

CHRISTMAS EVE EVE

DECEMBER 23, 2022

3803 Haines Road North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

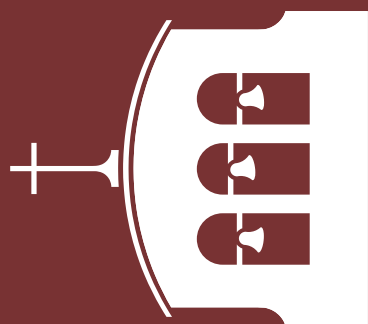
(727) 527-6694

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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/online).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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](http://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](http://allendaleumc.org/join)*

*Get more information about our upcoming events by visiting: [www.allendaleumc.org/events](http://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 Jan 11, 18, 25, and Feb 1, from 6 - 7:30 PM

*Sign up for the course at:  
[www.allendaleumc.org/101](http://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](mailto: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](http://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:

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

## PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 79 in-person, 227 online  
*Livestream: [www.allendaleumc.org/online](http://www.allendaleumc.org/online)*

## GIFTS

**Give online:** [www.allendaleumc.org/give](http://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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/join)*

## WITNESS

### JOY AND THE CHRISTMAS STORY:

The Revolutionary Love Project recently offered, "Some may see the holidays as a time to retreat from the cascade of crises facing our nation and world. We choose to see the holidays not as a time to try to escape but as an opportunity to ground ourselves in joy. Joy returns us to everything that is good and beautiful and worth fighting for. Joy gives us the energy to continue our labors to make a viable life and more just world. Joy comes when we draw our attention to the present moment—a child's laughter, a neighbor's cookies, a lit candle. In a time such as this, joy is an act of moral resistance."

The Christmas story is about drawing our attention to and grounding ourselves in joy, even as we are caught in a too-rough world of our making. The struggle to loosen the rough grip becomes a spiritual practice of joy. The Joy of God-With-Us is mingled with grief, exists side by side with mourning, knows that pain and death are all too real, but that beauty, and dreams, and heart melodies are, too.

The Christmas story is about joy enfleshed through the song of a young woman, terrified but still singing her heart out about freedom dreams and revolutionary reversals, even as her world is turned upside down.

The Christmas story is about joy enfleshed through the care of a quiet man, terrified but still tending to strange happenings with tender empathy, even as he is well versed in the religious appeal to purity, and practices of inflicting stigma and shame.

The Christmas story is about joy enfleshed through the birth of an infant, dependent and needy and still necessary to the story, a baby who will come to be called Teacher, Prophet, Messenger, Messiah, a Savior whose saving power is subtle: beauty, and truth, and generosity, and gathering people together for a meal, and calling the feared, forsaken, and forlorn by their holy name: Beloved.

The Christmas story is about joy enfleshed through the messages of angels, with terrible timing in terrifying times, speaking into the terror about the deadly consequences of living in fear, and without joy.

Beloveds: The tender bonds of enfleshed life are worth fighting for. Not even the too-rough fingers of the world can destroy the tender dreams and heart melodies emerging as God-With-Us comes to dwell, the force of Joy in this one wild and precious life...

May it be so.

# IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Let us know you are here by going to [www.allendaleumc.org/here](http://www.allendaleumc.org/here)

GATHERING ..... Allendale Band

WELCOME ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

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EPISODE I - Natalya Blau ..... He's Here

*What Child is This* (Marys come forward)

EPISODE II - Lane Miller ..... Mary and Gabriel

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Josephs come forward)

EPISODE III - Raleigh Miller ..... Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

*Away in a Manger* (Animals come forward)

EPISODE IV - Sophia Nikkel ..... God gives the world a wonderful gift!

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (Shepherds and Angels come forward)

EPISODE V - Aurora Nikkel ..... The Light of the whole world

*We Three Kings* (Wise Ones come forward)

EPISODE VI ..... The King of All Kings

*Joy to the World* (Lighting of the Christ Candle)

MEDITATION ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

LIGHTING OUR HEARTS ..... Congregation

*Silent Night*

BENEDICTION ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

POSTLUDE ..... Allendale Band



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

*"Joy and the Christmas Story" by Rev. Anna Blaedel (adapted)  
© Enfleshed | enfleshed.com*

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor | [andy@allendaleumc.org](mailto:andy@allendaleumc.org)  
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Aaron Bennett, Maintenance | [aaron@allendaleumc.org](mailto: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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/online).*

### **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)

### **Thu Dec 29**

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

### **Fri Dec 30**

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

*Subscribe to the Allendale Calendar:  
[www.allendaleumc.org/calendar](http://www.allendaleumc.org/calendar).*