

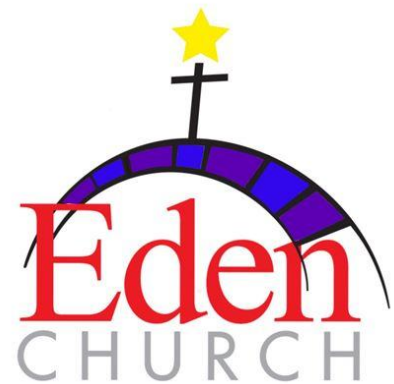
**WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS**

**Dec 5, 2021 | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)**

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.*



21455 Birch Street, Hayward  
Corner of Birch & Grove  
510.582.9533

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

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

**OPENING MUSIC | O Come O Ye Faithful | John Wade | Jessie Lo**

**WELCOME & UPDATE | Pastor Nadia Tavera**

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE | Michael Stuber**

**BIBLE READING | [Phillipians 1:3-11](#) | [[Español](#)] | Michael**

**MESSAGE | “Evoking the Best” | Pastor Arlene**

**HYMN | Away in A Manger | William J. Kirkpatrick | Verses 1 & 3**

**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.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM | Ring Christmas Bells | Ukrainian Carol, arr. M. Leontovich | Eden Church Choir | Susan MacDonald, Soloist**

**[ONLINE OFFERING](#) | Michael**

**OFFERTORY | Coventry Carol | Traditional Carol | Jessie Lo**

**BLESSING | Pastor Marvin**

**CLOSING MUSIC | The First Noel | 17th Century English Carol | Jessie Lo**

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

*Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister*

*Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister*

*Rev. Brenda Loreman, Video Editor*

*Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser, Designated Term Associate Minister*

*Nadia Tavera, Designated Term Assistant Minister*

*Ken Rawdon, Music Director*

*Michael Stuber, Liturgist*

*Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TODAY

**Communion:** *We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion today at 11 am during our Zoom Fellowship. Please join us as we share bread, wine, and the words of Christ with one another.*

**Advent Decorating:** *Due to growing concerns about COVID and Thanksgiving, we opted to forego our Advent Decorating Event in favor of smaller teams decorating over the first two weeks of Advent. If you are interested in joining a decorating team TODAY, Sunday, Dec 5 at 1 pm, contact [Pastor Pepper Swanson](#).*

**Helping Hands 2 Virtual Concert:** *TODAY, Sunday, Dec 5 at 3 pm, there will be a fundraiser to support wildfire victims in Northern California. We are all aware of the devastation that has been caused by the wildfires up north. Over 831,000 acres of land has been destroyed, including over 42,000 people being evacuated from their homes. Due to climate change and a two-year drought, the fires are worse and more intense this year. You can help in four ways:*

- *You can purchase tickets for the concert through [Eventbrite](#).*
- *If you can't attend the virtual concert, you can make a direct donation on the [NCNC website](#) and choose "Disaster Relief".*
- *If you would like to participate in the concert, please contact [Dick Hom](#)*
- *Please share this information with your church, your association, family, friends, neighbors, etc. The more who know, the more we can help those in need.*

## **UPCOMING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

**Open Houses:** Mark your calendars for two Open House events at Eden UCC: **Friday, Dec 10 from 2 to 4 pm and Friday, Dec 17 from 7 to 9 pm.**

- *Light Refreshments on our outdoor Plaza,*
- *Enjoy our beautiful Sanctuary decked out for Advent & Christmas,*
- *Explore a self-guided walk around the Sanctuary and Courtyard Labyrinth,*
- *Listen to world-class music performed by our organist and pianist, Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo,*
- *Write and share your personal messages of hope for 2022,*
- *Read about our community outreach and social justice work,*
- *Register for a free holiday drawing, and*
- *Meet and greet one or more of our pastors*

For information, contact [Pastor Pepper Swanson](#) (English) or [Pastor Nadia Tavera](#) (Spanish).

**Mexican Pastorela:** Everyone is invited to support Eden Church's Estudio Bíblico (Spanish Language Bible Study) as they perform a very special original production of a traditional Mexican Pastorela. The short play is written by Eden Church member Vicente Flores and will be included at the end of the Worship Video for next **Sunday, Dec 12**, the Third Sunday of Advent. It will be performed in the Spanish language.

**Christmas Pageant:** This year's Christmas pageant, "Merry Textmas and Other Christmas Messages" will be performed by Eden's Church School families and available Gen-Z Re-Group Youth during the Worship Video on **Sunday, Dec 19**. Please join us for a very modern, very special re-telling of the Christmas story!

**Happy Birthday, Jesus:** On Pageant Sunday **Dec 19**, we will also celebrate "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" While we won't be gathering for birthday cake, we will be collecting toys for distribution to our Comida families at the Tres Reyes Drive-Thru Celebration on Sunday, Jan 2. You can drop or ship toys to the Church or, if you prefer, you can make a financial donation for toy purchases via our [Eden Church Giving Portal](#). Simply use the drop down menu to select Happy Birthday, Jesus! (Comida toys).



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS — Ongoing Events**

**English Language Bible Study:** Our daytime group meets Mondays at 1 pm on Zoom and is beginning a study of the birth of Jesus narratives in Matthew and Luke. Our 7 pm group will continue their study of the *Paul Among the People* by Sarah Ruden on Monday, Dec 20.

**Children's Storytime:** Please join us online at 10:30 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.

**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](#).

**COVID-19 Testing** at 20095 Mission Blvd remains open. To make an appointment at this site, click [here](#).

**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:** Seekers resume on Dec 1 at 10:30 am. We started a new book on Wednesday, Nov 17. In **The Journey**, author Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look, Hamilton makes the Gospel stories more real and heart-felt.

**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 website's 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! Church Center now allows SMS text messaging, so we are transitioning from Textedly to Church Center (by Planning Center) for text messaging services to be utilized for urgent updates. No action is needed on your part other than to keep your mobile number and carrier updated in your Church Center profile section. Thanks for making sure we're always connected!

### **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](mailto: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**

**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.\** To inquire about meal delivery service in Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, or Oakland, call 510-582-1263. For food assistance in other areas of Alameda County-- or for any other senior services-- call the county's info line for Senior Information & Assistance at 1-800-510-2020 or 510-577-3530.

### **JOYS**

**Sheila Hardy** is recovering well from heart transplant surgery performed at Stanford on Sunday, May 30. She came home from the hospital on Jun 11, 2021, and celebrated her 68th birthday this past week.

**Eden Crafters' Holiday Auction** raised over \$600 for Comida para Cherryland. Thank you to everyone who purchased a handcrafted item and hugs and kisses to our Crafters who generously donated their time, talent, and craft supplies to the auction.

**Team EUCC** has, to date, helped **578+ Alameda County families** successfully obtain rent relief through the Alameda County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), including one of the families in our Accompaniment Ministry, who was profoundly affected by COVID-19, and whose landlord received \$11,000 in rent and utilities relief.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has approved a resolution to provide **\$65M in rent relief** for tenants who have been severely impacted economically by the pandemic.

We thank God for **Mel Lim's** 15 years of faithful service to Eden United Church of Christ, as Night Sexton for 13 years, and as a CICT Team Member for the past 2 years. Mel will be retiring on December 15, 2021. We wish him and his family all the best.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Countless families in our county are 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 **Afghan Refugees** who are moving into our community and country, and for the many thousands left behind who are living under the oppression of the Taliban.*

*For **the Aloo family**, who are grieving the death of Peter's brother, Marvin, and the news that his brother, Steve, has lung cancer. Peter flew back to Kenya last month to attend Marvin's funeral services and to be with family.*

*For the family and friends of **Kay Crosby**, who slipped away to Jesus in her sleep on Nov 23, 2021. Two small in-person memorial services are being planned: one at the UCC church in Klamuth Falls, OR, in the next week or so, and another at Eden Church in a few weeks.*

*Surviving loved ones of the nearly **5 million** who have succumbed to COVID-19.*

***Vicente Flores** who continues to receive chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer.*

*For the family and friends of **Lucy Norman Spencer**, Stephanie Spencer's mother, who died this past Monday in Arlington, VA, following a stroke and a brain hemorrhage that she experienced on Nov 24, 2021.*



## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, Dec 5 — Second Sunday of Advent

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

### Monday, Dec 6

1:00 — 2:00 pm      English Language Bible Study | Online

### Tuesday, Dec 7

10:00 — 12:00 pm      Eden Crafters | Online  
7:00 — 9:00 pm      Trustees Meeting

### Wednesday, Dec 8

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

### Friday, Dec 10

2:00 — 4:00 pm      Open House | Sanctuary

### Sunday, Dec 12 — Third Sunday of Advent

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



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

*Dec 8      Comida para Cherryland (Drive-Thru)*  
*Dec 10     Open House*  
*Dec 12     Third Sunday in Advent, Pastorela (Online)*  
*Dec 17     Open House*  
*Dec 19     Fourth Sunday in Advent - Pageant & Happy Birthday, Jesus (Online)*  
*Dec 22     Comida para Cherryland (Drive-Thru)*  
*Dec 24     Christmas Eve Services (On Campus)*  
*Dec 25     Christmas Day (Online Worship of Christmas Eve Service)*  
*Dec 26     First Sunday after Christmas (Online Worship & Zoom Fellowship)*  
*Jan 2      Tres Reyes Fiesta & Celebration (Online Worship & Zoom Communion)*

# 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.



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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

Jennifer Vetrovec | Moderator  
Carlos Londoño | Vice Moderator  
Rev. Rob 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](mailto:office@edenucc.com)  
Website: [www.edenucc.com](http://www.edenucc.com)