



<https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration-spring-2021-map.htm>

I'm getting the hummingbird feeders ready to put out as those little wonders should be back very soon. My dahlias, squash, broccoli, dill, and kale are stretching out of their pots in the sunny corner of the living room and will go into the garden before long. Song sparrows, white throated sparrows and robins are among the returning birds that fill the early morning with song.

I love spring (at least until the black-flies come out!). It is a time of excited anticipation and potential. It is an old friend returning! The ancient rhythms of the planet ground us in the natural world and in patterns that move all life. From the first yellow bloom of dandelions in the spring, to the harvest in autumn, and the first magical snow of winter, these cycles are the foundation and the background of our lives. Even if our lives are in shambles, or the world is at war, or the economy has tanked, or a deadly virus is sweeping across the world, the seasons come and go, and the planets stay their courses. Time on Earth is a long series of endings and new beginnings.

We have the strange privilege of living through a massive earth-changing event. It can be difficult to keep perspective during this time, as so many normal activities are off-limits. But if we believe the arc of Biblical teachings, and in the Spirit that is in all creation, then resurrection in all its forms should be expected: renewal, regeneration, and healing...life continues! We are reeling from news of an overwhelming amount of death, suffering, fear and exhaustion, but this time of suffering is not the last word. That's what we celebrate at Easter, this universal pattern in everything. As Richard Rohr says, the Risen Christ (however you understand that) is not a one-time miracle but the revelation of a universal pattern.

That is a cause for hope and deep trust in well-being that goes beyond our personal fate. Martin Luther is said to have proclaimed, "Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant an apple tree today". That attitude takes a special sort of faith in providence.

On a similar object lesson for hopefulness, there is a story in Jeremiah where the prophet is commanded by God to buy a field in what is more or less a war zone (Jeremiah 32 if you're interested). God assures the prophet that the time is soon coming when "fields will be bought in this land of which you say, 'It is a desolate waste....'"

The divine message seemed to be, trust God and have hope for the future. Both of these stories show a faith that looks beyond the moment, beyond a current crisis, to trust the larger rhythms and providence of God. Though the world has been brought to its knees by this pandemic, we plant our "apple trees". We get our vaccines, we build for a better day ahead, we donate time and money to charities, we care for each other, we advocate for systemic change so the vulnerable in our society are better protected. May you be full of hope and joy for the coming seasons.

Blessings my friends!
Francie Howard

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/>

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

Saturday, 1st May 2-3 pm May Day Celebration Centennial Park St Andrews
Rain date May 2 same time. Please wear mask till in circle socially distanced [except with your bubble]
Please bring chair if you need one, also feel free to bring a drum or percussion instrument. Poetry, guided meditation, simple ritual, music and dancing in this Celtic seasonal celebration. Hosted by Maria Recchia and Rachael Barham.

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

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

Tuesday, 4th May 4-8 pm Highland Dance

Wednesday, 5th May 7-9 pm Wesley Board Meeting

Thursday, 6th May 7:30 pm Jane on Facebook Live

Friday, 7th May 10-11 am Zoom Coffee Break with Jane
Please email Wesley for ZOOM link; wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com

Sunday, 9th May 9:30 am St James Worship at Oak Hill Hall

Sunday, 9th May 11:30 am Wesley United Church - In Person Worship

Sunday, 9th May Home Worship
A Home Worship service provided as an alternative to In Person Worship on our website
<https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>

PLEASE NOTE:

Time Changes for Worship Sunday 9th May.
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](mailto:wesleyunitedstandrews@gmail.com) 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>