

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

Ushers: Elaine Janson, Jim Janson

Liturgical Assistant: Vurain Tabvruma, Scripture Reader: Clarissa Sit



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

I can now revise and correct my statement of last week to the effect that Fort Massey's golden jubilee was indeed celebrated, with special services on Sunday, December 11 1921. The guest preacher was a former minister, the Reverend Dr Alfred Gandier, principal of Knox College, Toronto, the PCC's principal divinity school. The jubilee celebration went on for a week, culminating on Sunday the 17th, when the congregation rededicated themselves in Holy Communion. Today is Fort Massey's 152nd birthday. On December 10 1871, when the new church was dedicated to the glory of God and opened for public worship, three services were held: one at 1100, one at 3pm and one at 7pm.

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

Prelude

Introit: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Peace"

MV 33

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

***Hymn:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (v 1, 2, 6 & 7)

VU 1

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

Then Let Us Sing

Announcements

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

Time for the Young and Young at Heart

***Hymn:** "Like a Healing Stream"

MV 144

Offering

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

VU 55

Scripture: Luke 1:8-23

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

Ministry of Music: "The Giver"

Sermon: "Room at the Inn for...skeptics"

Hymn: "There Is Room for All"

MV 62

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

VU 921

Hymn: "Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness"

VU 28

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Sung Blessing:** "Go Now in Peace"

VU 964

Postlude

Notices

Thank you to all those who helped with the church decorating party yesterday

*Happy birthday to Alan Hayman today and
Holly MacIntosh Benninger on December 16*

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 2: Room at the Inn for... skeptics

There's this moment in the gospel of Luke where the angel Gabriel tells Elizabeth's husband that she's going to have a baby. (Don't get me started on why Gabe didn't deliver the message directly!) Zachariah's response is on point: "Seriously? We're too old for this upheaval!"

We're in the best of company with these Bible characters who respond to the presence of angels in their midst with: "thanks but no thanks!" As we prepare for the coming of the Christ, let's get real about our doubts, and stubbornness. Let's explore the possibility that faith just might be built on skepticism.

Upcoming Themes: Advent 3 – Room at the Inn for...hot messes and Advent 4 – Room at the Inn for...wonder

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.

Men's Breakfast – Friday, December 15 at 9:30 a.m.

The last Men's Breakfast for 2023 will be on December 15 at Smitty's on Lacewood in Clayton Park. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ian MacDonald to indicate their intention to attend.

White Gift – Sunday, December 17

What is White Gift Sunday? The history of this Sunday begins in 1903 in Painesville, Ohio, when a woman, concerned by her children arguing over gifts, suggested that they and the children of the Sunday school bring gifts to church for those in need. Many United Churches have adopted this gift giving in Advent. Thank you to James Robertson, one of our Archivists, for finding out the history of White Gift Sunday. This White Gift Sunday is an opportunity to give a gift of a non-perishable food item (under \$5) and we will provide the white bags, which can be picked up today.

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.

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.



Say It with Stars



In memory of Mike Surette from Rian Boutilier

*In memory and thanks for all at Fort Massey who have gone before us from Kathy Evans
In celebration of the arrival of Rev Beth and family at Fort Massey from Bill & Diane Gillis
In gratitude for our family from Bill & Diane Gillis*

Total of gifts: \$250.00

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

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.

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)

Christmas Ornaments

We have one more, late breaking, Christmas gift opportunity for you! Long-time member Betty Pacey has recently gifted the congregation with pewter ornaments, crafted in Fredericton by Aitkens Pewter. These are beautifully detailed replicas of the Fort Massey building. We will be selling them until Christmas Eve for \$25.00. These stunning ornaments make for a lovely, timeless gift. See Kathy Evans to order yours!

 A Season of Support 		
Brunswick Street Mission	Drop off to church by December 10 Visit: www.brunswickstreetmission.org	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 (no used clothing please) Shampoo, body wash, deodorant Diapers (all sized), menstrual products, Sugar, butter, flour, salt, instant coffee & juice, Halal items (eg. Meat)
Mission to Seafarers	Drop off to church by December 17 Monetary donations may be forwarded to: Seafarers Halifax, 844 Marginal Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2P7. Please endorse to Mission to Seafarers Visit: https://www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca/	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
Atlantic School of Theology Christmas Lights Appeal	Visit: www.astheology.ns.ca	Monetary Donations
Parker Street Food Bank	Visit: www.parkerstreet.org	Monetary donations and food
Phoenix House	Visit: www.phoenixyouth.ca	Monetary donations
 Fort Massey United Church 		
Say it with Stars	Forms to office by December 20	Donations by December 31
White Gift	December 17 service	Unwrapped non-perishable food