



**JANUARY 4, 2026**

3803 Haines Road North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694  
office@allendaleumc.org

www.allendaleumc.org

# ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 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 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

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

- Wed Jan 7 Wednesday Night Dinners (Community Center) 5 PM (*Every Wednesday*)
- 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 - 9:30 AM - *rsvp: [allendaleumc.org/leadership](http://allendaleumc.org/leadership)*
- Fri Jan 30 Drag Bingo at Allendale benefitting PFLAG (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- 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

## WORSHIP NOTES

**TODAY'S GUEST SPEAKER: MIKAH MEYER** (he/him/his) Mikah Meyer is a National Parks expert often called a "Professional Road Tripper" by REI. A classically trained singer and motivational speaker, he explores how nature brings people together across difference. Raised as a Lutheran pastor's kid, Mikah's advocacy has been featured at the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival through his short film Canyon Chorus. He completed a world-record journey to all 400+ U.S. National Park Service sites and created the Outside Safe Space symbol, worn by over 100,000 people as a sign of LGBTQ+ allyship.

**TODAY'S LITURGIST: SCOTT HENSLEY** (he/him/his) was raised in Brooksville, FL, the son of Dr. Earl and Helen Hensley. One of four brothers, Scott was raised as a Baptist. Scott has been a Methodist for many years and became a Walk to Emmaus pilgrim in 2004. He graduated from National Chiropractic College in Chicago, Illinois. Scott works as a chiropractor in Tampa where he lives with his wife, Lynne, and their son, Isaiah. Their son, Benjamin, lives in Boston, MA.

**TODAY'S MUSICIANS:** organist - Bill Lee, piano - Tru Mizzell, guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames, vocals - Erica George *Contact [tru@allendaleumc.org](mailto:tru@allendaleumc.org) to join our band or choir*

**COMMUNION PREPARERS:** Jane Mann Brown and Sheila Stewart

**TODAY'S COMMUNION SERVERS:** Joe Ventimiglia, Jim Pridgen, Amy Mormino, Mark Frederick, Deborah Eldred, Gina Gibbs, Debbie Duty, Pam Green

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](http://allendaleumc.org/hymn), and it may be featured in the series.*

**NEW YEAR, NEW BOOK STUDY:** We will begin a new book study next Sunday morning and Monday night. Together we'll read "*Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness*" by Kevin Nye. Books will be available to purchase this week in the church office and next Sunday before worship. We will read through the introduction on Jan 11 at 9 AM In-Person, and Jan 12 at 6 PM on Zoom.

# STEWARDSHIP

## PRAYERS

### BIRTHDAYS:

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](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: 135 in-person, 5,154 online  
*Live stream: [www.allendaleumc.org/online](http://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](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:

This Sunday, 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 the 500,000 people who were deported during the last 11 months and for the communities they leave behind.

For people who were rounded up at meatpacking plants and construction sites before being stuffed into detention centers.

For families who were splintered when a parent was plucked from their home or job.

For youth and young adults who were escorted onto a plane that landed in a country where they have never lived.

For those left behind—individuals who see an empty chair each time they sit down for dinner, people struggling to make ends meet since the primary breadwinner is no longer earning money, and those weighed down with worry stemming from the silence.

As we pray for each of these individuals and all who love them, we also pray for our government and its leaders. May a spirit of Ubuntu rise in this land—a belief that knows how my humanity is wrapped up in yours. May the shame that provokes a person to cover their face while working for our government lead to repentance that understands how you see every person as a beloved child, regardless of where they are from or the documents they carry. And may all who live in fear be protected from harm

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?

## FEAR DOESN'T STOP US

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 ..... Dylan Dames, Organist Bill Lee

*Show Up* |Britt Kusserow|  
*On The First Day of the Week* |Lani Smith|

WELCOME ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

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SONG ..... Allendale Band

*On This Day of Celebration* |Carolyn Winfrey Gillette|

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ..... Scott Hensley

SONG ..... Allendale Band

*Feeling Good* |Nina Simone|

TIME W/ CHILDREN ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS ..... Scott Hensley

OFFERING ..... Congregation

*Trust Me* |Richard Smallwood|  
*give online at [www.allendaleumc.org/give](http://www.allendaleumc.org/give)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ..... Javonti Thomas

*The Lord's Prayer* |Mark A. Miller|

POEM ..... Rose Cervantes

*A Step Toward Hope* |Rev. Sarah A.Speed|

SONG ..... Allendale Band

*We've Seen God's Face* |Anna Strickland|

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE READING ..... Scott Hensley

*Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18*

SERMON ..... Mikah Meyer

COMMUNION ..... Allendale Band

*Child of God* |Mark Miller|

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY ..... Congregation

BENEDICTION ..... Scott Hensley

POSTLUDE ..... Allendale Band

*Lead On O King Eternal* |Sewell|



"King Tingz" by Rev. Nicolette Faison

**INSPIRED BY MATTHEW 2:1-12, 16-18**

For years, there has been a nasty practice of shaming indigenous practices, such as the usage of sage, when high church settings actively use incense in worship. We have come to a tension where anything that does not look like a particular type of Christian practice is perceived as pagan or satanic. For years, I have been reminding people that Jesus was gifted gold, frankincense, and myrrh by people who followed the stars to find him. That is the heart of my piece, King Tingz. I wanted to emphasize the sky and the importance of the stars, a reminder that this was essential to their witness. I wanted to bless each king with a different gift which is found in different places of their attire.

*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 Jan 4**

9 AM Adult Sunday School Class (Hybrid)  
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

**Mon Jan 5**

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

**Tue Jan 6**

2 PM Pilates (Bill W/Nursery)

**Wed Jan 7**

5 PM Dinner at Allendale (Community Center)

**Thu Jan 8**

**Fri Jan 9**

**Sat Jan 10**

**Sun Jan 11**

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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/recovery).*

## CLASSES & COMMUNITY

Grief Support Group - 1/11 at 9 AM  
*This group meets every other Sunday*

*"Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness" by Kevin Nye*  
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 - 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

## DINNER MENU

*Dinner starts at 5 PM in the Community Center. \$10 or whatever you can afford. Vegetarian or Vegan options are always available.*

**Wed Jan 7**

**Shepherd's Pie, Roasted Green Beans, Cinnamon Apples, Cheddar Biscuits, Salad, Vegetarian Option**