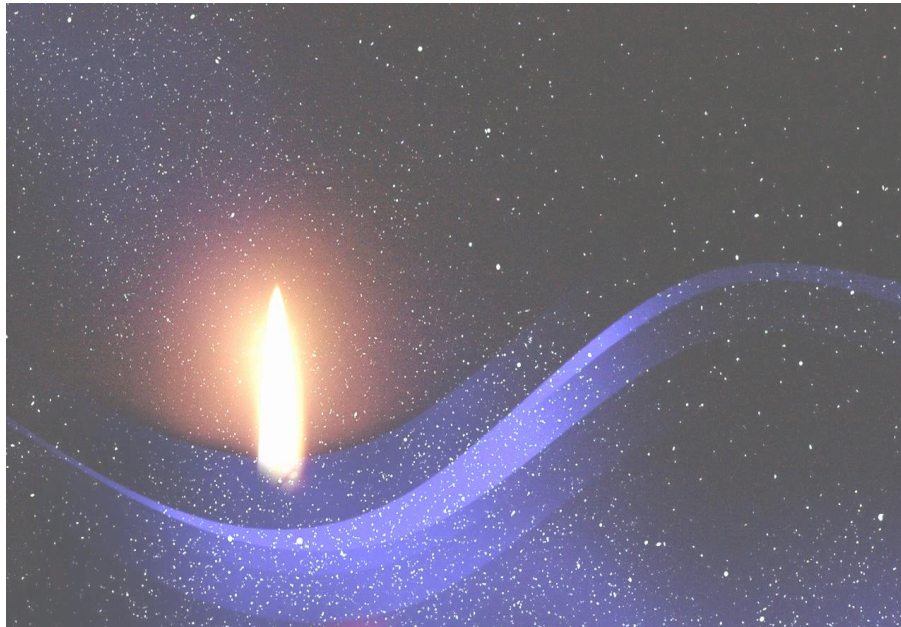


Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3
Office: 902-423-4294 ftmassey@eastlink.ca
Minister: 902-333-3123 minister@fortmasseychurch.com
www.fortmasseychurch.com

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God
Clergy: Rev. Beth Hayward
Music Director: Jenny Trites
Assistant Organist: John Walter
Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford
Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor
Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr
Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill
Usher: Alison McDonald
Coffee & Conversation: Nominating Committee
Liturgical Assistant: Sally DeWolf, Scripture Reader: Steven Chambers



First Sunday of Advent
William S. Fong Volunteer Award
December 3, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In December 1871 Fort Massey was a Christmas gift to Presbyterian Halifax. When did we first begin to observe Anniversary Sunday on an annual basis? Probably not until long after the 40th anniversary service on December 10th 1911, when only eleven of the founders remained in the congregation. Corporate memory was gradually being extinguished. The significance of December 10th — the actual birthday — was lost, forgotten or just ignored. Milestones gave way to anniversaries, despite that not even all the milestones were celebrated. The silver jubilee (1896) was not, nor -- apparently -- was the golden jubilee (1921). The church union crisis in The Presbyterian Church in Canada was coming to a head and there was bad blood within the congregation between unionists and dissenters.

** Indicates rise in body or spirit
(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)*

Prelude

Introit: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"

MV 33

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

***Hymn:** "O Ancient Love"

VU 17

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Candle Lighting Song: "We Are a People of Hope"

Then Let Us Sing

Announcements

Passing the Peace **One:** The peace of Christ be with you.
 All: And also with you.

The William S. Fong Volunteer Award Recipient: Linda C. MacDonald

***Hymn:** "Rise Up, Rise Up"

MV 130

Offering

Response: "In the Bleak Midwinter (v 4)"

VU 55

Scripture: Luke 1:26-28, 39-45

*Offered as wisdom for the journey.
May we walk in its light.*

Ministry of Music: "Seek a Sign, the Prophet Counselling"

Sermon: "Room at the Inn for...every *body*"

Hymn: "There Is Room for All"

MV 62

Sacrament of Communion

Communion Hymn: "Spirit of Life"

VU 381

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn:** "People, Look East" (v 1-4)

VU 9

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

Postlude

Notices

**There will be a Congregational Meeting immediately after the Service in the sanctuary.
The Trustees will discuss the Manse's list price with the congregation.**

Happy birthday to Sancia Knorr on December 6

Blessings and our best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other milestones this week. Likewise, if you're walking through some difficulty this week: grief, anxiety, challenge, we hold you in prayer.

A special welcome to all who are worshipping here for the first time. We strive to notice you and make you feel welcome.

Do let us know if we fall short of our aspiration. We know that stepping into a new church can be daunting.

If, after you leave, you find questions, curiosities, or insights arising, you are most welcome to reach out to our minister Rev. Beth (minister@fortmasseychurch.com).

We offer a pretty great coffee hour. Following the service, make your way to the front of the church and down the stairs and you'll be greeted by warm hospitality and terrific snacks!

Please feel comfortable to sit, stand, stretch, move for your own self-care and comfort.

Our services are generally an hour in length. When the Postlude begins, please feel free to get up and chat.

Why do we encourage name tags be worn?

In a spirit of **radical welcome**, we encourage **everybody** to wear a name tag today.

Name tags help us recognize and remember each other. They are a small gesture appreciated by those learning many names at once; those who are deaf or hard of hearing; or those who struggle to match names with faces.

If you are **comfortable** doing so, consider adding your **pronouns**. Sharing **pronouns** is a signal that we welcome those of **all genders** and we appreciate knowing how to speak of each other **respectfully**.

Advent 1: Room at the Inn for... every body

Advent is a season of active waiting, reflection and preparation, while we wonder together at the marvel that there is room at the inn for every body.

Using the story of Mary's visit from Elizabeth we'll consider that Christmas begins with two pregnant women, with all the physical and spiritual complexity that accompanies such a life changing transition. The birth of Christ begins with the most natural and wondrous mystery of human biology. We'll consider how it is that God loves bodies, all bodies, even yours. And we'll explore how it is that God is revealed in flesh, in all of its beauty and wonder, today and always.

Upcoming Themes:

Advent 2 – Room at the Inn for...skeptics

Advent 3 – Room at the Inn for...hot messes

Advent 4 – Room at the Inn for...wonder



Say It with Stars

At this time of year some may be looking for a "gift" to give to someone who may not need one more object. Or you may be wanting some way to honour the memory of a friend or family member who has died. Or there may be some special event you wish to honour. Please complete one of the donation forms available each Sunday or by request from the church office, and indicate the event or person being recognized by your gift. Each week the list of donors with their citations will be published in the Sunday bulletin as will the total of all gifts received so far. Unless you choose to be anonymous, your name and the reason for your gift will be published in the Sunday bulletin. The amount of your donation will not be made public. Gifts must be received by December 31, 2023. All funds received will be helpful in reducing the amount of the projected operational deficit. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation. A star will be hung in the sanctuary for each gift received.

The boxes of 2024 donation envelopes are now available for pickup in the Tobin St lobby.

Fall Financial Update

Fort Massey's Income Statement for 10 Months, as of October 31, 2023, was presented to the Official Board Meeting on November 21, 2023, stating an operating deficit of \$75,812.56. The main driver of this deficit is the increase in Total Personnel Expenses, which have increased by \$15,985.95 in comparison with October 31, 2022.

These Personnel Expenses will increase by an additional amount of \$7,633.34 for the months of November and December, adding to this 2023 operating deficit.

On March 12, 2023, the Finance Committee presented to the Church's Annual Meeting, a budget indicating an operating deficit of \$52,142.85, for the 12 months ending December 31, 2023. Consequently, the committee is quite concerned about this escalation of actual expenses over the budget.

We welcome the usual generosity of the Fort Massey family to provide financial assistance in this matter. Thank you.

Help Wanted 🙏

As of January 1, 2024, Fort Massey will be without a treasurer since our current treasurer is unable to continue past that date. The position of treasurer is not as onerous as it once was since many of the tasks are done by others. We aim to have the position as a three-year term. Anyone who is interested please speak to Alison McDonald or Kathy Evans from the Nominating Committee.

Brunswick Street Mission

The BSM is experiencing an urgent need for basic necessities their community needs to stay warm, dry and fed. Please bring what you are able and deliver it to the Tobin St. lobby on the first two Sundays in December. We will then deliver these items to the Mission for distribution.

Outreach Items

Winter sleeping bags

Tarps

Tea light candles

Gift cards - \$25.00 for Walmart and Superstore

Lighters

Backpacks

Lip chap

Waterproof gloves and mittens

New socks

New long johns

Toques

(n.b. – no used clothing please)

Food Bank Items

Toiletry items

- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Deodorant

Baking supplies

- Sugar
- Butter
- Flour
- Salt

Diapers, all sized

Menstrual products

Instant coffee & juice

Halal items (eg. Meat)

Mission to Seafarers

Once again, we'll be collecting shoeboxes for Mission to Seafarers to be taken down to the mission in December. What is in a shoebox gift?

socks; hard candy; toothpaste & toothbrush; razors; lip balm; hat; scarf; playing cards; memento of Nova Scotia or Canada

Items in high demand: shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream; work gloves

Monetary donations may be forwarded to: Seafarers Halifax, 844 Marginal Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2P7. Please endorse your cheque to **Mission to Seafarers** – thank you.

Casual Carols – Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget to pick up your carol sing requests sheet in the Queen and Tobin Street lobbies.

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

Join us for Advent 4 worship at the usual 10:30 a.m. on December 24 and the Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Beth's Contact for Emailing

Please use the Fort Massey email address: minister@fortmasseychurch.com – thank you.

Thank You for Your Financial Support

We thank you for your financial support of Fort Massey. Whether using e-transfer to fmchurch@eastlink.ca, PAR, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. Donations may also be made through the following online charity donation websites: CanadaHelps - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/fort-massey-united-church/> or Charitable Impact: <https://my.charitableimpact.com/charities/fort-massey-united-church>. In the sanctuary, donations can be made as you leave after worship. Offering plates are located by the font, if exiting to Tobin Street, or in the aisle as you exit into the Queen Street lobby.

Fort Massey Vision Statement

At Fort Massey, we live into being a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged, where everyone is welcomed, needed, valued and belongs. Following Jesus' example of expansive love, we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where everyone is free to be themselves. We celebrate and encourage people of every age, health situation, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family configuration, background, ability, interest, culture, economic circumstance and faith journey into the full participation and leadership of ministries in the life and work of Fort Massey United Church.

Welcome to Fort Massey. We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Moderator of the United Church of Canada or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, hockey dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!) We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the ol' Kirk. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the Armdale roundabout and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

(adapted and used with permission, Coventry Cathedral, England)