

# 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

Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford

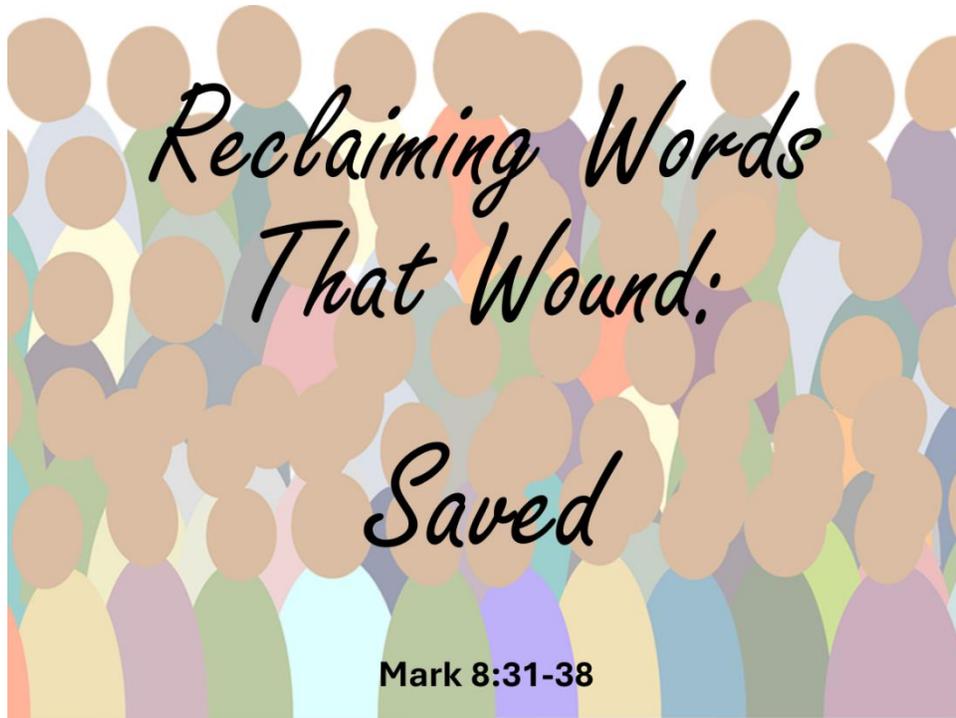
Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Greeter: James Robertson

Liturgical Assistant: David Griffiths, Scripture Reader: Sally DeWolf



**Lent 1**

**February 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



## HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Fort Massey's minister who never was. The cigar-smoking applicant whom Dr Sinclair decorously would not identify was the Reverend William Matheson Fraser (1856-1937). A graduate of Dalhousie University and Princeton Seminary, Fraser was ordained in 1889 and at the time of applying to Fort Massey was serving Bridgetown and Annapolis Royal; he preached for a call two consecutive Sundays in April 1892. Denied the pulpit of Fort Massey, not to mention the signal honour of succeeding Dr Burns, Fraser was awarded the small mission church on Coburg Road. For the third time Fort Massey had failed to find a home-grown minister. All because of a good cigar.

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

### Prelude

**Introit:** "Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary" MV 18

### Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**\*Hymn:** "Jesus Calls Us" VU 562

### 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:** "Spirit, Open My Heart" MV 79

### Offering

Response: "I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus" (v 1) MV 188

**Scripture:** Mark 8:31-38

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

**Ministry of Music:** "Lift Thine Eyes"

**Sermon:** "Saved"

**\*Hymn:** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

### Prayers of the People

**Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" VU 633

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth**

**\*Sung Blessing:** "Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace" VU 961

### Postlude

*Happy birthday to Joyce MacDow on February 23.*

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)).

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**.

**There is a Committee of Stewards meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm on the Fort Massey ZOOM account.**



**Annual Reports (e-copies please) are due to the church office by no later than February 21.**  
**The AGM of the congregation has been set for Sunday, March 17, with a storm date of March 24.**



**Personal Storytelling Hosted by the Affirming Working Group of Bethany United Church**  
February 21 from 7 to 9pm with Rev. Shaun Fryday

**Lunch and Learn Series at St. Matthew's United Church's Hall at Noon**  
February 25 - Blanket Exercise with Mi'kmaq educator Theresa Meuse  
March 24 - Energy Poverty in Nova Scotia with Chris Benjamin from the Ecology Action Centre

### **Appreciative Inquiry on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:30 – 1:30**

On Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> you are invited to participate in a conversation of Appreciative Inquiry, led by Rev. Beth in the Hall, immediately following the service. A light lunch will be provided. You can expect a gathering of no more than two hours.

Appreciative Inquiry is a process of discernment.

During our gathering we will share in small groups and the larger plenary, engaging questions like:

- Tell me about a time when this building contributed to the community.
- Tell me about a time when you first came to FMC - how did you know "this is my church."
- Name three hopes and dreams for this congregation.

By drawing on our memory and stories of the things about Fort Massey that are good and faithful, we begin to see our way forward.

Your participation will be an important step in determining where the Spirit is calling Fort Massey at this moment in time.

If you cannot participate in person you are invited to either send your responses to the questions above to Rev. Beth at [minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com) or schedule a phone call with Rev. Beth 902-333-3123.

### **Save the Date**

On March 16 you are invited to participate in an interactive conversation of discernment with the congregations of St. Matthew's United, St. Andrew's United, and Brunswick St. United. This event will be hosted by the highly skilled facilitator Allison Rennie (bio below).

This day is intended to provide an opportunity for our congregations to discern together, if Spirit is calling us to share in ministry and mission. This is not a conversation about amalgamation, it is about curiosity, sharing with authenticity and vulnerability our hopes, fears, gifts, and challenges. The impetus for the conversation is a growing awareness that we are churches who face similar challenges and opportunities and who must look to the changing future to discern where we are being called. Details of this daylong event will be coming soon. In the meantime, we ask that you save the date and plan to attend this vital conversation.

Allison Rennie (BA, MFA) is a gifted educator, animator, and teammate, deeply passionate about nurturing leadership and spirituality of people all ages. Allison has been engaged in raising and shaping leaders, including their own leadership capacity, for over 30 years. With experience at all levels of the United Church, Allison was most recently Director of LeaderShift and a Regional Minister for the Thompson Okanagan area, both of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council. Currently Allison is a sought-after facilitator and Spiritual Director. Allison is a trained Spiritual Director, retreat leader, and skilled group facilitator. Allison loves a good mystery, a great movie, a fresh loaf of bread, a moment of learning, a good question, big work, and a deep conversation - in any order! Allison lives in Naramata, BC.

### From the Nominating Committee

Are you interested in what goes on in Fort Massey? How we accomplish what we do on outreach?

On keeping this beautiful building beautiful? Are you good with finances? Are you interested in the wider United Church, and what the United Church of Canada is doing in our area? The Nominating Committee is looking for people who would be interested in learning more about what the Outreach, Finance and Treasurer, Ministry and Personnel committees, the Committee of Stewards and Property Committee do to help us reach out into our community and to keep our church going to enable us to worship here. Also, we are able to have two representatives for the United Church's Bermuda-Nova Scotia region – David Griffiths is our other representative. If you have any further questions, please speak with Kathy Evans, Nancy Riggs, Sally DeWolf or Alison McDonald from the Nominating Committee.

### Help Wanted 🙏

Fort Massey is looking for a new treasurer. 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 – February is "Tinned Tuna Month"

Thank you for the ongoing support; there is a list of other suggestions on the contribution box in the Tobin Street lobby.



### Easter Flowers



We will again be collecting donations for Easter flowers. The names of the donors and who they are remembering will, as in the past, be printed in the Easter Bulletin. Please send in the names to the office, and donations by March 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Flourishing Nova Scotia – Time with the Moderator – Save the Dates

Flourishing Keynote presentation with Andre Picard and the Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne

April 11 at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Day-long Workshop on April 13 from 9 am to 4:30 pm at Bedford United Church

Free workshop; to register please use the link in the weekly newsletter

### 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)*