

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



**Second Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2017 at 10 am**

**“When you talk, you are only repeating what you know;
but when you listen, you learn something new.”**

**Dalai Lama XIV (b. 1935)
Tibetan Buddhist Leader**

WELCOME to worship! It is good that you are here.

Our worship leaders are **Rev. Ali Anningson**

and our music director is **Alex Good**,

who leads us with the assistance of the **FHUC Choir**.

Our greeter this morning is **Lorna McKnight** and **Joe Rideout**,

our Sunday School teachers are **Margie Roxborough**

and **Rachel Neville**,

our hospitality host is **May Houston**,

and our tellers are **May Houston** and **Joan Mitchell**.

*Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for all people to gather
regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status,
sexual orientation, and gender identity. All are welcome here!*

Lenten Small Group Study: During the season of Lent, we will be gathering to study The 8 Points of Progressive Christianity, which are listed here: <https://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/> Two groups will be meeting - one on Mondays from 7-8 pm (beginning March 13) and another on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 pm (beginning March 14). If you are interested in attending, contact Rev. Ali at revalianningson@gmail.com or 292-2369 and she will provide you with a copy of the study guide.

THE LENTEN CHALLENGE: The Outreach Committee is issuing a challenge to the congregation. We are calling it the Lenten Challenge. Each person can start on the first day of Lent and take something from their house each day. This could be clothes, small appliances, linen, or any such item. Please do this with intention. Each day find something you no longer use or need, and place it in a bag or box. While you do this please say a word of gratitude for the plenty that brought it to you and for being able to use it. Then say a word of blessing to send it on its way and for the person who will acquire it and use it. After Easter you can take it to the charity of your choice. If you would prefer that someone else take please let us know and we will happily take it away for you.

Storm Policy Reminder: In the event of a serious storm on a Sunday morning, a decision will be made by 8 a.m. as to whether a cancellation is necessary. If a service is cancelled, a message will be placed on the church answering machine, sent out via email, and passed on to CBC radio.

Community Events

Gibson Memorial United Church 183 Gibson St., will be hosting a “Jig’s Dinner-Corn Beef” on Friday, March 17th. 4 – 6 p.m. Adult: \$15 and Child: \$3. Please call 457-1951 to reserve your tickets.

The New Maryland United Church, NM Lions Club & NM Fire Dept are having a **Fundraising Breakfast & Silent Auction** at the New Maryland Rec. Centre on **Saturday Mar 18th from 8am – 12Noon**. All proceeds are to support **RON TUPLING & FAMILY**. **Ron** is a double lung transplant recipient.

Please join us for coffee and conversation directly following the service.

OFFICE HOURS
(506) 455-0988 | foresthillunited.com

Administrative Assistant - **Kris Yarych**
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:45 - 3:45 pm
foresth.office@bellaliant.com

Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**
Mondays to Thursdays from 9 am - Noon
revalianningson@gmail.com (506) 292-2369 [cell]

Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Quilt Group	Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room
Choir Practice	Sunday at 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

The Spiritual Guidance Committee will meet Tuesday March 14, 7:30p.m., in the Library. All members of the former Worship Committee, Pastoral Care Committee and Outreach Committee are invited to attend.

Registration for **Youth Forum and Intermediates at Conference** is now online! Deadline to register is March 31st. Woolastook Presbytery & Forest Hill United generously offer funding to participants. To register for YF: <http://marconf.ca/youth-forum-registration/> To register for IAC: <http://marconf.ca/intermediates->

Gathering In

At the **, please rise in body or in spirit.

Lent - A Season for Listening

Prelude

****Introit:** *(Sung Together)* #400 VU

God, may we hear what you are saying.
God, stir our souls and calm our fears.
God, may we hear what you are saying.
Open hearts, open minds, open ears.

Revised Words by Ali Smith, 2017

Welcome & Church News

Call to Worship:

One: Let us listen as God invites us
into this place of safety and care.
All: We hear God inviting us by name.
One: Let us listen as God invites Nicodemus to new life.
**All: May we hear God inviting us to explore
what is new to us.**
One: Let us listen to the whispers of God's Spirit
moving in us.
All: With open ears, we come to worship now.

Adapted from Louise Mahood in *Gathering L/E* 2014

Gathering Prayer: *(Spoken Together)*

O Love Divine, remind us that you are here. Fill our souls!
O Holy Spirit, remind us you are always with us.
Renew our lives!
Great God, remind us you will never leave us alone.
Love us and all of your creation into being. Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** #374 VU Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Listening Together

Welcoming the Darkness

Listening Song: The Wind by Cat Stevens (Yusuf Islam)

**I listen to the wind
To the wind of my soul
Where I'll end up well I think,
Only God really knows
I've sat upon the setting sun
But never, never never never
I never wanted water once
No, never, never, never**

**I listen to my words but
They fall far below
I let my music take me where
My heart wants to go
I swam upon the devil's lake
But never, never never never
I'll never make the same mistake
No, never, never, never**

Story Time

Lenten Hymn: #17 MV God in the Darkness

*After the first verse is sung,
children, youth and teachers leave for Sunday School.*

Words from Our Bible:

One: This is the Word of God for our listening ears.

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music:

Message: “The Holy Act of Listening”

****Hymn of Reflection:** #94 MV Love Knocks and Waits

Going Forth

Presentation of Our Gifts

****Offering Verse:** *(Sung Together)* #376 VU

**Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love!**

****Prayer After Giving**

The Prayer That Jesus Taught: #959 VU The Lord's Prayer

Prayers of Our Community

****Closing Hymn:** #382 VU Breathe on Me, Breath of God

****Blessing:**

****Choral Response:** *(Sung Together)* #216 MV

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

Postlude

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The UCW of St. Paul's United Church, on the corner of George and York Streets, will be hosting a BRIDGE LUNCHEON, on Saturday, April 8th beginning at 12 noon. Tables are \$48.00. Contact Isabel to register at 459-7116.

Minute for Mission Helping Refugees

Our gifts for Mission & Service support refugees. Let us hear a story of one of our partners.

Since 2012, Jordan has received over 1.5 million refugees. Large numbers of Syrian and Iraqi refugees have sought safety in the country. The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)-Jordan is part of the ongoing response to this crisis.

MECC-Jordan approaches aid to refugees through a lens of Christian moral duty and human dignity. Referring to them as guests rather than refugees, the council insists that everything that is given is of high quality. Just because the newcomers are vulnerable and in need does not mean they should receive only what's left over. Rather than giving food parcels and clothes, MECC provides vouchers so people can choose what they want based on their needs.

MECC-Jordan also helps local churches that are receiving refugees, such as Our Lady of Assumption parish in Amman. Father Boghos Nahabedian opened his church hall to recent refugees, and later, with the assistance of MECC and other organizations, helped them settle in the area. Social programs for adults and children are also offered to enhance a sense of community.

"Every prayer, thought, and donation is making a difference," says Wafa Goussous, Director of MECC's Jordan office.

We sing thanksgiving for the ongoing work of the Middle East Council of Churches and its commitment to supporting refugees in Jordan.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you

so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!