

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 31, 2023

3803 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694
office@allendaleumc.org

www.allendaleumc.org

WELCOME

Allendale United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation. We affirm the sacred worth of all people and strive to practice Christ's example of unconditional love without exclusion. All are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministries of this congregation. Whatever your race, ethnicity, economic situation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, background or belief, age or condition of ableness, whether single or partnered, you are God's beloved and are welcome here. God calls us to acts of love, grace, and advocacy to promote healing and reconciliation. We are building a new Allendale: a place without barriers, a sanctuary for all.

Office Hours: *Mon/Tue/Thu 9-5, Wed/Fri 9-12*

We are honored that you chose to worship with us today! To learn more about the life of the church, if you have a special need, or you wish to visit with the pastor, please contact the office at (727) 527-6694 or office@allendaleumc.org.

Gender Pronouns: Asking and correctly using someone's preferred pronoun is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their gender identity. When someone is referred to with the wrong pronoun, it can do harm.

Childcare/Nursery: Located in the courtyard, the first room to the right as you leave the sanctuary building. Children are welcomed and encouraged to stay in worship, even if they are noisy! The nursery is available beginning at 10 AM for children younger than kindergarten.

Children's activity sheets and fidget bags are available in the narthex.

Changing table is available in the Nursery.

Unisex/family restrooms are in the office hallway, accessible from the narthex, to the left as you exit the sanctuary.

The balcony is open for those wishing to have more social distancing.

Holy Communion is typically celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Zoom links for Allendale's virtual events can be found at www.allendaleumc.org/online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat Jan 6 Tai Chi Open House (Community Center) 10:30 AM
- Sun Jan 14 Black History Teach-In (Community Center) 9 AM
- Sun Jan 14 New Member Sunday (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
Sign-up at www.allendaleumc.org/join
- Fri Jan 19 Gwendolyn Reese & Dr. Deborah G. Plant Book Event (Sanctuary) 7 PM
Discussing "Of Greed and Glory: In Pursuit of Freedom for All"
- Jan 26-28 SingFest 2024- a festival for those who identify as women (Allendale)
Learn more at www.singfestfl.com
- Sat Feb 4 Woodson Warrior Fundraiser Gala (535 4th Ave N) 3-6 PM
featuring guest speaker Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative

Get more information about our upcoming events by visiting: www.allendaleumc.org/events

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

HILLARY DALEY (she/her/hers) originally came from Baltimore, MD, and relocated to St. Petersburg with her wife and their pug in 2020. Since then, Hillary and her partner have become homeowners, adopted a second dog, and grown in their faith. Allendale and it's members have helped Hillary establish a community that embraces her intersectionality.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

piano - Tru Mizzell

vocals - Erica George

drums - Bianca Goolsby

organ - Frieda Love

Contact tru@allendaleumc.org to join our band or choir.

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:

Sun Jan 14 at 10:30 AM

Sign-up at: www.allendaleumc.org/join

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OF GREED AND GLORY:

Tombolo Books in partnership with the African American Heritage Association and Allendale UMC are honored to present a conversation with scholar, writer, and literary critic Dr. Deborah G. Plant and Gwendolyn Reese, President of the African American Heritage Association. The two will discuss Plant's latest monograph, *Of Greed and Glory: In Pursuit of Freedom for All*. Fri Jan 19 at 7 PM at Allendale UMC. *Get free tickets at: www.allendaleumc.org/greed-glory*

BLACK HISTORY TEACH-IN:

On Sun Jan 14 at 9 AM there will be a special teach-in in the Community Center with Geveryl Robinson in collaboration with Faith in Florida. You won't want to miss this important discussion!

SINGFEST 2024:

SingFest is a festival for women Jan 26-28. This event features singing, drumming, dancing, poetry and other creative workshops and keynotes. Come gather with joyful spirit sisters as we celebrate the Sacred Feminine. *This festival is happening at Allendale. Learn more and register: www.singfestfl.com*

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

Donna Baxla: lung cancer treatments

Dan Leeper: cancer treatments

Karen Welling: health issues

Eunice Fisher: health issues

Joe Jacoby: cancer treatments

BIRTHDAYS:

Jacqueline Reyes	Jan 1
Justin Miller	Jan 10
Lynn Fruit	Jan 12
Matt Blaine	Jan 14
Nova Redlow	Jan 17
Edward Miller	Jan 18
Tom Dunn	Jan 22
John Stewart	Jan 22
DeDe Trapp	Jan 22

Birthday missing? Please contact the office

CARE AND SUPPORT:

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support

Office hours Tue 11-2 | Thu 4-7

make an appointment for care by calling the church office at 727-527-6694

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

available at Allendale's Counseling Center

Visit www.allendaleumc.org/counseling

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 68 in-person, 236 online

Livestream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

Longest Night: 35 in-person, 123 online

Children's Pageant: 37 in-person, 84 online

Christmas Eve: 148 in-person, 201 online

GIFTS

Give online: www.allendaleumc.org/give

Text-to-give: Text amount to 727-312-0808

WITNESS

DRAG GOSPEL WORSHIP:

In an era marked by divisive rhetoric, discriminatory laws, and harmful policies that target our LGBTQ+ family, migrants, reproductive rights, and communities of color, we find it not only necessary but imperative to respond with love, acceptance, and affirmation.

We hope Allendale can be a place of healing and celebration for all, particularly those who have been marginalized and oppressed. To this end, we are joyful for 5th Sunday Drag Gospel Worship Services.

We want to extend a heartfelt invitation to those who have felt the sting of exclusion and rejection, especially those from the LGBTQ+ community who have been wounded by the church in the past. We understand the courage it takes to step back into a space that has caused harm.

Know this - many of us also bear scars.

We are you, we stand with you.

Allendale offers a sanctuary where it's okay to question, to doubt, to explore your faith, or show up with no faith at all. This is a safe space to heal, discover, grow, commune, recover, eat, laugh, and simply be yourself. We are committed to walking alongside you on this journey, wherever it may lead.

Jesus located himself among the marginalized, stood in solidarity with the oppressed, and loved without conditions or exceptions. He invited everyone to the table, and so do we.

No matter where you've been, no matter where you're going, know that there is a place for you here.

This Drag Gospel Worship Service is more than a worship service; it's a time to heal, a testament to our commitment toward radical love and inclusion, and a vibrant celebration of diversity!



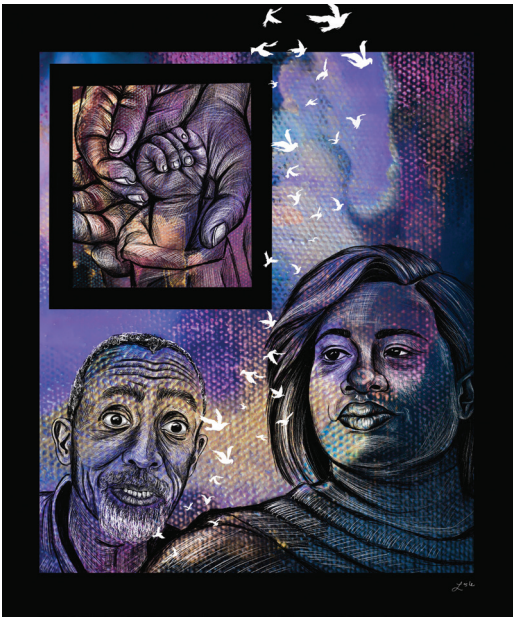
Give Online now by scanning this code with your phone's camera

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

How does a weary world rejoice?
We root ourselves in ritual

Let us know you are here by going to www.allendaleumc.org/here or by filling out the attendance pad in your row.

PRELUDE	Frieda Love
<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i> Smith	
WELCOME	Rev. Andy Oliver
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SONG	Allendale Band
<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlekin</i> Reagan	
CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	Hillary Daley
SONG	Allendale Band
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS	Rev. David Franks
TIME WITH CHILDREN	Theresa Frost
OFFERING	Allendale Band
<i>give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give</i>	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Rev. David Franks
<i>Lord's Prayer</i> Miller	
POEM	Amy Bordeaux
<i>Muscle Memory</i> by Rev. Sarah Speed sanctifiedart.org	
SONG	Allendale Band
<i>Oh Weary Soul Return</i> Strickland	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE	Hillary Daley
<i>Luke 2:21-38</i>	
SERMON	Rev. Lois Lehman
SONG	Allendale Band
<i>Go Tell It On The Mountain</i> Parton	
CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY	Theresa Frost
BENEDICTION	Hillary Daley
POSTLUDE	Frieda Love
<i>Praise to the God of our Salvation</i> Hughes	



"Revelation" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

LUKE 1:67-80

In this image, Simeon bestows his blessing and prophecy with the urgency of a man desperate to say everything that needs to be said before his time runs out. Anna looks off into the distance, as if peering into the future. Her devotion to God over the years has sharpened her gaze; she knows redemption when she sees it.

I depicted Jesus' hand being cradled by the hands of his parents. This tender moment is frozen in time, like a Polaroid photograph placed in a scrapbook. Mary and Joseph treasure their child as they receive the fullness of his calling. I imagine them memorizing each wrinkle and tiny fingernail, treasuring the smallness of a hand that will one day become a strong fist, fighting for justice for the oppressed and liberation for those held captive.

*"HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE"
Theme, Liturgy, and Images from The Sanctified Art*

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor | andy@allendaleumc.org

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support | david@allendaleumc.org

Clarissa Silveira, Church Administrator | clarissa@allendaleumc.org

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | tru@allendaleumc.org

Theresa Frost, Director of Student Ministries | theresa@allendaleumc.org

Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | cameron@allendaleumc.org

Dylan Dames, Music and Organizing Associate | dylan@allendaleumc.org

Aaron Bennett, Maintenance | aaron@allendaleumc.org

Bill Lee | Organist

Maria Davidson | Nursery Coordinator

Madison Redington, Erin Giblin,

Courtney Ross | Nursery Attendants

Dr. Kate Pravera | Theologian in Residence

All of us in the Congregation | Ministers of the Gospel

THIS WEEK

Sun Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5 PM Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)

Mon Jan 1 - New Year's Day

6:30 PM AA Common Peril (Bill W.)

8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin & Tubman)

Tue Jan 2

12:30 PM AA Just the Black Lines (Tubman)

6 PM Social Justice Team (Wesley)

Wed Jan 3

7:30 PM AA Unity Group (Teresa)

8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin)

Thu Jan 4

9 AM Chit Chat (Zoom)

6:30 PM Suncoast Gay Square Dancing (CC)

7 PM AA Home Group (Bill W.)

Fri Jan 5

7:30 PM AA Common Peril (Bill W.)

8 PM AA Go After Your Sobriety (Rustin)

Sat Jan 6

9:30 AM AA Women's Reflection (Bill W.)

10:30 AM Tai Chi Open House (CC)

Sun Jan 7

9 AM Book Study Group (CC)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5 PM Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)

5:30 PM Youth Group (Wesley, Kitchen, Youth)

ONGOING CLASSES

Book Study Group - Sun at 9 AM

Grief Support Group - Sun 1/14 at 9 AM

This class meets every other Sunday

Scripture Class on Zoom - Mon at 6 PM

Join via Zoom: www.allendaleumc.org/online

Wednesday Night Classes - Wed at 6 PM

Returning on January 10, 2024