

Please visit our website <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca/>
for any updates and information

Musical Introit - O Come, O Come Emmanuel – Advent Candle Lighting (Christ Candle)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vvn5_oND1bg&list=PLQDu-SgFb3RjsK9BdbbYkwAvl_3hLsUn-&index=5



Reading:

*I am convinced that all human beings have an inborn desire for God...
This desire is our deepest longing and our most precious treasure. (Gerald May)*

Psalm 96: 11-13a

“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming.”

Advent Unwrapped Christmas Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=je8d4SGnO9o>

Ponderings:

This year, I had to be reminded that giving birth is a messy affair. Somehow, I had forgotten all of the pain, trauma and bodily fluids that go along with child-birth. Bringing a child into this world tears you open, body and soul. It is unbelievably beautiful, heart-wrenching and love expanding, but also ugly, disgusting and messy!

This year, we are experiencing a messy Christmas. One in which we are not sure what restrictions will appear, who will get sick, whether we should gather or cancel. We aren't sure what to do with all the ugly bits (anxiety, grief, trauma, pain...).

This year, I wonder about young Mary, barely 14 and how she might speak to the sexual assault of young girls in our time. I wonder about Joseph forced to accept a responsibility for which he felt unprepared and how young men today feel the pressure to “get ahead” in life and take care of everyone. Lastly, I wonder about the rejection faced by the couple at the hands of innkeepers and the racism that still keeps people of colour facing discrimination and higher rates of poverty.

Into this difficult situation, something beautiful and miraculous happened....love was born.

The most amazing gift that we can open ourselves to and offer to others this Christmas is that same assurance of love. No matter how messy life gets, we'll be held in this love. Thanks be to God!

- Rev. Natasha Pearen

Christmas Prayer - Madeleine L'Engle

“This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out and the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome,
Honor & truth were trampled by scorn—
Yet there did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.”

Reflective Music Away in a Manger (Celtic Women)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGjmaDRZSMs>

Events and Announcements

Wesley Announcements

Christmas Eve Service CANCELED

Annual Reports Reminder

2021 Annual Reports are due January 13th. Wesley United Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 30, 2022

2022 New Year Book Study The Gifts of Imperfection

Starting Tuesday 11th January until Tuesday 15th February at 10:30am (6 Weeks beginning January at Wesley's Upper Hall) Please call or e-mail to register. Max. # of participants 15.

St. James Announcements

Christmas Eve at Scotch Ridge– Fri. Dec. 24th at 7:00pm

Traditional family service with candle-lighting and carol singing.

General Announcements

No Services – Sunday December 26th

January 2nd Worship – We will be operating at 50% capacity with no singing as per NB Level 2 Restrictions that come into effect on Dec. 27th.

Holidays - Our minister Natasha Pearen is off December 25th to January 1st. Bob Johnson will be available for pastoral emergencies. Tel: 465 9040

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

Office email: WesleyUnitedStAndrews@gmail.com Website: <https://wesleyunitedchurchstandrewsbytheseanb.ca>

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

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