



ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 25, 2025

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 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-Thu 9-4

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

- Wed May 28 Painting with a Twist with Bobbie Windle (Community Center) 6 PM
RSVP at www.allendaleumc.org/painting
- Fri May 30 Charity Drag Bingo supporting Girls Rock St Pete (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- June - July New all-church book study: Wesleyan Vile-tality - Reclaiming the heart of Methodist Identity (Hybrid Room) Sundays 9-10 AM
- Tue Jun 17 Social Justice Team Meeting (Community Center) 6 PM
- Sat Jun 28 Allendale is Marching in the St. Pete Pride Parade
- Sun Jun 29 Drag Led Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Jun 30 - Jul 5 Youth at Warren Willis Summer Camp
- Jul 7-11 Vacation Bible School at Allendale - 9 AM-12 PM

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

ALAN MILLER (he/him/his) was born and raised in New Mexico. After a long career in the tech industry, Alan retired from Oracle Corporation in July. He has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 30 years, and still owns his home there. However, since October, 2022, he and his partner, Edwin, have resided full-time in St Petersburg. Edwin works for Metro Inclusive Health and owns a home in the Kenwood neighborhood. They enjoy working on their little bungalow together and spending time with friends. Alan also has a background in music, and enjoys playing the piano. He is very proud of his two adult children and his two adorable grandchildren..

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS:

Sunflowers are known for standing boldly and turning toward the light. Today, the sunflowers on the altar remind us of the joy, hope, and growth we see in our graduates. With pride and love, your Allendale family celebrates this milestone with you.

White flowers are placed on the altar in memory of those who died while serving in the U.S. military. On this Memorial Day weekend, we grieve with those who carry loss and honor the lives taken by the violence of war. As followers of Christ, may we not glorify war, but instead work to dismantle the powers that profit from it. May we be a people who labor for peace with justice—so that no more lives are sacrificed on the altars of empire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAINTING WITH A TWIST:

We have a new date for "Painting with a Twist," hosted by Bobbie Windle. Join us on Wednesday, May 28, from 6-7 PM. The cost is \$5 or pay what you can. *Sign up at www.allendaleumc.org/painting.*

CLEAN UP DAY:

Join us for a church-wide work day on Saturday, May 31, from 7 AM to noon. Both indoor and outdoor projects available.

DRAG BINGO SUPPORTING GIRLS ROCK:

Allendale's Monthly Charity Drag Bingo is on Fri May 30 at 6 PM. Ten bingo games for \$10, with proceeds benefiting Girls Rock St Pete!

BOWLING AND PIZZA:

Join us for Bowling and Pizza with Christ Church on Saturday, June 14 from 2-5 PM at Sunrise Lanes, 6393 9th St. N. The cost is \$15 per person. Please RSVP by June 8. *RSVP: www.allendaleumc.org/bowling.*

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

BIRTHDAYS:

Chris Marks	May 28
Evan Oliver	May 29
Ginger Holton	Jun 6
Greg Brecht	Jun 11
Erin Giblin	Jun 12
Errol Johnston	Jun 12
David Franks	Jun 14

Birthdays missing? Please contact the office

CONNECT WITH A PASTOR:

Rev. Andy Oliver

Office hours: Tue - Fri *make an appointment at www.allendaleumc.org/andy*

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support

Office hours: Tue 11-2 | Thu 4-7 *make an appointment at www.allendaleumc.org/david*

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

available at Allendale's Counseling Center
Visit www.allendaleumc.org/counseling

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 108 in-person, 404 online

Live stream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:

Sun Jun 8 at 10:30 AM

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

ALLENDALE YOUNG-ADULTS DISCORD:

Allendale UMC now has a Discord server for young adults... a space to connect, share, and build community throughout the week. Discord is a free app for group chats and online events.

Join at www.allendaleumc.org/youngadults.

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.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

That's how John's Gospel begins. Even before reminding us that darkness will not overtake light, God comes to us as Word itself.

We call this a Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice. Three simple words. Three powerful ideas. When practiced, they become action verbs that can tear away barbed wire and bring us closer to the light.

So today as we light this candle, we pray for words and stories, and for libraries and librarians, which help us discover ideas that can change lives, change hearts, change the world.

We give thanks for reading, for a chance to recognize ourselves in someone else's words and to encounter a life entirely different from our own. For the ways stories can teach us how to see through another person's eyes.

But we've come to a moment when some people view knowledge and empathy as worthless, or dangerous. They fear words and the power they hold.

God, we pray for libraries across the nation whose budgets are being slashed and staff laid off because an executive order began to dismantle the only federal agency that funds libraries, calling the agency "unnecessary."

We pray that moments like this lead us all to ask questions, such as, Unnecessary for whom?

Sometimes people want to control what others can read.

In April, the U.S. Naval Academy removed nearly 400 books from its library, to comply with the president's directives to remove content featuring diversity, equity, or inclusion.

God, in the face of censorship, we pray for your guidance as we ask, What's being hidden from us? What makes ideas like diversity, equity, or inclusion so dangerous?

We pray for librarians who speak out for the right to read despite threats to their own safety. Dr. Carla Hayden said, "Librarians have been called 'feisty fighters for freedom': the freedom for everyone to have the opportunity to get knowledge."

We pray for Dr. Hayden, who served as Librarian of Congress from 2016 until the president fired her on May 8. She was the first woman and the first African American to lead our nation's—and the world's—largest library.

God, may we all seek to be feisty fighters for freedom.

May we remember that darkness may descend, but you always give us enough light so we can learn.

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
Pomp and Circumstance | Edward Elgar |

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver
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SONG Allendale Band
Love is My Religion | Ziggy Marley |

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER Alan Miller

SONG Allendale Band
We Resist | Mark Miller |

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE, HOPE, & JUSTICE Congregation

SONG Allendale Band
Light a Candle | Sheryl Crow |

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES Congregation

OFFERING Congregation
One Love | Bob Marley |
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Alan Miller

SONG Allendale Band
O Christ, We Trust Your Promise | Carolyn Winfrey Gillette |

SCRIPTURE Congregation
John 14:23-29

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Allendale Band
Peace Be Still | Andrew Holt, Hope Darst, Mia Fieldes |

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Congregation

BENEDICTION Alan Miller

POSTLUDE Allendale Band
Time of Your Life (Good Riddance) | Green Day |

