

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

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

Greeters: Bill and Diane Gillis

Liturgical Assistant: Alison McDonald, Scripture Reader: Nancy Riggs

Coffee & Conversation: Joanne and Alan Hayman



Lent 2

February 25, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

In addition to being minister of Fort Massey, Dr Burns was first chair of the board of the new Presbyterian College Halifax (today's Atlantic School of Theology). His decline and eventual resignation affected not only Fort Massey but also PCH.

Its 44th convocation in April 1891 went ahead without Dr Burns present and presiding in his capacity as chair of the college board. On this occasion — the first he had ever missed — he was instead “on his way to Europe in search of health.”

Since its inception in 1848 as Free Church College, Presbyterian College had graduated 208 ministers — a remarkable achievement for a small regional synod like the Maritimes.

** 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:** “Seek Ye First”

VU 356

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:** “My Love Colours Outside the Lines”

MV 138

Offering

Response: “I Thank You, Thank You, Jesus” (v 1)

MV 188

Scripture: Romans 4:13-25

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

Ministry of Music: “Plowshare Prayer”

Sermon: “Righteous”

***Hymn:** “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

VU 400

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: “We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection”

VU 586

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Sung Blessing:** “Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace”

VU 961

Postlude

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).

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 has been an international change in Internet security as of this month, so some emails that are considered "mass emails" are being stopped either on the sending end or on the receiving end, including our newsletter. It may be a number of weeks before we can remedy the situation for those not receiving the newsletter. Meanwhile, it is posted to the church's website, so it can be read there. The link is just below the bulletin link on the home page at: <https://fortmasseychurch.com/>



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

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/98012739900?pwd=M2s3Ym1JRj11QVBGNWdyeDNzWUo4dz09>



Lunch and Learn Series at St. Matthew's United Church's Hall at Noon

Today - 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 3rd 11:30 – 1:30

On Sunday, March 3rd 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 or schedule a phone call with Rev. Beth 902-333-3123.

Exploring a Shared Future on March 16th 9:30 – 3:00

In the Chapel of the Atlantic School of Theology

Congregations of all sizes and shapes are facing a variety of challenges to maintain their ministries – human and financial resources, costly property issues, and evolving missional demands.

We know we can't keep doing and being the church in a way that we have been – but what else is there?

Instead of staying the course as individual congregations, let's take some time to look at how collaborative and collective ministry could lead to a robust and vibrant United Church presence in downtown Halifax.

Our four United Church communities jointly invite you to celebrate, learn, and explore the possibilities for a shared future. On March 16th, let's imagine how we are faithful together!

Our facilitator will be Alison Rennie, from Naramata, BC. An educator within the UCC for over 30 years, Allison is a gifted teacher, facilitator, Spiritual Director, former Program Director at Naramata Centre, and Director of LeaderSHIFT for the United Church of Canada. With a double major in Christianity and Culture, and a Master of Fine Arts in Writing and Consciousness, Allison is always looking for the possibility of story, song, poetry and action to enliven the spiritual path. Hosting important conversation, engaging in spiritual practice and serious playing are central to Allison's practice of leadership.



Brunswick Street Food Bank



Thanks for your generous donations this month, especially the tinned tuna which was February's "Stock a Shelf" theme. Mike, the Market Manager, has asked if we could make March "Birthday Month" so that he can stock up on cake mix and canned icing to give away to people with birthdays coming up. All other items are still much appreciated of course.

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.



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.



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 18th.

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, 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)