

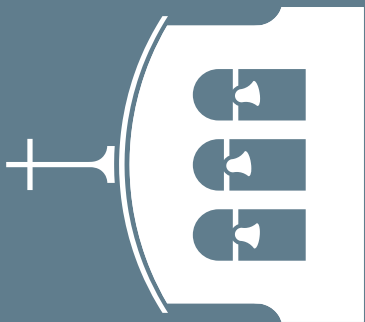
THE LONGEST NIGHT
DECEMBER 21, 2022

3803 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694
office@allendaleumc.org
www.allendaleumc.org

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



WELCOME

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 AM to 3 PM

We are honored that you chose to worship with us today! To learn more about the life of the church, if you have a special need, or you wish to visit with the pastor, please contact Beth in the office at 727.527.6694, office@allendaleumc.org.

Gender Pronouns: Asking and correctly using someone's correct 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 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.

Masks are required while on campus at Allendale to protect the most vulnerable.

Zoom links for Allendale's virtual events can be found at www.allendaleumc.org/online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fri Dec 23 Impromptu Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Sat Dec 24 Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Sat Dec 24 STOCCC Midnight Catholic Mass (Chapel) 10:30 PM
- Sun Dec 25 Christmas Morning Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Sat Dec 31 Judy Haines playing at FUSION Resort's New Years Eve Party 9 PM
Get tickets before they sell out: www.allendaleumc.org/goodbye2022
- Sun Jan 1 New Years Day Epiphany Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Fri Jan 6 St. Creaturesburg Open Mic Night (Sanctuary) 8:30 PM
- Sun Jan 8 New Member Sunday (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
Sign-up at allendaleumc.org/join

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT:

Sat, Dec 24 at 6 PM, Hear the Christmas story again with carols and concluding with and outdoor candlelight Silent Night.

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP:

Sun, Dec 25 at 10:30 AM we gather for worship on Christmas morning. Come in your pajamas if you want. Children are invited to bring a favorite toy to show and tell. We will have a hot cocoa station!

BUILDING COMMUNITY AT ALLENDALE:

Allendale's new Community Building Team is working to find new ways to promote connecting with others at Allendale. Our next gathering is Sun Jan 8 at 9 AM in the Wesley room. All are welcome! Come with ideas!

ALLENDALE 101 WORKSHOP:

Explore Allendale United Methodist Church through study and lively discussion of who we are and what sustains us. Learn ways to become more involved and connect with others. This course is open to all and meets January 10, 17, 24, and 31, from 6 - 7:30 PM

*Sign up for the course at:
www.allendaleumc.org/101*

WE NEED BUS DRIVERS/COORDINATORS:

With more people coming back to church, and many relying on others for rides, we are looking for someone to help us coordinate transportation to get people to and from church on Sundays using our church bus. If you are interested in either driving the bus occasionally on Sunday mornings or coordinating pick-ups and drop-offs, *reach out to the church office: office@allendaleumc.org*

COOKING WITH FRIENDS:

Wendy Wesley is a registered and licensed dietitian/nutritionist who works to improve the health of the community. Wendy will be holding hands-on cooking classes at Allendale every Tuesday night in January and February. Classes are \$39 each or choose multiple classes for a discount. We eat what we cook!
Sign up at: www.allendaleumc.org/cooking

Jan 3 - Winter White Bean and Arugula Bisque

Jan 10 - Jumbo Crab and Shrimp Cakes

Jan 17 - Fresh Thai Noodle Bowls

Jan 24 - Greek Salad and Homemade Vinaigrette

Jan 31 - Black Bean Tacos with Pico de Gallo

Feb 7 - Cast Iron Cooking and Honey-Seared Brussels Sprouts

Feb 14 - Chocolate Hummus and Strawberries with Edible Flowers

Feb 21 - Black Bean Cakes with Green Goddess Tahini

Feb 28 - Mediterranean Dips and Spreads (Hummus, labneh, tabbouleh)

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

Debbie Duty: cousin's open heart surgery
Tom Simpson: recovering from fractured femur
Donna Baxla: lung cancer treatments
Dan Leeper: cancer treatments
Bobbie Windle: cancer treatments
Jonna Hunt: loss of husband, Keith Glasscock
Ruth Spangler: recovering from a minor stroke

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

Greg Davidson	Dec 21
Chris Reich	Dec 22
Miguel Iturralde	Dec 25
Gunnar Foster	Dec 29
Courtney Ross	Dec 29
Laura Hutton	Dec 30
Jacqueline Reyes	Jan 1
Kain Arenz	Jan 2
Justin Miller	Jan 10
Lynn Fruit	Jan 12

Birthday missing? Please contact the office

CARE AND SUPPORT:

Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support
Office hours Tue 11-2 | Thu 4-7
make an appointment by calling the church
office at 727-527-6694

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

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

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 79 in-person, 227 online
Livestream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

GIFTS

Give online: www.allendaleumc.org/give
Text-to-give: Text amount to 727-312-0808
Amazon Smile: Allendale United Methodist



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

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:
Sun Jan 8 at 10:30 AM
Sign-up at: www.allendaleumc.org/join

WITNESS

THE LONGEST NIGHT

*They say all is calm and all is bright,
but our spirits toss and turn
and our hearts are not glad.*

*They say angels echo a joyous strain,
but our thoughts are looping
on what we have lost.*

*They say a place was made in a manger
for a wondrous child,
but there are empty spaces in our beds,
vacant chairs in our workplaces;
we reach for the phone
to call a familiar voice that will not answer.*

*Our anger points us towards
what should not yet be gone.*

*Institutions prize profit over people,
Illness and war break bodies and spirits,
The last of a species, even now,
breathes its final breath.*

*We rage against systems
that are made for death instead of life.*

*Our grief is love with nowhere to land.
We go door to door
but there is no place for it to stay.
So we welcome the sun setting early,
for only the longest night
can tend to this sorrow;
only the bluest hues
can meet us in this ache.*

*The collective grief of the world
is too much to comprehend,
so we speak the names of the ones we know.*

*We light candles for all this love
we still have burning.*

.....

The longest night is here for you to rest,
for you to weep,

for us to gather in body or spirit with those
who live in heartbreak too.

So let the blue hues bathe you,
whatever the state of your soul.

You do not have to sing a glad song.

There need not be a reframe,
a turn of phrase,
a positive spin,

for the Holy Spirit meets us in the depths.

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Let us know you are here by going to www.allendaleumc.org/here

GATHERING Allendale Band
Carol of the Bells |Leontovych|
Winter Snow |Assad|

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver
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CENTERING Liturgists

SONG Allendale Band
Christmas Song |Bridgers|

POEM Liturgists

SONG Allendale Band
For the Time We Had |Fouché, Stephen|

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Congregation
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel |Lyrics Adapted, see insert|

LIGHTING CANDLES OF HOPE Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG Allendale Band
Peace, My Mind |Schoolmeesters Gray, Gill|

BENEDICTION Revs. David Franks & Andy Oliver

POSTLUDE Allendale Band
Winter Snow |Assad|



Longest Night by Jan Richardson

THE MOON SURVIVES BENEATH THE EBB AND FLOW OF DARKNESS

God of the two lights,
I love the sun,
its revealing brilliance,
its lingering warmth;
but in the dark of night,
let me learn
the wisdom of the moon,
how it waxes and wanes
but does not die,
how it gives itself
to shadow,
knowing it will emerge whole
once more.

*The Longest Night poem and Call to Worship
Written by Rev. Molly Bolton, enfolded*

*Prayer from Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and
Christmas © Jan L. Richardson.*

*"From Generation to Generation"
advent theme, liturgy, and artwork
© A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor | andy@allendaleumc.org
Rev. David Franks, Minister of Pastoral Support | david@allendaleumc.org
Tru Mizzell, Music Development | tru@allendaleumc.org
Theresa Frost, Children/Youth | theresa@allendaleumc.org
Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | cameron@allendaleumc.org
Beth Jones, Church Administrator | beth@allendaleumc.org
Aaron Bennett, Maintenance | aaron@allendaleumc.org
Bill Lee | Organist
Maria Davidson | Nursery Coordinator
Madison Redington, Hannah Newton, Erin Giblin,
Courtney Ross | Nursery Attendants
Dr. Kate Pravera | Theologian in Residence
All in the Congregation | Ministers of the Gospel

THIS WEEK

*For a listing of virtual meetings, go to:
www.allendaleumc.org/online.*

Wed Dec 21

6 PM Longest Night Service (Sanctuary)
8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin)

Thu Dec 22

9 AM Chit Chat (Zoom)
7 PM AA Home Group (Bill W.)

Fri Dec 23

6 PM Impromptu Christmas Pageant (Sanct.)
7:30 PM AA Common Solutions (Bill W.)
8 PM AA Go After Your Sobriety (Rustin)

Sat Dec 24

9:30 AM AA Women's Reflection (Bill W.)
6 PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

Sun Dec 25

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5 PM AA Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)

Mon Dec 26

7:30 PM AA Common Solutions (Bill W.)
8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin & Tubman)

Tue Dec 27

Wed Dec 28

6 PM Scripture Class (Zoom)
8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin)

*Subscribe to the Allendale Calendar:
www.allendaleumc.org/calendar.*