

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Sep 24, 2023 | 10 am

Watch Live on [Facebook](#) or [Vimeo](#)

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.

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

OPENING MUSIC | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | Lobe den Herren/Arr. John Carter | Jessie Lo

WELCOME | Rev. Brenda Loreman

OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Brenda

HYMN | Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise | NCH No. 1 | Verses 1-4

BIBLE READING | [Mathew 20:1-16](#)

SERMON | “It’s Not Fair!” | Pastor Brenda

HYMN | Come, O Fount of Every Blessing | NCH No. 459 | Verses 1-3

JOYS & CONCERNS | PASTORAL PRAYER | Pastor Brenda

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 |

OFFERTORY | Near to the Heart of God | McAfee/Arr. John Innes | Jessie Lo



BLESSING | Pastor Brenda

CLOSING SONG | How Deep God’s Love For Us | Stuart Townend/Arr. Mark Hayes | Jessie Lo

GO IN PEACE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser, Associate Minister

Rev. Brenda Loreman, Designated Term Associate Minister

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Pianist, Organist

Ken Rawdon, Music Director

Bob Turner, Liturgist

TBD, Greeter-Ushers

Russ Newman, Trustee on Duty

FLOWER DEDICATION

For more info and to sign up to bring flowers for a specific Sunday, click the [link](#) to go to our new Online Flower Calendar or call the Office at (510) 582-9533.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neighbors in Need: *The Neighbors in Need Offering, which we will receive on Oct 1, supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries, supporting historic UCC congregations on reservations in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska. Your generous contributions support these efforts across the nation and right here at home. See the [UCC NIN page](#) for more information. Give in person on Oct 1, or [give online at any time](#).*

Fourth-Grader Bibles: *It's a tradition at Eden UCC to give every child in our church family a Bible of their very own, usually at age ten/fourth grade. If you have a child in your family who's in fourth grade this year, or one who's older who didn't receive a Bible in the last couple of years, please reach out to [Pastor Brenda](#). Bibles will be given to children during worship on Oct 1.*

New General Minister and President: *On Monday, Oct 16, the [Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson](#), the newly-elected General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, will attend a meet & greet fellowship and lunch reception at [City of Refuge UCC in Oakland](#). Sponsored by the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries (PAAM) and the Northern California Nevada Conference, this is a rare opportunity to meet our denomination's national leader. Seating is limited, so sign up soon to attend. [RSVP by sending an email](#) by Sep 30.*

Texts and Contexts: Our English Language Bible Study began a new format and series on Sep 7. Whether you are just starting your Christian journey or ready to dive deeper, this is a Bible study for you. Our first theme is the Bible & Migration. The group meets on Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room and via Zoom. Find us in [Groups](#) in Church Center and contact [Pastor Marvin](#) for more information.

Estudio Bíblico: Our Bible Study in Spanish is held every Thursday at 6:00 pm, in the Fireside Room and via Zoom. This group is also exploring the Bible & Migration along with the English-language Bible study. To join, send an email to [Pastor Marvin](#).

Choir Rehearsals & Performances: Choir rehearsals have recommenced on Sundays at 11:00 am, in the Music Room, and the Eden Choir will be singing in worship two Sundays a month throughout the program year. For more information, [connect with our Music Director](#), Ken Rawdon.

Please Wear Your Name Tag: Wearing a name tag is a good way to offer welcome and hospitality to new and returning worshippers. Many of the name tags of regular worshippers are hanging on the net at the entrance of the sanctuary; if yours is missing, or you never had one in the first place, send an email to our office manager, marianne@edenucc.com, and request a replacement.

Eden Crafters: The Crafters are meeting at a new time: 9:30 am every Tuesday. Check us out in [Groups](#) on Church Center or contact [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

Seekers Book Club: The Seekers are continuing a discussion of the novel *Trust* by Hernan Diaz. Find us in [Groups](#) in Church Center, or contact [Pastor Brenda](#) for more information.

Sanctuary & Accompaniment Appeal: Newcomers to the US face many challenges, especially 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 a pastor. 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, email yuliana@edenucc.com.

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.

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.

Our Time to Shine! Window Replacement Campaign: Thanks to everyone's support we have now collected **over \$111,535** in pledges and gifts. If you haven't begun your pledge payments yet, we ask that you begin payment now, according to the preferences you indicated on your pledge form. The contractor for the work has been awarded to Best Construction of Sacramento. The windows have been ordered. Delivery and installation is planned for late summer. Pledge payments and new contributions can be made online using the dropdown menu on the church website, or by sending a check to the church, Attn: Jan Bass, made payable to Eden UCC. Haven't pledged yet but would like to contribute to the window campaign? Click [here](#) to access a fillable pdf windows pledge form. Pledge forms are confidential and should be returned to [Jan Bass](#).

JOYS

We have a new baby in the congregation, **Annette Lorraine!** Annette was born into the **Tucker Figueroa family**, Aug 31, 2023.

Suzie Hasselkuss is on the mend!

Happy Birthday to **Pastor Carolyn Candys** on her 70th birthday, August 27, and to our sister church, **Refuge Center Baptist Church**, on the 35th anniversary of their founding and 35 years of partnership in ministry on the Eden Church campus.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For the **Bulette & Allen families**.

For the **DerMinasian Day family**, who are experiencing several health challenges.

For **Kay**, Margret Felix's stepdaughter, who is on a healing journey from cancer.

*For **Pastor Arlene's mother, Judith**, who was transferred from a local hospital near her home to a skilled nursing and rehab center related to her retirement community. She has begun a two week regime of PT and OT. Pastor Arlene will be visiting her for the next two weeks, working part-time remotely, and supporting her transition into a more robust level of care.*

*For **the elder Spencers and their caregivers**, as they grapple with several life changing health episodes, and transition into higher levels of care.*

*For **Allie & Bob Turner**, as Allie recovers from surgery.*

*For extended family members of **Keith Smith**, one who is facing pacemaker surgery and some who are grieving the death of parents.*

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Sep 24

10:00 — 10:45 am

Worship | Sanctuary & Online

10:45 — 11:45 am

Fellowship | Courtyard

11:00 — 11:45 am

Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

Tuesday, Sep 26

9:30 — 10:55 am

Eden Crafters | Online

Wednesday, Sep 27

10:00 am — 12:00 noon

Seekers | Online

1:30 — 4:30 pm

Comida para Cherryland

Thursday, Sep 28

6:00 — 7:15 pm

Estudio Biblico | Fireside & Online

7:30 — 8:30 pm

English Language Bible Study | Fireside & Online

Sunday, Oct 1

10:00 — 10:45 am

Worship & Holy Communion | Sanctuary & Online

10:00 — 10:45 am

Church School | Courtyard & Fireside

10:45 — 11:45 am

Fellowship | Courtyard & Fireside

11:00 — 11:45 am

Choir Rehearsal | Music Room

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Sep 27 *Comida para Cherryland*
- Oct 01 Sunday Worship & Holy Communion, Fellowship, & Choir Rehearsal
- Oct 3 Trustees Meeting
- Oct 08 Sunday Worship, Church School, Fellowship, & Choir Rehearsal
- Oct 10 Council Meeting
- Oct 11 *Comida para Cherryland*
- Oct 15 Sunday Worship, Church School, Fellowship, & Choir Rehearsal
- Oct 22 Sunday Worship, Church School, Fellowship, & Choir Rehearsal
- Oct 25 *Comida para Cherryland*
- Oct 29 Sunday Worship, Church School, Fellowship, & Choir Rehearsal

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

Carlos Londoño | Moderator
Jana Aloo | Vice Moderator
Rev. Robert Parrish | Treasurer
Jan Bass | Associate Treasurer
Melissa Josue | Clerk

OFFICE HOURS

Monday -- Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm
(After hours, please call for appointment)
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