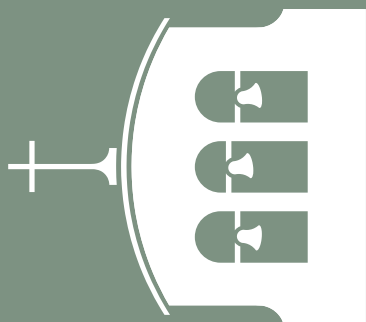




ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 26, 2026

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: Tue-Thu 9-4, Closed Mon & Fri. 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 Jul 26 Transnetwork Community Meal (Community Center) 1 PM
- Tue Jul 28 Anti-Death Penalty Vigil (Ulmerton & 49th St N) 5 PM
- Fri Jul 31 Drag Bingo at Allendale for PFLAG (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Aug 4-7 Youth End of Summer Bash
- Sat Aug 8 Mr Bubblez Free Mobile Showers (Allendale Parking Lot) 8 AM
- Sat Aug 15 Children's Day w/ Wonder Studio and NOMAD Art Bus (Allendale) 10 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. four 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:

vocals - Gabe Alves

vocals - Campbell Horn

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

piano - Tru Mizzell

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSNETWORK COMMUNITY MEAL:

Join TransNetwork for their quarterly Community Meal where all members of the local trans and gender expansive community and their allies are welcome to come together for food and connection. This meal also features a karaoke sing along for some extra shared joy! Sunday, July 26 from 1-3 PM in the Community Center.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY VIGIL: Join Allendale United Methodist Church and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty for a prayer vigil opposing the executions of James Duckett and Dominick Occhicone on Tuesday, July 28, from 5-6 PM at the corner of Ulmerton Road and 49th Street North. Signs will be provided. *Petitions and details are available at fadp.org.*

ALLENDALE'S CHARITY DRAG BINGO:

Join us for Drag Bingo on Friday, July 31, at 6 PM in the Sanctuary! Enjoy 10 games for \$10, with all proceeds benefiting PFLAG Safety Harbor. Bellies Food Truck will be on-site with food available for purchase.

MR. BUBBLEZ SHOWERS:

Mr. Bubblez will provide free hot showers and hygiene essentials on Saturday, Aug. 8, from 8 AM-noon at the corner of 38th Avenue North and Haines Road North. Showers are available on a first-come, first-served basis. This mobile outreach serves individuals experiencing homelessness with practical care and hope.

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

BIRTHDAYS:

Aileen Carey	Jul 26
Barbara Morse	Jul 26
Marilyn Lyn Dickinson	Jul 29
Alan Miller	Jul 30
Tim Beals	Jul 31
Timon Brown	Aug 6
Bill Lee	Aug 7
Bob Wallace	Aug 7
Mira Collins	Aug 10

Birthday missing? Please contact the office

CONNECT WITH A PASTOR:

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor
Pastor Andy is on renewal leave through the end of August. Pastors David and Dr. Lee are available to meet with for any pastoral needs:

Rev. Dr. Lee Tredwell,
Pastor of Theological and Community Engagement
Office hours: 11-4 Tue & Thu *make an appointment at www.allendaleumc.org/drlee*

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support
Office hours: 10-1 Wed *make an appointment at www.allendaleumc.org/david*

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

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

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 100 in-person, 1,677 online
Live stream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunities:
Sun August 9 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

WITNESS

NOTHING CAN TAKE GOD'S LOVE AWAY:

By Cameron Helwege

About a month ago, Pastor Andy invited me to join him for a week at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina for Music and Worship Arts Week, a retreat for church leaders, musicians, and other creatives. One of the presenters was Mark Miller, the composer of many of the songs we sing at Allendale.

On the first night, Mark led a hymn sing and introduced a brand new song called "*This I Believe*," with words by Adam Tice. By the time it ended, Andy and I were both hooked. The tune stayed in our heads for the rest of the week.

The song is inspired by the closing words of Romans 8, one of my favorite passages of scripture. The writer names nearly every force that might make us feel separated from God: hardship, persecution, violence, death, political powers, the present, and an uncertain future. Then comes the promise that nothing can separate us from God's love.

"This I Believe" makes that promise easy to carry with us. Its repeated declaration—"nothing, nothing, nothing can take God's love away"—feels especially important in a world where people are often told that God's love has limits. Too many people have been taught that their identity, their questions, their bodies, their relationships, or their past make them less worthy of belonging.

Romans 8 tells another story. God's love is not fragile. It cannot be withdrawn by a ruler's law, erased by suffering, or stopped by human prejudice. It remains wider than the sky, deeper than the sea, and stronger than anything seeking to divide us.

Andy and I knew immediately that this song belonged at Allendale. With this week's scripture coming from Romans 8, the timing felt perfect. It gives us another way to proclaim what we hope people experience here: You are God's beloved. No law, label, institution, hardship, or power can make God love you less. Absolutely nothing.



Give Online now by scanning this code with your phone's camera.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Allendale Band
Rest On Us | Maverick City Music |

WELCOME Rev. David Franks
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.

*SONG Allendale Band
God's Love Is Wide | Matthew and Rev. Emily Ratering-Youngberg |

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Alan Miller
God's Love Is Wide (Reprise) | Matthew and Rev. Emily Ratering-Youngberg |

CANDLE OF PEACE, HOPE, AND JUSTICE Lynne Hensley & Congregation

*SONG Allendale Band
This I Believe | Mark A. Miller, Adam Tice |

TIME WITH CHILDREN Rev. David Franks

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. David Franks
The Lord's Prayer | Mark A. Miller |

OFFERING Congregation
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give
God Is Not Abusive | Brittney Spencer |

POEM Nela Lamb
Still Working | Dylan Viero |

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE READING Alan Miller
Romans 8:26-39

*SONG Allendale Band
When We Have No Words to Pray | Andy Oliver |

SERMON Rev. Russ Lehman
Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea

SONG Allendale Band
Child of God | Mark A. Miller |

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Congregation

*BENEDICTION & BLESSING Alan Miller & Rev. Russ Lehman

POSTLUDE Allendale Band

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit. All are welcome to participate fully.



Photo by Stephen Crowley on Unsplash

INSPIRED BY ROMANS 8:26-39

Romans 8 meets us in the place where life feels too heavy for easy answers. Paul does not say that suffering is good or that every painful thing is part of a plan. Instead, he tells us that when we do not know how to pray, the Spirit prays within us with sighs too deep for words.

This is not a faith that explains away pain, but rather a faith that refuses to let pain have the final word. Even when our choices are limited, even when the path is unclear, even when we are caught between forces we did not choose, God is still working for good through mercy, courage, truth, and love. We do not know every person's story, so we move with humility. We resist judging too quickly. And we trust that nothing—no hardship, fear, failure, injustice, or death—can separate us from the love of God.

Liturgy by Allendale United Methodist Church

Rev. Andy Oliver | Pastor
andy@allendaleumc.org

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

Cameron Helwege
Creative Director
cameron@allendaleumc.org

Diana Ong
Church Administrator
diana@allendaleumc.org

Dylan Dames
Music and Organizing Associate
dylan@allendaleumc.org

Bill Lee
Organist

**Courtney Ross, Erin Giblin,
Pam Green, Michaela George,
Susie Chisolm, Nevina Milano,
Evann Dickerson**
Nursery Attendants

Maddie Johnson
Sign Language Interpreter

Revs. Lois & Russ Lehman
Clergy in Residence

Rev. A Leon Tredwell, PhD
Pastor of Theological and
Community Engagement
drlee@allendaleumc.org

Bruce Bordaoux
Director of Operations
bruce@allendaleumc.org

Tru Mizzell
Director of Music Development
tru@allendaleumc.org

Campbell Horn & Dylan Dames
Youth Directors
youth@allendaleumc.org

Mallory Edghill
Nursery Coordinator

**Mallory Edghill
Lashley Marks
Elizabeth Stice**
Allendale Kids Leaders

Dr. Kate Pravera
Theologian in Residence

All of Us in the Congregation
Ministers of the Gospel

THIS WEEK

Sun Jul 26

9 AM Adult Sunday Morning Book Study (Wesley)
9 AM Grief Support Group (Ella Baker)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
1 PM Transnetwork Meal (CC)

Mon Jul 27

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

Tue Jul 28

11 AM Metro Men's Group (Wesley)
2 PM Pilates (Bill W/Nursery)

Wed Jul 29

6 PM Evening Tai Chi (Sanctuary)

Thu Jul 30

9 AM Tai Chi (Community Center)

Fri Jul 31

11 AM Metro Men's Group (Wesley)
6 PM Charity Drag Bingo (Sanctuary)

Sat Aug 1

Sun Aug 2

9 AM Adult Sunday Morning Book Study (Wesley)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Recovery and Support Groups meet often at Allendale and are listed on an online calendar: www.allendaleumc.org/recovery.

CLASSES & COMMUNITY

Grief Support Group - 7/26 & 8/9 at 9 AM
This group meets every other Sunday

United Women in Faith - TBD

United Methodist Men - 3rd Thu at 6 PM

Social Justice Team - 7/22 at 6:30 PM
Meeting in the Hybrid Room

Adult Sunday Morning Book Study
In-Person Book Study - Sun at 9 AM
Book - *Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny*
This group is now meeting in the Wesley Room

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

Stand For Democracy - Mon at 5 PM
NW corner of 22nd Ave N and 34th St N

Wednesday Night Dinners and Activities are on Summer break during June & July and will start back up in mid-August.