

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 7, 2025

3803 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694

office@allendaleumc.org

www.allendaleumc.org

WELCOME

We are honored that you chose to worship with us today!

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-Thu 9-4

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.

ASL Interpretation is available during worship to help make our service more inclusive and accessible. *ASL Version of our worship livestream:* www.allendaleumc.org/asl

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri Dec 12 Christmas Drag Bingo (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Fri Dec 12 Still No Room in the Inn Caroling (100 Mirror Lake) 7 PM
- Sat Dec 13 Brunch with Santa (Sanctuary) 10 AM
- Sun Dec 14 Christmas Choir Singing in Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Tue Dec 16 Social Justice Team Meeting (Community Center) 6 PM
- Wed Dec 17 Impromptu Children's Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Fri Dec 19 Annual Unhoused Memorial Service (100 Mirror Lake) 4:30 PM
- Sun Dec 21 Longest Night Solstice Service: *Keeping Vigil for Hope* (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Wed Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship with Candlelight (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Sun Dec 28 Christmas Gospel Drag Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM

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

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

TRISTA MILLER (she/her/hers) and her husband, Justin, have lived in and around St. Pete for over ten years. Trista grew up in Bradenton Florida and after college served in the Army, with two deployments to Iraq. She now spends time volunteering as a pro bono lawyer helping veterans access benefits. Trista enjoys gardening, running with her son Harris, and playing board games with Justin.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

piano/vocals - Judy Haines-Hricik
organist - Bill Lee
percussion - Tru Mizzell

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

CHRISTMAS CHOIR NEXT SUNDAY:

Allendale's Christmas Choir will lead us in worship next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

DRAGGED OUT FOR WINTER PRIDE:

Pastor Andy and Dr. Bob will be competing in a drag charity event supporting Winter Pride St Pete. See them perform today at Cocktail on Central at 1 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DRAG BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA:

Join us in the Sanctuary on Friday, Dec 12 at 6 PM for Drag Bingo! \$10 for 10 games of bingo. Ugly Sweater contest, Christmas Cookies, and an appearance by Santa!

BRUNCH WITH SANTA:

Santa Claus is coming to town! Enjoy a brunch with Santa on Saturday, Dec 13 in the Sanctuary. This festive celebration is fun for all ages! *RSVP: allendaleumc.org/santa*

ANTI DEATH PENALTY VIGIL:

Join FADP & Allendale for a vigil opposing the execution of Mark Allen Geraldson Tue, Dec 9 from 4:30-5:30 PM at Ulmerton Road and 49th Street North. Signs provided. *Petition and details at fadp.org*

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT DISCUSSION:

Florida has executed more people this year than at any point in state history. Join national and state leaders in the anti-death penalty movement for a community discussion on capital punishment and its impact. All are welcome to attend and ask questions this Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 PM in the Hybrid Room.

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

BIRTHDAYS:

Michelle Taylor	Dec 7
Donna Vollmer	Dec 9
Steven Geis	Dec 10
Ed Lally	Dec 12
Philip Dinkins	Dec 15
Devin Neitzert	Dec 16
Sandy Geis	Dec 19
Liam Oliver	Dec 22
Julie Johnson	Dec 23

Birthday missing? Please contact the office

CONNECT WITH A PASTOR:

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor
Office hours: Tue - Fri *make an appointment*
at www.allendaleumc.org/andy

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support,
is on sabbatical. He will return March 1.

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

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

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 107 in-person, 466 online
Live stream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunities:
Sun Dec 14 at 10:30 AM
Sign-up at: www.allendaleumc.org/join

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:

During Advent, you'll find our Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice in the narthex, paired with a weekly prayer that names the "barbed wire" policies squeezing our communities today.

This morning, on the second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice for all the people and places in need of peace.

For countries at war, for countries with unstable governments and civil unrest, for countries that perpetuate ethnic conflict and violence. For peace to be known in Ukraine and Russia, Palestine and Israel, Myanmar, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and all the nations across the world. For people who are incarcerated, for those who have been taken away from family and friends, For those who have not received due process, For those who are hiding, For those who are unsure what their next steps are. For peace to replace fear in the hearts of our neighbors. For victims of sexual violence and sex trafficking, for those who have recently shared their stories with our nation's leaders in Congress, for those who have not shared their stories with anyone, for those who are struggling with shame and stigma. For peace to heal and reconcile their hearts, minds, and bodies. For people living with anxiety, for those who are unsure of themselves and struggling with their sense of worth, for those who are scared of the present and do not know how to envision the future, for those who cannot sleep, overeat, or have difficulty concentrating. For peace to calm their minds.

Hear our prayer, God of peace. Be with those in power and privilege that they may work for good in our nations and institutions. Help us, your people, to dialogue for reconciliation when we would rather stay silent. Embolden us to protest and work for a better community for all our neighbors. Fill our hearts with your spirit that we feel your great love for us. May it bring us together for your peace and justice.

ORDER OF WORSHIP



WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

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

PRELUDE Music Video

Show Up | Britt Kusserow |

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver

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SONG Allendale Band

Waiting For You | The Many |

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Trista Miller

TIME W/ CHILDREN & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Rev. Andy Oliver

Show Up | Britt Kusserow |

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Trista Miller

OFFERING Congregation

My Time Will Come | Andrew Blooms |
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Javonti Thomas

The Lord's Prayer | Mark A. Miller |

POEM Rose Cervantes

God in the Kitchen | Rev. Sarah A. Speed |

SONG Allendale Band

Looking Out a Prison Window | Anna Strickland |

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE READING Trista Miller

Matthew 11:1-11, Isaiah 43:19-21

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Allendale Band

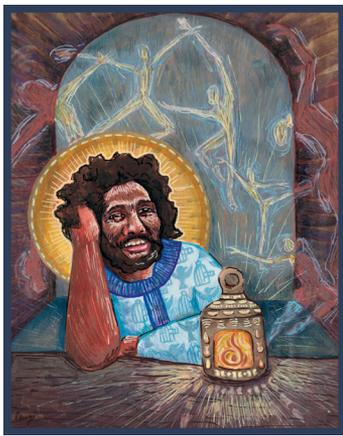
Speak to Hearts That Wait in Fear | Andy Oliver |

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Congregation

BENEDICTION Trista Miller

POSTLUDE Organist Bill Lee

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus | Ruth Elaine Schram |



"Hope Like a Dancer" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

INSPIRED BY MATTHEW 11:1-11

I imagined this good news as lantern light dancing in John's prison cell. The figures echo the instinctive joy sparked by healing happening outside those walls. As they illuminate the cell, I imagine John briefly laughing in awe at the unimaginable work Jesus was doing.



"Something in the Water" by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

INSPIRED BY ISAIAH 43:19-21

A sudden rush of water can feel frightening, yet here the water becomes rescue. What might seem overwhelming now but is actually saving us? By claiming rest, what can we discern in the stillness when we divest from the cycle of fear and turn to the water?

*Liturgy by A Sanctified Art
(portions adapted by Allendale)*

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

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

Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | cameron@allendaleumc.org

Bruce Bordeaux, Director of Operations | bruce@allendaleumc.org

Diana Ong, Church Administrator | diana@allendaleumc.org

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

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

Campbell Horn, Dylan Dames | Youth Directors

Bill Lee | Organist

Maddie Johnson | Sign Language Interpreter

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 Dec 7

9 AM Adult Sunday School Class (Hybrid)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM Youth Group

Mon Dec 8

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

Tue Dec 9

2 PM Pilates (Bill W/Nursery)

Wed Dec 10

6 PM Evening Tai Chi (Community Center)

Thu Dec 11

Fri Dec 12

6 PM Drag Bingo (Sanctuary)

Sat Dec 13

10 AM Brunch with Santa (Sanctuary)

Sun Dec 14

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)
9 AM Adult Sunday School Class (Hybrid)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:30 PM Youth Group

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

CLASSES & COMMUNITY

Grief Support Group - 12/14 at 9 AM
This group meets every other Sunday

"For Such a Time As This - An Emergency Devotional" by Amy-Jill Levine

In-Person Adult Sunday School Class- Sun at 9 AM

Virtual Class via Zoom - Mon at 6 PM

Join via Zoom: allendaleumc.org/mondayclass

Young Adult Discord - Online Group
Join at www.allendaleumc.org/youngadults

Stand For Democracy -each Mon at 4 PM
NW corner of 22nd Ave N and 34th St N

Social Justice Team - 12/16 at 6 PM

United Women in Faith - 1st Mon at 6:30 PM

United Methodist Men/Non-Binary - 3rd Thu at 6 PM

Wednesday Night Dinner & Classes are on break for the remainder of the year. Meals and classes will continue in January 2026.