

New Church in Bay Area Prepares for February Launch

Hue Church, located in Santa Clara, is preparing for its February 26th opening. The church's pastors and volunteers have been hosting events since 2022.

Hue Church, which stands for "Heaven Upon Earth", began as a small group after the father of a friend to pastor and co-founder Samuel D. Perli suddenly passed away. To help his friend process his grief, he, Perli, and their friends decided to meet every week to talk, hoping to create a small community that could make sense of life together, according to Perli.

After moving to the Bay Area, Perli decided to start group gatherings there. However, it was three years after that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Perli and co-pastor Immanuel Paul Perli decided to form Hue Church.

Hue Church has had booths at local art and wine festivals and has hosted a variety of free events open to the public including a pumpkin painting party, Thanksgiving party, and Fourth of July barbeque.

Sunnyvale Mayor Larry Klein thanked the church for giving back to the community and providing an event free of charge during the Fourth of July barbeque, according to Perli.

"You would go and would pay \$20 or something and get a fourth of July meal and maybe watch the fireworks." Perli said. "But we just did that for free. We just helped everybody and I think that's why the mayor really liked that."

In addition to hosting community-based events, Hue Church offers volunteer opportunities to encourage individuals to give back to their community.

The church relies on volunteers to make their events a reality. Volunteers arrive to church hosted events early to set up stage equipment, seats, and snacks.

"All of that setup takes four hours with a volunteer basis of 10-15 people," volunteer Aaron Chacko said.

Volunteers also directly help the church with its final premier event and upcoming launch.

"We try to make sure all of [our technology] is working perfectly and we want to make sure that it's good before the last premier service and the launch," stated Chacko.

Though Perli said he hopes that attending community members will eventually turn to Christianity, the church doesn't exclude non-Christians from taking part in events.

“We welcome people and we’re not going to send people away because they come from a particular background or a particular religion. We create an environment that is safe and welcoming for everybody,” Perli said.

Perli added that he believes finding “peace and joy and friendships” is especially important in the Bay Area’s “fast paced” environment.

After its launch, Hue Church hopes to hold larger public events and start free youth-focused classes.

Supporting facts outline:

- Talk about church events in the past
 - Give the example of how the sunnyvale's mayor 4th of july event (i think; check transcription for which city's mayor and what event) complimented the event
 - Include sam's quote about how he noticed how so many 4th of july events weren't free and how he wants to just make free events
 - Also maybe include sam's quote (check context tho) about how even though they get donations, he's willing to pay from his own pocket to cover the cost of the church
 - Say something about aaron's experience prepping before events
 - TRANSITION:
 - Talk about how the events are used to promo the church but also to emphasize community (abt community: i know sam said something about this because i asked him, but find exactly what he said!!!)
- Elaborate about the community based aspect
 - Though Perli hopes that attending community members will eventually turn to Christianity, he doesn't exclude non-Christians from taking part in events. "We welcome people and we're not going to send people away because they come from a particular background or a particular religion," Perli said.
 - Include aaron's quote about how he thinks that people in the bay area are so caught up with work and need community/volunteering (i'm pretty sure it was community and not volunteering but check!!!)
 - REREAD TRANSCRIPT!! Find another different community thing (if there is one)
 - "We want to be right where the communities [are], where people are at" - sam perli
- Don't know where exactly to place this, but talk about why the church was founded
 - Sam's personal experience, probably include a quote