

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

<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>



All My Lives a Circle Harry Chapin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW0vjZiu_rw&list=RDFW0vjZiu_rw&index

Greetings & New Year blessings!

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 January has become a time for celebrating endings and beginnings. The Old Year ends before a New Year begins. The hands of the clock tick away hours as days spin into nights, and weeks into months, until the year fades away. All the while, the sun rises and sets. The tide rolls out before returning to shore. The moon cycles from new to full. Seasons play chase from winter to spring, summer to fall and back again, until the year is spent. Harry Chapin explains it in *Circle Song*: 'All my life's a circle; Sunrise and sundown; Moon rolls thru the nighttime; Till the daybreak comes around. All my life's a circle; But I can't tell you why; Season's spinning round again; The years keep rollin' by.'

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Ecclesiastes 7:14. As the years roll by, they hold a measure of both good times and bad. Regardless, we're fortunate to experience them. Job, a man without complaint, is a tough act to follow. Even in the face of extreme hardships, he gave thanks and praised God. 2020 was a hard year. It ushered in a pandemic that devastated lives world-wide, leaving many physically, emotionally, and financially depleted. Yet, it was also a year that witnessed untold acts of kindness and generosity. Life is unpredictable at best. Job's story illustrates that gratitude opens the door to hope and redemption.

He causes his sun to rise in the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Matthew 5:45 We cry, but also laugh; we mourn, but also celebrate. Experiencing the highs and lows of life is the human experience. We appreciate happy times without reservation; in difficult times, our actions and reactions are harder to control. Sometimes we must make peace with what is, before finding gratitude. But in every joy, sorrow, beginning or ending, God is with us, no matter who we are or what our situation. This unconditional love is a primary source of gratitude.

With Epiphany, the 12 days of Christmas has ended, but its joyous message is also circular, without beginning or end. May this circle keep turning as we live our lives, even during hard times. Our deepest compassion arises from difficulty and combined with empathy, motivates many good deeds. That compassion so often takes root in hard times before blooming into love and kindness is holy mystery. And so, we must be thankful for all our days, both good and bad, for *God has made the one as well as the other.*

I am grateful for the gifts of nature, for loving people, the kindness of strangers, and a good dog. I am grateful for stories that inspire and offer hope. I am most grateful that God is with me, in all of my up and down beginnings and ends. For these gifts and more, I give thanks.

*With love and thanks to Wesley friends,
Joanne Raye*

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 8th January **10 – 11 am** **Zoom Coffee Break with Jane**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

Sunday, 10th January **10 am** **ZOOM Sunday Worship**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

Sunday, 10th January **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/>

Thursday, 14th January **7:00 – 7:30 pm** **Jane on Facebook Live**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

Friday 15th January **10 – 11 am** **Zoom Coffee Break with Jane**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

Sunday, 17th January **10 am** **ZOOM Sunday Worship**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3067392185>

Sunday, 17th January **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/>

Please Note:

Wesley Annual Meeting is postponed to a date TBC.

Scotch Ridge Annual Meeting is now rescheduled tentatively to January 26 depending on whether we are out of orange by then.

Sunday worship will be by Zoom and Home until February 21 [1st Sunday in Lent], assuming COVID conditions permit

**Attention Committee Chairs - Annual Reports will be due January 10, 2021.
Please email them to wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com Thank you!**

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 with your request. Thanks!
Photos or any other requests to go with dedications – favourite flower or season etc.....

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](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 Website: <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wesley-and-St-James-United-St-AndrewsOak-HillScotch-Ridge>