

## ***AFTER EPIPHANY***



### **WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS**

**Jan 29, 2023 | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)**

Eden United Church of Christ is an **LGBTQ 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.



# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

---

**OPENING MUSIC | Air in G | J.S. Bach | Jessie Lo**

**WELCOME | Rev. Pepper Swanson**

**OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Pepper**

**BIBLE READING | [1 Cor. 1:18-31](#) | [Español](#) | Athena Guy Malloy**

**SERMON | “Fools for Christ” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring**

**HYMN | Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult | NCH No. 172 v. 1-5**

**JOYS & CONCERNS | PASTORAL PRAYER | Pastor Marvin**

## **JESUS’ PRAYER**

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.

**[OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER](#) | Athena**

**OFFERTORY | Above All | Lenny Leblanc | Jessie Lo**

**BLESSING | Pastor Arlene**

**CLOSING SONG | Great Is The Lord | Michael Smith/Deborah Smith**

## **GO IN PEACE**

### **TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS**

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

*Rev. Pepper Swanson, Associate Minister*

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

*Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist, Organist*

*Ken Rawdon, Music Director*

*Charles Johnson & Suzie Hasselkuss, Church School Teachers*

*Athena Guy Malloy, Liturgist*



Susie Newman, Greeter-Ushers  
Russ Newman, Trustee on Duty

---

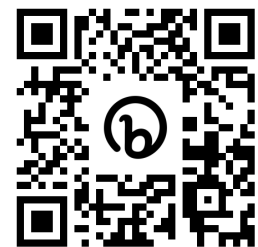
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Year-End Donor Statements:** Like last year, Eden Church has sent out year-end donor statements electronically. If the church office has your email address on file, then you have been sent **an email with a link to a secure website where you can download your 2022 donor statement. The link will expire on 2/2/23 at 10 am PST.** For those who do not have an email address on file, you will receive a printed 2022 donor statement in the mail by the end of the month. If you have any questions about this process or need assistance accessing your 2022 donor statement, please contact [Jan Bass](mailto:jan@sebastian9.com) (jan@sebastian9.com). She would be happy to assist you.

**Pastor Marvin's Clergy Renewal Grant Application:** Happy news! The Church Council approved Pastor Marvin's Clergy Renewal Plan for a three-month sabbatical for Summer 2024. In anticipation of the sabbatical, Eden Church and Pastor Marvin are preparing a joint application to the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program.

The Lilly Endowment's 2023 Clergy Renewal Program asks, "What will make your heart sing?" In answer to this question, Pastor Marvin's sabbatical plan centers on the theme **cultivar**, meaning to cultivate, to nourish and nurture in preparation for growth. His program focuses on regenerating, nurturing and growing connections between family and community through language, food, memory, travel, and togetherness.

The Church Council formed a Clergy Renewal Committee (CRC) to work closely with Pastor Marvin on the application. Carlos Londoño (Council) is serving as the Authorized Congregational Representative for the application. Other members of the CRC include Julie Booher (Trustees and Council), Keith Smith (Stewardship and ESLO), and Jessica Shimmin (Eden Area Foundation). The application is due Mar 15, 2023.



Part of the funding awarded by the Lilly Foundation's Clergy Renewal Program can be used to support the congregation in renewing our ministry. What activities do you think would renew and cultivate a sense of connection to each other, our communities, and our mission? Use this [Google form \(bit.ly/CRCrenewal\)](https://bit.ly/CRCrenewal) or the QR code above to share your ideas! Think about it, but don't wait too long! Responses are needed by **Feb 5**.

**Our Time to Shine! Window Replacement Campaign:** Last Oct, at the Semi-Annual Meeting, the Congregation unanimously approved the launch of a \$100,000 capital campaign to replace the 73-year old opaque windows in the Sanctuary. Thanks to the leadership we have already collected **\$71,700** in pledges and gifts. Additional pledges are needed to reach, and ideally exceed the goal, so that the process of ordering the custom built windows can begin as soon as possible. Pledge forms are included in

today's bulletin. Or click [here](#) to access a fillable pdf. Pledge forms are confidential and should be returned to [Jan Bass](#).

**Estate Planning:** Eden's Planned Giving Committee is pleased to provide **"Your Estate Planning Record"** to help you get started. We also encourage you to consider including Eden Church and the EAF in your estate plans. As always, be sure to consult your tax or financial planner to determine the best options for your particular financial situation and goals.

**Spring Fiesta Planning:** Are you interested in contributing your time and talent to help raise funds for the replacement of the opaque Sanctuary windows? Eden's Stewardship Committee and our Compañeras leaders are sponsoring a Spring Fiesta on **Saturday, Mar 18** and need volunteers to plan, organize, and work the festival. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Pastor Pepper](#) or [Pastor Marvin](#).

**Spring Fiesta Silent Auction:** One of the exciting features of the Spring Fiesta will be a silent auction of donated goods and services. We invite you to donate a good or service to the auction. For example, you can donate a service such as hosting a dinner or party, offering a vacation rental, baking a birthday cake, teaching a cooking class or making a special ethnic meal. You could also donate new items such as bottles of wine, handicrafts, gift certificates, new merchandise, sports tickets or gift basket items. If you have a service or item you would like to donate, complete the enclosed Donation Form or use our [google form](#). If you have questions, please contact [Pat Payne](#).

**Festival de Primavera:** ¿Está interesado en contribuir con su tiempo y talento para ayudar a recaudar fondos para el reemplazo de las ventanas del Santuario? El Comité de Administración de Edén y líderes de compañeras está patrocinando un Festival de Primavera **en sábado, el 18 de marzo** y necesita voluntarios para planificar, organizar y trabajar en el festival. Si está interesado en ser voluntario, comuníquese con [Pastor Pepper](#) o [Pastor Marvin](#).

**Subasta Silenciosa de la Fiesta de Primavera:** Una de las características emocionantes de la Fiesta de Primavera será una subasta silenciosa de bienes y servicios donados. Te invitamos a donar un bien o servicio a la subasta. Por ejemplo, puede donar un servicio como organizar una cena o fiesta, ofrecer un alquiler vacacional, hornear un pastel de cumpleaños, dar una clase de cocina o preparar una comida étnica especial. También puede donar artículos nuevos, como botellas de vino, artesanías, certificados de regalo, mercadería nueva, boletos para eventos deportivos o artículos de la canasta de regalos. Si tiene un servicio o artículo que le gustaría donar, complete el formulario de donación adjunto o use nuestro formulario de Google. Si tiene preguntas, comuníquese con [Pat Payne](#).

**Eden Church Choir Rehearsal each Sunday:** Come join us! 11:00 am in the Music Room.

**English Language Bible Study:** The Evening group meets every Monday at 8 pm. The Daytime group meets every Thursday at 10:30 am. A new series on the Genesis

story of Jacob and his wives and children and **The Red Tent** by Anita Diamant begins this week. Contact [Pastor Pepper](#) for more info.

**Estudio Biblico:** Our Bible Study in Spanish is held every Thursday at 6 pm. To join, send an email to [Pastor Marvin](#). We are exploring the book of Esther.

**Seekers Book Club:** The Seekers are reading **The Sentence** by Louise Erdrich, a novel set in Minneapolis during the time of COVID and George Floyd's murder. Join us every Wednesday at 10:30 am. Email [Pastor Pepper](#) for information.

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

**Sanctuary & Accompaniment Appeal:** Newcomers to the US face numerous challenges. Paramount among them is the challenge of finding affordable housing. If you know a landlord who is able to rent a room or an apartment at an affordable price, please speak with one of our pastors. If you are able to fund a night of lodging or subsidize rent for a family whose members are not yet eligible for a work permit, please use the QR code to make a digital gift, or deliver your offering to the church office. (Please reference the Sanctuary / Accompaniment Ministry in the online, drop-down menu, or the memo of your check.) If you are able to help with a fundraiser, please email [yuliana@edenucc.com](mailto:yuliana@edenucc.com). And pray without ceasing for the healing of the nations and a safe and sound home for every child of God.

**Comida para Cherryland:** Digital donations can be made online using [our giving portal](#). Please use the dropdown to select "Comida para Cherryland." Checks can be made payable to Eden United Church of Christ. Please be sure to note the donation is for "Comida para Cherryland" and mail to the Church's address, 21455 Birch Street, Hayward, CA 94541.

**Church Center:** Church Center is our centralized member and community tool for digital connection. It's available for download from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#). Register with your mobile number, and request to join the small groups. See Pastor Marvin for more details.

## JOYS

Our \$100,000 "Our Time to Shine!" Capital Campaign was unanimously approved last Oct. To date, **\$71,700** in pledges have been received.

The **Church School children and youth** raised over \$150 for the Let It Shine Campaign last Sunday at their pop-up cookie sale.

**George Day** is home from the hospital recovering from a cardiac procedure.

*Eden Church was awarded a **\$100,000 Capacity Building Grant** from Alameda County Housing and Community Development to help us strengthen core operations of the Church, so that we can sustain and continue to scale up our community service in the Eden Area. This grant includes funding to hire professional consultants (BDO FMA's SF Bay Area Office) to review and recommend updates to our governance documents and policies, and help us onboard an accountant and an operations manager to help us shoulder the workload. Our Church Council met yesterday morning to receive a report and act on recommendations from the Managing Director of BDO FMA.*

***Franklin Lopez**, an asylum-seeker from Colombia, for whom we raised funds for legal aid, just received notice that his I-589 has been lodged, and that he will be eligible for a temporary green card in April 2023. Many thanks to all who contributed prayers and funds!*

*Between Mar 16, 2021 and Dec 21, 2022, Eden UCC and Padres Unidos de Cherryland's ERAP Teams have processed 2,278 rent relief applications, which has resulted in the awarding of **\$22,725,316.34** in **rent relief** for **1,575** tenants and **1,575** landlords.*

### **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 Pat Payne's brother **George Clifford** who is undergoing chemotherapy.*

*For **Mel Lewis**, and his wife, **Lynn Albert-Lewis**. Mel is recovering from surgery and outpatient cancer treatments.*

*For **Charlotte Lusschen** who was transferred from Stanford Tri-Valley Care Hospital, to All Saints Subacute & Skilled Nursing Home in San Leandro on Jan 14, 2023.*

*Prayers, calls, and cards are also invited for her mother, **Janna Lusschen**, who is receiving respite care at Carlton Senior Living in San Leandro.*

*For **Charlie Smith**, who is at Windsor Gardens Care Center for rest and rehabilitation following a health event.*

*For **Allie & Bob Turner**. Allie had her third chemotherapy treatment this past Friday.*

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, Jan 29

9:00 — 9:45 am      Choir Rehearsal | Music Room  
10:00 — 10:45 am    Worship | Sanctuary & Online  
10:00 — 10:45 am    Church School | Courtyard  
10:45 — 11:00 am    Courtyard Conversations  
11:00 — 11:45 am    Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

### Monday, Jan 30

8:00 — 9:00 pm      Bible Study | Zoom

### Tuesday, Jan 31

10:00 — 10:45 am    Crafters | Online

### Wednesday, Feb 1

10:30 — 11:30 am    Seekers | Online

### Thursday, Feb 2

6:00 — 7:00 pm      Estudio Bíblico | Online

### Sunday, Feb 5

9:00 — 9:45 am      Choir Rehearsal | Music Room  
10:00 — 10:45 am    Worship | Sanctuary & Online  
10:00 — 10:45 am    Church School | Courtyard  
10:45 — 11:00 am    Courtyard Conversations  
11:00 — 11:45 am    Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Feb 7      Trustees Meeting | Zoom  
Feb 8      Comida para Cherryland (Grocery & Diaper Sharing)  
Feb 14     Church Council Meeting | Zoom  
Feb 22     Comida para Cherryland (Grocery & Diaper Sharing)  
            Ash Wednesday Service | Sanctuary | 7 pm  
Feb 26     First Sunday in Lent  
Mar 12     One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
Mar 18     Spring Fiesta | Fiesta de Primavera  
Apr 2      Palm Sunday  
Apr 6      Maundy Thursday  
Apr 7      Good Friday  
Apr 9      Easter, Holy Communion, & the World's Hardest Egg Hunt



# 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  
Corner of Birch & Grove  
(510) 582-9533

## 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. Robert Parrish | Treasurer  
Jan Bass | Associate Treasurer  
Jana Aloo | 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)