

Please WATCH FOR AN EMAIL FOR the Home Worship Service – also on the website

<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

Dear Friends

Over these last 6 months I've loved reading your reflections in the Cooperator. Your thoughtfulness, compassion and resilience inspire me tremendously.

That's one of the pluses of half-time ministry: opening space for more voices and enabling everyone to benefit from the wisdom present throughout our community.

Of course, we didn't know I'd be still here, half-time or otherwise. A year ago, I thought I was doing my last Advent and Christmas with you, and a wonderful season it was too, full of music and festivities and the hustle and bustle leading up to Christmas. Even the weather cooperated.

You were helping me move into my retirement digs too: the timing seemed crazy back then. But, in retrospect, I thank my lucky stars that we got me moved before lockdowns and social distancing. This has been a safe, peaceful and manageable place in which to spend a pandemic season.

And, of course, that wasn't my last Advent and Christmas with you. It may be for the best. I've wondered how my successor would get to know you when home visits are risky and, by times, impossible, one cannot freely come and go to the hospital or the Lodge, and there are no in-person social gatherings.

At least- even though I don't see you as I used to - I know many of you well enough to know some of your story and circumstances; I can picture you in my mind and think of you; and if you feel inclined to call me or email me, at least you know who's at the other end.

For sure, this is a different Christmas. Many of you will be missing in-person family time. Many of you have not seen family or good friends in person for months. Many among us will have missed the social times December usually brings, to say nothing of the live Christmas concerts. Even as we've got out of the orange zone, many of us remain super-cautious. And all this overlays whatever already makes this season difficult for any of you. Plus- yes, we are weary in body, mind and spirit!

Please know, I am at the other end of a phone or email if you'd like to talk. If you are technologically able, you're welcome to join Zoom coffee break via our regular Zoom line- every Friday at 10 except Christmas Day- or set up another Zoom chat. I'll be on Facebook Live most Thursdays too at 7p.m. and you are welcome to drop by my Jane Doull page.

This Sunday we are planning lovely face to face gatherings 10 a.m. with beautiful music in our beautiful Wesley sanctuary, and 1 p.m. [weather date Dec. 23] for a travelling outdoor Christmas experience starting at Oak Hill Hall.

Then on Christmas Eve, you are welcome to join our Zoom Christmas communion service at **6 p.m.** It won't be the same as a huge crowd of people singing and lighting candles together, but it's the safe option. Perhaps some of your faraway family members will join us, as some did for Easter.

Which reminds me: there have been blessings even in these times.

We appreciate the relative safety of New Brunswick compared to so many other places. More and more of us have embraced new technologies. We've learned - I certainly have-to enjoy beautiful music online. Our Zoom gatherings have attracted several participants from other communities and other provinces- our community is growing! It's perhaps easier to try out a church service when one doesn't have to leave home or worry about where to sit. We've enjoyed seeing each other's unmasked faces and pets, and more recently each other's Christmas decorations, Christmas mugs and Christmas outfits. And now we know we don't have to cancel worship or other events if the weather is miserable!

We've also learned the value of our spiritual community- as we connect in the ways we can- as we adapt to Zoom or to masked, non-singing worship, or non-contact ways of donating to church and other

causes. We've seen our buildings continue to serve the community. Especially, our renovated Wesley sanctuary has proved useful to Elections NB, to the flu clinic, to Open Door, this week to Kiwanis packing their Christmas offerings, and to other groups needing a larger gathering space.

And I'm sure many of you have reached out to each other, checking in, offering care and friendship as you can. A phone call, an email message, a drop off of soup, any kind word or deed: all are more precious than ever!

Even as we scale down our festivities this year, let us remember the deeper meanings of the Christmas story. Let us give thanks for the true gifts which are among us already and which will remain long after Christmas wrappings have been discarded. And perhaps the song of Mary will echo in our hearts as we seek a new birth of hope and healing for all God's beloved world.

May it be so, and may each of you have moments of grace, moments of blessing, in this holy season, and may each of you know that you are indeed beloved. And, as we await the arrival of vaccines, we hope for a kinder 2021 and we hope for a very different Christmas celebration next year!

with love and blessings to all

Jane

[ and for those inclined purrs from Julian of Norwich and Ursula Franklin]



**With Many Thanks to Maria Reechia for the Christmas Wreath**

**Attention: Committee Chairs** Annual Reports will be due January 10, 2021.  
Please email them to [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com) Thank you!

**Please see next page for Events**

## Events:

Please visit our website for the bulletins for our ZOOM services and our At Home Worship along with any other virtual or in person gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December**                      **10 – 11 am**                      **Zoom Coffee Break with Jane**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December**                      **10 am**                      **In Person Worship**                      **Wesley United**

Please abide by our COVID guidelines – available on our website

<https://wesleyunitedstandrewsbythesea704293189.files.wordpress.com/2020/10/covid-precautions-at-wesley.pdf>

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December**                      **1-2 pm**                      **St James Country Christmas Journey**  
**starting at Oak Hill, then Scotch Ridge, then Little Ridge** (Weather Date: Wednesday, 23 December 1:00 – 2:00pm)

Please wear masks and remain socially distanced, except from your bubble. You are encouraged to bring rhythm instruments -tambourines etc. We will be singing carols outdoors, masked and distanced- as well as hearing Christmas story, and much more. Please dress warmly, though none of our stops will be very long!

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December**                      **Home Worship**

A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship [provided by email](#) or please see our website for at Home Worship and other virtual gatherings <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December**                      **7:30-8:30 pm**                      **ZOOM Winter Solstice Gathering**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December**                      **6-7pm**                      **ZOOM Christmas Eve with Communion**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December**                      **10 am**                      **ZOOM Sunday Worship**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December**                      **Home Worship**

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**Please check our calendar on our website for any upcoming events or changes to events**

<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/events/>

**Dedications are most welcome remembering, honouring, celebrating a special person, event or season! Please email [wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com) with your request. Thanks!**

Photos or any other requests to go with dedications – favourite flower or season etc.....

**For pastoral care and conversation please, contact Rev. Jane Doull**

[at 529-3474](tel:529-3474) or [email me](mailto:jedoull@gmail.com) or [text at 467-1494](tel:467-1494)

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

Please send all announcements to: [WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:davebarbking@gmail.com)
2. contacting Sharon Hannan [retired@xplornet.ca](mailto: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](tel:529-3474) [text 467-1494](tel:467-1494) [email jvdoull@gmail.com](mailto:jvdoull@gmail.com)

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

Office email: [WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com](mailto:WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com) Website: <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wesley-and-St-James-United-St-AndrewsOak-HillScotch-Ridge>