

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS

Oct 8, 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.

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST | [ONLINE WORSHIP LINK](#)

OPENING MUSIC | “Now Thank We All Our God” (Nun Danket Alle Gott) | Johann Crüger | Jessie Wenchieh Lo

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP | “The Lord Is in the Holy Temple” | Floice R. Lund | Eden Church Choir & Friends

WELCOME | Rev. Dr. Marvin Lance Wiser

OPENING PRAYER | Pastor Marvin

HYMN | “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” | NCH No. 290 | All Verses

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM | Rheina-Diem Semanero Vo and family

HYMN | “At the Font We Start Our Journey” | NCH No. 308 | Verses 1-4

BIBLE READING | [Philippians 3:4b-14](#) | [Español](#) | Michael Foster

SERMON | “Pressing on Toward the Prize” | Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

CHOIR ANTHEM | “Shut De Do” | Traditional Spiritual, arr. Randy Stonehill | Eden Church Choir and Friends | Marlon Grijalva, Soloist

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 | Michael

OFFERTORY | “You Are My All In All” | Dennis Jernigan | Jessie Wenchieh Lo



BLESSING | Pastor Arlene

CHORAL BENEDICTION | “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” | Peter Lutkin| Eden Church Choir & Friends

CLOSING SONG | All Hail The Power of Jesus’s Name | Oliver Holden | Jessie Wenchieh 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

Mike Foster, Liturgist

Edith Sanchez, Greeter-Usher

Bob Turner, Trustee on Duty

FLOWER DEDICATION

The flowers on the communion table are given by Stephannie Spencer, celebrating 35 years of friendship, 31 years of commitment and life partnership, and 15 years of legal marriage with Arlene. Every year is a new blessing!

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*We are pleased to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with **Rheina-Diem Semanero Vo** and her parents, Ellen and Jimmy, and brothers Brayden-Tiem (6) and Khaison-Tam (2). The Vo family currently resides in San Diego. They plan to return to the Eden area after Jimmy completes his current tour of duty with the US Navy. The congregation is invited to join in the family’s celebration this afternoon, 304 Blossom Way, beginning at 2 pm.*

Baptism is an outward and visible sign of God’s inward and invisible grace, and an important way we welcome children and adults into our congregation and the

Christian faith. Please speak with one of the pastors if you or a loved one desires to receive this sacrament.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EUCC Lilly Endowment Recipient: *Friends, it is a great pleasure to announce that Eden UCC was awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment's National Clergy Renewal Program in partnership with Christian Theological Seminary. This grant will support Pastor Marvin and our congregation in a three-month process of cultivating joy through cultural expressions that include art, food, coffee, and language.*

Selection as a National Clergy Renewal Program award recipient is the result of months of hard work. Over the winter, Pastor Marvin and Moderator Carlos Londoño wrote and revised multiple application drafts, with input from Church Council and the Clergy Renewal Committee that included Julie Booher (Trustee and Council), Keith Smith (ESLO & Stewardship), and Jessica Shimmin (Eden Area Foundation Grants Chair). In February, the congregation offered suggestions through a survey. And in March, the Church Council approved and submitted the final application.

Congratulations to all of us! The grant will support Pastor Marvin and his family in renewing connections between family and community through language, food, memory, travel, and togetherness during the summer of 2024.

The award will also support Eden Church in nurturing and expanding our bi-cultural ministries. Keep an eye on the bulletin for more information about activities for the congregation! For more information contact Moderator Carlos Londoño or Pastor Marvin.

Neighbors in Need: *If you were unable to contribute to the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need offering, which we received last Sunday, donations are still being gratefully received for another week or two. [Click here to donate](#) to this important ministry of the UCC.*

Día de los Muertos Ofrenda: *This week, we'll be creating our ofrenda in the niche near the main office as we remember loved ones who have gone to God during Día de los Muertos and All Saints Day. Everyone is welcome to bring a photo or image of loved ones and/or flowers or other remembrances to add to the altar, beginning **next Sunday, Oct 15**. The ofrenda will remain up through mid-November.*

It's Raining Babies: We are welcoming three babies into the Eden family this fall, and we want to celebrate! Our first celebration is being held today during morning worship with the baptism of Rheina-Diem Semanero Vo (see the baptism announcement above). Next up is a baby sprinkle for the Zaragoza-Contreras family after worship on **Sunday, Oct 22**, in the Fireside Room/Courtyard. If you'd like to offer the family a gift, a pack of diapers or gift cards to Target are welcome, or you may contribute to a group gift. If you can help with finger foods for the celebration, please reach out to [Pat Payne](#); to contribute to a group gift, contact [Pastor Brenda](#).

Watch this space for details about our next baby sprinkle for the Tucker Figueroa family, which will happen after worship on **Sunday, Nov 19**.

Save the Date: As they have for the past few years, the Eden Crafters will be hosting an online auction of beautiful, lovingly handmade items for sale, just in time for holiday giving. An in-person pre-sale will be held after worship during coffee hour on **Oct 29**; the online auction commences **Nov 1** and runs through **Nov 16**. Plan to shop often and bid generously, as all sales will help fund diapers and wipes for distribution at [Comida para Cherryland](#). If you are a crafter and would like to donate handmade items for the auction, please [reach out to Pastor Brenda](#).

It's Time to Get "Boo-sted": The CDC, CDPH, and ACPHD recommend that all persons 6 months and older receive the newly updated COVID-19 vaccine, just authorized last month. This new monovalent vaccine targets the more recent dominant circulating strains of Omicron, and will help boost our immunity that attenuates with time. If it has been more than two months since you received the previous (last year's bivalent or any previous) COVID-19 vaccine, you are eligible now. Contact your primary care provider for questions and appointments or contact our own vaccine navigation hotline numbers: (510) 214-2855 (English) or (510) 214-2256 (Español).

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 meet at 9:30 am every Tuesday, and are currently working on making items for and planning the details of their annual fall auction. 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 was awarded to Best Construction of Sacramento. The windows have been manufactured, and are ready for delivery and installation as soon as we receive our permit from AC Public Works. 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.

We are delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with **Rheina-Diem Semanero Vo** and her parents, Ellen and Jimmy, and brothers Brayden-Tiem and Khaison-Tam.

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 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's, one who is having surgery and some who are grieving the death of parents.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, Oct 8

10:00 — 10:45 am Worship & Sacrament of Baptism | 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

Tuesday, Oct 10

9:30 — 10:55 am Eden Crafters | Online
7:00 — 9:00 pm Council Meeting | Online

Wednesday, Oct 11

10:00 am — 12:00 noon Seekers | Online
1:30 — 4:00 pm *Comida para Cherryland*
4:00 pm Set-up of the *Día de los Muertos ofrenda*

Thursday, Oct 12

6:00 — 7:15 pm Estudio Biblico | Fireside & Online
7:30 — 8:30 pm English Language Bible Study | Fireside & Online

Sunday, Oct 15

10:00 — 10:45 am Worship | 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

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 & Baby Sprinkle, & Choir Rehearsal
Oct 25 *Comida para Cherryland*
Oct 29 Sunday Worship, Church School & Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, Fellowship, & Choir Rehearsal
Nov 5 Sunday Worship & Holy Communion, 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)
Phone: 510-582-9533
Fax: 510-200-9635
Email: office@edenucc.com
Website: www.edenucc.com