



ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 28, 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:

CANDY VON SPARKLE

(aka Christopher Leopard) moved to Largo 7 years ago and is the proud father of four daughters, one son and three grandchildren. His passion includes doing drag for over 40 years, being part of Skyway Dachshund rescue, and being part of Allendale. Candy is a member of Rose Dynasty, Allendale United Methodist Church, in the National Chef Association. Candy's hobbies include flea markets, reading, cooking and performing as a bearded Queen. Her passion is working with non-profit organizations helping them raise funds as Candy Von Sparkle. Candy represented Allendale in the 2026 Miss Rose Dynasty pageant and brought home third runner up. Thank you to the Allendale family for your love and support.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

organist - Frieda Love

piano - Tru Mizzell

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO ALLENDALE

We're so glad you're here. If this is your first time with us, please know that you are stepping into a community where God's love makes room for every body, every identity, and every expression. Today, as we celebrate Christmastide through drag-led worship, we embrace the theme "Let fear fuel a fire for justice," proclaiming that fear does not get the final word — love, joy, and justice do. *If you'd like to learn more about why drag-led worship matters to us, we invite you to visit www.allendaleumc.org/worship/whydrag/.*

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:

Courtney Ross	Dec 29
Justin Miller	Jan 10
Lynn Fruit	Jan 12
Aiden Daly	Jan 15
Nova Redlow	Jan 17
Edward Miller	Jan 18
Bee Hopwood	Jan 21

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

Sunday 12/21: 94 in-person, 572 online
Live stream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

Impromptu Pageant: 37 (in person only)
Longest Night: 54 in person, 449 online
Christmas Eve: 199 in person, 1,313 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.*

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 all who are still seeking justice.

For those who have spoken truth and been ignored. For those who have organized, protested, voted, testified, and pleaded—only to watch change stall or be undone. For those who are weary from carrying hope longer than feels reasonable.

For communities who have named harm and are still waiting for repair. For workers, migrants, disabled neighbors, queer and trans people, and people of color who continue to live with systems stacked against their dignity. For those who fear that justice is moving too slowly—or not at all. For those tempted to believe that their efforts do not matter, that the arc will never bend, that the cost is too much.

God of liberation, meet your people in the long middle of the struggle.

When hope feels thin, steady us with your presence, and surround us with companions who refuse to let us walk alone.

Strengthen all who are still seeking—not because they are naïve, but because they know what is possible. Keep us rooted in love, grounded in truth, and committed to the work that remains unfinished. Teach us to rest without surrendering, to grieve without giving up, and to hope without closing our eyes to reality.

Make us people who keep showing up, who keep telling the truth, and who keep believing that justice will always be worth pursuing.

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?

LET FEAR FUEL A FIRE FOR JUSTICE

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

PRELUDE Dylan Dames, Organist Frieda Love

Show Up | Britt Kusserow |
The God of Love My Shepherd Is | Lani Smith |

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Allendale Band

Joy to the World | Isaac Watts |

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Candy Von Sparkle

TIME WITH CHILDREN Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Kori Stevens

A Beautiful Day | India.Arie |

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Candy Von Sparkle

SONG Brucella DeEvil

Spectrum | Florence + The Machine |

OFFERING Congregation

Stand Up | Cynthia Erivo |
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Lynne Hensley

The Lord's Prayer | Mark A. Miller |

SONG Candy Von Sparkle

Long As I Got King Jesus | Vickie Winans |

SONG Allendale Band

Let the Fires of Justice Grow | Anna Strickland |

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE READING Candy Von Sparkle

Matthew 2:1-15, 19-23

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Veronica Foxx

Joyful, Joyful | Beehtoven, Emerson, Warren |

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Congregation

BENEDICTION Candy Von Sparkle

POSTLUDE Organist Frieda Love

Praise to the God of Our Salvation | Hughes |



"Stay With Me" by Rev. T. Denise Anderson

INSPIRED BY MATTHEW 2:13-23

The story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt takes new significance as I consider not only the experiences of dear ones around the world, but also my own ancestors. My piece focuses on a parent's desperate grip of their child's hand as they escape a despot's fiery wrath, possibly in the dead of night. The colors subtly recall the Pan-African, Palestinian, and Sudanese flags. I remember those left behind, and the lower part of the composition depicts the anguish of mothers whose children were not spared.

*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 28

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

Mon Dec 29

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

Tue Dec 30

2 PM Pilates (Bill W/Nursery)

Wed Dec 31

Thu Jan 1

Fri Jan 2

Sat Jan 3

Sun Jan 4

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 - 1/12 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.