

**WESLEY UNITED CHURCH
ST JAMES PASTORAL CHARGE**

9:30 am Wesley 11:30 am Scotch Ridge

March 15th, 2020 Lent 3

For public health reasons, we are not passing the offering plate. Please put your envelope in the plate as you enter or leave today. Also please note we are a handshake/hug/touch free zone for the time being- please greet each other with a smile and a hello, or other touch-free means.



We Gather

*Please stand as able and comfortable
Writing in **Bold** to be spoken in Unison



Prelude

Welcome

We acknowledge the Passamaquoddy People and their
Stewardship of this land throughout the ages

***Gathering Music**

VU 619 **chorus, v2, chorus**

**Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear and hope beyond all sorrow.
In the pain and joy beholding,
how your grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love.**

Healer...

Gathering Words

As long nights give way to light, and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
we come today to remember that we are loved.

Like the green shoots of renewed life hidden beneath the cold soil,

We welcome an awakening of wisdom, of inspiration.

In this season of deep reflection,

**we remember, we reclaim our identity as children of the Holy , called to
be community, called to open our hearts to Divine Presence, called to
be people of faith , people of hope!**

*We Sing

MV 148 Hope of Abraham and Sarah
[optional tune Beach Spring VU 374]

Hope of Abraham and Sarah,
friend of Hagar, God of Ruth,
you desire that ev'ry people
worship you in spirit, truth.

Meet us in our sacred places,
mosque and synagogue and church,
Show us paths of understanding.
bless us in our common search.

Root us in our own tradition,
faith our forebears handed down.
Grow us in your grace and knowledge.
plant our feet on solid ground.
Cultivate the seeds of sharing
in this world of many creeds.
Keep us open, wise in learning,
bearing fruit in loving deeds.

Hope of Abraham and Sarah,
sov'reign God whom we adore,
form in us your new creation
free of violence, hate, and war.
So my Torah, cross and crescent,
each a sign of life made new,
point us t 'ward your love and justice,
earth at peace and one in you.



Moment of Reflection

As we journey more deeply into Lent, we think of those in our world, past or present, who have been forced to journey – away from home, away from ancestral land, away even from their language, their way of life. We think of the journeys in our Bible stories, journeys into lands where people were living, people who paid costs not considered. We think of European ancestors who also travelled into lands where people were living, here and around the world, people who continue to pay the costs. We think of maps changed to obscure the memories of whose land it really was. We feel a cold wind at our back, we glimpse places of fear and loneliness, and we seek Light and warmth for us and for all. [silence]

[We Hear Words of Wisdom](#)

Readings from ancient and modern wisdom

Genesis 12: 1 4a a Call to Abraham

"and other selected readings TBC"

Wesley Reader: Barb Sheen

Special Music by the Choir

"Deep in our Hearts"

Reflection *following the Reflection please remain seated for next hymn*

We Sing

VU 286 If You Will Trust in God to Guide You

If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways,
God will give strength, whatever betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that will not move.



God will embrace your pain and weeping,
your helpless anger and distress.
If you are in God's care and keeping
in sorrow will God love you less?
For Christ, who took for you a cross,
will bring you safe through every loss.

Sing, pray and keep God's ways unswerving;
so do your own part faithfully,
and trust God's word, though undeserving,
you'll find God's promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in God indeed.

[We Go Forth, To Love This World](#)

Stewardship Seconds

**Stewardship begins in spiritual formation: God's love poured into
thirsty hearts keeps us alive during wilderness experiences.**

Minute for Mission - if wished

*Receiving the Offering

Offering Response:

MV 45 You Are Freedom

*You are freedom, you show us the way,
You are freedom, you show us the way.
You show us you show us, you show us the way.
You show us, you show us, you show us the way.*

*Offering Prayer

God of the unexpected, we open our hands to receive what you would give us. We open our hearts to risk the changes your Spirit would work in us. We give what we can- through our gifts, may persons and communities be fed in body and encouraged to embrace life-giving changes. As we trust in the abundance of holy giving, so we receive and so we give. In the name of your Beloved. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Ministry and Mission, Joys and Concerns

*We Sing

VU 634

To Abraham and Sarah

To Abraham and Sarah
the call of God was clear:
"Go forth, and I will show you
a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey,
for I have pledged my word
that you shall be my people
and I will be your God."

From Abraham and Sarah
arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey
on God's abundant grace;
and in their heart was written
by God this saving word,
"That you shall be my people
and I will be your God."

We of the generation
on whom God's hand is laid
can journey to the future
secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God's goodness
and trusting in God's word,
"That you shall be my people
and I will be your God."



Words of Parting and Blessing

Like Abraham and Sarah faithfully leaving their homeland,
like Jesus setting his face towards Jerusalem,
we follow an Adventuring One,
taking a way that cannot be fully known.

**Holy visions inspire us,
giving us courage to face times that test our spirits.
Brave and wise ones accompany us,
as we shine a light for one another.**

Together we face fears and rise to challenges,
even welcoming the unknown.

Together we know the Spirit goes with us
shining bright even within the cloud of presence-
at work within those we meet, those we are called to honour as beloved
children of God.

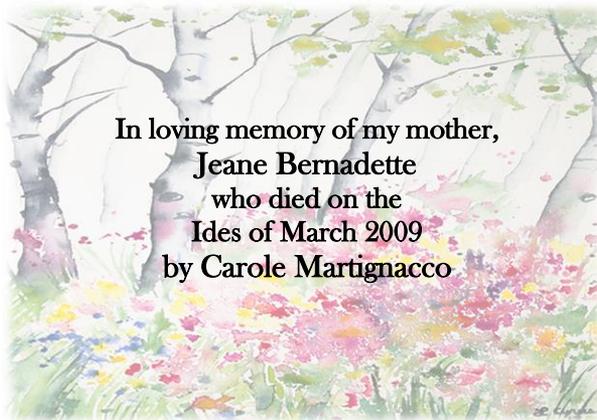
**and so, we continue the journey of faith,
with hope, with compassion, and even with joy.**

We Go Forth Singing VU 121 verse for 3rd Sunday in Lent

**Living water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul,
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole,
flow in us and make us whole.**

Today's Musician Carol Adamowicz **Greeters:** Peggy Hogarth & Erin Tweedie

Credits: Gathering words adapted from Gill Le Fevre, blessing adapted from David Sparks in Gathering, L/E/P 2020



In and Around Wesley and St James

Check for events and any updates/further information on our website;
<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/events/>

Day - Date	Time	Location	Event
Mon Mar 16	2:30 -4 pm	Wesley Upper Hall	Wesley Choir Practice
Mon Mar 16	4-5 pm	Wesley Upper Hall	Wesley Affirm Committee
Tues Mar 17	12 – 1pm	Wesley Upper Hall	Fitness Classes call Gary 921 0628
Tues Mar 17	5-8 pm	Wesley Upper Hall	Highland Dance Classes
Weds Mar 18	12-1pm	Anglican Parish Hall	Food for Body and Soul. Lenten lunch series, a simple lunch with a guest speaker. Free will offering for Open Door. Sponsored by the local churches
Weds Mar 18	1:30-3 pm	Wesley Labyrinth Walks	Wesley Sanctuary Labyrinth open as a Lenten reflective opportunity. Volunteers on hand.
Weds Mar 18	5:30-6:30 pm	Wesley Upper Hall	Men's discussion Group Pre-registration required. For information contact Jay 506-469-5000 jayremer@gmail.com Free-will offering.
Thurs Mar 19	9:30 – 11:30	Wesley Lower Hall	Playgroup – Family Resource Centre
Thurs Mar 19	12 – 1pm	Wesley Upper Hall	Fitness Classes call Gary 921 0628
Thurs Mar 19	2-4 pm	Wesley Lower Hall	Wild Mercy Study
Fri Mar 20	7-10 pm	Oak Hill Hall	CXLD: St James Coffee House
Sun Mar 22	9:30 am	Wesley Sanctuary	Wesley Sunday Worship
Sun Mar 22	11:30 am	Scotch Ridge United Church	Worship St James

Please send announcements to: WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com

A Stewardship Reflection

Our generosity is in response to God's vast generosity in our own lives. Our generosity is a way to contribute to God's mission in the world. It is how we make a positive difference as individuals and families – in our own community through the mission of our congregation, and across our country and around the globe through the Mission & Service of the United Church of Canada. Recently as coronavirus outbreaks are reported around the globe, partners in China thank the United Church for continued prayers and support....

As we move through this Season of Lent let us ask ourselves, "What is God's mission for me in my daily life? How do we model compassion, provide community and offer hope?"

Thanks
Barb



Looking for readers for the rest of the month and beyond....
Please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Lenten Lunch and Open Door

March 18th Wednesday. Wesley hosts the Lenten lunch at the Anglican hall, Holly Johnson will be speaking.

Wesley Community: March 29th 9:30 in our worship time, 3 community educators will discuss inclusivity issues which we may not all be aware of in our everyday experience, with some thoughts and suggestions on how to address them. There will be Q and A afterwards and then a special congregational meeting, for all present to vote on the following motion:

that Wesley congregation applies to Affirm United to be accredited as an Affirming Community of Faith and to become a member of Affirm United.

We will have an information package available today to help you in your discernment, and there will be more details in our next two Coops.

UCW Collection for Transition House

During the month of March, the UCW collects toiletries, for women and children, for Transition House. For those of you who do not know, Transition House offers a safe haven to women and children fleeing from domestic violence. Often, they are forced to leave only with the clothes they are wearing. Transition House, among many other things, offers them such things as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products and so on. If you would like to contribute, there is a receiving basket at the back of the church. Thank you ❤️

DEDICATIONS

“Remember someone special, a moment in time or perhaps a blessing or joy.”

**A warm welcome if you are visiting us today!
Please take a moment and sign our guest book
in the foyer. We hope to see you again**

WESLEY UNITED CHURCH	ST JAMES PASTORAL CHARGE
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