



Niles Discovery
Church

OCTOBER
Volume 25 Number 10



THE BELL

*Happy
Halloween!*

Ryan's Halloween Creation — Picture By Priscilla Taylor

UPCOMING WORSHIP

October 5
"Grounded:
Flora and Fauna"
Luke 12:22-34

October 12
"God's Dream
of Freedom"
Galatians 5:1-15

October 19
"God's Dream
of Enough"
John 6:1-14

October 26
"God's Dream
of Justice"
Micah 6:1-8

November 2
"Dreaming
God's Dream"
Acts 10

To worship with us on Zoom on Sundays, register once at bit.ly/req4worship.

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

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

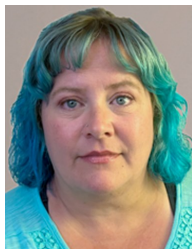
... **Andrew Kessler**, who was appointed in August (after the deadline for last month's edition of *The Bell*) the interim artistic director of Mission Peak Chamber Singers for the upcoming semester! He says, "I am honored to fill in for this position and I am excited for the beautiful music that I will get to make with them. It also has the potential to turn into a permanent position."

ANNOUNCEMENT AND NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please send announcements and articles as you write them to the office administrator at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. Your submission will be posted on our [News blog](#) as they are received, and will be used to create announcements (as appropriate), as well as submitted for the next edition of *The Bell* (if appropriate in terms of timing). The deadline for submissions for the November 2025 edition of *The Bell* is 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 16. 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.



Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff
Spencer



Admin
Laurel
Wallace



Bookkeeper
Cecilia
Le



**Technology
Director**
Jim Thomas



**Music
Director**
Andrew Kessler



**Accompanist and
Organist**
Jenny Lin

CONTACTING THE STAFF

You can call the office 510-797-0895 to leave a message for office staff members. Our Office Administrator, Laurel Wallace can be emailed at admin@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. She is typically in the office on Mondays and Thursdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our bookkeeper, Cecilia Le, can be emailed at cecilia@nilesdiscoverychurch.org. She is typically in the office on Tuesday or Wednesday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and also does some work from home. Please use the pastor's Calendly app to make an appointment for a phone call or a Zoom meeting or to meet in person as you would like; Pastor Jeff's contact information is below.

Absences: Cecilia Le is on vacation through October 2. Pastor Jeff will be away on Study Leave October 14-21.

Pastor Jeff's contact info:

Office: 510-797-0895 x2

Mobile: 510-579-8851

Make an appointment:

calendly.com/revjss

Email:

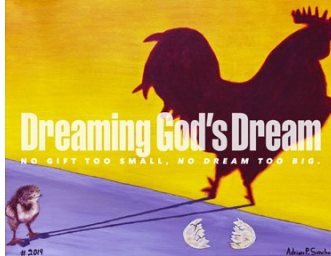
jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org

ENGAGE IN DREAMING GOD'S DREAM

By Pastor Jeff

The call to be disciples of Jesus is a call to be part of Jesus' team that is building "the beloved community," to use Martin Luther King, Jr.'s term. The first step in that building process is taking hold of the vision. That's why we will be *Dreaming God's Dream* during this fall's pledge campaign.

If you read the gospels, you won't find the phrase "God's beloved community," but you will find "the kingdom of God" (or "the kingdom of heaven"). That's because the first authorized translation of the Bible into English was done when James was king (James the VI if you were Scottish; James I if you were English). That's why that authorized translation is called "the King James Bible."



When the political system you know is a monarchy and only men are monarchs, you translate the Greek work for "empire" (as in the Roman Empire) as "kingdom." However, I think God's dream for us and creation is not so much a "kingdom" headed up by a divine monarch as it is a "beloved community" of justice, freedom, and enough.

From October 12 to November 2, we will explore those three aspects of the "beloved community" God invites us to imagine and build. We will use Bryan Sirchio's "Dream God's Dream" as our theme song. Come dream with me.

HELP US MAKE THE FLAMY GRANT CONCERT A SUCCESS

Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.

By Pastor Jeff



I'm pretty darn proud of our congregation, thanks to the leadership of our Cabinet, for hosting Flamy Grant in concert later this month. There are still details we need to worry about to make this event a success.

The first thing we need to do is sell tickets. If you don't have yours yet, please purchase them online at bit.ly/FlamyGrant-ndc. Then tell your friends and neighbors to get their tickets. I'm hoping for a sell-out.

You can pick up a poster from the literature table in the fellowship hall, or you can print one at home from bit.ly/FGposter, to post on a community bulletin board around town. And if you do Facebook, you can share the Flamy Grant concert "[event](#)" from the [Niles Discovery Church Facebook page](#).

To transform Room 1 into a "green room" for Flamy, we need a portable full-length mirror and a table-top mirror, along with some healthful snacks. If you can contribute to any of these, please let me know.

On the day of the concert, we will need volunteers to load in equipment and merchandise at 3:30 p.m., volunteers to set-up the merchandise table (at 5:00 p.m.) and to staff the merchandise table before the concert (6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) and after the concert during the reception. We also need volunteers to run the box office, volunteers to usher, volunteers to staff the kitchen during the post-concert reception, and volunteers to clean-up after the reception. And, of course, we need volunteers to provide munchies for the reception. If you can take on any of these roles, please contact [Laurel Wallace](#).

Flamy's 2022 debut record, *Bible Belt Baby*, reached the #1 spot on the iTunes Christian Chart (the first drag performer to achieve this feat), was nominated for Best Pop Album at the San Diego Music Awards, and was named one of the Top Ten Queer Country Albums of 2023 by Rainbow Rodeo Magazine. Her single "Good Day" debuted at #20 on the Billboard Christian digital sales chart.

This is a great opportunity to invite people to a church function that's not in the mainstream, an event that shows what type of Christian community Niles Discovery Church is.

ENJOY A COSTUME GALA & GOODIE BAG EXCHANGE WITH PRIDE PLACE OF BELONGING AFTER LGBTQIA+ ONLY SUPPORT GROUP

By Cindy Sojourner

Pride Place of Belonging will host a Costume Gala & Goodie Bag Exchange for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies on Sunday, October 19, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Allies include all people who are supportive of LGBTQIA+ people, well-being, and rights. Our monthly Support Group for LGBTQIA+ folk only will meet beforehand from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 3. Children and youth need to be accompanied by an adult. These activities are free and secular. No religious or prior attendance is expected. By the way, we need people who will not be attending the Support Group to help with set-up between 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please contact Cindy Sojourner to sign up to help or to ask any questions at cindysojourner@gmail.com.

Young to old are invited to dress up as simply or as colorfully and extravagantly as desired for the Costume Gala. Everyone is invited to bring a bag of individually wrapped candy or snacks for the Fill Your Goodie Bag Exchange. Part way through the Gala, we will all fill up our goody bags. There will be spooky music to inspire whosoever desires to watch or join in ice-breaker games, a costume catwalk, improv sing-alongs, improv dancing, goodie bag coloring, storytelling, friendships, and belonging.

Please read the article on page 3 about the Flamy Grant concert that will be here on October 24, 2025, advertise the event, and buy tickets to attend, if they aren't sold out. Our Pride Place of Belonging Support Group for LGBTQIA+ folk happens every third Sunday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is led by Jeff Spencer with Cindy Sojourner substituting when he is unavailable. We once again had 9 enthusiastic people in attendance.

Our upcoming social activities, which are open to LGBTQIA+ folk and supportive folk include a Pie Potluck on November 16, invite to the Longest Night Service on December 21, White Elephant and Ice Cream Social on January 18, Mardi Gra Pancake Dinner & Photo Booth on February 15, Queer Trivia Contest on March 15, and an Earth Day Photograph Nature Treasure Hunt at the California Nursery Historic Park on April 19. Our Karaoke Evening was enjoyed by all in attendance. To find out how much our September Collage Your Pride activity was enjoyed, check out The Bell next month or maybe the church's bulletin board.



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



Members and friends of Niles Discovery Church are invited to submit short notices that may be of interest to the rest of the congregation. Note, no commercial notices or partisan political announcements are allowed. Niles Discovery Church makes no representations or endorsements about the events or services listed.

Be Informed Before You Vote: The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City invites all members of the community to a free program that will explain the Pro and Con arguments of Proposition 50 and Measure B on the ballot, on October 4, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to

11:30 a.m., in the Niles Discovery Church sanctuary. California's special election is set for Tuesday, November 4, 2025. There are two issues on the ballot, each of which, if passed, will have an impact on our lives. The League of Women Voters encourages you to be a well-informed voter before casting your ballot.



YOUTH TRIVIA AND PIZZA NIGHT

By Randy Fewel

The Ministry of Invitation Team held a Youth Trivia and Pizza Night on Friday night, September 12, 2025. We had a small but enthusiastic crowd, mostly boys, who challenged themselves to answer the questions. They found it hard to contain themselves and not blurt out the answers, giving the other teams a clue.



Beth Newell designed the trivia questions for three rounds, and Laurel Wallace prepared a special sheet with cartoon characters for the final round. Sandy and Jim Thomas led a rousing round of Dumb Ways to Die and accompanied everyone on their ukuleles. Randy Fewel offered our NDC pen and a description of Niles Discovery Church activities and told them they were welcome to visit us on Sundays.

Bronco Billy's Pizza in Niles donated all the pizzas to the delight of our hungry teenagers. The Ministry of Hospitality and Fellowship Team donated four huge plates of cookies for a sweet finish. When a team won, they got to choose from a table laid out with prizes. We had a family pass to the Oakland Zoo and the church Flea Market team gleaned items from the Flea Market tables for some unique prizes. The Candlelighters offered their famous ghost house tours which went fast.

All in all, a very fun night.

HOW TO SPOT A MALICIOUS EMAIL



We do the best we can to keep our email system as secure as possible. Nonetheless, spoofing (when someone makes an email look like it came from someone at church) and hacking (when someone actually gets into an email account) are possible. Here are some things to keep in mind about legitimate emails from your church staff.

- ☑ It will always have a subject that means something to you
- ☑ It will always have information in the body of the email describing purpose, not just a "Hey, check this out."
- ☑ It will always be from an @nilesdiscoverychurch.org email address.
- ☑ It will always have the name and other info about the person sending message in the message.
- ☑ It will never ask you for money for a church staff member.

When in doubt, don't click on a link in an email and don't open any attachments. You can always send an email (not a reply, but a new email) to the person who (supposedly) sent the email, asking if it's legit.

NILES DISCOVERY CHURCH'S MONTHLY OUTING TRIP

By Katy Wharton



The Monthly Outing Group and friends recently took a trip to Filoli Gardens. We had a wonderful time. We strolled through the house, all of the gardens and explored the special exhibit, Trolls, in the wooded area.

The Monthly Outing Group likes to take day trips. We have gone to the Oakland Museum, The Asian Art Museum, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Rosy the Riveter Museum in Richmond, and the Iris Garden at Meyer Garden in Union City.

Our September outing was to see the Glass Pumpkin Patch in Palo Alto and our October trip is not yet planned.

The Monthly Outing Group is open to everyone. We make our own plans for each outing. Come on the trips that interest you. We normally take BART or carpool. If you would like to join us please let Katy Wharton know.



This Picture was taken at Filoli Gardens in front of the welcoming troll. He is the Speaker Troll. His name is Ronja Redeye. He is a part of the special Trolls exhibit by Thomas Dambo.



OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERING: RECONCILIATION/NEIGHBORS IN NEED /MAKING AMENDS FUND



Our October special offering is our social justice offering. It is split between two denominational offerings and the "Making Amends Fund" of Niles Discovery Church.

The Reconciliation Ministry sponsored by the Disciples of Christ, is an anti-racism and pro-reconciliation initiative. For more information, please visit reconciliationministry.org.

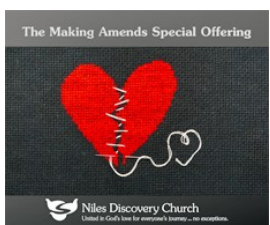
The United Church of Christ sponsors the Neighbors In Need offering. The funds from this offering support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. If you would like more information, please see ucc.org/nin.

Our Making Amends Fund supports the learning of our inherited history, addressing the suffering of Indigenous peoples and the injustices done to them. This fund is used to engage in restorative actions and to plan for future endeavors that support the Ohlone

people, the first inhabitants of the Tri-City area.

As with all our special offerings, you are welcome to give at any time. To donate, go to nilesdiscoverychurch.org/give and choose "Reconciliation/Neighbors In Need/Making Amends" in the "Select Option" frame; or mail a check to the church. With so many possibilities for special giving, you may need to choose which ones are most important to you. To see the complete schedule of special offerings, please visit bit.ly/NDCSpecialOfferings.

Many thanks to all that participated in our September special offering to Heifer International. We had collected \$848 by press time. The Congregation will decide what to purchase with these funds during a potluck lunch, after worship, on Sunday, October 26.



FELLOWSHIP NEWS



REGISTRATION REQUIRED

To enhance the safety of your Zoom experience, we typically require advance 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 AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY No Bible study on 10/20

Monday Afternoon Bible Study continues to Zoom from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The scripture studied is typically the scripture for the coming Sunday's worship service. Everyone is welcome. You can register to join the Zoom meeting at bit.ly/MABSreg.



SUNDAY LUNCH BUNCH No Lunch Brunch on 10/19 or 10/26

Join a small group that is in the habit of going to a restaurant for lunch with Pastor Jeff after coffee hour on most Sundays. This "Lunch Bunch" has a rotation of restaurants to eat at, and head off to that Sunday's restaurant at 12:30 p.m. If you would like to join the Lunch Bunch on a particular Sunday, let Val Parker know by 12:10 p.m. that day so she has a headcount to bring to the restaurant. Look at the church calendar (the second to last page of *The Bell*) to see which restaurant the Lunch Bunch is going to.



LAP ROBE TYING GROUP October 22

Come tie lap robes in person on the fourth Wednesday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This month's meeting is on Wednesday, March 26. There will be a planned "potluck" lunch. Contact Judy Molander, 925-201-7335 or jumolander@aol.com, for what you plan to bring to share, 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 October 1

You're welcome to join the Green Team, a group leading our congregation to address the climate crisis. They typically meet the first Wednesday of the month, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Zoom. For questions, contact Susie Claxton (veroclax@sbcglobal.net) or Bee Newell (beenewell2@gmail.com). Here is the link to the Zoom meeting bit.ly/greenteam25.



PUZZLE EXCHANGE AND SCRIP SALES

You're welcome to drop by the fellowship hall each Friday, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., to exchange a jigsaw puzzle and/or buy some scrip. Some people stick around to work on a puzzle, just for the fun of it.

PRAYERS FOR THESE PEOPLE (AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS)

BECAUSE OF THEIR HEALTH CONCERNS:



George Roeding;
Diana Roeding;
Bruce Roeding;
Liz Musgrave;
Jim Roletto;
Randy Fewel;
Wayne Fralin;
Marty Williams;
Barbara Swint;
Maria Sicalbo;
John Zlatnik;
Judy Zlatnik;
Ginny August;
Helen Boyer;
Charlie Smith;
Hermann Attinger;
Keith Moody;
Becky Moreno;
Isabel Moreno;
Luke Boyer;

Diane Kindle;
Sandra Frisbey;
Cecilia Le's spouse, Linda Carpenter;
Ann Finlinson's husband, John Cant;
Sharon Yool's daughter;
Riki and Mark Twist's daughter, Shelly;
Liz Musgrave's friend, Stephanie Roden;
Liz Musgrave's friend, Mary Richardson;
Barbara P. King's great-niece, Gwennie Phelps;
Barbara J. King's great-great-niece, Kayleigh;
Peter Wilson's dad;
Jasmine Zartman's mother, Karen Trepte;
Shaun Moeller's brother, Dave Nyman;
Ron Adamson's sister, Joanne Orput;
Diane Harvey's sister, Linda;

Priscilla Taylor's friend, Paul Folkestad;
Priscilla Taylor's friend, Jayne Gallagher;
Priscilla Taylor's cousin-in-law, Michele Arcelo;
Priscilla Taylor's friend, Michelle Campbell;
Priscilla Taylor's father-in-law and mother-in-law, Steve and Angie Taylor;
Rich Gallegos' mother, Esther;
Helen Boyer's sister-in-law, Marjorie Boyer;
Joy Barnitz's friend, Rachel;
Becky Moreno's brother-in-law, Vince;
Michael Thomson's sister, Mary Thomson;
Katy Wharton's mother;
Katy Wharton's sister-in-law, Hedi.

THE SPOUSES, PARTNERS, CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE CARING FOR AND/OR JOURNEYING WITH SICK, FRAIL, AND/OR ELDERLY LOVED ONES (ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE NAMED ABOVE).

THE PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WISH THEY COULD BE DOING MORE TO SUPPORT THEIR SICK, FRAIL, AND/OR ELDERLY LOVED ONES, BUT FOR WHOM DISTANCE AND/OR OTHER FACTORS MAKES THAT DIFFICULT.

THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING RENEWAL, REBIRTH, OR A NEW START.

THANKSGIVING FOR ALL THE WAYS GOD BRINGS HEALING.

PRAYERS FOR ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING, ESPECIALLY:

Maolin Li and the friends of Larry Herb; Larry died on August 3;
the family of Charlotte O'Donnell who died on July 4;
the McMeen family as they grieve the death of Bert's mother, Mary Kelley, in mid-May;
Sharon Yool and her extended family as they grieve the death of Sharon's niece, Laura Lewis in late-April;
The family of Veronica Riggs who died on April 16;

Debbie Kesis, Denise Church, and their families as they grieve the death of Debbie and Denise's mother, Sandi Reeder, on April 3;

Priscilla Taylor as she grieves the death of her Aunt Shirley on March 28;

Susie Claxton as she grieves the death of her sister, Argyle, on March 19.

EVERYONE IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE, INCLUDING LISA RASLER'S COLLEAGUE GUILLE WHO SON JACOB WAS KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE IN AUGUST.

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).

PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED AND UNDER-EMPLOYED, ESPECIALLY MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH, THAT THEY FIND EMPLOYMENT THAT FULFILLS THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS.

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.

October 2025

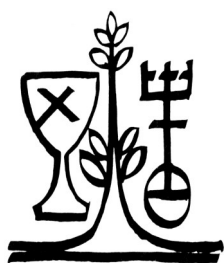
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Cecilia on Vacation 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Town Hall Meeting 12:15PM Lunch	29 4:00PM Bible Study	30 9:30AM MCE Team Meeting	1 1:30PM Green Team meeting	2 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Pride Team organizing meeting	3 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	4
5 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 12:15PM Lunch Bunch – Classic Diner 5:00PM BSA Troop 112 PLC Meeting	6 4:00PM Bible Study 7:30PM Ministry Team Meetings	7 10:00AM Ministry of Christian Education Team meeting 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Committee Meeting	8 7:30PM PPRC meeting	9 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	10 NCNC-UCC Fall Youth Event 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	11
12 NCNC-UCC Fall Youth Event 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 12:15PM Lunch Bunch – BJ Brew-house	13 4:00PM Cabinet Leaders meeting 4:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Finance Committee	14 Pastor Jeff on Study Leave 9:30AM Bridge Interest Group 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting	15 Pastor Jeff on Study Leave	16 8:00AM Bell Deadline 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 Pastor Jeff on Study Leave 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 4:00PM Pride Place of Belonging	20 7:15PM Cabinet	21 Pastor Jeff on Study Leave	22 10:00AM Lap Robe Tying Group 7:30PM Care Team meeting	23 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	24 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning 7:30PM Flamy Grant concert	25
26 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Church Potluck	27 4:00PM Bible Study	28 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting 7:30PM Book Group	29	30 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	31 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	1 Safe Parking Fall back one hour



Niles Discovery Church

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Senior Pastor
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**Niles Discovery
Church**



a just
world
for all
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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 \$2.00 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.

