

First Sunday in Lent



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Feb 21, 2021 | [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 St, Hayward, CA
Corner of Birch & Grove
(510) 582-9533

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

OPENING MUSIC | D-Minor Prelude | Stefanuk

WELCOME & UPDATE | Rev. Pepper Swanson

BIBLE READING | [Mark 1:9-15](#) | [\[Español\]](#) | Aisha Knowles

MESSAGE | “Wilderness School” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

HYMN | Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross | No. 197 (v.1) | Mary Bradford

OUR PRAYERS | Joys & Concerns | Rev. Marvin Wisner

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](#) | Aisha Knowles



OFFERTORY | Nearer, My God, To Thee | Lowell Mason | Jessie

BLESSING | Pastor Arlene

CLOSING MUSIC | The Old Rugged Cross | Bennard | Jessie

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister & Video Editor

Rev. Marvin Lance Wisner, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist & Music Director

Aisha Knowles, Liturgist

ANNOUNCEMENTS — Upcoming Events

Gen-Z Remote Regroup: Tomorrow, **Sunday, Feb 21 at 5 pm**. Please confirm your attendance via Church Center Email. Discussion topic: Lent & Our Digital Lives.

Lenten Small Groups: Mark your calendars! ESLO is sponsoring three small groups on Zoom for Lent: [Mar 5 at 10 am](#) (Lenten Meditation), [Mar 12 at 10 am](#) (Lenten Fellowship) and [Mar 19 at 7:30 pm](#) (Lenten Meditation and Fellowship). Click the date to pre-register for each small group or contact [Pastor Pepper](#).

Lenten Special Offering: The theme for the **2021 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offering, which will be offered on **Sunday, Mar 14**, is "Let Love Flow." When you share your gifts to OGHS, you Let Love Flow. Your generosity ensures that, even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of love will continue to change the lives of those who are most vulnerable among us. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare structural inequities that contribute to increased poverty and injustice. On full display is the plight of the working poor who have lost jobs, are on the brink of homelessness, and are waiting for hours in long lines at food pantries. Deadly wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and wars have left people homeless, families grieving loss of loved ones and entire communities awaiting assistance for long term disaster recovery. Refugees and asylum seekers are left in limbo, languishing at borders waiting for welcome. Many have been displaced by economic conditions, war and climate change. Among the millions of refugees are families looking for safe places that they can call home. In the midst of these despairing moments, the UCC is able to offer hope as we stand in solidarity and mutuality with communities suffering and in need. Through Wider Church Ministries, the UCC fulfills its commitment to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by providing advocacy, sustainable development resources, long term disaster recovery support, and assistance for refugee and asylum seekers, working in collaboration with our partners locally and globally. With your gifts to OGHS, we are able to be present for the long term in disaster recovery, as we partner with churches and organizations around the world to walk with families as they rebuild their homes and lives. Thank you for your gifts to OGHS, as together we build a just world for all. For more information, watch these helpful [videos](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS — Ongoing Events

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. To get started click this [link](#). If you have questions, contact [Pastor Pepper](#).

COVID-19 Testing @ Eden: New Drive-Thru Testing in the Oliver Hall parking lot for teens and adults will be conducted Th, F, Sat. Click [here](#) to make an appointment.

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 are starting **Eat Joy**, edited by Natalie Eve Garrett, which is the 2021 Alameda County Reads book. Seekers meet on Wednesday at 10:30 am. A second Seekers group is forming for **Eat Joy**. Be in touch with Pastor Pepper if you are interested in participating.

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](#). Due to the impact of the pandemic on our community's educational life, the CCC will **remain virtually OPEN** throughout the winter break to continue to help students catch up and remain on track with their classes, and to assist residents in Unincorporated Alameda County apply for rent relief.

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

Year End Donor Statements: For the first time, Eden Church has sent out year-end donor statements electronically. If you have an email address on file in the Planning Center, you have received an email with a link to your 2020 donor statement. Please note: this link expired at 10 am on Feb 13, 2021. All others were sent a printed 2020 donor statement in the mail.

Your 2020 donor statement is also available through the Church Center app. Go to your Profile and then to the My Giving page. Once there, scroll down to Statements and click on the Year End 2020 Statement link to view your statement. On a mobile device, look for the share icon that will allow you to email the statement to yourself or print it, depending on the options available on your device. On a computer, you should be able to directly save and print. If you have any questions about this process or if you need any assistance accessing your 2020 donor statement, please contact Jan Bass, Associate Treasurer. Thank you for your gifts to Eden UCC!

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

Comida para Cherryland was recently awarded a **new pallet jack** from the ACCFB, and enough free diapers from 4-Cs, Alameda County First 5, Help A Mother Out, 4-Cs to provide for food pantry families with infants and toddlers in Feb and Mar!

Like the Ever-Ready Bunny, **Kay Crosby** keeps bouncing back. She's had a couple of hospitalizations since Christmas, but is home now and regaining strength.

Most of the Eden Church staff, healthcare workers, members 75+ years old and older have been able to receive at least one of the **COVID-19 vaccinations**.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For **Joyce Bass**, who is recovering from surgery to repair a broken tibia which she suffered this past week.

For all of our **Contact Tracers** who are contacting community members testing positive for COVID-19, assisting them with Isolation and Quarantine protocols and local resources.

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 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 **Betty and Dan Livesay**, who have been dealing with several health challenges. Betty is in the health center, and Dan has returned to their assisted living apartment at Stoneridge Creek.

For **Charlotte & Janna Lusschen**, who lost their BFF (dog) Audrey, recently.

For **Charlie Smith**, who is currently in a nursing home near San Jose.

For the family of **Alliene Turner's** sister Colliene, whose youngest son Tyler died last month. Prayers for the entire family as they process the shock and sadness of his death.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Feb 21

10:00 — 10:45 am Worship | Online
 10:30 — 11:00 am Children's Storytime | Online
 11:00 — 12 noon Fellowship | Online
 5:00 — 6:30 pm Gen-Z Remote Re-Group | Online

Monday, Feb 22

1:00 — 2:00 pm Bible Study | Online
 4:00 — 7:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online
 7:00 — 8:30 pm Bible Study | Online

Tuesday, Feb 23

10:00 — 12:00 pm Eden Crafters | Online
 4:00 — 7:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online

Wednesday, Feb 24

10:30 — 11:30 pm Seekers Book Club | Online
 1:30 — 4:00 pm Comida Para Cherryland | OH Parking Lot
 1:30 — 4:00 pm Cherryland Computer Café | Online

Thursday, Feb 25

10:00 — 11:00 am Seekers 2 | Online
 6:00 — 8:00 pm Estudio Biblico | Online

Friday, Feb 26

3:00 — 4:00 pm Music Meeting | Online

Sunday, Feb 28

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



COMING ATTRACTIONS

<i>Feb 21</i>	<i>Gen-Z Remote Regroup</i>	<i>Mar 14</i>	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>
<i>Feb 22</i>	<i>Evening Bible Study</i>	<i>Mar 19</i>	<i>Lent — Relate (Mix It Up)</i>
<i>Mar 5</i>	<i>Lent — Reflect (Meditation)</i>	<i>Mar 26</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
<i>Mar 8</i>	<i>Evening Bible Study</i>	<i>Apr 1</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
<i>Mar 12</i>	<i>Lent — Relate & Reflect (Mix It Up & Meditation)</i>	<i>Apr 2</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>
<i>Mar 13</i>	<i>NCNC UCC Special Meeting</i>	<i>Apr 4</i>	<i>Easter & Easter Pageant</i>

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.



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 Vetrovec | 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
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