

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 10, 2023

3803 Haines Road North
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

(727) 527-6694
office@allendaleumc.org

www.allendaleumc.org

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/Tue/Thu 9-5, Wed/Fri 9-12*

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 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 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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat Dec 16 Brunch With Santa (Community Center) 10 AM
- Thu Dec 21 Longest Night Service (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Sat Dec 23 Christmas Eve Eve Impromptu Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Sun Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary) 6 PM
- Sun Dec 31 Drag Queen Gospel Worship (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
- Sat Jan 6 Tai Chi Open House (Community Center) 10:30 AM
- Sun Jan 14 New Member Sunday (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM
Sign-up at www.allendaleumc.org/join

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

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

PHILIP DINKINS (he/him/his) and his husband Ed Lally joined Allendale in December, 2020. A native of Columbus, Indiana, Phil & Ed moved to Tampa in 1979 and to Saint Petersburg in 2015. Phil's parents were founding members in 1955 of Asbury United Methodist Church in Columbus. A graduate of Indiana University, Phil spent his career as a commercial real estate broker handling office building leasing in downtown Tampa. He is retired from Cushman & Wakefield. Phil & Ed spend the summers in Camden, Maine, and have a shelter tabby cat, Joey.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames
piano - Tru Mizzell
bass - Matthew Blaine

Our Christmas Choir is singing in Worship Today! *Contact tru@allendaleumc.org to join our band or choir.*

COOKIE EXCHANGE NEXT SUNDAY:

Sun Dec 17 before or after Worship at the refreshments table. Leave cookies and take some cookies! You don't have to bring cookies to enjoy cookies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MORNING GRIEF SUPPORT:

A grief support group is now meeting every other Sunday morning at 9 AM in the Wesley Room. Everyone is welcome. The next gathering will be Sun Dec 17.

BRUNCH WITH SANTA:

Santa Claus is coming to Allendale for a delicious brunch buffet on Sat Dec 16 from 10 AM - 12 PM in the Community Center. Join us for food, Christmas crafts, reindeer games, and pictures with Santa! Tickets are \$5 or whatever you can afford. *Get tickets at: www.allendaleumc.org/santa*

THE LONGEST NIGHT:

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 6 PM on Thu Dec 21 for a Worship Service on the Winter Solstice (the longest period of darkness all year), specifically creating space for grief, sadness, loss, and hope.

IMPROMPTU CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:

Bring your children dressed as any nativity character/animal or borrow a costume from us during the service to help us tell the nativity story. It will be chaotic, messy, inclusive, and beautiful, just like when Jesus was born.

CHRISTMAS EVE:

On Sun Dec 24 we will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent in worship at 10:30 AM Then at 6 PM, we will have a Christmas Eve service in the Sanctuary with a candlelight procession out to the courtyard.

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

Donna Baxla: lung cancer treatments

Dan Leeper: cancer treatments

Karen Welling: health issues

Eunice Fisher: health issues

Joe Jacoby: cancer treatments

BIRTHDAYS:

Steven Geis Dec 10

Ed Lally Dec 12

Philip Dinkins Dec 15

Devin Neitzert Dec 16

Jim Light Dec 17

Sandy Geis Dec 19

Ruth Spangler Dec 19

Miguel Iturralde Dec 25

Brad Hunsinger Dec 27

Courtney Ross Dec 29

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 for care by calling the church office at 727-527-6694

LICENSED THERAPISTS AND COUNSELORS:

available at Allendale's Counseling Center

Visit www.allendaleumc.org/counseling

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 109 in-person, 338 online

Livestream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:

Sun Jan 14 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



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

WITNESS

LESSONS IN CONNECTION:

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed

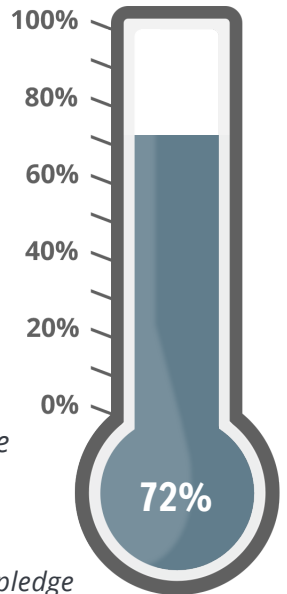
*It's been a long day,
long enough to complain,
long enough to wine and dine my
disappointment,
to give weariness
keys to the house.
But then you get the giggles
dancing with the dog in the kitchen.
Paws-sliding, tail-wagging,
side-cramping giggles.
I can hear it from across the house.
Your joy burrows its way
through the cracks in my armor
and then we are both laughing,
gulping for joyous, electric air.
And that's when I know—
if you grab my hand,
if you ask me to dance,
if our weary human souls can
make room for connection,
then we will survive.
Joy will take root.
Love will keep
her keys to the house.*

PLEDGE UPDATE

\$235,596 of our
\$325,000 goal

has been pledged
as of Fri Dec 8.

*58 pledges
representing 88 people*



Make your pledge at
www.allendaleumc.org/pledge

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

How does a weary world rejoice?
We find joy in connection

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

- PRELUDE Bill Lee
The Holly and the Ivy |Rasley|
Sing It True |Speed, Olgun|
- WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver
- SONG Allendale Choir
A Yuletide Greeting |Johnson|
- CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Philip Dinkins
- LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Congregation
Candle of Peace |Gillette|
- PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Rev. David Franks
- TIME WITH CHILDREN Theresa Frost
- OFFERING Allendale Choir
Peace, Peace |Powell, Powell, Bock|
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give
- PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. David Franks
Lord's Prayer |Miller|
- POEM Mallory Edghill
Lessons in Connection |by Rev. Sarah Speed|sanctifiedart.org|
- SONG Allendale Band
I Can Celebrate You |Strickland, Holst|
- PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE Philip Dinkins
Luke 1:24-45 & Isaiah 40:3-5
- SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver
- SONG Allendale Band
The Gift of Love |Hopson|
- WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Congregation
- CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY Theresa Frost
- BENEDICTION Philip Dinkins
- POSTLUDE Allendale Choir
Christmastime |Smith, Carlson|



"Two Mothers" by Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

LUKE 1:24-45

Mary and Elizabeth would be connected through the uterus...

This reminds me that we do not need to do the hard things alone. There is power in connection.



"Comfort, O Comfort" by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

ISAIAH 40:1-11

The shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuschia flowers in the foreground are Marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God's word.

"HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE"
Theme, Liturgy, and Images from *The Sanctified Art*

Rev. Andy Oliver, Pastor | andy@allendaleumc.org

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

Clarissa Silveira, Church Administrator | clarissa@allendaleumc.org

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | tru@allendaleumc.org

Theresa Frost, Director of Student Ministries | theresa@allendaleumc.org

Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | cameron@allendaleumc.org

Dylan Dames, Music and Organizing Associate | dylan@allendaleumc.org

Aaron Bennett, Maintenance | aaron@allendaleumc.org

Bill Lee | Organist

Maria Davidson | Nursery Coordinator

Madison Redington, 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 10

9 AM Poverty, By America Book Study (CC)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5 PM Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)
5:30 PM Youth Group (Wesley, Kitchen, Youth)

Mon Dec 11

5 PM Community Qi Gong (Community Center)
6 PM Scripture Class (Zoom)
6:30 PM AA Common Peril (Bill W.)
8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin & Tubman)

Tue Dec 12

Wed Dec 13

5 PM Dinner at Allendale (Community Center)
6 PM Visio Divina Class (Community Center)
8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin)

Thu Dec 14

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

Fri Dec 15

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

Sat Dec 16

9:30 AM AA Women's Reflection (Bill W.)
10 AM Brunch With Santa (CC)

Sun Dec 17

9 AM Poverty, By America Book Study (CC)
9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)
10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5 PM Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)
5:30 PM Youth Christmas Party (Parsonage)

DINNER MENU

Wed Dec 13

Chicken Alfredo on Linguine Pasta, Steamed Broccoli, Salad, Bread, and Dessert

ONGOING CLASSES

Book Study - *Sun at 9 AM*
"Poverty, By America"

Grief Support Group - *Sun 12/17 at 9 AM*

Scripture Class on Zoom - *Mon at 6 PM*
Join via Zoom: www.allendaleumc.org/online

Wednesday Night Classes - *Wed at 6 PM*
Visio Divina: Meditation and Art Discussion