

First Sunday of Advent



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Nov 29, 2020 | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

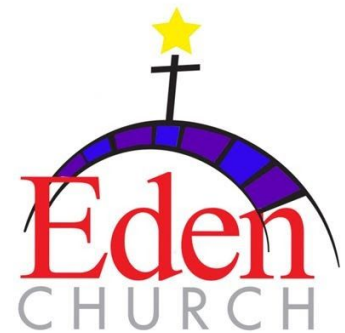
Today's hashtags are: #EdenUCC #BendtheCurve

Eden United Church of Christ is an **LGBTQIA+**
Open & Affirming and a **Sanctuary** congregation.

We believe that all people are children of God; that persons of all ages, races and sexual orientations are part of our increasingly diverse culture. We welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of this church.

Creemos que todas las personas son hijas e hijos de Dios; que personas de todas las edades, razas y orientaciones sexuales son parte de nuestra cultura diversa. Damos la bienvenida a todas las personas al ministerio de esta iglesia.

Children's bulletins are available from the ushers and nursery care is available during worship. We encourage the posting of worship to social media, just kindly mute devices. Thank you for not bringing food or beverages into the Sanctuary other than sacramental elements or water.



21455 Birch Street, Hayward
Corner of Birch & Grove
510.582.9533

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

The “+” indicates times when we are invited to stand, in body or spirit, as we are able.

OPENING MUSIC | O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | 15th Cent. French Melody

WELCOME & UPDATE | Rev. Pepper Swanson

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE | The Aloo Family

BIBLE READING | [Isaiah 2:1-5](#) | [[Español](#)] | Jennifer Vetovec

MESSAGE | “[Approaching the Summit](#)” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

HYMN | Come, O Long-Expected Jesus | No.122 (v.1&2) | Suzie Hasselkuss

OUR PRAYERS | Joys & Concerns | Rev. Pepper Swanson

Submit your prayers digitally to the clergy. Digital prayer requests are sent directly to the pastors and remain confidential. You may also share your prayer requests with others during our Fellowship time at 11 am.

JESUS’ PRAYER | Unison

Our God, in whom is heaven, blessed be your name. Your presence come, your will be done, both here and everywhere. May your realm of peace and freedom sustain our hopes and come on earth. May we be fed today with the bread that we need, and may forgiveness be ours in the same measure we give. In times of temptation, strengthen us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

[ONLINE OFFERING](#) | Jennifer



**OFFERTORY | Toda la Tierra (All Earth Is Waiting) |
Alberto Taule | Jessie Lo**

BLESSING | Pastor Arlene

**CLOSING MUSIC | Christmas Time Is Here from A Charlie Brown Christmas |
Vince Guaraldi**

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister

Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director

Jennifer Vetrovec, Liturgist

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIY Christmas Wreath Display: From TODAY, **Sunday, Nov 29 (the First Sunday in Advent)** until **Epiphany Sunday, Jan 3**, there will be a display of DIY Christmas wreaths made from recycled & upcycled materials. You are invited to make a wreath from what you have on hand and attach it to the Tot Lot fence with wire that will be in place on **Nov 29**. Wire wreath forms and weather-proof ribbon is available for your use. Please use only materials that you no longer want or need as weather and foot traffic will prevent the wreath's return. We'd love a photo of you and your wreath as you put it in place. Contact [Pastor Pepper](#) for a wire wreath form, ribbon, and more information.

Christmas Pageant: Yes, Virginia, there **will be** a Christmas Pageant this year. The Pageant will be **Sunday, Dec 13**. The Pageant will be pre-recorded and performers of all ages will take their bows and receive your applause during Fellowship at **11 am**.

Happy Birthday Jesus: This year, instead of toys and books, we are requesting donations for a much-needed item in our community: **diapers**. To give to our Happy Birthday, Jesus collection for diapers, go to our giving link and use the drop down menu to select: **Happy Birthday Jesus (Comida Diapers)**.

Advent/Christmas Party: Our family-friendly Advent/Christmas Party will be **Friday, Dec 18 at 7:30 pm** on Zoom. Mark your calendars now for an evening of "Advent-ure" with an Ornament Contest, Ugly Sweater/Bathrobe Fashion Show, Christmas Pageant Outtakes, Carol Singing, Christmas cookies, and, of course, Christmas stories and poems. To pre-register for this event, please click [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS —Ongoing Events

Crafters Extend Nov Auction: You may have missed out on some items sold last Friday, but other lovely handmade items are available and more were added this week. To check out all the items, go to this [link](#). The Nov/Dec Auction now ends **Friday, Dec 4 at 5 pm**. Check out our Buy Now feature, Check out our **BUY NOW** feature and snag the items you want right away, just in time for holiday giving. As you place your bids, please remember auction proceeds benefit Comida para Cherryland, our just-in-time food bank serving 300 families in the Eden Area.

New Eden UCC Logo Apparel Store: Looking for the perfect polo, vest, or jacket to wear as you volunteer or participate in outreach events for Eden Church? How about replacing that broken coffee cup? Or buying a gift for a hard-working employee? Look no further than Eden's

new [Lands End business storefront](#) where you can select your item, in your size, in your color, and apply either a dark or light rainbow logo. Bonus: you can also change thread color on either logo! Please be sure to notice that some promotional items (like cups) may require large quantity purchase. Just another reason to tell a friend about Eden Church. To get started click this [link](#). If you have questions, contact [Pastor Pepper](#).

COVID-19 Testing @ Eden: Eden Church, in collaboration with AC Public Health & AC Environmental Health, CORE Response, Fulgent, HealthVanna, La Familia, My Eden Voice, Padres Unidos de Cherryland, and Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, will open a free COVID-19 Testing Site on the West Side Parking Lot, on the Eden Church Campus, **on Fridays from 3 to 7 pm & on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm**. The public is welcome. To schedule a free COVID-19 testing appointment at Eden Church, click on this [link](#). To receive a call-back and help over the phone in making an appointment, please call this number: Selena Perez, our Newcomer Coordinator & an Eden Testing Site Health Navigator, will assist you in English or Spanish: **408-409-4671**.

Music Weekly Online on Fridays at 3 pm - BRING YOUR VOICE & FEEL THE SPIRIT! Music offers great comfort and spiritual support in times good and bad. Starting September 18th, Eden UCC is offering online music meetings every Friday at 3 pm (3 to 4), led by Music Director Dr. Jessie Lo. There will be a voice warm up, hymn sing, a variety of song selections, and a music Q&A. Participants have the option of joining the music meetings with or without participating in the monthly recorded Anthem musical offering. Everyone - all levels & all ages - is invited to join! Please email the Music Director, Dr. Jessie Lo, at jessie@edenucc.com to get the Zoom link and the music materials required for the music meeting.

Children's Storytime: Please join us online at 10:15 am on Sunday, immediately prior to Fellowship for show & tell, a story about People in the Bible or a storybook touching on Christian themes, and Children's Prayers. Contact [Pastor Pepper](#) for more information.

Comida para Cherryland: Comida para Cherryland now serves the community as a drive-through distribution. Please consider a donation or forward this information to anyone who is looking for a way to help local residents in need of groceries. Since the COVID-19 crisis unfurled, participation in the Comida has expanded geographically and clients served has tripled, due to widespread unemployment and the closure of other area food pantries.

Seekers Book Club: The Seekers will begin discussion of their new book, **Wilding: The Return of Nature to British Farm** by Isabel Tree on Wed, Nov 11.

Cherryland Computer Café Hours: Physical location **CLOSED** until otherwise noted, but persons may schedule online tutoring help via the [Facebook page](#) or by contacting CCC Director, [Denise Cuevas](#).

Church Center: Church Center is our centralized member and community tool for digital connection. If you have been checked into any event or service, you've already been using it. It's only a click away on our new websites home page and is available for download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Register with your mobile number, and request to join the groups that you are already a part of or that you would like to be a part of. We are using this app for communications, check-ins, groups, forms, volunteer management, payments, etc. See Pastor Marvin for more details.

Eden UCC Mobile Alerts: Be in the know wherever you go! Text “**EdenUCC**” to **33222** to opt into our text message service so that you can stay informed of important happenings as they occur on our campus and in our ministry together.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS — Opportunities to Give or Serve

Remember to Use the Dropdown Fund Selector: A quick reminder that when you make a digital gift through Planning Center, either online or through the app, use the drop down menu to select your fund designation for your gift. For those who pledge, please use the fund called My Pledge. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Associate Treasurer Jan Bass at jan@sebastian9.com.

“My Giving” in Planning Center: Your contributions to Eden UCC and its many ministries are much appreciated. You may access your giving record in the “My Giving” section of your Church Center App. If you have any questions about using Church Center for digital giving or about viewing your giving history, please contact our Associate Treasurer [Jan Bass](#).

Donations are being accepted for the Deacon’s Fund “COVID-19 Relief.” To make a tax deductible, secure, online donation click [here](#) and choose “COVID-19 Relief” in the drop down menu. Other forms of payment may be mailed to Eden United Church of Christ, 21455 Birch Street, Hayward, CA, 94541. Please make checks payable to “Eden United Church of Christ” and write “COVID-19 Relief” in the memo line. These costs are solely supported by donations from members and friends (not the church’s annual budget).

ANNOUNCEMENTS —Services Available in Our Community

Meals For Seniors -- Delivered: If you are 60+ you have access to the “senior meal program” which delivers meals, cheese, milk, eggs and fresh fruit, so that you do not need to leave your home to buy food. In Alameda County call: 510-577-3530. Ask for the “senior meal program” They will return your call to verify your age. Volunteers leave the food at your door. For more information, see their website by clicking [here](#).

SOS Meals on Wheels is offering free home delivered meals to all seniors in the Oakland and Central County areas. The Home-Delivered Meals Program provides nutritious meals, nutrition education, nutrition risk screening and nutrition counseling. Participant contributions are welcome, *but not required.* Call the SOS Meals on Wheels Site Contact: Charline Deterline at 510-582-1263 or email tara@sosmow.org

JOYS

George Day is on the mend after a recent dash through the ER and heart procedure.

Rhianna Fernanda Martínez-Hernández, whom Eden Church has been accompanying since June 2019, was granted asylum in US Immigration on Thursday, November 5, 2020!

A donor-advised fund of the **East Bay Community Foundation** has awarded our Newcomer Navigation Center **\$55,000!**

Daniella Prym is moving from Manteca to Baywood Court next month!

East Bay Community Energy has awarded Eden Church a **\$10,000** COVID-19 Relief Community Grant. Half of the funds support our food security ministries and half provide Eden Area Rent Relief.

Junior Nsamia Mayema, who we have been accompanying through the citizenship process, has passed his citizenship exam and will soon be able to take his citizenship oath.

Kemy Gekara and her partner have **TWINS**, a girl and a boy! Their names are **Kleo Yin** and **Kai Yang**. The babies each weighed about 6lbs at birth. Mommy, Daddy, and babies are all healthy and happy and sheltering in place with Grandma and Grandpa.

For **Linda Sheppard** is home recovering from heart valve replacement surgery and the insertion of two new stents and has a great support system in place.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For families in need of **affordable housing**. If you have a lead on a room, an apartment, or a house to rent, please contact Pastor Arlene.

For our **children and youth** as they adapt to new learning environments and especially for our high school and college seniors as they contemplate their next steps.

For **Kay Crosby**, who is living with several health challenges.

For **Deivy Flores' parents**, who evacuated from their home when hurricane Eta hit landfall, have been reunited in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and hope to begin recovery work soon.

For **Betty Livesy**, who is rehabbing in the skilled nursing at Stoneridge Creek in Pleasanton. Please reach out to Dan or Pastor Arlene if you need temporary contact information for Betty.

For our **first responders, health care workers, households in quarantine, and all other essential personnel** including those delivering groceries to homebound residents and teaching children online.

For our **homebound members and friends**.

For **leaders in our communities**, both local and national, to lead with integrity, siding with the most vulnerable.

For **Pam Reuling's** loved ones, including the family that she and Ed created, and their family of choice. Pam died at her daughter Anne's home on Oct 29, where she was receiving Hospice care.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Nov 29

10:00—10:45 am Worship | Online
10:30 — 11:00 am Children's Storytime | Online
11:00 — 12 noon Fellowship | Online

Monday, Nov 30

1:00 — 2:00 pm English Language Bible Study | Online
1:00 — 6:00 pm Free COVID-19 Testing | Oliver Hall Parking Lot
4:00 — 7:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online
7:00 — 8:30 pm English Language Bible Study | Online

Tuesday, Dec 1

10:00 — 12:00 pm Eden Crafters | Online
1:00 — 6:00 pm Free COVID-19 Testing | Oliver Hall Parking Lot
4:00 — 7:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online
7:00 — 9:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, Dec 2

10:30 — 11:30 pm Seekers Book Club | Online
1:30 — 4:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online

Thursday, Dec 3

1:00 — 6:00 pm Free COVID-19 Testing | Oliver Hall Parking Lot

Friday, Dec 4

2:00 — 6:00 pm Free COVID-19 Testing | Pioneer Chapel Parking Lot

Saturday, Dec 5

10:00 — 4:00 pm Free COVID-19 Testing | Pioneer Chapel Parking Lot

Sunday, Dec 6 — Second Sunday of Advent

10:00—10:45 am Worship | Online
10:30 — 11:00 am Children's Storytime | Online
11:00 — 12 noon Communion & Fellowship | Online

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Dec 6 Second Sunday in Advent
Dec 13 Third Sunday in Advent — Christmas Pageant
Dec 18 Advent/Christmas Party
Dec 20 Fourth Sunday in Advent
Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Jan 3 Epiphany/Tres Reyes Magos



MISSION, VISION, & VALUES | What We Believe

MISSION STATEMENT | What are we about here and now?

The members of Eden Church worship God and strive to follow Christ's example by providing a welcoming and safe environment for all, seeking God's wisdom, growing spiritually, caring for each other, enriching our neighborhood, and sharing the good news of God's creative and unfolding work in the world.



21455 Birch St, Hayward, CA
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VISION STATEMENT | What do we want to become in the next 3 to 5 years?

The vision of Eden Church is to grow in spirit, fellowship, and number by offering many opportunities for spiritual growth; by becoming a more culturally diverse congregation; by strengthening our capacity to serve our neighbors, by caring for each other as Christ cares for us; by inviting others to be a part of our community of faith; and by working to transform individual lives and our community through the power of God's love in human action.

VALUES STATEMENTS | What are the ideals and behaviors that we need to express to fulfill our mission and realize our vision?

In order to fulfill our mission and realize our vision, Eden Church strives to embrace and express the following core values:

- Worship and spiritual practices that are both traditional and contemporary
- Religious education and spiritual practices that are grounded in a progressive theology
- Caring relationships that honor differences and foster unity and growth
- Enriching experiences for children and youth in our church and community
- Programs and partnerships that serve those in need while addressing the root causes of social problems
- Being a true sanctuary that nurtures and protects all participants, especially the most vulnerable among us

OFFICERS

Jana Aloo | Moderator
Jennifer Vetovec | Vice Moderator
Rev. Robert Parrish | Treasurer
Jan Bass | Associate Treasurer
Kim Shuss | Clerk

OFFICE HOURS

Monday -- Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm
(After hours, please call for appointment)
Phone: 510-582-9533
Fax: 510-200-9635
Email: office@edenucc.com
Website: www.edenucc.com