

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, Guest Musician: Garry Williams

Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford

Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Greeters: Sally DeWolf, Anne Naldrett

Liturgical Assistant: Vurain Tabvuma, Scripture Reader: Clarissa Sit

Coffee & Conversation: Alan Hayman, Joanne Hayman

When God
Changes Her
Mind

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Epiphany 4

January 28, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Society weddings are largely a thing of the past. Such was not the case in Halifax in 1890, when Dr Burns' daughter Edith was married at Fort Massey on Tuesday evening, 21 October. Three ministers officiated, among them the president of Dalhousie University. The church was filled, admission being by ticket. The bride's wedding dress was an English imported one of white silk with train, trimmed with lace and orange blossoms. "The presents were very numerous, among them being a massive silver side dish from the choir of Fort Massey church, of which the bride was organist. Mr. and Mrs. [Alexander] Mackay will make an extended bridal tour. From Halifax they go to New York, where they take steamer for Le Havre, and will visit the Riviera, Italy and France. Then they go to Scotland and will reside at 'Broughty', Mr. Mackay's Dundee suburban villa." In addition to all these gifts was a purse containing 28 sovereigns from the congregation. Nor was the father of the bride forgotten. The congregation presented Dr Burns with "a very handsome" silk pulpit gown.

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

Prelude

Introit: "A Light Is Gleaming" (*refrain*) VU 82

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Hymn:** "This Is the Day" MV 122

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:** "Deep in Our Hearts" MV 154

Minute for Mission: Brunswick Street Mission

Offering

Response: "What Can I Do?" MV 191

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

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

Ministry of Music: "Creator God, You Gave Us Life"

Sermon: "When God Changes Her Mind"

Sacrament of Communion

Communion Hymn: "Remember Me" HMS8

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Hymns during Communion: "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU 374

Prayers after Communion

Hymn: "All Beautiful the March of Days" VU 530

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Sung Blessing:** "May the Blessing of God Go Before You"

VU 962

Postlude

Notices

Happy birthday to Brenda Burton on February 2

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.

The 2023 tax receipts have been completed and they may be picked up in the Tobin Street lobby.

The AGM of the congregation has been set for Sunday, March 17, with a storm date of March 24.

All Annual Reports (e-copies please), with the exception of the financial statements, are due to the church office by no later than February 21. (Earlier is always appreciated.) The published Annual Report will be ready by March 3.

Brunswick Street Mission "Stock a Shelf"

Today is the last day of "Peanut Butter Month". We will deliver to the Mission on Tuesday. Thank you so much for your generosity.



The focus for February – tinned tuna

Please remember that there are many other items always needed. Please see the list on the container in the Tobin Street lobby.

Hope Cottage

The sign-up sheet dates for the Hope Cottage Casserole Deliveries for 2024 are: February 1, March 28, May 23, July 18, September 12 & November 7. We delivered 15+ casseroles each time in 2023 and after speaking with the folks at Hope Cottage they can definitely continue to use 15-20 casseroles each hot meal day. This link below has the sign-up sheet for all the dates in 2024. Please enter your name under the date that works best for you. If you have any troubles, please let Teresa Orser know. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGf9bcU1XBmdDKNxyi-C3BAcCd4AchHEpRDUOA8/edit#gid=0>

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).

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.

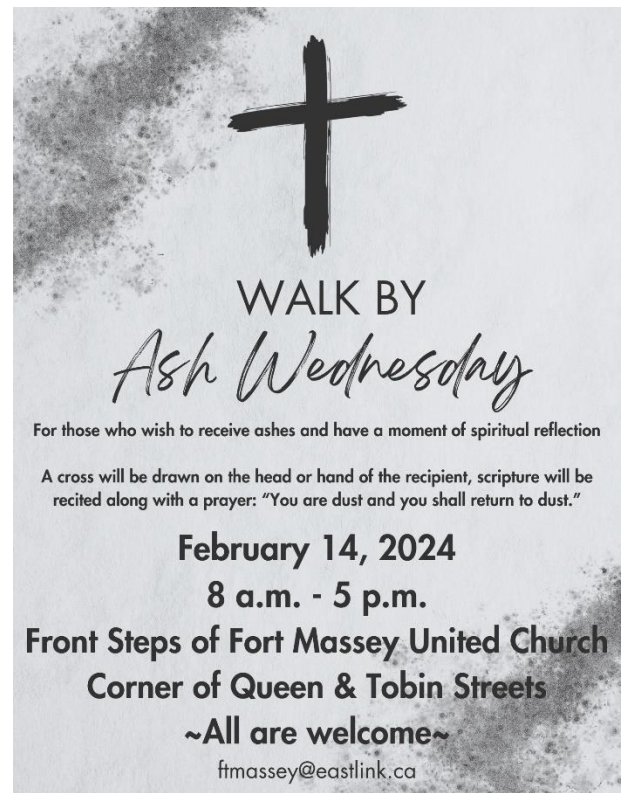
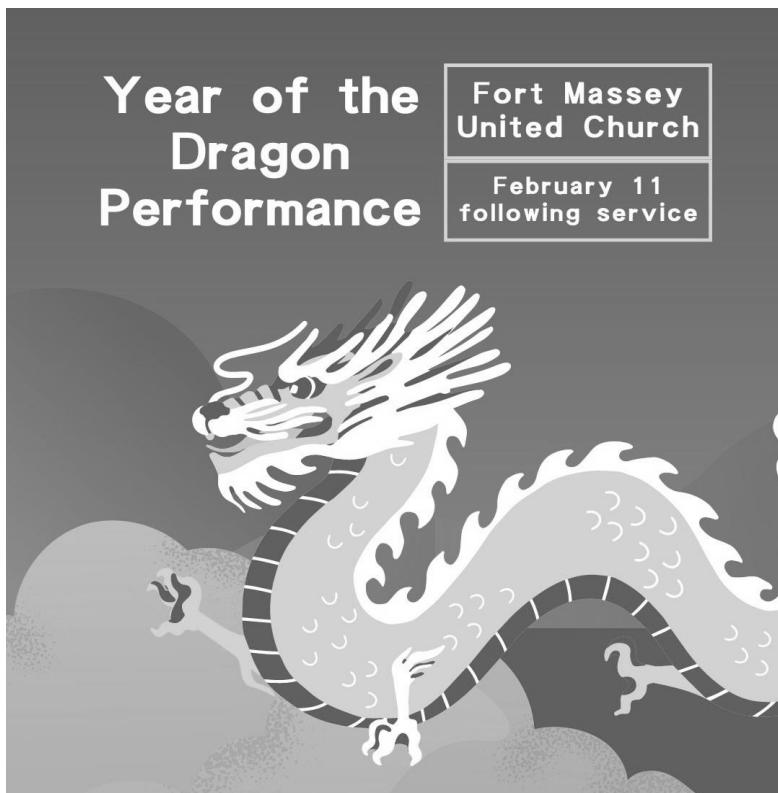
We offer a pretty great coffee hour. Following the service, make your way to the front of the church and down the stairs and you'll be greeted by warm hospitality and terrific snacks!

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**.



If you'd like to participate in leading the Walk by Ash Wednesday ritual, please reach out to Rev. Beth. We need volunteers to come for one-hour slots to offer ashes to anyone walking by the church that day. You'll be provided with a script and training. Please consider coming out to meet our neighbours!

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)