

# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

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Minister: 902-333-3123 [minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com)

[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://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: Janson Family

Liturgical Assistant: Carol Dobson, Scripture Reader: Colleen Estabrooks



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



United against Racism



MISSION AND  
SERVICE FUND



## *Notices*

### *Happy birthday to Maddy Spicer on December 29*

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](mailto: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**.

**The church office will be closed until January 3. In case of pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Beth at 902-333-3123.**

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

**Rev. Beth's Contact for Emailing:** Please use the Fort Massey email address: [minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com) – thank you.

### **Advent 4: Room at the Inn for... wonder**

On the final Sunday of Advent, we dive deep into the one Christmas story that trades stables and mangers for stars and galaxies. According to the gospel of John, the Christ light was present in the universe as the Word, from the beginning, like from the very beginning. Christmas is about time spent with family and friends and at the same time it is an invitation to consider the possibilities when we trust that the very essence of God's love infuses every cell with radiance, not just today but from the beginning.

## *Christmas Eve Service – Tonight at 7:00 p.m.*

### **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.

*With love and in memory of our parents at Christmas from Peter & Stephanie Coulthard*

*In memory of Mary Carmichael, with love from Colleen Estabrooks*

*In honour of Bill & Diane Gillis for a lifetime of commitment to family and church  
from John Gillis, Rhia Perkins, Owen & Morgan*

*In honour of rhubarb pies and Ruth who makes them from John Gillis & Rhia Perkins*



*As a gift from Viola Greer*



*In celebration of the life of Rev. Betty Griffiths-Ling and Rev. Kenneth Griffiths from David Griffiths*

*In memory of my parents, Isabel & Ronnie MacEachern, from Elaine Janson*

*In memory of Mary Carmichael from Alison McDonald*

*For UCW in honour of their hard work in supporting Fort Massey and their compassionate work in supporting families through receptions following celebration of life services from Alison McDonald*

*In loving memory of Phil Pacey from Betty Pacey*

*In memory of Alasdair from Carol Sinclair*

Total of gifts for the season: \$2645

### **Christmas Ornaments**

Long-time member Betty Pacey has gifted the congregation with pewter ornaments; they are beautifully detailed replicas of the Fort Massey building. We will be selling them until Christmas Eve for \$25.00. See Kathy Evans to order yours!

<i>A Season of Support</i>		
AST Christmas Lights	Visit: <a href="http://www.astheology.ns.ca">www.astheology.ns.ca</a>	Monetary Donations
Parker Street Food Bank	Visit: <a href="http://www.parkerstreet.org">www.parkerstreet.org</a>	Monetary donations and food
Phoenix House	Visit: <a href="http://www.phoenixyouth.ca">www.phoenixyouth.ca</a>	Monetary donations

### **Thank You for Your Financial Support**

We thank you for your financial support of Fort Massey. Whether using e-transfer to [fmchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto: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)*