



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Dec 12, 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

THIRD 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 | Joy to the World | Jessie Lo

WELCOME & UPDATE | Rev. Pepper Swanson

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY | Rachel Rios-Richardson

BIBLE READING | Phillipians 4:4-7 | [\[Español\]](#) | Rachel

MESSAGE | “Joy In Jail” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

HYMN | O Come, All Ye Faithful | NCH No. 135 | Vs. 1, 2, 3

OUR PRAYERS | Joys & Concerns | Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser

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 | The Candles of Advent | Donald Besig

[ONLINE OFFERING](#) | Rachel



OFFERTORY | Angels We Have Heard On High | Traditional French Carol | Jessie Lo

BLESSING | Pastor Nadia Tavera

CLOSING MUSIC | In The Bleak Midwinter | Rossetti/Gustav Holst | Jessie Lo

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister
Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister & Video Editor
Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser, Designated Term Associate Minister
Nadia Tavera, Designated Term Assistant Minister
Ken Rawdon, Music Director
Rachel Rios-Richardson, Liturgist
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist

UPCOMING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Mexican Pastorela: Stay tuned following our Closing Music in today's video for Eden Church's Estudio Bíblico (Spanish Language Bible Study) as they perform a very special original production of a traditional Mexican Pastorela.

Open House: You are cordially invited to come enjoy our second Open House event on this **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).

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.

"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 **600+ 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 Klamath 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 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 Fellowship | Online

Monday, Dec 13

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

Tuesday, Dec 14

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

Wednesday, Dec 15

10:30 — 11:30 pm Seekers Book Club | Online

Friday, Dec 17

7:00 — 9:00 pm Open House | Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec 19 — Fourth Sunday of Advent (Happy Birthday, Jesus!)

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- 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 Worship & Drive-Thru Fiesta (Online Worship & 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
Website: www.edenucc.com