



# ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 24, 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 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.

**Zoom** links for Allendale's virtual events can be found at [www.allendaleumc.org/online](http://www.allendaleumc.org/online).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 Black History Teach-In (Community Center) 9 AM
- Sun Jan 14 New Member Sunday (Sanctuary) 10:30 AM  
*Sign-up at [www.allendaleumc.org/join](http://www.allendaleumc.org/join)*
- Fri Jan 19 Gwendolyn Reese & Dr. Deborah G. Plant Book Event (Sanctuary) 7 PM  
*Discussing "Of Greed and Glory: In Pursuit of Freedom for All"*
- Jan 26-28 SingFest 2024- a festival for those who identify as women (Allendale)  
*Learn more at [www.singfestfl.com](http://www.singfestfl.com)*

*Get more information about our upcoming events by visiting: [www.allendaleumc.org/events](http://www.allendaleumc.org/events)*

## WORSHIP NOTES

### TODAY'S LITURGIST:

**SHEILA STEWART** (she/her/hers) grew up on Madeira Beach in a retired Air Force family with four siblings. She is an educator, an anthropologist and an archaeologist, retired from Pinellas County Schools. Her passions for social justice include bringing the native peoples of Florida back into our historical heritage, particularly those who first made Pinellas and Weedon Island their home. Among her interests are music, movies, taking hikes in nature, and travel. She lives in St. Petersburg with her husband, John Stewart, and house cat Lena Tiggy-winkle.

### TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

piano - Tru Mizzell

vocals - Erica George

*Contact [tru@allendaleumc.org](mailto:tru@allendaleumc.org) to join our band or choir.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP:

Come back tonight at 6 PM for our Christmas Eve service with carols and candlelight. This peaceful service reminds us of hope in a weary world. At the end of the service, we move in a procession out into the courtyard by candlelight.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE DRAG GOSPEL WORSHIP:

We're celebrating New Year's Eve in style with our 5th Sunday Drag Gospel Worship. In months that have five Sundays, Momma Ashley Rose and other drag artists come to lead us in worship.

### OF GREED AND GLORY:

Tombolo Books in partnership with the African American Heritage Association and Allendale UMC are honored to present a conversation with scholar, writer, and literary critic Dr. Deborah G. Plant and Gwendolyn Reese, President of the African American Heritage Association. The two will discuss Plant's latest monograph, *Of Greed and Glory: In Pursuit of Freedom for All*. Fri Jan 19 at 7 PM at Allendale UMC. *Get free tickets at: [www.allendaleumc.org/greed-glory](http://www.allendaleumc.org/greed-glory)*

### BLACK HISTORY TEACH-IN:

On Sun Jan 14 at 9 AM there will be a special teach-in in the Community Center with Geveryl Robinson in collaboration with Faith in Florida. You won't want to miss this important discussion!

# STEWARDSHIP

## PRAYERS

**Donna Baxla:** lung cancer treatments

**Dan Leeper:** cancer treatments

**Karen Welling:** health issues

**Eunice Fisher:** health issues

**Joe Jacoby:** cancer treatments

### BIRTHDAYS:

Miguel Iturralde Dec 25

Brad Hunsinger Dec 27

Courtney Ross Dec 29

Jacqueline Reyes Jan 1

Justin Miller Jan 10

Lynn Fruit Jan 12

Matt Blaine Jan 14

*Birthdays 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](http://www.allendaleumc.org/counseling)

## PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 107 in-person, 296 online

Livestream: [www.allendaleumc.org/online](http://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](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



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

## WITNESS

### THE SOUND OF HOPE:

We've been singing a sad song  
for quite some time,  
the melody syncing with our heartbeats,  
the lyrics stamped to the front of our minds.  
You say, sad songs are honest.

It's hard to disagree,  
for sad songs tap us on the shoulder.  
Sad songs remind us  
of the 100 different corners  
heartbreak could be behind.

But I don't have it in me  
to sing a sad song forever.

So despite the news,  
despite the aches in my body,  
despite the phone call last night  
that says she's waiting for the test results,  
despite yesterday's shooting,  
despite the unknown and unchanged,  
I am going to sing a song of hope.

Like a canary in a snowstorm,  
I don't need another song of what is;  
I need a song of what could be.

So sing with me.

Our voices may get drowned out by the wind,  
but surely someone will ask:  
Was that a flash of yellow in the snow?  
Was that the sound of hope?

*"The Sound of Hope"*

by Rev. Sarah Speed | @sanctifiedart

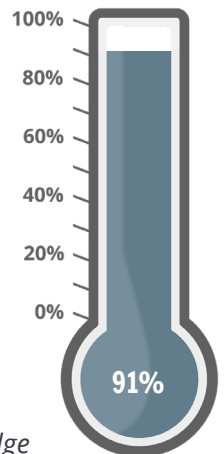
## PLEDGE UPDATE

**\$274,142** of our  
**\$300,000** goal

has been pledged  
as of Fri Dec 22.

*67 pledges representing  
112 people*

Make your pledge at  
[www.allendaleumc.org/pledge](http://www.allendaleumc.org/pledge)



# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

How does a weary world rejoice?

We sing stories of hope

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 ..... Bill Lee

*Angels We Have Heard On High* |arr. Balcombe|

*Sing It True* |Speed, Olgun|

WELCOME ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

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SONG ..... Allendale Band

*You Are My Joy* |Reagan|

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ..... Sheila Stewart

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES ..... Congregation

*Candle of Love* |Gillette|

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS ..... Rev. David Franks

TIME WITH CHILDREN ..... Theresa Frost

OFFERING ..... Allendale Band

*All The Earth is Waiting* |Taulé|

give online at [www.allendaleumc.org/give](http://www.allendaleumc.org/give)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ..... Rev. David Franks

*Lord's Prayer* |Miller|

POEM ..... Courtney Ross

*The Sound of Hope* |by Rev. Sarah Speed|[sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)|

SONG ..... Allendale Band

*Promises* |Strickland, Barnes|

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE ..... Sheila Stewart

*Luke 1:46-55, 67-80*

SERMON ..... Rev. Andy Oliver

SONG ..... Allendale Band

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* |Johnson|

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY ..... Theresa Frost

BENEDICTION ..... Sheila Stewart

POSTLUDE ..... Bill Lee

*Joy to the World* |Schramm|



"Two Mothers" by Rev. Nicolette Peñaranda

**LUKE 1:46-55**

Mary's song rings of a dream that not only she but her ancestors dreamed of, and she would be the one to give birth to the savior of her people.



"Prophecy" by Hannah Garrity

**LUKE 1:67-80**

The image is inspired by waters meeting one another. This intersecting flow portrays Zechariah's words meeting John the Baptist's life. It is a crashing toward, a central meeting place, a potential energy meeting a kinetic being.

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

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)

Clarissa Silveira, Church Administrator | [clarissa@allendaleumc.org](mailto:clarissa@allendaleumc.org)

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | [tru@allendaleumc.org](mailto:tru@allendaleumc.org)

Theresa Frost, Director of Student Ministries | [theresa@allendaleumc.org](mailto:theresa@allendaleumc.org)

Cameron Helwege, Creative Director | [cameron@allendaleumc.org](mailto:cameron@allendaleumc.org)

Dylan Dames, Music and Organizing Associate | [dylan@allendaleumc.org](mailto:dylan@allendaleumc.org)

Aaron Bennett, Maintenance | [aaron@allendaleumc.org](mailto: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 24 - Christmas Eve

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5 PM Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)

6 PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

### Mon Dec 25 - Christmas Day

6:30 PM AA Common Peril (Bill W.)

8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin & Tubman)

### Tue Dec 26

12:30 PM AA Just the Black Lines (Tubman)

### Wed Dec 27

8 PM AA Go After Sobriety (Rustin)

### Thu Dec 28

9 AM Chit Chat (Zoom)

7 PM AA Home Group (Bill W.)

### Fri Dec 29

7:30 PM AA Common Peril (Bill W.)

8 PM AA Go After Your Sobriety (Rustin)

### Sat Dec 30

9:30 AM AA Women's Reflection (Bill W.)

### Sun Dec 31 - New Year's Eve

9 AM Book Study Group (CC)

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5 PM Crystal Meth Anon (Tubman)

6 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)

## ONGOING CLASSES

Book Study Group - Sun at 9 AM

Grief Support Group - Sun 12/31 at 9 AM

*This class meets every other Sunday*

Scripture Class on Zoom - Mon at 6 PM

*Join via Zoom: [www.allendaleumc.org/online](http://www.allendaleumc.org/online)*

Wednesday Night Classes - Wed at 6 PM

*Returning on January 10, 2024*