

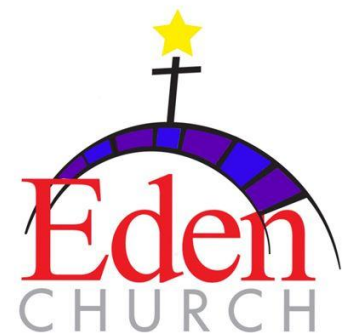


WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS
Dec 19, 2021 | ONLINE WORSHIP LINK

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

FOURTH 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 | Angels We Have Heard On High | Traditional French Carol | arranged by James Chadwick | Jessie Lo

WELCOME & UPDATE | Rev. Marvin Lance Wiser

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE | Mary, Liz, & Emma Graw

BIBLE READING | [Luke 2:1-20](#) | [\[Español\]](#) | Rev. Rob Parrish

PAGEANT | “Merry Textmas” | Church School Families & Gen-Z Youth

CHOIR ANTHEM: O Come Emmanuel / Deck the Hall | T. Helmore / T. Oliphant

OUR PRAYERS | Joys & Concerns | Pastor Nadia Tavera

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](#) | Rev. Rob Parrish

OFFERTORY | When a Child is Born | Dammicco | Jessie Lo

BLESSING | Pastor Arlene

CLOSING MUSIC | Feliz Navidad | Jose Feliciano | 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
Rev. Rob Parrish, Liturgist
Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist

UPCOMING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

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 TODAY. 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 Fiesta 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).*

Christmas Offering: *The Stewardship Committee invites you to contribute financially to our annual Christmas Offering, which benefits Eden Church's operating fund. Please read a [special letter](#) from Keith Smith, Chair of Stewardship and Jan Bass, our Associate Treasurer. Your special offering to Eden Church will support our Church's need for heating, cooling, security & fire protection, insurance, and cleaning as well as the many traditional ministries of Eden Church, including our weekly worship, music, Church School, and fellowship. This year, we will receive your Christmas offering via our online giving portal found [here](#) (use the drop down menu to select Christmas Offering) or by mail to the Church Office on the Fourth Sunday in Advent, Dec 19, on Christmas Eve, and on the First Sunday After Christmas Day, Dec 26.*

Outdoor Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship: *On Friday, Dec 24, we hope to celebrate a **Candlelight Christmas Eve** with Lessons, Carols, and a Homily at 5 pm and 7 pm on our Entrance Plaza, which is located at the corner of Birch and Grove Streets. Be sure to bundle up and bring your mask!*

Inclement weather or COVID concerns may necessitate a change in plans. If so, an all-church email and text message will be sent out, and provide instructions for joining in worship online.

Epiphany/Tres Reyes Magos Worship & Fiesta: *Pastor Nadia Tavera will lead our Tres Reyes Online Worship on **Sunday, Jan 2, 2022**. A bilingual Online Celebration of Holy Communion will follow at 11 am on Zoom with Rev. Dr. Arlene K Nehring presiding. Links to both the worship video and Communion service will be emailed to All Members and to our e-Chimes list the previous evening. At **12 noon**, there will be a Tres Reyes Drive-Thru Fiesta in the Oliver Hall Parking Lot. Traditional Mexican New Year's Food will be served, quarantine care kits, and toys will be distributed to families with children and gift cards will be given to unaccompanied minors.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS — Ongoing Events

English Language Bible Study: *Our daytime group meets Mondays at 1 pm on Zoom and is completing 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 center. 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 with Ms. Samantha via the [Facebook page](#).

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 **620+ 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 retired from Eden Church on Dec 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. He will return in the new year.

For the family and friends of **Kay Crosby**, who slipped away to Jesus on Nov 23, 2021. Two in-person memorial services will be held: one at the UCC church in Klamath Falls, OR, and another at Eden Church.

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.

Lucy Saraca, the mother of one of our families in the

*For the family and friends of **Lucy Norman Spencer**, Stephanie Spencer's mother, who died on Nov 29, 2021 in Arlington, VA, following a stroke and a brain hemorrhage experienced on Nov 24. Stephanie will be working remotely from her parents home until arrangements for her father's care are settled.*

*For the family of **Ginny Richardson**, Rachel Rios-Richardson's mother, who died at home on Dec 11, 2021, where she was receiving hospice care from her family.*

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Dec 19 — *Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

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

Monday, Dec 20

1:00 — 2:00 pm English Language Bible Study | Online
7:00 — 8:30 pm English Language Bible Study | Online

Tuesday, Dec 21

10:00 — 12:00 pm Eden Crafters | Online

Wednesday, Dec 22

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

Saturday, Dec 25 — Christmas Day

Sunday, Dec 26 — First Sunday After Christmas Day

10:00—10:45 am Worship | Online
11:00 — 12 noon Fellowship | Online



COMING ATTRACTIONS

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.



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

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