**Bridgewater United Church**

**April 16th, 2023 2nd of Easter Earth Sunday**

**Minister:** *Reverend Neil McEwen* **Music Ministry Director:** *Barbara Pate*

**Greeter:** *Carolyn MacKay* **Greeter:** *Linda Rowter*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Evan Rafuse* **Sound Engineer:** *Micaila Rafuse*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 122 MV – This Is the Day**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus:** **# 381 VU – Spirit of Life**

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

**We gather in this Season of Easter celebrating God’s gift of hope and new life revealed to us with the empty tomb. May the words we hear and the songs we sing inspire our hearts to live the resurrection story into the lives of others. Be present among us God as we embrace this time of faithful community. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Together for the Love of Creation

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 121 MV – Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! (Chorus)**

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

**God of unending and faithful blessings, we offer our gifts to express our gratitude and thanks for what we have received. May these gifts and our actions of faith carry your message of love and hope into the world and into the hearts of others. Amen.**

Special Music: Rainbow Connection *performed* *by Barbara Pate and Micaila Rafuse*

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 559 VU – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

Scripture Reading: John 20:19-31

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message: Receive the Holy Spirit

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn: # 232 VU – Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**

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 my mother, Freda Adams,***

***gift of son, Bruce Munro.***



87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater, NS, B4V 1T2

Church Office Phone: (902) 543-4833

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

Reverend Neil McEwen[westsideunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westsideunitedchurch@gmail.com) (902) 523-5687

Barbara Pate [music@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:music@bridgewaterunited.ca) (902) 830-0708

Church Office E-mail:  [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:buc@tallships.ca) Website:  [www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://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**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**Wants To Stay In Touch With You!**

1. Please pass along your email to the Church Office at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca), so that you can be added to congregational emails regarding events, services, and storm closures.

2. Check out our website at [www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://www.bridgewaterunited.ca) for information about our Church, event calendar, worship services and so much more.

3. The Church Office wants to remind members of the congregation, if the worship service is cancelled, an announcement will be placed on CKBW (98.1 FM), the church’s website at [www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://www.bridgewaterunited.ca), Facebook and the church voicemail stating the cancellation by 9:00am on Sunday morning.

Logo, company name

Description automatically generated

**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**

***A picture containing text

Description automatically generated***

**B-United Youth Group**

All youth in Grade 6 to Grade 12 are asked to join us for a Movie Night and Popcorn on Friday April 21st from 6:30pm-9:00pm. Use the entrance by the Church Office. Please let Tracy know if you will be in attendance. Bring a friend!

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

The Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser will be held on April 23rd. Cash or cheques are welcomed, (cheques made payable to Bridgewater United Church,) with both Sobeys and Loblaws/Superstore grocery cards available. Participate in the Grocery Card Fundraiser and benefit the work of B-United. Submit your payment with the order form by April 23rd. Forms are in the Narthex.

**Multi-Generational Caring Workshop**

Join us Saturday, April 29th from 10:00am – 3:00pm at B-United for a Caring For You - Caring For Me - Caring for Our Church - Caring for the Wider Community Multi-Generational Workshop. $15. Lunch, Drama Presentation, Meditation and Music. To register, contact Marg at (902) 543-2495 or [raforbes@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:raforbes@ns.sympatico.ca).

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp Spring Clean-Up**

Spring has sprung and camp has been in hibernation. We are so excited to get some people out to enjoy the beautiful grounds at Sherbrooke Lake! This year's Annual Camp Clean-Up is on May 6th from 10:00am–4:00pm! We will be providing coffee, tea and hot chocolate for all who join us. At 12:00pm, we will pause for a bite, and we invite you to bring a packed lunch or picnic to enjoy on-site while you're here!

**Community Kitchen Party**

South Shore Refugee Project welcomes you to a Community Kitchen Party at St. Joseph’s Church Hall; 123 Pleasant Street on Sunday, May 7th from 3:00pm - 7:00pm. Come and enjoy live music, a meal, drinks and desserts and time with friends and neighbours. All proceeds go towards sponsoring a refugee family of five to the South Shore. Entry by donation, meal $10/person or $25/family (cash only). We are also seeking help with home-baked squares, contact Claire Wayne at (519) 400-9049, cans of kidney beans, chopped tomatoes and tomato sauce, contact Anna Garland at (902) 634-3032 and volunteers, contact Lydia Skoreyko at (902) 521-1363 or [southshorerefugeeproject@gmail.com](mailto:southshorerefugeeproject@gmail.com). Thank you for your support.

**Youth@Region**

Registration for Youth@Region (Formerly I@C and YF!) is now live! Y@R is a place of community and a place of faith where United Church youth, between grade 6 and 12, meet from across Nova Scotia and Bermuda. It takes place during the Annual Meeting of Regional Council 15 (RC15), June 9th – 11th at Mount Saint Vincent University. The group creates an inclusive, diverse and safe community for youth in the name of Christ. We provide a place for youth to explore their faith and to learn more about the United Church of Canada while sharing in music, worship and fun in a spirit-filled community. The Faith Formation Committee of B-United will assist with registration fees for youth who would like to attend to this event!

**Masks No Longer Required**

Physical distancing is still recommended and when this is not possible, the use of a mask is encouraged. Remember to be kind, understanding and respectful of all.

**Earth Sunday**

Earth Day is celebrated in communities around the world on April 22nd. This year, the United Church and fellow members of the For the Love of Creation climate justice initiative are holding a “Together for the Love of Creation” Earth Week. Go and act, for the care of creation. Go and learn, for the sake of creation. Go and pray, for the love of creation. Let all of creation praise God’s awesome deeds!

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are truly blessed to have reflections each week at B-United. Check out April!

April 23rd (10:30am) – Reverend Vivian Moores

April 30th (10:30am) – Bridgewater United at West Side United

**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 Fruit, Elbow Macaroni, Pudding, Instant Oatmeal and Cereal. Be mindful of expiration.

**Send A Kid To Camp**

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every child could go to a United Church 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 $415.00. Please consider donating to “Send a Kid to Camp,” as all funds raised will help youth of B-United attend camp this summer. Thank you.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp Family Camp**

Family Camp is an opportunity to rent a cabin with your family or friends and enjoy all the beauty that Sherbrooke Lake Camp has to offer. Cabins are stand-alone structures with 4 bunk beds, a change room and dedicated latrine stall. We will be hosting a campfire during both of these long weekend sessions for all to enjoy! You have access to our beach and grounds to enjoy and soak up the sun! Bring your people, your bedding, your food and your positivity for a long weekend filled with memories at camp! Family Camp 1 is August 4th - 7th and Family Camp 2 is September 1st - 4th. Go to <https://www.sherbrookelakecamp.org/> to register.

**Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in the Chapel**

Join us Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10:00am - 12:00pm, for Coffee, Games, Fellowship and Fun in our Chapel. Tables have been set up for you to gather with your friends. Coffee, Tea and Conversation was created during COVID to provide a safe space for all to enjoy conversation and fellowship with one another. Join us!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it is not open.”*

*~ Frank Zappa*

***“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](mailto: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](mailto: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)**

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated

**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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_