

Dear Friends of Wesley and St James

Two Holy Weeks ago - you may remember- I was called away on a family emergency. I could never have imagined missing those special days with you. But our excellent lay leadership who made Easter Sunday happen without me- and eventually we did have Easter communion, just a few weeks late. I consoled myself- next year we'd have a normal Holy Week.

Well, that's what I thought! You and I know how it unfolded.

Well, here I still am for one more Holy Week! It too is unlike the ones we used to know.

Still we are limited in our family and social gatherings. No Easter Breakfast at Scotch Ridge. And no way that our choirs can prepare special anthems! No way can we safely fill up our churches on Easter Sunday!

But last year we had to take Easter hope, Easter new life and new beginning, on faith, hearing the ancient stories and trusting that God/Spirit/Divine Presence was with us no matter what.

This year we can see Easter happening!

Vaccines are under way and eventually all of us who want a vaccine- most of us I'm sure! - will have one and then another one. Soon we will see more of our Atlantic friends and loved ones. And we are nearer to the day when we will see dear ones from further afield.

What's more, this Palm Sunday many of us got to see each other. And we received great good news We're getting a new minister! With Natasha's arrival in a few short months, we eagerly await an exciting, energetic, creative and joyful new beginning for our beloved Wesley St James community.



I've stayed on to help you keep on until I could hand over to someone who can make that new beginning with you. You are still here and alive and full of hope, promise and possibility. That special someone is now at hand. It will be a good change for you - meeting you where you are and inviting you into a bright future. A good change for us actually- as I'll take my place among the retired ministers who are under the care of this faith community. And that's all I ask for this Easter.

May each of you find fresh hope and energy as you journey forth with Spirit in this season of new life. And even amid all life's bitter-sweetness may your joy be complete.

Blessings and love from Jane

Holy Week Gatherings 2021:

Holy Week services all on Zoom (please request link if you don't have it and we can email or message you)

April 2: Good Friday 11 a.m. a heartfelt reflective time with prayers at virtual Stations of the Cross (in a contemporary justice-oriented perspective), music and silence.

April 4; Easter Sunday service 10 a.m. with music, prayers, readings, sermon, and communion- bring your own bread and juice or whatever you have A Home Service will also be provided.



GOOD NEWS AT LAST!

Last Sunday, March 28th, the congregations of Wesley and St. James voted unanimously to call Rev Natasha Pearen to our cooperative ministry.

Natasha is currently serving in Amherst, NS, at Trinity United but her journey has taken her around Canada. She grew up in Winnipeg, received her M.Div. at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, and worked in Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba before going to Amherst. She grew up in the United Church and calls her theology progressive and inclusive. She is passionate about social justice issues, from poverty and food insecurity to right relations with Aboriginal peoples. She will be living in the manse with her two daughters and her partner, Eric, and they will move to St. Andrews for July 1.

Thanks to the Search Committee for all their hard work to find the “right fit” for us. And thank you to Jane Doull, who has carried us through this time of limbo with a generous spirit. She is looking forward to her full retirement.

Please WATCH FOR AN EMAIL FOR the Home Worship Service and ZOOM Service– also on the website <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

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/>

Tuesday 6th April **4 – 8 pm** **Highland Dance**

Wednesday 7th April **7 – 9 pm** **Wesley Board Meeting**

Thursday, 8th April **7:00 – 7:30 pm** **Jane on Facebook Live**

Friday, 9th April **10 – 11 am** **Zoom Coffee Break with Jane**

Please email Wesley and ask for ZOOM link; wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com

Sunday, 11th April **9:30 am** **Wesley In Person Service – Wesley United**

Sunday, 11th April **11:30 am** **St James In Person Service - Oak Hill**

Sunday, 11th April **12:00 – 1pm** **Oak Hill Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, 11th April **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 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 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>

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