**Bridgewater United Church**

**April 14th, 2024 Third of Easter**

**Ministry Team:** *Reverend Neil McEwen and Reverend Hans van Nie*

**Organist and Pianist**: *Walter Delahunt*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Randall Knox*

**Greeter:** *Joanne Johnson* **Greeter:** *Jane Martin*

*The asterisk (\*) indicates the congregation may stand, as they are able.*

*The print in* ***BOLD*** *is where the congregation participates.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus Video:** “B-United”

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship****:**

Jesus stood in the midst of the disciples

and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

**And they rejoiced to see the Risen Christ.**

Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

**And they were filled with the energy of God.**

Jesus urged the disciples to love one another

and said to them, “Feed my sheep.”

**And they gathered to be the church.**

**Opening Prayer:** (*unison)*

**Easter God; you are alive and eager to be with us this day.**

**To you no door is closed, to you no heart is locked,**

**to you no one is beyond your care.**

**Enter our circle of worship, enter our hearts and minds.**

**Fill us with your presence, your energy and your love;**

**that we may worship in Spirit and in Truth;**

**and renew our lives in the way of Christ. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “The Day of Resurrection” (VU 164)

Your Generosity Matters: Mission and Service Easter

Invitation to Offering

*We offer our gifts of time, talents and treasures each day. Offering plates are located at the*

*entrance of the Sanctuary where you can place your donations as you arrive or as you leave.*

*The offering plates are not circulated among the congregation during our Service of Worship.*

**\*Offertory Response:** “For the Gift of Creation” (VU 538)

**\*Prayer of Dedication:** (*unison)*

**Bountiful God, this is the offering of our time, talent, and treasure.**

**May these gifts be used with wisdom, and with justice,**

**in the church, and throughout the world,**

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time For All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Let My Spirit Always Sing” (MV 83)

Gospel Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-20

Herein is good news.

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Luke 5:1-11

Herein is good news.

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Scripture Reading: John 21:1-17

Herein is good news.

**Thanks be to God**

Sermon: “A Fish Story”

**\*Hymn:** “Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” (VU 563)

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “The Risen Christ” (VU 168)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

\*Commissioning and Benediction

\*Postlude

***CCLI No., 11287624, 20371363***

***The church bulletins are given to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of Reverend Reuben and Anna Humby***

***and Herb and Olive Ritcey, gift of Sam and Dale Elsworth.***



**Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice**

The United Church of Canada is a community of hope, a vibrant and vital church with both purpose and vision. We live in a time of rapid change in religious life, great inequities between peoples, and collective harm to our earth community. Together, we strive towards repentance, repair, and right relations with all peoples and the planet. Living purposefully into this call and vision anticipates becoming the Beloved Community—the ever inbreaking, transforming, reconciling realm of God, today!

**Vision Statement**

As followers of Jesus Christ, Bridgewater United Church is a church family that values each person as equal and unique loving expressions of God with gifts and talents to share. People of all ages, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnic background, economic circumstance, and those experiencing other barriers that limit inclusion are welcome to fully participate in all our ministries.

**Mission Statement**

To create a vibrant community of followers of Jesus where everyone deeply knows they belong, are cared for, can grow spiritually and actively demonstrate our love in the world and towards one another.

**Core Values**

We value energetic engagement in our:

Spiritual Health

Generosity

Acceptance of all

Responsiveness to the world

Love for God, creation, self, and others

**#APlaceWhereEveryoneBelongs**

**#ChooseLove**

******

87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater, NS, B4V 1T2

Church Office Phone: (902) 543-4833

 Ministers’ and Pastoral Care Private Church Phone: (902) 543-6854

Reverend Neil McEwen westsideunitedchurch@gmail.com (902) 523-5687

Reverend Hans van Nie hans@bridgewaterunited.ca (902) 277-4235

Church Office E-mail: info@bridgewaterunited.ca Website: www.bridgewaterunited.ca

Church Office Hours ~ Tuesday to Friday ~ 10:00am – 12:30pm

Be sure to like and share our Facebook and YouTube page!

**Our Church is a Nut-Free and Scent-Free Church**

**Support Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel**

Mission and Service partners are responding to those impacted by the conflict in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. As people of faith, we bring the grief, compassion and concerns of a hurting world to God. To financially support this Mission and Service initiative, please designate your donation as “Peace in Gaza.” Thank you.

**Send A Kid To Camp**

Kids need camp more today than ever before. It's a place for kids to be themselves, to learn new skills, unplug, develop independence and meet friends. To attend a week of camp, it costs $435.00. Please consider donating to “Send a Child to Camp,” as all funds raised will help youth of B-United attend a United Church camp this summer.

**B-United Supports our Local Food Bank**

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For April, there is a request for Canned Tomatoes, Snack Crackers, Spaghetti, Canned Green Beans and Instant Oatmeal.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp Clean-Up and Spring Splash**

Join Sherbrooke Lake Camp on Saturday, May 4th from 10:00am – 4:00pm for their Annual Clean-Up. Spring has sprung and they are ready for a beautiful summer ahead! They will be providing Camp Coffee, tea and hot chocolate for all! At 12:00pm, everyone will pause for a bite to eat, so bring a packed lunch to enjoy while you're here. At 3:00pm, everyone will head down to the beach to cheer on our Spring Splash participants! Participants of the Spring Splash are collecting pledges towards their goal and will take the first chilly plunge in the lake of our 2024 camping season on May 4th! All pledges support the programming and \*magic\* for our Homecoming event from August 2nd – 4th! Be sure to share your old photos from camp too! Donations above and beyond will be invested back into summer camp programming in 2024. Please register for the clean-up by email at ed@sherbrookelakecamp.org.

**Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank Fundraiser**

The Bridgewater Inter-Church Council is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank with an afternoon of music on Sunday, May 5th from 2:00pm – 5:00pm at the Bridgewater Baptist Church. The non-stop music will feature Chirs Robert Weagle (Catahoula Brown), Collage, Patricia Watson, Dayspring, The Clarke Family Group and MLC (Midlife Crisis.) Admission by free-will offering and a tax receipt will be provided for donations of $20 or more.

**South Shore Chorale Concert**

The South Shore Chorale will be presenting Out of the Darkness: Songs of Hope and Light with Amelia McMahon; Artistic Director and Sharon Gow-Knickle; Collaborative Pianist. Tickets are $15 (advance) and $20 (at the door) and are available at Kinburn Pharmasave, Kinley Drugs or Bridgewater Pharmasave. Join them on Monday, May 6th at 7:30pm at Wesley United Church; Petite Riviere, Saturday, May 11th at 2:00pm at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church; Bridgewater or Sunday, May 12th at 2:00pm at Central United Church; Lunenburg. Hope to see you there!

**Preparing for our next Pastoral Relationship at B-United!**

Bridgewater United Church is looking forward to beginning a new pastoral relationship with a 1.5 clergy team beginning in the Fall of 2024. In preparation for this new phase in the life and work of the congregation, we will hold some group conversations meant to heighten the awareness of congregational strengths and assets; and to work on any latent issues which have the potential of undermining a healthy start to the new ministry. Committees and groups within the congregation will engage in these conversations and there will also be some sessions open to the congregation at large. The conversations will be facilitated by Reverend Hans van Nie. An RSVP is required to participate in one of the groups open to everyone (10 participants per group.) Registration is now open for sessions on Thursday, April 18th and Thursday, April 25th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Please register by sending a message to the Church Office at info@bridgewaterunited.ca or by phone at (902) 543-4833.

**B.U.C Brigade Mission Trip**

The B.U.C. Mission Team wishes to provide an update with respect to our final transfer of goods to Servants’ Heart, Sosua, Dominican. Some of our members had planned on taking a trip to Sosua with the balance of the goods we had collected and are stored in five suitcases. Due to the unrest in Haiti and the excessive cost of airfare, it was decided to forgo the trip and try and send the goods by other means. We have learned there is a Company in Ontario that regularly ships goods to the Dominican in storage barrels for a reasonable price. That Company has no depot in Nova Scotia. We have contacted Midland Transportation here to see if they could transfer these goods for us and they have agreed to provide this service, free of charge which we are very grateful for. We will be obtaining plastic barrels from a company in Lunenburg and will pack these barrels with the goods we have stored. We have also contacted the Pharmacy in Caledonia who has provided us with acetaminophen/vitamins/allergy medications for both children and women at a very reasonable cost. Pregnancy kits will also be purchased. These medications will help fill the barrels, are items that are needed by the Pregnancy Centre and the medications will be given out in small amounts to the patients. We will not be holding any further fund-raising events but will still be accepting monetary donations until the end of this current year. At that time, we will transfer the balance of the funds to Servant’s Heart that we are holding to complete our commitment to this Mission. We were extremely grateful to our congregation and the Greenfield Baptist Church for allowing us to represent you in this Mission. It has been a very gratifying experience, one that we all will never forget. Again thank you for your continued support. Respectfully submitted: Janice Buck, Brian Buck, Donna Stitt, Bev. Burgess, Margie Hubley, Linda Rowter and Gwenn Oakes.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Faith is to believe what we do not see;*

*and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.”*

*~ Augustine*

***“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”***

***~ Matthew 6:21***

Prayerfully decide what you will give each year to your Church and divide that amount by twelve. Contributions help our Church’s Ministry, with a dependable flow of contributions, to increase our overall financial stability. Church envelopes allow your Church Givings to be tallied into a year-end income tax receipt. Your regular givings supports the local ministry of our congregation. With a Church Envelope you can designate where you would like your givings to be distributed.

**Local Expenses Designation** helps with the overall daily upkeep of the building, such as electricity, heating costs, insurance, as well as personnel expenses.

**Mission and Service Designation** is forwarded to The United Church of Canada to be deposited to their Mission and Service Fund which is used for many wonderful Outreach aspects that The United Church of Canada is a part of such as helping people overcome poverty, train new ministers and Mission and Service Gifts support vibrant and vital ministries for the healing of the world.

**Building Fund Designation** helps with repairs/upgrades that need to be undertaken by B-United, to make sure our building is safe for all that use it.

**Food Bank Designation** helps The Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank, which provides help to those who are in need. We encourage our members to bring in non-perishable food bank items to be placed in Brother Lawrence’s Wheelbarrow in the Narthex throughout the month or you can place a monetary donation in the Offering Plate. This can be specified on your Church Envelope.

**PAR** is a monthly pre-authorized bank withdrawal by Bridgewater United Church directly, that can be increased or decreased five business days before the end of the month. PAR is not only convenient, but it ensures regular monthly givings to help your Church’s Ministry even when you are away.

**Sunday School Local Designation** helps with obtaining supplies for weekly curriculum, snack items, yearly curriculum lessons and events the youth will be taking part in and much more. It provides for the daily upkeep of Sunday School.

**Sunday School Mission and Service Designation** is forwarded to The United Church of Canada to be deposited to their Mission and Service Fund which is used for many wonderful Outreach aspects of The United Church of Canada.

**e-Transfers** are now accepted by Bridgewater United Church. Add info@bridgewaterunited.ca as a payee, and you can submit your donation that way.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Rafuse, Envelope Steward, at (902) 543-4833 or by email at info@bridgewaterunited.ca. Thank you.

*We are now given an opportunity to be a blessing to others.*

*Through our PAR commitments, through our money, and through our time and talents,*

*we now return to God, so that we might be a part of God’s Love and God’s Mission.*

**B-United PAR Authorization Form**

 **(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**



**B-United PAR Authorization**

Donor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My Monthly Gift of $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be designated to benefit monthly:

*(Please specify amounts designated to which Church Fund)*

Local: $\_\_\_\_ Mission and Service: $\_\_\_\_ Building $\_\_\_\_ Food Bank: $\_\_\_\_

I/we authorize, Bridgewater United Church, to debit my/our bank account on one of the following dates, 1st, 20th, or Month-End of every month, starting on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_.

I/we may change the amount of my/our contribution five days before month-end, by contacting the Envelope Steward with this adjustment. I/we have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. I/we waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of pre-authorized remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAR before the debit is processed monthly.

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and understood all the provisions contained in the terms and conditions of the pre-authorized payment authorization and that I/we have received a copy.

Please attach a **VOID** cheque.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_