

# ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 14, 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](mailto: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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/asl)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/events)*

## WORSHIP NOTES

### TODAY'S LITURGIST:

**GAIL GILLIS** (she/her/hers) and husband, Greg, have lived in Florida since 2019. Gail is a retired nurse who serves on medical teams with Remote Area Medical and Carolina Honduras Health Foundation. She is mom to daughter Jennifer, of Ashland, MA, and son Eric, of San Pedro, CA.

### TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

piano - Bill Lee  
piano - Tru Mizzell  
guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

*Contact [tru@allendaleumc.org](mailto:tru@allendaleumc.org) to join our band or choir*

### CHRISTMAS CHOIR TODAY:

This morning, Allendale's Christmas Choir will lead us in worship. We are grateful for their many gifts and the time they've dedicated to sharing the spirit of the season through music.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 6 PM:

Join us at 6 PM on Wednesday, Dec 24, for a candlelit Christmas Eve service reflecting on Luke 2:1-20. As we light the final Advent candle, we'll celebrate that the good news of Christ's birth is louder than fear. In a world shaped by anxiety and algorithms, come be part of a joyful, unruly proclamation of peace, hope, and love.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PAGEANT:

Join us for our annual impromptu Christmas pageant at 6 PM in the Sanctuary on Wed Dec 17! Children are invited to help tell the Christmas story dressed in costume—nativity-themed, or whatever inspires them. Costumes are available to borrow, or bring your own. All are welcome to join the manger scene as we tell the story of Christ's arrival. This fun, joyfully chaotic tradition celebrates the beautiful, inclusive spirit of Christmas.

### 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](http://fadp.org)*

### LONGEST NIGHT: KEEPING VIGIL FOR HOPE

Join us at 6 PM in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec 21 for a quiet, contemplative Longest Night service as part of our Advent series, What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent. This service offers space for those experiencing grief, fear, or loneliness during the holidays. Come as you are to light candles, share stillness, and hold hope together.

# STEWARDSHIP

## PRAYERS

### BIRTHDAYS:

Philip Dinkins	Dec 15
Devin Neitzert	Dec 16
Sandy Geis	Dec 19
Liam Oliver	Dec 22
Julie Johnson	Dec 23
Aurora Nikkel	Dec 24
Sophia Nikkel	Dec 24
Miguel Iturralde	Dec 25
Brad Hunsinger	Dec 27
Courtney Ross	Dec 29

*Birthdays 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](http://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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/counseling)

## PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 91 in-person, 557 online  
*Live stream:* [www.allendaleumc.org/online](http://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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/join)

## GIFTS

Give online: [www.allendaleumc.org/give](http://www.allendaleumc.org/give)  
Text-to-give: Text amount to 727-312-0808  
Buy a shirt: [www.allendaleumc.org/shirts](http://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, we light the Candle of Peace, Hope, and Justice for farmers and all who labor on the land—those who plant seeds year after year, uncertain of what the growing season will bring or what harvest may be reaped; people who fill the stomachs of people all around the world; those who are facing skyrocketing loan rates, rising production costs, reduced prices for what they sell at the market; and individuals who have been hit particularly hard by recently imposed tariffs that have increased the price of imported machinery and fertilizer while shattering the market for wheat, corn, and soybeans—leading to a projected loss of \$44 billion in net cash income from their 2025-2026 crops.

We pray for families whose hard work and faithfulness have put food on our tables and fiber on our backs, farmers who are shutting down generational farms, people who live with significant stress and who face significant mental health challenges.

May provision come for those who provide for us in countless ways. May our country's leaders and lawmakers care for them the way they care for this land and us. And may the harsh tariffs that have battered our farmers' fields and futures be laid to rest.

We light this candle proclaiming the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. May Jesus strengthen us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

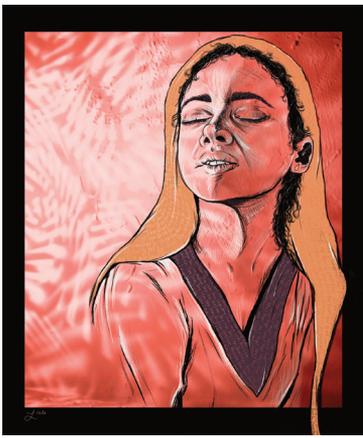


What do  
you fear?

EVEN IN OUR FEAR, WE  
ARE CALLED FORWARD

Let us know you are here by going to [www.allendaleumc.org/here](http://www.allendaleumc.org/here) or by filling out the attendance pad in your row.

PRELUDE .....	Music Video
<i>Show Up</i>  Britt Kusserow	
WELCOME .....	Rev. Andy Oliver
SONG .....	Allendale Choir
<i>Peace Carol</i>  John Devorick	
CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH .....	Gail Gillis
TIME W/ CHILDREN & LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES .....	Rev. Andy Oliver
<i>Show Up</i>  Britt Kusserow	
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS .....	Gail Gillis
SONG .....	Allendale Choir
<i>Courage</i>  Sandra Howard	
OFFERING .....	Congregation
<i>Someday At Christmas</i>  Stevie Wonder  give online at <a href="http://www.allendaleumc.org/give">www.allendaleumc.org/give</a>	
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE .....	Lynne Hensley
<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>  Mark A. Miller	
POEM .....	Rose Cervantes
<i>The First Step</i>  Rev. Sarah A.Speed	
SONG .....	Allendale Band
<i>O Come, Take Heart</i>  Anna Strickland	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE READING .....	Gail Gillis
<i>Luke 1:26-39, Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>	
SERMON .....	Rev. Andy Oliver
SONG .....	Allendale Band
<i>Mary's Trembling Yes</i>  Andy Oliver	
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS .....	Congregation
CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY .....	Congregation
BENEDICTION .....	Gail Gillis
POSTLUDE .....	Allendale Choir
<i>Christmastime</i>  Michael W. Smith, Joanna Carlson	



"Mary's Yes" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

**INSPIRED BY LUKE 1:26-39**

Elizabeth's pregnancy provides reassurance that Mary can trust the angel's impossible news. By the sixth month, Mary will be able to see for herself that Elizabeth is truly pregnant. Therefore, Mary can rest her hope in an emerging—not empty—promise.



"To Build and to Plant" by Hannah Garrity

**INSPIRED BY JEREMIAH 1:4-10**

Do not fear. Like Jeremiah, we are but children ill-equipped for the call, but God reaches out and calls us anyway. So let us prepare ourselves for the planting and the building of God's justice. The temple is gone. Hard work is ahead.

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

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor | [andy@allendaleumc.org](mailto:andy@allendaleumc.org)

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support | [david@allendaleumc.org](mailto:david@allendaleumc.org)

Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | [cameron@allendaleumc.org](mailto:cameron@allendaleumc.org)

Bruce Bordeaux, Director of Operations | [bruce@allendaleumc.org](mailto:bruce@allendaleumc.org)

Diana Ong, Church Administrator | [diana@allendaleumc.org](mailto:diana@allendaleumc.org)

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | [tru@allendaleumc.org](mailto:tru@allendaleumc.org)

Dylan Dames, Music and Organizing Associate | [dylan@allendaleumc.org](mailto: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 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

### Mon Dec 15

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

### Tue Dec 16

2 PM Pilates (Bill W/Nursery)

### Wed Dec 17

6 PM Impromptu Christmas Pageant (Sanct)  
6 PM Evening Tai Chi (Community Center)

### Thu Dec 18

### Fri Dec 19

### Sat Dec 20

### Sun Dec 21

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

*Recovery and Support Groups meet often at Allendale and are now listed on their own calendar: [www.allendaleumc.org/recovery](http://www.allendaleumc.org/recovery).*

## CLASSES & COMMUNITY

Grief Support Group - 12/14 and 12/28 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](https://allendaleumc.org/mondayclass)

Young Adult Discord - Online Group

Join at [www.allendaleumc.org/youngadults](http://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.