

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 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

- Sun Dec 28 Christmas Drag-led Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Mon Jan 19 The Power of a Dream! 39th Annual St Pete MLK Parade (1st Ave S) 11 AM
- Sat Jan 17 Allendale Leadership Retreat
- Wed Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Thu Apr 2 Maundy Thursday Service (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Fri Apr 3 Good Friday Service 12 PM
- Sat Apr 4 Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM
- Sun Apr 5 Easter Sunrise at Crescent Lake Park 7 AM
Easter Service with Choir (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Sun Apr 12 Easter Drag-led Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM

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

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 2024. Prior to coming to St. Petersburg in 2022, Alan resided in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 30 years, and still owns his home there. He and his partner, Edwin, met in San Francisco a decade ago. Together they decided to live for a while in St Petersburg, where Edwin owns a home in the Kenwood neighborhood. Three years later, they are still here!. Alan 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 MUSICIANS:

organist - Bill Lee
piano - Tru Mizzell
guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames
vocals - Shannon Tierney

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DRAG-LED WORSHIP:

The Sunday after Christmas at Allendale is always a little different. On December 28, worship will be led in part by drag artists.

They will help lead us in song, story, and prayer through joy, creativity, and embodied expression. This is worship that makes room for laughter and tenderness, beauty and truth. It reflects our belief that God meets us where we are, and that joy can be a healing, holy thing. You are invited!

MIKAH MEYER AT ALLENDALE:

Mikah Meyer will speak at Allendale on Epiphany Sunday, January 4. A world-record traveler on a journey to all National Park Service sites, Mikah will share highlights from his short film Canyon Chorus and preach about faith, joy, and his experience as a gay Christian, celebrating authenticity and belonging.

THE FAITH WE SING:

What is your favorite line from a hymn? Beginning Sunday, Jan 11, through Feb 1, our worship series *The Faith We Sing* will explore the words of beloved hymns. *Share your favorite line at allendaleumc.org/hymn, and it may be featured in the series.*

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Aurora Nikkel | Dec 24 |
| Sophia Nikkel | Dec 24 |
| Miguel Iturralde | Dec 25 |
| Brad Hunsinger | Dec 27 |
| Courtney Ross | Dec 29 |
| Justin Miller | Jan 10 |
| Lynn Fruit | Jan 12 |

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

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

Sunday 12/14: 119 in-person, 876 online
Live stream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunities:
Sun Jan 11 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.*

WELCOME!

WELCOME TO ALLENDALE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Whether this is your first time through our doors or your first time back in a long while, we are genuinely glad you are here. Christmas Eve has a way of drawing people together—across distance, difference, doubt, memory, and hope—and tonight, your presence matters.

Some of you arrive full of joy and anticipation. Some of you come carrying grief, exhaustion, or uncertainty. Some of you aren't sure what you believe anymore—or if you ever did. Some of you are here because this is where your people are. Some of you wandered in because you needed a place to sit, to breathe, to belong for a moment. Wherever you are, however you arrive, you are welcome as you are. No explanations required.

At Allendale, we believe Christmas is not about perfection or certainty. It's about God choosing nearness. God choosing flesh. God choosing to show up in the midst of real life—with its beauty, mess, courage, fear, and longing. Tonight, we tell an ancient story not because it is tidy, but because it is true in the ways that matter most: love shows up, light is shared, and hope refuses to disappear.

You will hear familiar words, sing familiar songs, and maybe hear something in a new way. You will see candles passed hand to hand, reminding us that light is not diminished when it is shared—it grows. You don't have to know all the words or do everything "right." Simply be present. Let yourself receive what this night offers.

If you are searching for community, justice, healing, joy, or a faith that makes room for questions and real lives, know this: there is a place for you here, beyond tonight. Welcome. You belong. Merry Christmas.

ORDER OF WORSHIP



What do
you fear?

GOOD NEWS IS
LOUDER THAN FEAR

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

PRELUDE Organist Bill Lee & Dylan Dames

Show Up | Britt Kusserow|
Angels We Have Heard on High | Lani Smith|

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver

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CAROL MEDLEY Allendale Band

Christmas Carol Medley | Charles Wesley and others|

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Alan Miller

TIME W/ CHILDREN & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Rev. Andy Oliver

Show Up | Britt Kusserow|

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Alan Miller

CAROL MEDLEY Allendale Band

Christmas Carol Medley | Charles Wesley, Edmund Sears|

OFFERING Congregation

Someday at Christmas | Stevie Wonder|
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Lynne Hensley

The Lord's Prayer | Mark A. Miller|

POEM Cet Mohamed-Moore

Honeysuckle | Rev. Sarah A.Speed|

SONG Allendale Band

Shout! | Anna Strickland|

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE READING Alan Miller

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Allendale Band

No Place Like Home | Stephen Schwartz, Cynthia Erivo|

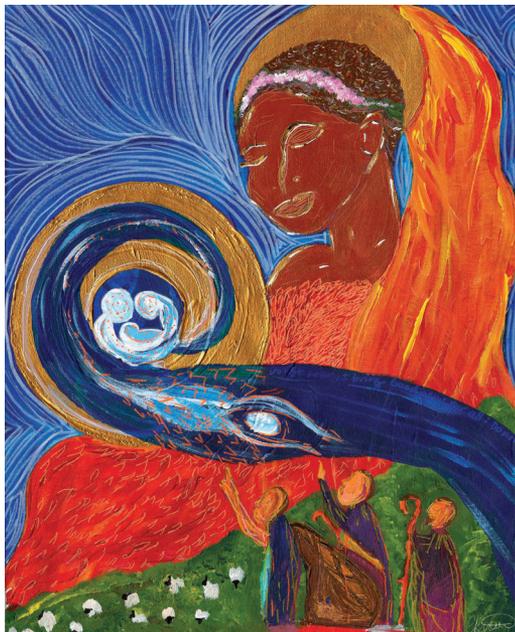
CANDLELIGHTING Congregation

Silent Night | Joseph Mohr, John F. Young|

BENEDICTION & BLESSING Alan Miller & Rev. Andy Oliver

POSTLUDE Allendale Band

Happy Xmas (War is Over) | John Lennon|



"Good, New" by Carmelle Beaugelin

INSPIRED BY LUKE 2:1-20

We often link fear and anxiety to bad news.

But what about the moments when the news is good—almost too good to believe?

The dream job offer arrives. The long-hoped-for pregnancy test is finally positive.

The illness goes into sudden remission.

Euphoria, the fear of good news, often stems from past losses, fear of change, or the pressure of new expectations. Joy and relief may come first, but they're often followed by a quiet dread. What now?

What could this mean?

In Luke's Nativity story, even angelic news stirs overwhelm. The shepherds tremble. Mary ponders. As she wraps her newborn in cloth, what thoughts rise in her heart?

The word "new" is nestled in "good news"—a reminder that even the best gifts lie beyond our control. In the birth of Jesus, we witness the mystery of it all: the terrifying, the unexpected, the good, and the new that hope often brings.

*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 21

9 AM Adult Sunday School Class (Hybrid)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

6 PM Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)

Mon Dec 22

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

Tue Dec 23

2 PM Pilates (Bill W/Nursery)

Wed Dec 24

6 PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanct)

6 PM Evening Tai Chi (Community Center)

Thu Dec 25

Merry Christmas - Emmanuel!

Fri Dec 26

Sat Dec 27

Sun Dec 28

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)

9 AM Adult Sunday School Class (Hybrid)

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.

CLASSES & COMMUNITY

Grief Support Group - 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

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 - 3rd Tue 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.