

APRIL 27, 2025

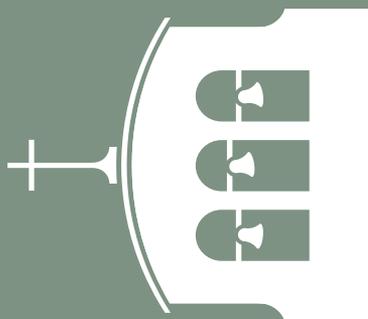
3803 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694
office@allendaleumc.org

www.allendaleumc.org

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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 ability, 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-Wed 9-4, Thu 10-4

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

Tue May 6 Committe Meetings (Hybrid Room) Staff Parish 6 PM | Trustees 7 PM

Thu May 8 Committe Meetings (Hybrid Room) Finance 6 PM | Church Council 7 PM

Tue May 13 Social Justice Team Meeting (Community Center) 6 PM

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

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

ERICA GEORGE (she/they is a Georgia native, but has lived in St Pete most of her life. She holds a Master of Social Work and currently works as a medical Social Worker in a hospital. She loves spoiling her cats, Cooper and Willow, Sunday brunches, taking her dog, Kira, to get treats at Three Dogs Bakery, and trying all kinds of coffee shops with her wife, Michaela. They serve Allendale as Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and sometimes you can also spot them singing or playing guitar on the Worship Band.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

piano - Tru Mizzell

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

drums - Curtis Roberts

Join our band or choir: tru@allendaleumc.org

TODAY'S DRAG ARTISTS:

Veronica Foxx

Imani Valentino

Phaedra E Rose

UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

Join us again next Sunday, May 4, for guest preacher Dr. Kate Pravera. The Sunday after that, on Sunday, May 11, we will have Rob Lorei former host of WEDU's *Florida This Week* and co-founder of WMNF.

UPCOMING WEDNESDAYS:

On Wednesday, April 30, anti-death penalty advocate Maria DeLiberato will lead a discussion. Then, a book study on *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder will follow on Wednesdays, May 7-21. Finally, Wednesday night dinners and classes will then pause for a summer break, resuming August 6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEDNESDAY NIGHT:

Maria DeLiberato, Executive Director of Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (FADP), will speak at Allendale on Wednesday, April 30 at 6 PM, following dinner at 5 PM. A capital litigation attorney for 16 years, Maria will discuss Florida's expanding use of the death penalty, upcoming executions, and ways to stay engaged in the fight for justice.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY VIGIL:

Join Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (FADP) and others in opposing the scheduled execution of Gulf War veteran Jeffrey "Ranger" Hutchinson on Thursday, May 1. A vigil will be held from 5-6 PM at the northwest corner of Ulmerton Road and 49th Street North in mid-Pinellas County. Signs will be provided. Visit fadp.org for more information and to sign a petition.

"STAND FOR DEMOCRACY" MONDAYS:

Join us every Monday from 5:00-6:00 PM at the southeast corner of 34th Street and 22nd Ave. N. Park in the Winn-Dixie parking lot. Signs will be provided, but feel free to bring your own! For more details see John Stewart or get his contact info via the church office 727-527-6694.

RUSH HOUR #RESISTANCE:

Join the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area and allied organizations on May 1 for "Rush Hour #Resistance," a visibility event held on selected I-275 overpasses in St. Petersburg. In solidarity with national May Day events, participants will advocate for justice, democracy, and the protection of constitutional rights. For details and registration, visit www.allendaleumc.org/rushhour.

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

BIRTHDAYS:

Christopher Munette	Apr 27
Roger Butterfield	May 2
Henry Brown	May 12
Tom Jackson	May 16
Raegan Miller	May 22
Jeff Ishman	May 24
Chris Marks	May 28
Evan Oliver	May 29

Birthdays 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: 174 in-person, 1,662 online

Live stream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:

Sun May 11 at 10:30 AM

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

GRADUATION SUNDAY:

Graduation Sunday is May 25. If you or a loved one is graduating, please contact the church office at office@allendaleumc.org.

Graduates are invited to wear their cap and gown to worship that morning as we celebrate this milestone together.

GIFTS

Give online: www.allendaleumc.org/give

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

Buy a shirt: www.allendaleumc.org/shirts



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

WITNESS

CANDLE OF PEACE, HOPE, AND JUSTICE:

In a spirit of solidarity, more than 50 Justice-Seeking congregations around the country are lighting a candle of Peace, Hope and Justice. This candle represents Christ's light shining even in the midst of barbed wire policies that wrap tighter each day.

This morning we light the Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice— for those needing an invitation.

And if you're listening in—not because you planned to, but because an algorithm dragged you here— I want you to know this light is for you, too. Perhaps somewhere along the way, you were taught to fear people like us.

Taught that love had limits, that justice was a zero-sum game, that empathy was weakness.

Maybe you heard words like “deplorable,” and they landed like stones. Maybe those stones hardened your heart, made you dig in deeper, until it felt safer to dehumanize others than to admit the world had gotten too complicated.

And yet... maybe something inside you is stirring— a quiet ache, a recognition that in losing sight of others' humanity, you've lost hold of your own. The algorithms thrive on fear. They don't want you to hear this. They want us to keep hating each other. Some talk about taking a break from the algorithms, but what if we shattered them instead?

Jesus had this habit— of walking right up to people who thought it was too late to change.

Zacchaeus. The woman at the well. The thief on the cross.

Over and over, he made it clear: it's never too late to come home. But let's be honest— leaving behind a community, even one built on fear and falsehood, is hard. Especially when you've spent so long believing people like us were the enemy. And when maybe, just maybe, we've treated you like one too.

As Paulo Freire taught, dehumanization is not only suffered by the oppressed— it is also a distortion of the humanity of the oppressor. True liberation restores humanity to us all.

bell hooks taught us that the systems that wound the marginalized also imprison the powerful— and that love is the act that sets us all free.

Desmond Tutu reminded us that “we can only be human together.” Liberation is never one-sided— it is the restoration of our shared humanity.

So we light this candle today not as a weapon, but as a guidepost— for anyone searching for peace, for anyone daring to hope, for anyone hungry for justice. You don't have to agree with everything I say. You don't have to get it all right. We just have to be willing to move toward the light, together.

We light this candle proclaiming that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome the light. May Jesus strengthen us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Allendale Band
Better Is One Day | Matt Redman |

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver
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LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE, PEACE, & JUSTICE Congregation

SONG Allendale Band
All My Days | Mark Miller |

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER Erica George

SONG Veronica Foxx
Encourage Yourself | Donald Lawrence & The Tri-City Singers |

TIME WITH CHILDREN Lil Miss Hot Mess

OFFERING Congregation
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

OFFERTORY SONG Phaedra E Rose
Best Day Of My Life | Ricky Dillard & New G |

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Erica George

SONG Allendale Band
Child of God | Mark Miller |

SCRIPTURE Erica George
Acts 5:27-32

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Imani Valentino

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Rev. Andy Oliver

BENEDICTION Erica George

POSTLUDE Allendale Band
Better Is One Day | Matt Redman |



ACTS 5:27-32

This is our time to step into our power. Worship and praise allow us to acknowledge the divine in humanity—that which is potent enough to challenge the most acute forms of terror and win. In exalting the name of Christ, we are saying that God is always with us. Our highest praise is not launched only skyward, but it permeates outward to nourish those around us. Those for whom our liberation is inconvenient will jolt into action to repress and restrain. We will witness the wounds of imperial violence, and we will sing and dance anyway. Our suffering will be a sacred memory reminding us that we loved so hard, it rattled the chains of domination.

Image from Unsplash

Liturgy from Enflashed (portions adapted by Allendale)

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

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

Diana Ong, Church Administrator | diana@allendaleumc.org

Terry Fitzgerald, Director of Development | terry@allendaleumc.org

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | tru@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

Campbell Horn, Dylan Dames | Youth Directors

Michaela George, 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 Apr 27

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Mon Apr 28

Tue Apr 29

3 PM Aging Group (Wesley)

Wed Apr 30

5 PM Wednesday Night Dinner (CC)

6 PM Wednesday Night Classes (Hybrid)

Thu May 1

5 PM Anti-Death Penalty Vigil (Offsite)

Fri May 2

Sat May 3

Sun May 4

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Recovery and Support Groups meet often at Allendale and are now listed on their own calendar: www.allendaleumc.org/recovery.

ONGOING CLASSES

Grief Support Group - 5/4 at 9 AM

This class meets every other Sunday

Aging Group - Led by Gina Gibbs

In the Wesley Room - *Tue at 3 PM*

Scripture Class - Led by Pastor Andy

Virtual on Zoom - *Mon at 6 PM*

Join via Zoom: allendaleumc.org/mondayclass

Wednesday Night Dinner & Classes

Dinner at 5 PM, Classes at 6 PM

This week: "Staying Engaged in an Uphill Battle" - Led by Maria DeLiberato, Esq.

DINNER MENU

Dinner starts at 5 PM in the Community Center. \$10 or whatever you can afford. Vegetarian or Vegan options are always available.

Wed Apr 30

Chicken Alfredo, Strawberry/Spinach Salad, Garlic Chibatta Bread, Dessert Dish

Wednesday Night Dinners and Activities will go on Summer break from the end of May - July. Our last dinner is May 21 and we will start back up on August 6.