

Please WATCH FOR AN EMAIL FOR Sundays Service – also on the website
<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

Dear Members and Friends,

Thanks to Francie Howard for the invitation to do a greeting page for the COOP - giving me a chance to imagine what we'd probably chat about if gathered round the Labyrinth during social hour on a Sunday morning.

Has it really been over four months since our last in-person service at Wesley in late March - there was still snow on the ground! Each in our unique ways have been learning to cope with this new reality, drawing on our own depths of spirit as well as our connections with each other for support. Though nothing can replace the joy of singing together, seeing familiar faces as we worship on Zoom helps, knowing we're as close now as we wish to be, in heart, mind, and spirit.

Sitting round the table at Honeybeans I'd be asking you: what's your Covid-19 therapy? How do you turn your personal pandemic pain into possibility? Do you believe, as a friend's new email tagline suggests, that: "Mother Nature has sent us to our rooms to reflect on our behaviour"? Are you overwhelmed at multiple crises on the world stage? Daily learning to live with uncertainties - wondering when or how will this be over and what's next. However, you make sense of what's happening, how do you challenge yourself to find or create gift in each day and feel connected. In the midst of loss, what helps you navigate this time of great change? Are we being called to reinvent ourselves?

Pour moi, this lifelong learning junkie has resolved to make it a time of exploring and gathering all the wisdom I can from every direction. Daily I spend time with the best minds and spirits of our age, and times past, those whose hearts have always been attuned to compassion and courage. Not only between the pages of books, but through virtual gatherings I've never imagined being able to attend before. I scramble to come up to speed with the amazing technologies for new ways of connecting. Weekly I can now meet with my writing group back in Quebec's Eastern Townships. By Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp and text - sometimes even by that almost obsolete land phone, we keep in regular contact with far-flung family and friends. I've also been blessed to share silent meditation with a group here in St. Andrews, and enjoy an abundance of conferences, workshops with leaders and participants from all over the world. Amazing!

Photo from:
<http://www.interfaithjourneys.net/home/the-great-turning>



But one need not go too far afield to find amazing! A group in our own Wesley community has met weekly throughout the spring and summer to explore some of the most spirit-filled ideas. We started out as Wild Mercy, exploring mysticism in world religious traditions. Now we're coming to the end of A Wild Love for the World, celebrating the Buddhist philosopher and environmental activist Joanna Macy and her innovative world-changing work to effect a global shift in consciousness. Macy says we are in the midst of The Great Unraveling, heading toward new way of being human on the earth that she calls The Great Turning. Zoom allows us to check in and support each other in the daily ups and downs of our lives and explore together our responses to the weekly readings. Weekly gatherings with these wise ones has done more than anything to keep my hope and sense of wonder and joy alive!

No doubt we will all emerge with stories to tell of the richness we've discovered in this pause for collective reflection. Whatever you are doing to keep your spirits engaged and your heart turned toward goodness and wisdom, until we meet again - let's keep in touch and find ways to share!

Blessings and peace be to you.
Namaste ~ Rev. Carole Martignacco

[A note from Jane](#)

I look forward to connecting with you this Sunday by Zoom or in the pages of your home worship. For the time being, I'll work with you just half-time. Normally, for now, I'll work at least parts of Wednesdays through Fridays, and of course whatever is needed on Sunday [which may change as we go]. Phone me at 529-3474 or email me or text me [at 467-1494- that phone does not work well for conversation in my apartment] I will be primarily doing worship, attending meetings as necessary, and offering pastoral care and conversation either as needed or as time allows. I will work mostly from home except when meeting any of you in person- preferably outdoors but always with physical distancing.

Many thanks to Ali [Sundays] and Bob [on-call] for making themselves available in July!

Remembering August 1: End of Slavery in Canada

August 1, 1834 is the day the Slavery Abolition Act came into effect, ending slavery throughout most of the British Empire - including in the colonies that would become Canada. It is estimated that on that day, 800,000 enslaved Black peoples were freed, as it became illegal for anyone to be a slave in the British Empire.

There is a grassroots movement happening in the United Church and beyond [to proclaim August 1](#) as one way to support the fair treatment of all humans and affirm that all persons are made in the image of God. The commemoration of August 1 reminds us that the fight against systemic and anti-Black racism is far from over, and that we need to continue the work for the creation of a more just society. It is one way to continue the work of becoming an anti-racist church

Stewardship Message June 2020 – please click link

<https://wesleyunitedstandrewsbythesea704293189.files.wordpress.com/2020/06/stewardship-message-june-2020.pdf>

In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Jane Doull

at 529-3474 or email me or text at 467-1494

Any other matters please contact Barb Sheen, Chair of the Worship Committee on 469-4631.

We will continue with our Zoom and Home Worship weekly services and we will soon have news of an August picnic and a few other events.

Events:

Sunday, 2nd August 10 am Worship service via Zoom with Rev. Ali Anningson

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185> Meeting ID: 306 739 2185

Feel free to share the Zoom link with anyone else who wants to come

Sunday, 2nd August Home Worship

a home worship service provided for those who can't do Zoom. [provided by email](#) or please see our website for at Home Worship and other virtual gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

Tuesday 4th August 2:30 - 4:00 pm Wild and Wonderful Study Group by Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185> Meeting ID: 306 739 2185

Wednesday 5th August 7 - 9:00 pm Wesley Board Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185> Meeting ID: 306 739 2185

Please see our website for at Home Worship and other virtual gatherings:

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Please send all announcements to: WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com State if you wish them to go on the Bulletin, the COOP , Facebook page, Website, or all four! (photos can be placed on all but the bulletin) Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS: may be given to our Prayer Circle by

1. contacting Barb King davebarbking@gmail.com

2. contacting Sharon Hannan retired@xplornet.ca or phone 466-1435

3. by asking any of us from Wesley/St James community to pass on a request

Sent to you by
Wesley United Church, 77 William St, St Andrews NB E5B1W8
and
St James Pastoral Charge, 731 Route 745, Oak Hill, NB E5A3C7

In case of pastoral emergency, contact Rev. Jane Doull
call 529-3474 text 467-1494 email jvdoull@gmail.com

Any other matters please contact Barb Sheen, Chair of the Worship Committee on 469-4631.

Office email: WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com **Website:** <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>

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