

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

The Gift of Creativity

“Creativity, which is the expression of our originality, helps us stay mindful that what we bring to the world is completely original and cannot be compared. And, without comparison, concepts like ahead or behind or best or worst lose their meaning.”

Brene Brown

Ponderings:

It took me a long time to realize that art is not just for professionals who display in galleries or perform in concert halls. In truth, art is about everyone’s ability to create something with our hands, to care for creation, to use our imagination, to make our world beautiful, to tantalize the senses, to choreograph our movements. Anything and everything can be art if we do it with purpose and feeling (eg. filling a meal with love).

Art is how we make our uniqueness visible to the world. Sometimes, creating can be about completing a project and the sense of accomplishment we get from it, but more often it is about taking pleasure and joy in the process of being creative. It is not about comparing ourselves to others, trying to be the best or being critical of what we create.

In the Book Study Group, it was shocking to realize how many of us had insecurities around our artistic abilities which stemmed from criticism in our childhood and/or the societal insistence that art is not a priority but an after-thought. Brene Brown talks about how many of us often feel too busy with the tasks of life to be creative. Art is thought of as recreational and therefore a luxury, not a necessity.

But creativity can help to rest and rejuvenate our souls. It is an essential stress reliever, resiliency builder and relationship connector. My sewing, crocheting and colouring help to pass the long dark evenings of winter. In the spring, I begin Ukrainian egg decorating, gardening, and photography which are best done in natural light and help me to appreciate my surroundings.

Take some time this week to seek the spirituality of creativity, not worrying about outcomes but simply expressing yourself through art in its everyday forms.

Rev. Natasha Pearen

Poetry:

Art in St. Andrews by Laura Brown

I am proud to live in St. Andrews among the artsy-fartsy crowd.
Great painters and their students abound in boardrooms and bedrooms of our town.

The thickest of fogs will make them gather around the point with easel and chair,
trying, as it were, to paint moist air.

I, too, dabbled in paint, I must admit and tried with poems to make a bit
But in the end I still came up short-
Two failed endeavors, which one should I abort?

So musing one day in July, I hung my wash out to dry
Shirts and pants and underwear, with many a tear here and there.

Soon there were artists, tall, medium and short
Gathered together on my back porch.
“Artists for Hospice” they said, “You wash has potential!”
“We must paint it”, they said in tones reverential.

I gave my permission for them to begin and went back to my housework awaiting within.
And to this development I gave no more thought, ‘till I heard a wealthy Frenchman had bought
A picture for princely sum, entitled, “St. Andrews Washing Hung in the Sun”.

Happiness flowed through me in hot joyous flushes!
I threw out my paints, my canvases and brushes,
For on this possibility I cannot improve:
Some day my washing may hang in the Louvre!

Reflective Music

“I can only Imagine”

by One Voice Children’s Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acwsBII15zM>

(Check out the next song that plays too.... “A Million Dreams”.)

Events and Announcements

In Person Worship Sun February 13th - Wesley 9:30 & St James at Scotch Ridge 11:30

St Andrews Open Door Wednesday, February 16th 3–5pm Wesley United St Andrews

Passamaquoddy Lodge Service Thurs. February 17th at 10am

Book Study: “*The Gifts of Imperfection*”
Tuesday at 10: 30am on Zoom, extended to March 15th

St. James Annual Meeting Sunday February 20th
Reports are to be submitted to Karen Dempsey by February 13th. Thank you!

Tax Receipts for donations are available for collection at Wesley United

Black History Month February is Black History Month, and we will recognize the contributions of Black Canadians during our worship services this month.

ZOOM Worship Sun February 20th 10am

Wesley Annual Meeting Sunday February 27th.
Worship will commence at 10am followed by the meeting.

Upcoming in March: (More information to follow later.)

- Lent begins March 6th with the theme: Setting a Place for All
- Guided Meditation beginning on Wednesday March 2nd at 2pm
- Ukrainian Egg Decorating workshops

. 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

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

Minister - Rev Natasha Pearen
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