

Forest Hill United Church

An Affirming Congregation



Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 26, 2017 at 10 am

“Love one another and help others to rise to the higher levels, simply by pouring out love. Love is infectious and the greatest healing energy.”

Sai Baba (1838 - 1918)
Indian Spiritual 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 **Libby Cassidy**,

our Sunday School teachers are

our hospitality host is **Diane Robinson**,

and our tellers are **Jennifer Abbott** and **Mary-Anne Blakney**.

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!

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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: You know the reason why you came.

All: **Yes, we know and so we have arrived.**

One: We come seeking inspiration and guidance.

All: **We have come to sing praises for life.**

One: We come to find healing and strength.

All: **So let us worship in humble hospitality.**

One: Let us worship in love.

By Jim McKean (edited) in *Gathering L/E 2017*

Gathering Prayer: *(Spoken Together)*

As you are opened up to us, O God,
may we open ourselves to you.

May we empty ourselves of the enticing call
of material things and worldly affairs
to seek your Spirit within us
in honesty and love. Amen.

By George Allan (edited) in *Gathering L/E 2017*

****Opening Hymn:** #626 VU I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Listening Together

Welcoming the Darkness

Listening Song: “Be Still” by The Fray

Be still and know that I'm with you
Be still and know that I am here
Be still and know that I'm with you
Be still, be still, and know

When darkness comes upon you
And colors you with fear and shame
Be still and know that I'm with you
And I will say your name

If terror falls upon your bed
And sleep no longer comes
Remember all the words I said
Be still, be still, and know

And when you go through the valley
And the shadow comes down from the hill
If morning never comes to be
Be still, be still, be still

If you forget the way to go
And lose where you came from
If no one is standing beside you
Be still and know I am

Be still and know that I'm with you
Be still and know I am

Story Time

Lenten Hymn: #150 MV Spirit God, Be Our Breath

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

Words from Our Bible:

Marilyn Lohnes

Psalm 23 Page 749 VU (with Refrain 2)
John 9:1-41 *A Man Born Blind Receives Sight*

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music:

Message: “Open My Eyes, Open My Ears, Open My Mouth”

****Hymn of Reflection:** #371 VU Open My Eyes that I May See

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:** #266 VU Amazing Grace

**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:

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
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Minister - **Rev. Ali Anningson**
Mondays to Thursdays from 9 am - Noon
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Church News

COMING UP @ FHUC

Progressive Christianity Study Group

- A. Mondays** 7 - 8 pm in the Library
B. Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm in the Parlour

Book Club

Tue, Apr 4th, 12 noon The Hare with Amber Eyes, by Edmund de Waal

Quilt Group

Wednesdays 1-3 pm Upper Room

Choir Practice

Sunday at 11:30-12:30 in the Choir Room

FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

Free income tax clinics will be held for people of lower income from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.
Friday March 31, April 7, 21, and 28.
For information call Mary Grant 459-8525

Message from the Board

The Board met on March 16. Here are some important items to report: Please put the following dates in your calendars: Our Affirm celebration will be on Sunday, April 23. The date for the Roast Beef Supper has a new date: May 13. What a great opportunity to treat mothers for Mother's Day! The price will be \$13.

To move forward with implementing our new governance structure, all committees are in the process of scheduling inaugural meetings and Julia will attend these first meetings of the new committees to assist with planning and process.

As you know, the AGM did not result in a treasurer appointment. This is a matter of grave concern. The Board has struck a task force (Bob Fisher, William Hughes and Diane Robinson) to guide a transitional process to outsourced bookkeeping and to identify a new treasurer.

Our thanks go out to Robert Christie for painting the church hallway and entrance and congratulations to Brian Cassidy for his induction into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame for developing the game's first statistical scoring program.

Forest Hill Book Club will meet on Tuesday April 4th at 12 noon in the church parlour. The April book is The Hare with Amber Eyes. By Edmund de Waal.

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.

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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

"Feed the Hungry Buffet Supper" March 31 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

The youth at Nashwaaksis United Church are engaging in the 30-Hour Famine. To launch their experience they will host a fundraiser for World Hunger. Come feast with us and help us to put a dent in world hunger. \$10 per adult \$25 for a family. Proceeds will support UN World Food Initiatives. Advance tickets are available by calling the church office at 458-9452 or at the door that evening. Many blessings, Priscilla

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.

UCW Bridge Luncheon Book your table now for our upcoming Bridge Luncheon. **Thursday, May 11th, at 12 noon.** At the Nashwaaksis United Church gym. Tables are \$40.00. Contact Connie – 472-4744

St. Thomas University students and members of Fredericton's faith communities invite you to the 6th Annual Celebration of Faith in Diversity. Our 6th Annual "Celebration of Faith in Diversity" (CFID) will be taking place on Sunday March 26th, from 1 to 5 pm in the Kinsella auditorium of McCain Hall. This year's theme is "Women and Faith." Our organizers, all women, represent: the Wabanaki First Nation, the Fredericton Shambhala Buddhist Community, the Fredericton Baha'i Community, the Catholic Women's League, the Maritime Geeta Bhawan Hindu Temple, the Fredericton Islamic Association, Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, and the Fredericton Unitarian Fellowship. Come join us on March 26th and learn about your neighbours! Share with us as we celebrate our own stories through poetry and video, song and dance! All are invited

to stay on from 4-5 pm and enjoy refreshments courtesy of our faith communities!

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Minute for Mission Care for Creation

Our gifts for Mission & Service support care for creation. Let us hear a story of this work.

In 1987, while El Salvador's civil war raged on, displaced villagers started to return home. People from the village of Santa Marta returned determined to live in a new way. They decided to share land instead of holding individual plots. Education became their top priority.

They set up a community organization called ADES (*AH-dess*)—the Santa Marta Economic and Social Development Association. They built a school that now graduates almost 100 students each year. Almost half go on to post-secondary institutions. ADES created a community radio station and a community bakery to produce bread at an affordable price.

ADES is a social movement that functions as a non-governmental organization with a goal of achieving social and ecological justice in rural El Salvador.

Farmers receive training and support as they adjust to practices that respect the earth and restore the land, avoiding expensive external inputs like chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Several greenhouses help to increase production and diversify crops. Over time, the scope of ADES's work has expanded to farmers in other villages. ADES works with other organizations to address the challenges presented by mining companies, hydro-electric projects, and industrial-scale farming.

We sing thanksgiving for Mission & Service partners like ADES that support sustainable farming practices and care for the earth.

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!

