



Riding the Waves

The term “riding the waves” meant something quite different 15 months ago. During the pandemic, we have been through the first wave, the second wave and now we are in the throes of the third wave. Overwhelmed, we are all anxious to see the calming of the waters, and crying out, “please no more waves!”

We get many different answers when we check in with others to ask “how are you doing”? Over the last week, family and friends have told me: they are “dog tired”, taking one day at a time, or don’t know if they are bored or depressed. In contrast to those answers we hear many positive and inspiring stories. One young girl told me this week that the pandemic offered her a silver lining. She is going away to school next year and with the split school week she’s able to spend more time with her younger sister.

Even though it’s hard to imagine that this raging pandemic storm will pass we remind ourselves that in even in the deepest winter, the thaw will come. It always does. But until then, we embrace hibernation and, like our animal friends, bide our time until it’s once again safe to emerge from our dens and come back to life. As the CBC health journalist André Picard reminds us, though our souls are battered we can be encouraged by looking to the long gains as we continue doing the boring stuff that keep ourselves and others safe.

Faith, hope and the strength of togetherness have helped give me resilience to ride this last wave. Spring and the vaccination roll out gives us hope. Resilience is about bouncing back after challenging and difficult situations. I have thought about what strategies I have used in the past during difficult times and how they can help me now. We’ve heard many sayings about resilience; one will never be a good sailor without experiencing stormy conditions or we need to fall so we can learn how to get back up. We are reminded from scripture that we do not walk alone in challenging times. Joshua 1:9 tells us: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Blessings,
Bonnie McGraw
St James Community of Faith

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/>

No Facebook or ZOOM with Jane on Thursday and Friday this week.

Sunday, 25th April 9:30 am Wesley United Church - In Person Worship

Sunday, 25th April 11:30 am St James Worship at Oak Hill Hall
Followed by Oak Hill Congregational Meeting

Sunday, 25th April Home Worship

A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship on our website
<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

Tuesday, 27th April 4–8 pm Highland Dance

Thursday, 29th April 7:30 pm Jane on Facebook Live

Friday, 30th April 10–11 am Zoom Coffee Break with Jane
Please email Wesley for ZOOM link; wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com

Sunday, 2nd April 10 am ZOOM Sunday Worship
Please email Wesley for ZOOM link; wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com

Sunday, 2nd April Home Worship
A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship on our website
<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

PLEASE NOTE:

Wesley United is being used for Municipal Election Voting - May 1st, 3rd, 10th.

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](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>