

ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 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 tonight! 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- 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
- Sat Feb 4 Woodson Warrior Fundraiser Gala (535 4th Ave N) 3-6 PM
featuring guest speaker Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative
- Get more information about our upcoming events by visiting: www.allendaleumc.org/events*

WORSHIP NOTES

TONIGHT'S LITURGIST:

NICK CAREY (he/him/his) Allendale has been Nick and his wife, Aileen's, church home since 2018, becoming a space that connects their faith and belief in justice. Nick serves as a Community Organizer in Pinellas County with Faith in Florida, working with faith communities and working people to guarantee housing, safety and access to democracy. He is now running for St Petersburg City Council in District 3 to help build a St. Pete that works for everyone. Nick lives in the Euclid Heights neighborhood. You can usually spot him with Aileen walking their two dogs, Wilbur and Rylie.

TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS:

guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames

piano - Tru Mizzell

organist - Bill Lee

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*

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!

SINGFEST 2024:

SingFest is a festival for women Jan 26-28 at Allendale. This event features singing, drumming, dancing, poetry and other creative workshops and keynotes.
Learn more and register: www.singfestfl.com

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

PRESENCE

Previous Sunday: 107 in-person, 296 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

THERE IS ROOM:

The world may feel like one long stretch of night, like an endless winter, or a hovering rain cloud.

And life may feel like walking into the wind, an uphill climb in every direction, but we can still open the door.

We can't calm every storm, but we can turn on the porch lights.

We can add chairs to the table.

We can keep clean sheets on the guest bed, just in case.

We can hold the elevator, and learn pronouns.

We can tell stories of belonging, and take turns listening.

We can learn each other's names, and plant trees for our children.

We can study privilege and advocate for mental health.

We can insist, every single day, in a million different ways:

there is room,
there is room,
there is room for you here.

We can't calm every storm, but we can turn on the porch lights.

"There is Room"

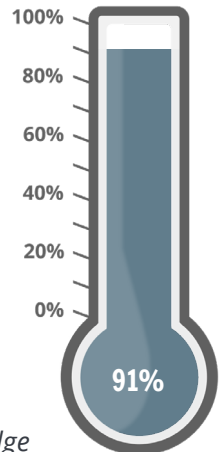
by Rev. Sarah Speed | @sanctifiedart

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

How does a weary world rejoice?
We make room

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

Lullabies of Christmas |Smith|

WELCOME Rev. Andy Oliver

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SONG Allendale Band

Christmas Carol Medley ..

CALL TO WORSHIP & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nick Carey

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Congregation

The Christ Candle's Light |Gillette|

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Rev. David Franks

TIME WITH CHILDREN Theresa Frost

OFFERING Allendale Band

O Holy Night |Adam, Chappeau, Dwight|
give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. David Franks

Lord's Prayer |Miller|

POEM Theresa Frost

There is Room |by Rev. Sarah Speed|sanctifiedart.org|

SONG Allendale Band

Make Room |Strickland, Redner|

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & SCRIPTURE Nick Carey

Luke 2:1-20

SERMON Rev. Andy Oliver

CANDLELIGHTING Allendale Band

Silent Night |Gruber|

BENEDICTION Rev. Andy Oliver



"Surrogacy" by Hannah Garrity

LUKE 2:1-20

"Recently, I was standing at The Dwelling at Richmond Hill. The former slave quarters are open and offered for visitation. After the tour, our white tour guide mentioned that Black members of the staff felt a great reverence, a holy presence at The Dwelling.

The space held the presence of God; it was like entering a sanctuary.

I remember the same feeling when I was young, touring the slave quarters at Monticello. But now, listening to the Richmond Hill staff testimony, I understood these spaces in a new way, with a reverence for the God-like presence of the Black mother in the depths of oppression."

*"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 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

Wednesday Night Classes - Wed at 6 PM

Returning on January 10, 2024