



ALLENDALE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 29, 2024

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-Wed 9-4, Thu 10-4*

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.

1924-2024 Celebrating 100 years of ministry!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat Jan 11 Allendale Leadership Retreat 10:30 AM - 4 PM

Mon Jan 20 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade (1st Ave South) 11 AM

Wed Jan 22 Concert: Bobby Jo Valentine @ Allendale UMC (Sanctuary) 6:30 PM

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

WORSHIP NOTES

TODAY'S LITURGIST:

ERICA GEORGE (she/they) is a Georgia native, but has lived in St Pete most of her life. She holds a Master of Social Work and works with individuals experiencing mental health crisis. She loves spoiling her cats, Cooper and Willow, Sunday brunches, and trying all kinds of coffee shops with her wife, Michaela. They serve Allendale as Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and sometimes you can also spot them singing or playing guitar on the Worship Band.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

piano - Tru Mizzell
guitar/vocals - Dylan Dames
organist - Bill Lee

TODAY'S DRAG QUEENS:

Candy Von Sparkle
Brucella D'Evil
Patty-Ann

Join our band or choir: tru@allendaleumc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH DONUT FUNDRAISER:

The youth are having a friendly competition to raise money for the youth ministry. They are selling Krispy Kreme donuts for \$16 a dozen. *Pre-Order donuts here: www.allendaleumc.org/donuts*

When you order donuts, you will have the option to select a youth to support. Once you order, and the youth leaders have a chance to process your order, you will then be sent a code to redeem for a dozen donuts.

COLD NIGHT SHELTER:

Did you know Allendale serves as a shelter for our unhoused neighbors during cold nights? Let us know if you're interested in helping and we'll send out more information about what's involved and when we activate our shelter: www.allendaleumc.org/coldnight

BOBBY JO VALENTINE CONCERT:

We are thrilled to host a concert with Bobby Jo Valentine on Wednesday, January 22 at 6:30 PM. Known for his soulful, spirit-focused lyrics and hopeful melodies, Bobby's music speaks to the gentle spiritual awakenings of an openhearted life. His journey—from strict church lines to a faith focused on love and growth—shines through his inspiring songs and stories. *Get tickets: www.allendaleumc.org/bobby*

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS

Dan Leeper: cancer treatments
Karen Welling: health issues
Eunice Fisher: health issues
Cait & Eric Reynolds: wisdom & guidance

BIRTHDAYS:

Courtney Ross	Dec 29
Jacqueline Reyes	Jan 1
Sam Wyness	Jan 4
Justin Miller	Jan 10
Lynn Fruit	Jan 12
Aiden Daly	Jan 15
Nova Redlow	Jan 17
Edward Miller	Jan 18

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: 91 in-person, 313 online
Livestream: www.allendaleumc.org/online

WANT TO JOIN ALLENDALE?

The next opportunity:
Sun Jan 12 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
Buy a shirt: www.allendaleumc.org/shirts



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

WITNESS

THIS UPCOMING SUNDAY AT ALLENDALE:

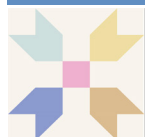
We believe that joy and laughter are sacred. They connect us to one another, to our Creator, and to the deep goodness of life. Even when the world feels heavy, joy and laughter is a form of holy resistance. Today's Drag Worship Service of Lessons and Laughter is about celebrating the liberating and contagious joy of God's love. The angels proclaimed Christ's birth as "good news of great joy for all people," and we take that invitation seriously—no one is left out of this celebration.

Drag in our worship service combines creativity, visual storytelling, and bold expression to remind us that God is the creator of joy and laughter. Drag challenges conventions, invites us to see the world differently, and teaches us to embrace the fullness of who God created us to be. In a world that often feels weighed down by fear and division, drag invites us to find joy together, love more freely, and celebrate the beautiful humanity that makes up God's beloved community.

Whether you're here for the first time or the hundredth, this space is for you. We are all part of God's story, one that is filled with joy, grace, and hope for everyone. At Allendale, all are welcome to participate fully in the life and ministry 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.

So today, lean into the laughter. Let's sing with our whole hearts, celebrate with joy, and open ourselves to the Spirit's work among us. May this time of worship bring you laughter, hope, and a renewed sense of wonder and possibility.

CHRISTMASTIDE

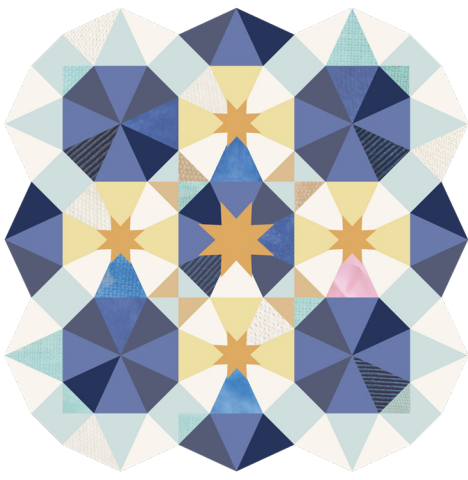


DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



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

PRELUDE	Music Video
<i>Echolocation</i> Bengson	
WELCOME	Rev. Andy Oliver
SONG	Allendale Band
<i>Hope Will Not Fail</i> Miller ..	
CALL TO WORSHIP	Erica George
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS	Rev. David Franks
SONG	Congregation
<i>Joyful, Joyful</i> Beethoven, Emerson, Warren	
POEM	Rose Cervantes
<i>Holy & Unhindered</i> by Rev. Sarah A. Speed sanctifiedart.org	
OFFERING	Congregation
<i>Let Joy Be Your Companion</i> Strickland <i>give online at www.allendaleumc.org/give</i>	
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION	Erica George
LESSON 1: Joy Found in Scripture	Erica George & Rev. Andy Oliver
<i>Luke 2:10</i> <i>Isaiah 9:2-3</i>	
SONG	Brucella D'Evil
<i>Spectrum</i> Florence + The Machine, Calvin Harris	
LESSON 2: Joy Found in Community	Erica George & Rev. Andy Oliver
<i>Matthew 2:10</i> <i>Psalms 148</i>	
SONG	Candy Von Sparkle
<i>I've Got Joy</i> CeCe Winans	
LESSON 3: Joy Found in Prayer	Erica George & Rev. Andy Oliver
<i>Psalms 126:1-3</i> <i>Isaiah 55:12-13</i>	
SONG	Patty-Ann
<i>God Is Good</i> Francesca Battistelli	
CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY	Rev. Andy Oliver
BENEDICTION	Erica George
POSTLUDE	All the Queens
<i>JOY (Unspeakable)</i> Voices of Fire, Pharrell Williams	



LESSONS AND LAUGHTER

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

Liturgy by A Sanctified Art (Portions adapted by Allendale)

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

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

Diana Ong, Church Administrator | diana@allendaleumc.org

Terry Fitzgerald, Director of Development | terry@allendaleumc.org

Tru Mizzell, Director of Music Development | tru@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

Campbell Horn, Dylan Dames | Youth Leaders

Michaela George, 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 29

9 AM Grief Support Group (Wesley)

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5:30 PM Youth Group (Wesley, Kitchen, Youth)

Mon Dec 30

Church Office Closed

Tue Dec 31

Church Office Closed

Wed Jan 1

Happy New Year

Church Office Closed

Thu Jan 2

Church Office Closed

Fri Jan 3

Church Office Closed

Sat Jan 4

Sun Jan 5

10:30 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)

5:30 PM Youth Group (Wesley, Kitchen, Youth)

Recovery and Support Groups meet often at Allendale and are now listed on their own calendar: www.allendaleumc.org/recovery.

ONGOING CLASSES

Grief Support Group- 12/29 at 9 AM
This class meets every other Sunday

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

Wednesday Night Dinner & Classes
Dinner at 5 PM, Classes at 6 PM

DINNER MENU

Dinner starts at 5 PM in the Community Center. \$10 or whatever you can afford. Vegetarian or Vegan options are always available.

Wed Jan 1

Happy New Year - No Wednesday Night Activities this week.