



Niles Discovery
Church

NOVEMBER
Volume 25 Number 11



THE BELL

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

FALL BACK!



Remember,
we set our
clocks back one
hour on Saturday night. Don't
be stuck coming to worship
an hour early. Claim that
extra hour of sleep.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

November 2
"Dreaming
God's Dream"
Acts 10

November 9
"The Center
that Holds "
Guest Preacher:
the Rev. Marty
Williams

November 16
Guest Preacher:
to be
announced

November 23
A Service After
the Manner of
the Pilgrims
(see article on
page 5)

November 30
ADVENT 1
"King of Kings"
Lamentations
3:46-47

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

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

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



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Sunday, December 14, 2025, immediately
following fellowship time after worship

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 December 2025 edition of *The Bell* is 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 13. 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 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 to the right.

Absences: Pastor Jeff will be away on vacation from November 4 to November 18. The church office will be closed on Veterans' Day (November 11), Thanksgiving Day, and the day after (November 27 & 28).

Pastor Jeff's contact info:

Office: 510-797-0895 x2

Mobile: 510-579-8851

Make an appointment:

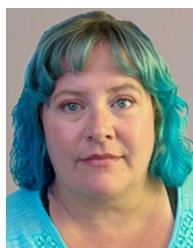
calendly.com/revjss

Email:

jeff@nilesdiscoverychurch.org



Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff
Spencer



Admin
Laurel
Wallace



**Technology
Director**
Jim Thomas



Bookkeeper
Cecilia
Le



**Music
Director**
Andrew Kessler



**Accompanist and
Organist**
Jenny Lin

FINANCING GOD'S DREAM

Pledge Sunday is November 2

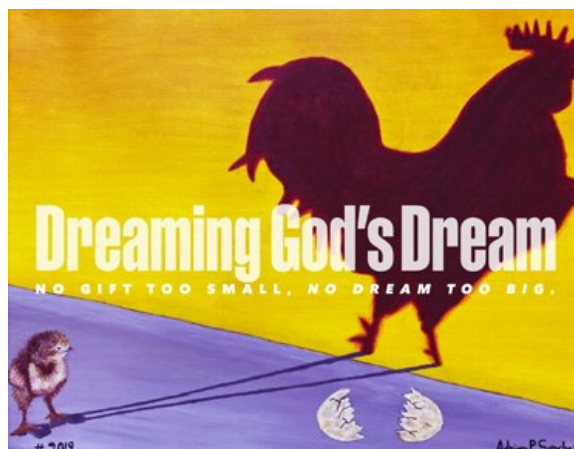
By Pastor Jeff



We've been *Dreaming God's Dream* for that past three weeks. We've been reflecting on how freedom, enough, and justice fit into that dream and how we, as a local congregation, are called to engage with that dream.

Underneath that reflection (sometimes implicitly and sometimes explicitly) has been the issue of financing our engagement with both *dreaming* God's dream, and *living* God's dream. It takes money to finance our part of fulfilling God's dream.

And that's where you come in. When you contribute to the church, you help finance God's dream. And when you make a pledge of financial support, you help the leadership of the church plan for how we will live God's



dream in the coming year.

If you can be on site for worship on Sunday, November 2, I hope you will be – both because we will receive pledges that day and because we will have a celebration in the fellowship hall after worship. If you didn't receive a pledge form in the mail, you can download one at bit.ly/pledgeform2026. Print it, prayerfully reflect on what your

financial contribution will be in 2026, fill out the form, and bring it with you to worship on November 2.

If you're not going to be on site for worship that day, you can also mail your pledge to Cecilia at the office, or submit your pledge online at bit.ly/ndcpledges.



NDC FINANCIAL SUMMARY YEAR TO DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025

By Mike Thomson

Through the third quarter of 2025, income exceeded budget and expenses were less, resulting in a surplus rather than a projected budget deficit.

INCOME

Budget \$226,162

Actual \$280,748 +\$54,586

PLEDGES

Budget \$161,370

Actual \$172,433 +\$11,063

LOOSE OFFERING

Budget \$18,747

Actual \$31,049 +\$12,302

FLEA MARKET

Budget \$10,000

Actual \$19,855 +\$9,855

FACILITIES USE

Budget \$ 2,250

Actual \$22,004 +\$19,754

Income is up across all budgeted categories.

Pledges have been up throughout the year. After a great start, primarily due to prepaid pledges, September reversed a trend of under budget pledge income from the previous four months. Through the end of the third quarter, 19 pledgers have paid their entire yearly pledge in full, some significantly more. Another 28 pledgers have paid between 75% and 99% of their annual pledges. There are 21 pledgers that have paid under 75% of their pledges.

Continued, see "NDC Financials For 2025" on Page 4



WHAT CHILD /s THIS?

Advent worship series invites us to look beyond the lullaby

By Pastor Jeff

In 1865, William Chatterton Dix penned a poem that would become the beloved Christmas-time favorite, "What Child Is This?" During Advent, we will dive into this question that is much more complicated than the lilting lullaby tune, "Greensleeves," conveys.



look at the answers suggested by the song – that Jesus is the "King of Kings," "The Silent Word," "The Son of Mary," one "Enthroned by Love," and "The Babe" – and what those answers mean for us today.

In the process, I think we will find powerful ways Jesus continues to

The story of humanity and its recurring themes of oppression and corruption run right through history, were present at the birth of Jesus, and continue into our own lives. Our answers to the question, "What child *is* this?" will dictate how we follow Jesus. We will

be a powerful word of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – even and especially in the midst of hard times.

Somehow, I ended up with my mother's childhood nativity crèche. It is likely 100 years old or older. Life for

Continued, see "You're Invited" on Page 7

Continued from Page 3

NDC FINANCIALS FOR 2025

EXPENSES

Budget \$298,750

Actual \$274,017 -\$24,733

Expenses are down slightly across most budget categories, led by staffing and Cabinet/Ministries.

OVERALL (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS

Budget (\$72,588) Deficit

Actual \$6,731 Surplus

The result is a slight surplus instead of a significant deficit.

CASH RESERVE INVESTMENT FUNDS BALANCES

1/1/25 \$ 892,254

9/30/25 \$1,065,684



The reserve fund balance increased significantly during the 3rd quarter due to market performance. All three months showed market gains. In addition, because we are currently running a surplus operating budget and have sufficient cash reserves in our money market account, we have not had to withdraw any funds from our investments to cover the deficit we anticipated in our budget.

Fair warning: The Finance Committee expects continued significant market volatility in the short to medium term. As a reminder, past performance is not an indicator or guarantee of future results.

Summary

Overall, we have done very well in the first three quarters of the year. However, the budget surplus turned into a deficit in July and August. A really good September, with pledges recovering and a highly successful flea market, returned us to a small surplus. If we can continue to follow through with our pledges and loose offering continues to exceed expectations, we will end the year in a much better financial condition than we had anticipated in January.

If church members would like more detailed information, the Treasurers reports are available by contacting our bookkeeper. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to our Treasurer, Marilyn Vermazen, or any member of the Finance Committee (Michael Thomson, Bob Monkman, Jeboy Koshy, Mark Twist).



A SERVICE AFTER THE MANNER OF THE PILGRIMS

By Pastor Jeff

For better or worse, our national mythology connects our contemporary celebrations of

Thanksgiving with a 1621 event in Plymouth, New England.

Historians will tell you that we know very little about that event. Edward Winslow, one of the

original Plymouth colonists, wrote one of the few accounts we have: "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as many foul as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their great king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed 5 deer, which they brought to the plantation ..."

These Pilgrim immigrants were Separatists. They (and Puritans who remained in Great Britain) felt the Church of England was not embodying what it means to be a Christian, and so they separated. The Pilgrims left Great Britain to

come to the Americas to establish a colony that would be purified of the failings of the Church of England.



Puritans did their purifying, at least at first, in England.

Some Puritans soon left Great Britain to join their Pilgrim theological cousins in the Massachusetts Bay colony. It was out of these groups that the Congregationalists emerged. It was out of the Congregationalists and several other denominations that the United Church of Christ emerged. Thus, we can claim an especially deep theological connection to the national mythology and celebrations of Thanksgiving.

Bearing all this in mind, we are going to have an experimental worship service on November 23. That is, experimental for us. My hope is to create a service after the manner of our Pilgrim forebears. Be assured that "after the manner" does not include the service taking all morning.

As the deadline for this edition of

The Bell approaches, I'm still kicking around specific ideas for our worship service on that Sunday before Thanksgiving. I have a manuscript of a sermon preached in Plymouth in 1621 (it will need to be edited for length, and I need to decide whether or not to modernize the English). We still need to figure out how we will include music in the service. The early Congregationalists said that the use of musical instruments was the "work of the devil." It wasn't until around 1700 that stringed instruments came into use in worship, and the first organ wasn't installed in a Boston meeting house until 1713 (which, coincidentally, is the year Lexington, Massachusetts, was incorporated).

I hope as many of you as possible will worship on site that Sunday. The beginning of the service will happen outside the sanctuary, and I'm not sure how that will work, if at all, on Zoom. You are welcome to come in period dress, though that is certainly not required. And, fear not, for we will not be giving "censures," as officers of the church did in the 17th century, calling attention to the failures of individuals to conduct themselves in a manner that measured up to expected standards.

I hope we can make this service worshipful, educational, and a fun (even if our Pilgrim and Puritan forebears would have frowned on the "fun").





6

FIGURING OUT WHAT IT COSTS TO RUN MY CAR

By Pastor Jeff

In preparation for the EV Car Show we held on Sun Day, September 21, I did a little calculation on how much I spend on fuel to power my electric car compared to the fuel costs for a gasoline powered car. Because my car has an onboard computer that calculates my mileage, this wasn't very hard to do.

We're all familiar with the "miles per gallon" rating gasoline cars get. With an electric car, the rating is "miles per kilowatt hour." The computer in my car says that I'm averaging 4.7 miles per kilowatt hour.

Eva Energy's "Renewal 100" (100% renewable energy) EV2-AL electric vehicle rate plan averages (generation plus delivery) \$0.23161 per kWh. At 4.7 mpKwh, that's an energy cost of just under \$0.05/mile.

However, we have solar on the parsonage roof that generates more electricity than I use each year, even with charging my car at home. So, my energy cost to drive my car is typically \$0.00/mile – you can't beat that!

On road trips, when I have to charge my car at a "fast charger," the most I've paid is around \$0.60 per kWh, which comes out to just under \$0.13/mile.

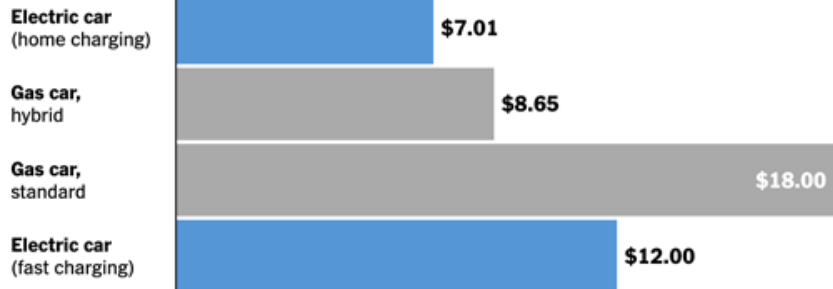
If your gasoline powered car is getting 30mpg and gasoline is \$5.00/gal, your energy costs are \$0.1667/mile.

Solar	Eva Energy	Fast Charger	Gasoline
\$0.00/mile	\$0.05/mile	\$0.13/mile	\$0.16/mile

On October 8, *The New York Times* ran [an article](#) about the costs of fueling a car, an exercise very similar to the one I did. Their calculator came up with very similar results (see the large bar graph).

Another cost for cars is maintenance, and maintenance on my EV is next to nothing. In the 5 years I've owned the car, I've paid for new wipers, new tires, a new 12-volt battery (the battery that runs the computer to start your car), and windshield wiper fluid. Tires on an EV do wear out a little faster and can be a little more expensive, compared to a gasoline-powered car.

Cost to drive 100 miles in California



– Hide E.V. inputs

+ Modify gas car

Relative to California as a whole, my electricity rate is ...

Lower

Average

Higher

Electricity rate: **\$0.350** per kWh

My E.V. efficiency is ...

Low

Typical

High

E.V. efficiency: **5.00** miles per kWh



SUN DAY WRAP-UP



Niles Discovery Church held two Sun Day events: “Our Solar Story” on Saturday, September 20, and an “EV Car Show” on Sunday, September 21. This led to Niles Discovery Church being named a “Sunbeam Congregation” by Third Act.

“Our Solar Story” was a presentation on how Niles Discovery Church paid for the solar PV system we installed on our sanctuary roof nine years ago, how it’s worked for us, what its financial impact has been (paid for itself in around 6 years and is now paying a \$15k dividend in non-existent electric bills), and what we hope our

next steps will be (batteries). There were lots of questions following Bill Palleschi’s presentation from people representing at least four other faith communities from the area.

The “EV Car Show” showed off over a dozen EVs (and one plug-in hybrid) owned by church members and a couple of friends. Our goal was to let our neighbors check out the cars and ask the owners questions before they consider buying an EV for themselves. Even though we are in Fremont, California, only two of the EVs on display were Teslas. In addition to showing off the EVs, we had art projects and snacks for everyone. We didn’t get quite as much foot traffic as the Green Team had hoped, but it was *fun*!

TRI-CITY INTERFAITH COUNCIL HOLDS 64TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Tri-City Interfaith Council (TCIC) will hold its 64th annual Thanksgiving Service at a new location, with an earlier start-time. The service will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 3551 Decoto Road, Fremont, CA 94555 and will start at 7:00 pm. Please park in the rear of the building. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship for those who attend in person. The service will be streamed on Zoom. You can access the livestream using the QR code on the flyer or by sending a request through the website: tcicouncil.weebly.com/contact-us.html

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Lifting Up Our Neighbors

Monday, Nov. 24, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
3551 Decoto Road, Fremont, CA 94555
Please park behind the building.



Sponsored by Tri-City Interfaith Council tcicouncil.weebly.com
You are encouraged to bring finger food to share for the reception.

Offerings will be
received for the
Immigration Institute
of the Bay Area.

To attend virtually, use this QR code



Continued from Page 4

YOU'RE INVITED

the figurines in this crèche that have survived those years is fragile – the donkey is missing a leg and needs to lean against the stable wall. As I think about the lives of the characters we read about in the birth narratives of Jesus, I realize that their lives were fragile, too. The promise of Jesus, embodied in the baby whose birth we celebrate, is the promise that God is with us in our fragility, just as we are with each other.



Advent is usually about waiting. But we cannot wait to have hope; it is essential now. We cannot wait to work for peace; lives are at stake now. We cannot wait to embrace joy, even and especially when it seems in short supply. We cannot wait to love, most of all, because we are the ones who follow the saving love of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.



LEAN CANVAS SPECIAL MINISTRY TEAM

By Barbara P. King, Moderator

If you remember a Town Hall meeting last year, when we all put little post-it dots all around the Fellowship Hall with our preferences for the future image and growth of our church. I can tell you that the Lean Canvas* Special Ministry Team has been working on your suggestions. The team members are Mary Von-Ah Gregory, Judy Zlatnik, Leonard Lloyd, Ron Adamson, Melissa Palleschi, and me. The primary concern of the congregation was making our image as a church clear in our Community. The team has focused on 4 projects to do this.

Website - Bill Palleschi and Taylor Johnson are actively working on updating our website. They want to make it welcoming, easy to navigate, and simple to update.

Signage - A large banner was created and hung on the street side of the building, welcoming everyone. After much effort and research, the Lean Canvas Team has provided the details of their investigations into updating our outdoor sign with a digital programmable sign and has forwarded it to the Ministry of Property Team. This expensive project will require city approval and permitting, and underground electrical work. In the meantime, the team is going to work on cleaning and updating our current sign.

Welcome Flyers - outside 'mail' boxes. There are two small, clear plastic mailboxes outside the building holding a 3.5" x 8.5" welcome flyer. They inform passers-by about who we are and what we stand for, along with the times of our services. One is attached to our monument sign's wooden post, and the other is near the street-side patio gate. The original 30 'flyers' have been taken by passersby and replaced with reprints.

Family Friendly - The outdoor playground has been tabled as the attendance of young families has slowed.

* Lean Canvas is a process to identify something that needs to be improved and the steps to be taken to complete it.

LIBRARY UPDATE

By David Gregory

Thanks to recent donations, I have added multiple titles to the church library. In the next few issues of *The Bell*, I'll highlight the new additions briefly, by major subject areas. Remember that all titles (other than Bibles and Reference works) are shelved in our library by author. Thank you to those who donated, and happy reading to all.

The Jesus Seminar

The Jesus Seminar was a group of biblical scholars founded by Robert Funk in 1985 to explore the historicity of the deeds and sayings of Jesus. We now have two of the major publications that emerged from this long-term study:

- 📖 Funk, Robert et al. *The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus* (1993)
- 📖 Funk, Robert et al. *The Acts of Jesus: The Search for the Authentic Deeds of Jesus* (1998)

Environmental and social justice

These are two broad subject areas in which we try to

acquire current materials for the library, with "social justice" embracing a number of subcategories such as Community & Peacemaking, LGBTQ+, and Race. New titles across these subject areas include:

- 📖 Charleston, Steven. *We Survived the End of the World: Lessons from Native America on Apocalypse and Hope* (2023)
- 📖 Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me* (2015)
- 📖 DiAngelo, Robin. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* (2018)
- 📖 Margolin, Malcolm. *The Ohlone Way: Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area* (2014)
- 📖 Primavesi, Anne. *Making God Laugh: Human Arrogance and Ecological Fragility* (2004)
- 📖 Reyes-Chow, Bruce. *"But I Don't See You as Asian": Curating Conversations about Race* (2013)
- 📖 Watkins, Sharon. *Whole: A Call to Unity in our Fragmented World* (2014)

Continued, see "Check It Out" on Page 9

TRI - CITY VOLUNTEERS TOY PARTY - DECEMBER 13, 2025



By Beth Armstrong

Calling all Santa's Elves, dig out your Holiday wear and get ready! Plans are not yet final but are underway for the TCV Toy Party. The time will be somewhat compressed, with families coming to choose toys between 9:30 and 12:30. This means that there will be two shifts of volunteers for helping kids with activities while their parents choose toys, including some set up and clean up time. Santa and stuffed animal (if available) helpers are also needed during this time. In addition, volunteers are needed in the parking lot, for unloading and setting up tables for toys on Friday morning or perhaps afternoon, and lastly, but most importantly, for clean-up and reset of the sanctuary for the concert that night. Kids can volunteer along with their parents, as appropriate, especially for the children's activities. Volunteer hours for school credit can be earned.



Please see Beth Armstrong at church in November to sign up, or email her at baarmstrong1@aol.com. If you have volunteered at a previous Toy Party, you will likely be contacted soon by email or in person.

It's a fun event. Hope to see you there!

THANKSGIVING PIE POTLUCK PROMISES TO BE A TASTY TIME WITH PRIDE A PLACE OF BELONGING

By Cindy Sojourner

The Pride Place of Belonging social activity for November is a Thanksgiving Pie Potluck from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in our fellowship hall on Sunday, November 19. All LGBTQIA+ folk and allies are invited to bring their favorite pie to share and to enjoy eating lots of favorite pies. Our monthly secular Support Group for LGBTQIA+ folk will meet from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 3. Newcomers from the local area are welcome to attend either or both of these activities. These activities are free. Please share this invitation with your friends and family.

Our Support Group continues to be well appreciated. Our Collage Your Pride activity resulted in fabulous, beautiful, and meaningful collages that express the pride of those attending. Please read next month's newsletter to learn more about the Flamy Grant concert and our Costume Gala and Treat Exchange.



Continued from Page 8

CHECK IT OUT

Featured author

The Library now includes nine delightful books by Edward Hays (b.1931-d.2016), a Catholic priest, author, artist, and storyteller whose eclectic works deal with "experiencing the Presence of the Divine Mystery in the midst of our world." These titles represent fiction (stories and parables) as well as essays on contemporary spirituality, and include:

- 📖 *Feathers on the Wind: Reflections for the Lighthearted Soul* (1995)
- 📖 *In Pursuit of the Great White Rabbit* (1990)
- 📖 *Secular Sanctity: Looking at Everyday Life from the Inside and Seeing it Charged with Divine Mystery* (1984)
- 📖 *The Ethiopian Tatoo Shop* (1983)



HELP US CREATE A COMMUNITY ADVENT CALENDAR!

By Judy Hollowell

This Advent season, we're building something special — a *Community Advent Calendar* filled with meaningful, fun, and faith-filled traditions from YOU!

We'd love for you to be part of it by submitting one of your favorite Advent traditions. Whether it's a cherished family activity, a quiet moment of reflection, or something joyful and silly — we want to include it!

What to Submit:

Share a simple *action item* that others can do during Advent. Think of things like:

- * "Light a candle and sing your favorite carol."
- * "Write a note of encouragement to someone who might need it."
- * "Read Luke 2:1–20 with your family."
- * "Bake cookies and deliver them to a neighbor."
- * "Set up your nativity scene — but wait to add baby Jesus until Christmas Eve!"

How to Participate:

Send us your Advent action item. You can email us at MCE@NilesDiscoveryChurch.org and a basket will be available in Fellowship Hall and at the front sign-in table on Sundays. We'll include your tradition on one of the days of our Advent Calendar to inspire and connect us all throughout the season.

Let's make this Advent season richer — together.



SPECIAL OFFERING: SUPPORTING A SMALL DONATION CAN HELP A COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISH BIG THINGS

The November special offering will be used to support the

PUENTE

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.

To donate, go to nilesdiscoverychurch.org/give and

choose "Puente de la Costa Sur" 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. As with all our special offerings, you are welcome to give at any time.

Many thanks to all that participated in our October Special Offering for Reconciliation Ministries, Neighbors in Need, and the Making Amends Fund. As of the press deadline, we had collected over \$260. for these important ministries. Your faithful contributions are greatly appreciated.

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 November 10 or 17

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 November 23 and 30 Only

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 No Lap Robe Tying until January

The Lap Robe Tying Group will be on hiatus until January. Contact Judy Molander, 925-201-7335 or 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 November 5

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 a selection of scrip. Some people stick around to work on a puzzle, just for the fun of it.

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.

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark & Union City invite you to the next installment of their *Defending Our Democracy* series on Saturday, November 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at Niles Discovery Church. This month's topic is *The First Amendment In Peril: Freedoms of Speech and the Press*. The speakers will be Alex Emslie, KQED Senior Editor, and recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award, as well as Thomas Peele, a Pulitzer Prize winning veteran reporter for the San Jose Mercury News and the East Bay Times.

Please join us as we celebrate Wayne Fralin's 85th birthday!

All are welcome! The details:

- **When:** Saturday November 22, 2025, from 2p.m.-5p.m.
- **Where:** Carlton Senior Living, 3800 Walnut Ave., Fremont CA 94538 – Multipurpose room
- Light food, dessert, beer and wine will be provided
- Casual dress, fun time, no gifts – your presence will be enough!

If you can't make it and would still like to help Dad celebrate, please send a card or note to me at this address:

Wayne Fralin c/o Carissa Fralin, 361 Washington Blvd. Apt 1, Fremont, CA 94539



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



George Roeding;
Diana Roeding;
Bruce Roeding;
Liz Musgrave;
Jim Roletto;
Wayne Fralin;
Marty Williams;
Karen Haughey;
Barbara Swint;
Maria Sicalbo;
John Zlatnik;
Judy Zlatnik;
Ginny August;
Helen Boyer;
Charlie Smith;
Hermann Attinger;
Keith Moody;
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 and her husband Jon Richardson**;
Barbara P. King's great niece, **Gwennie Phelps**;
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**;
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 MAKE 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, who 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 Keesis, Denise Church, and their families as they grieve the death of Debbie and Denise's mother, Sandi Reeder, on April 3.

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.

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 2025

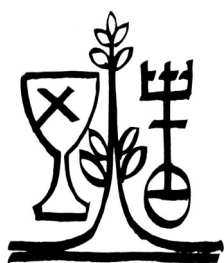
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 11:00AM Boy Scouts Fundraiser Sale 11:00AM Church Potluck 12:15PM All Church Reads - Discussion Group 2	27 4:00PM Bible Study	28 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting 7:30PM Book Group	29 4:00PM *tentative Serra Center	30 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	31 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	1 Safe Parking Fall back one hour
2 Safe Parking	3 4:00PM Bible Study 7:30PM Ministry Team Meetings	4 Pastor Jeff on vacation 9:30AM Ministry of Christian Education Team meeting 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Committee Meeting	5 1:30PM Green Team meeting	6 5:30PM NCNC-UCC annual meeting 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Pride Team organizing meeting	7 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	8 9:30AM Bay Association Fall Meeting
9 Safe Parking	10 1:00PM Cabinet Leaders meeting 7:00PM Finance Committee	11 Veterans Day 9:30AM Bridge Interest Group 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting	12 8:00AM Bell Deadline 10:00AM Piano Tuning 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	13 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	14 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	15 10:00AM Clear Creek Service's Board Meeting
16 Safe Parking	17 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 4:00PM Pride Place of Belonging	18 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting	19 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal	20 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	21 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	22 10:00AM Clear Creek Service's Board Meeting
23 Safe Parking	24 4:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	25 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Meeting 7:30PM Book Group	26 4:30PM Pride Place of Belonging organizing meeting 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Pride Team organizing meeting	27 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	28 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning	29 10:00AM Clear Creek Service's Board Meeting
30 Safe Parking	31 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 12:15PM Lunch Bunch - Black Bear Diner	1 4:00PM Bible Study 7:30PM Ministry Team Meetings	2 10:00AM Ministry of Christian Education Team meeting 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Committee Meeting	3 1:30PM Green Team meeting	4 4:30PM Pride Place of Belonging organizing meeting 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Pride Team organizing meeting	5 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning
30 Safe Parking	31 9:15AM Choir Warm-up 10:00AM Worship 12:15PM Lunch Bunch - Black Bear Diner	1 4:00PM Bible Study 7:30PM Ministry Team Meetings	2 10:00AM Ministry of Christian Education Team meeting 7:00PM BSA Troop 112 Committee Meeting	3 1:30PM Green Team meeting	4 4:30PM Pride Place of Belonging organizing meeting 7:30PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM Pride Team organizing meeting	5 1:00PM Puzzle Exchange and Scrip Sales 2:00PM Facilities Cleaning



Niles Discovery Church

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

Phone: 510-797-0895
nilesdiscoverychurch.org



Niles Discovery
Church



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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.

