

Note that there will be no Bible study on January 9.



DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP GROUP January 16

The Daytime Fellowship meets on the third Monday of the month (which is January 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 (bit.ly/mmbbsreg).



CYBER GEEZERS January 25

This is a gathering of retirees who are interested in learning more about computers, the Internet, etc. They meet from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month, which is January 25 this month. The group gathers on Zoom. Please contact Jerry Sabo (jlsabo3@comcast.net) for more information.



LAP ROBE TYING GROUP January 25

Come tie lap robes in person (and enjoy heart-felt fellowship) on the fourth Wednesday of the month. With COVID protocols in mind, everyone is asked to bring their own lunch. This month, the meeting will be held on January 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please contact Judy Molander (jumolander@aol.com) to be added to the group's email list or if you have suggestions for organizations that might want some donated lap robes.



GREEN TEAM MEETING January 18

You're welcome to join the Green Team, a group leading our congregation to address the climate crisis. They usually meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. However, this month they are only meeting on January 18. Please contact Susie Claxton (veroclax@sbcglobal.net) for information on joining the group and attending meetings.

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

Ethan Zartman;
Cindy Corey;
Bruce Roeding;
Grace Rankin;
Alison Kieft;
Cindy Sojourner;
Veronica Riggs;
Ginny August;
Martha LeRoy;
Barbara P. King;
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;
Sandra Frisbey;
Pastor Brenda's friend, **Alliene**
Peter Wilson's mother, **Laura**;
Alison Kieft's friend, **Charlene**;

Dale London's husband, **David London**;
Shaun Moeller's brother, **Dave Nyman**;
Ron Adamson's sister, **Joanne Orput**;
Barbara P. King's daughter, **Carrie King**;
Barbara P. King's son, **Jason King**;
Sharon Yool's former student, **Jennifer Hurd**;
Sharon Yool's daughter;
Bee Newell's grandnephew;
Bee Newell's nephew **Matt Hovland**;
Diane Harvey's sister, **Linda**;
Judy Smith's friend, **Diane Sanchez**;
Priscilla Taylor's friends, **Dan & Andrea Cohen (and their family)**;
Priscilla Taylor's father-in-law and mother-in-law, **Steve and Angie Taylor**;
Priscilla Taylor's friend, **Kevin Wilbon**;
Priscilla Taylor's friend, **Kathy Cavalli**;
Priscilla Taylor's friend, **Lana Artemoff**;
Rich Gallegos' mother, **Esther**;
Helen Boyer's sister-in-law, **Marjorie Boyer**;
Cindy Sojourner's friend **Saemi and her brother Don Ladue**;

Associate
Conference
Minister
Rev. Davena Jones;
Sandra
Wong's friend, **Nichelle**;
Joy Barnitz's friend, **Polly Baxter**;
Joy Barnitz's friend **Rachel**;
Robert Parks-Council and his wife Ann;
Susie Claxton's sister, **Caroline**;
Becky Moreno's brother-in-law **Vince**;
the mother of Bridget Lucey-Cose's
co-worker **Will**;
Michael Thomson's sister, **Mary Thomson**;
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;
Maria Garnica's brother, **Victor Garnica**;
Suzy Mahusay's sister, **Jo Carroll**.



PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Carl Nordling as he grieves the death of his son Matt on October 21;

the Family of Marion Wolfe as they grieve her death on July 15;

Bob Monkman and his extended family as they grieve the death of his mom, Patrica Hanadel, an October 15;

the family of Karen Koshy as they grieve her death on July 8.

Lisa Senadenos (executive director of Serra Center) **and her family** as they grieve the sudden death of her father on October 9;

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

PEOPLE (AND ALL OF CREATION) AROUND THE GLOBE SUFFERING FROM HUMAN-MADE DISASTERS AND FROM NATURAL DISASTERS (OFTEN MADE WORSE BY HUMAN ACTION AND INACTION ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS).

FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH PRIORITIES AND PERSPECTIVE, SEEKING TO BALANCE GIFTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THEIR LIVING.

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.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Pastor Brenda on Vacation</p> <p>New Year'...ce closed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM BSA Troop 112 PLC Meeting 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Bible Study 7:30 PM Ministry Team Meetings 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM ACA Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-In 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Facilities Cleaning 1:00 PM Puzzle Exchange and SCRIP Sales 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM ACA meeting
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NCNC Clergy Retreat 10:00 AM GNV - Needlework Group 7:00 PM Finance Committee 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM GNV-Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting and Board of Review 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM GNV: Online Gathering 1:30 PM Ministry of Evangelism Team 4:30 PM SSDS Producers Meeting 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Bell Dead-line 6:30 PM ACA Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-In 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Facilities Cleaning 1:00 PM Puzzle Exchange and SCRIP Sales 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM ACA meeting 1:30 PM Second Saturday Documentary Series
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Town Hall Meeting 5:30 PM AI-Anon Birthday Celebration 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Lut...ce closed) 11:00 AM Bible Study 12:00 PM Daytime Fellowship 7:15 PM Cabinet 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Staff lunch meeting 5:00 PM Website Redesign Meeting 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM ACA Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-In 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Facilities Cleaning 1:00 PM Puzzle Exchange and SCRIP Sales 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM ACA meeting
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Eco-Products Show and Veggie Burger Lunch 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Bible Study 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM GNV-Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting and Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Book Group 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Lap Robe Tying Group 1:00 PM Cyber Geezers 7:00 PM GNV: Online Gathering 7:30 PM Care Team meeting 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM ACA Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-In 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Facilities Cleaning 1:00 PM Puzzle Exchange and SCRIP Sales 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM ACA meeting
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Choir Warm-up 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Annual Financial Meeting 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Bible Study 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM ACA Group 7:15 PM Thursday Night Drop-In 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Facilities Cleaning 1:00 PM Puzzle Exchange and SCRIP Sales 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM ACA meeting



Niles Discovery Church

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Senior Pastor

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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 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 any more.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

