

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

Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford

Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

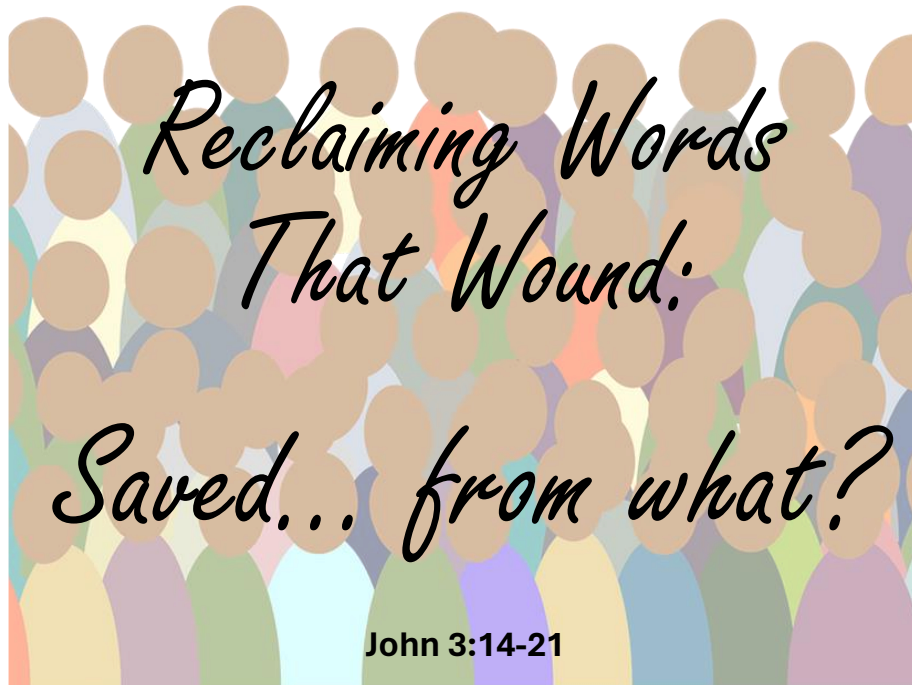
Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Greeters: Diane and Bill Gillis

Liturgical Assistant & Scripture Reader: Clarissa Sit & Vurain Tabvuma

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis

Coffee & Conversation: Elaine Janson



Lent 4

March 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

Despite ageing and declining health Dr Burns could still speak out vigorously when the occasion demanded. Divine service on Thanksgiving day, 12 November 1891, saw him deliver a no-holds-barred sermon "denouncing in the strongest terms" the scandal-plagued Conservative government of Prime Minister Sir John Abbott which the Morning Chronicle published the following day. Unsurprisingly perhaps, given the high and rising political tensions which followed the death in June of long-time Prime Minister Sir John Macdonald, Dr Burns's sermon was subjected to "a coarse and violent attack" by the Conservative Morning Herald. The controversy raged on for days, even some Conservatives condemning the partisan attack on Burns as "disgusting."

** 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:** "God of the Bible" MV 28

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:** "Jesus Christ Is Waiting" VU 117

Offering

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

Scripture: John 3:14-21

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

Ministry of Music: "Veni Sancte Spiritus"

Sermon: "Saved... from what?"

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

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" VU 626

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

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

Postlude

A warm welcome to our guest preacher today, The Rev. Dr. Susan MacAlpine-Gillis.

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**.

Rev. Beth will be on holidays from March 6th to 15th. During that time, please reach out to Rev. Betsy Hogan for any pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at 902-453-9471 or via email stmatts.betsy@ns.sympatico.ca



6th Annual National PIE-Day Fundraiser on March 14th from 11am to 1pm at the SUB on Dal Campus

An opportunity to buy pie to help support LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Bursary Funds.



Would you be willing to make a pie or donate a pie? No nuts please; gluten-free options are appreciated.

Direct donations to PIE-Day can be made via e-transfer: dalhousieunited@gmail.com; charitable receipts are available.

Questions? Contact Robyn Brown-Hewitt, United Church Minister, at 902-494-2287 or 902-670-1617, Robyn.Brown-Hewitt@dal.ca

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!

PLEASE NOTE – Coffee and tea will be provided but you are asked to bring your own lunch or plan to go out for lunch during the hour break. Cookies and sweets to share for coffee break are also greatly appreciated and can be brought on the day.

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.



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=M2s3Ym1JRj1lQVBGNWdyeDNzWUo4dz09>



There will be a pizza lunch with a free will offering, with coffee and tea provided.

We are aware that many of you have not been receiving the newsletter the past several weeks. This is a result of new security measures. While we work to resolve this, we will be sending the newsletter through the church's email list in addition to the newsletter list. Some of you will receive it twice. Apologies for any inconvenience. The newsletter can also be read on the church's website. The link is just below the bulletin link on the home page at: <https://fortmasseychurch.com/>

Holy Week and Easter - Mark Your Calendars for Our Holy Week Events:

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday Service 10:30 am

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday Potluck Meal & Communion 6:00 pm

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday Service 10:30 am

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Service 10:30 am

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

To register for these events, please use the links in the weekly newsletter

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.

Brunswick Street Food Bank

March is "Birthday Month" so please bring in cake mix and canned icing to give away to people with birthdays coming up. All other items are still much appreciated of course; please refer to the list in the Tobin Street entrance.

Easter Flowers

We are collecting donations for Easter flowers. Please send  donations by Monday, March 18th.

As in previous years, the names of the donors and who they are remembering will be printed in the Easter Bulletin.

Please give the names of donors and who they are remembering to Kathy Evans and email them to the church office.

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)