**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United West Side United New West Pine United Caledonia Pastoral Charge St. Andrews-St. Marks United**

**April 2nd, 2023 Palm Sunday**

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

**Guest Accompanist:** *Terra Lee Kelly* **Student Minister:** *Donna Kelly*

**Greeter:** *Dave Rushton* **Greeter:** *Sue Rushton*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Ewart Morse*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 122 VU - All Glory, Laud and Honour (Verses 1, 2 and 4)**

*(Wave palms during hymn from your congregational seat)*

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus Video: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Call To Worship:**

Let us laugh and sing and shout for joy!

**Let us wave palm branches and lift up our voices.**

Do we dare to remain silent?

**If our voices were stilled,**

**the very stones would start to sing!**

So let us laugh and sing and shout for joy,

and may our song of hope be heard among the nations.

**Chorus: # 18 MV – God, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

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

**Loving God, on this Palm Sunday, we remember the crowds who shouted “Hosanna!” We remember those who declared with joy, “This is the prophet Jesus.” And yet we know that the road to Jerusalem is the way to the cross and death. Be with us now, as we prepare ourselves to journey with Jesus through the coming week. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Mission and Service Easter

Offering our Thanks

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**Offertory Response: For Creation and The Gift**

(Tune: # 161 MV - I Have Called You by Your Name)

***For creation and the gift of Your Love;***

***for the Spirit, present with us as we live.***

***Lord, we thank You, as we give from the fruit of these, our hands,***

***may Your Grace be known by all the gifts we give*.**

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

**We offer our gifts, O God, in gratitude for healing love, strengthening presence and hope when things seem hopeless. May our gifts in some small way communicate Your love with those around us, and with those around the world. Bless the gifts we offer today and everyday. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 135 VU – Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection Time: We Walk The Path

*Together we embark upon a path that begins with palms waving and prepare for the path of Holy Week. Within this time of reflection, we will hear the familiar story of the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11.) As we walk this path, we acknowledge the difficult paths*

*others are walking and offer our support and encouragement when we hear the words,*

*“Keep walking, keep walking” we respond with, “In the Spirit of Christ, keep walking.”*

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn: # 221 MV – I Am Walking a Path of Peace**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

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



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

***and in loving memory of father and grandfather, Stewart Ralph,***

***gift of Elizabeth, Chad, Victoria and Laura Burridge.***

***The April church website is presented to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of my parents, Gladys and Harry Veinot,***

***gift of son, Malcolm Veinot.***

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**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**

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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**

**BUD Online Ministries**

We continue to provide Online Video Worship Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and Online Audio Podcast Messages on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. This is a combination of messages from Reverend Neil McEwen and archived messages from Reverend Jeff Chant, used with his permission since his departure in July 2022.

**Broadview Subscription**

Broadview is an independent Canadian magazine featuring award-winning coverage of spirituality, justice and ethical living. Through their compelling stories and engaging images, Broadview challenges and inspires readers seeking to live a purpose-filled life. Each annual subscription is $25.00 and are to be submitted by April 2nd.

**Come Together for Holy Week and Easter Services**

Our Maundy Thursday Worship Service will be held at West Side United on April 6th at 7:00pm and our Good Friday Worship Service will be held at Bridgewater United on April 7th at 10:30am. Easter Sunday will include a Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Bells Island with West Side United, directions are on the back of your Church Calendar. Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion will be at both Bridgewater United and West Side United at 10:30am. Flowers are welcomed.

**Easter Egg Hunt in the Sanctuary**

All youth are asked to meet in the Chapel at 9:45am on Easter Sunday, April 9th, for an Easter Egg Hunt in the Sanctuary. Come and join us for some fun and treats!

**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. Gift Cards of $50, $100 and $200 denominations. Participate in the Grocery Card Fundraising Program and benefit the work of Bridgewater United. The Church receives as much as 5% of your purchase depending on the total volume purchased through the program. Every purchase adds to the total volume. Submit your payment with the order form by April 23rd. Post-dated cheques up until April 30th.

**3rd Bridgewater Scouts Seed Fundraiser**

3rd Bridgewater Scouts are participating in the 2023 Scout Seeds Fundraiser until April 30th with proceeds going to support their ongoing activities. They are selling multiple flower, herb and vegetable seed collections ranging in price from $10 to $20. Each collection contains 5-10 seed packages. If you have any questions, please contact Tobias Benne at tobi.565@gmail.com or call (902) 685-2798. Thank you.

**Multi-Generational Caring Workshop**

Join us on Saturday, April 29th from 10:00am – 3:00pm at Bridgewater 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, please contact Cindy at (902) 656-2793 or scembree@auracom.com or Marg at (902) 543-2495 or raforbes@ns.sympatico.ca.

**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.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

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

April 6th (7:00pm) – Bridgewater United at West Side United (Maundy Thursday)

April 7th (10:30am) – Reverend Neil McEwen (Good Friday)

April 9th (6:30am) - Reverend Neil McEwen at Bells Island (Easter Sunrise)

April 9th (10:30am) – Reverend Dr. Wayne Smith (Easter with Holy Communion)

April 16th (10:30am) – Reverend Neil McEwen

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

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

**Student Care Letters**

One of Faith Formation Committee’s Special Projects is sending letters to students in post-secondary education during exam time. Twenty-two cards of encouragement from Reverend Neil were sent out this week, along with a $10 Tim Hortons card, to let the students know we are thinking of them during the year and especially at exam time. If you would like to support this wonderful Outreach, you can always make a monetary donation to help cover the cost of the gift cards and postage. Thank you.

**April Church Calendar**

A printed copy of the April Church Calendar is provided with your Easter Letter, that went out for delivery on Friday, March 31st. A copy can be found on the website.

**New Table Project for Bridgewater United Church**

We would like to purchase ten plastic folding tables (6 person capacity), so that the tables can be used by all groups for events in the C.E. Centre. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark on your donation, “New Table Project.”

**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 have an opportunity to 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 Child to Camp,” as all funds raised will help youth of B-United attend camp this summer.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“I see my path, but I don’t know where it leads,*

*not knowing where I’m going is what inspires me to travel it.”*

*~ Anonymous*

**Get to Know your Church Council**

The Manual of the United Church of Canada sets out a requirement for each Pastoral Charge to have a formal governing body. The governing body is the court of the Pastoral Charge, one of three levels of courts within the United Church and is the principle decision making body for the Pastoral Charge. Bridgewater United Church (BUC), a Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada, has established a Church Council as its governing body; as such, the Council is the court of BUC. The United Church Manual is understood to be the governing document. All activities of the Bridgewater Pastoral Charge shall be carried out by, or organized through, the Church Council and its Committees. Members of Council are expected to attend all Council meetings unless they have a valid reason (medical, vacation, work, for example). Any member of the congregation may propose an item for a Council meeting agenda by contacting the Chairperson of Church Council at least two weeks in advance of the meeting date. The Council Executive meets as required upon the call of the Chairperson or the Minister. The Secretary of Church Council will attend to keep minutes; once approved, these minutes are to be made available to the congregation. The Church Council Executive must report to Council at its earliest opportunity on any decisions made, or work undertaken, by the Church Council Executive. Unless otherwise established by the United Church of Canada, or the BUC Council, motions are carried by a simple majority of those present and eligible to vote. The United Church Manual sets out general responsibilities of the Pastoral Charge governing body and BUC adopts the following additional responsibilities: In general, the role of the Church Council is fourfold: Establish policy for the congregation at large; exercise oversight for all ministries, roles and groups accountable to the congregation; provide a forum for future visioning of the congregation’s life and goals; and fulfil various administrative functions required by the United Church of Canada. Minutes of regular meetings are posted on our website.

**Get to Know your Church Council Executive Chairperson**

Elizabeth Burridge moved to Bridgewater from Grand Falls-Windsor, NL in 2008 and has been a member of Bridgewater United Church since then. Prior to becoming a member of Bridgewater United Church, she was a member of Memorial United Church in Grand Fall-Windsor. During her time at Memorial United, she was a Session member, on the Worship Committee and a Sunday School Teacher. At Bridgewater United, she has been a Sunday School Teacher, Chair of Faith Formation and Vice-Chair of Church Council, before her current role as Chairperson of Church Council. She has always been active in the United Church serving on several youth committees while in University and teaching Sunday School. She has attended several United Church retreats including Kairos. Her husband, Chad, became a member of the United Church here at Bridgewater United and her two girls, Victoria, age 20, and Laura, age 21, were both confirmed at Bridgewater United and are currently attending Memorial University of NL. She looks forward to continuing to serve Bridgewater United Church as Chairperson of Church Council. If you have any questions or concerns, email at eburridge@gnspes.ca or by phone at (902) 527-1827.

**Get to Know your Church Council Executive Vice-Chairperson**

Audrey Wamboldt traded Southern Ontario for the South Shore nearly 20 years ago. She grew up in the United Church, went to a Christian Reformed School and was a long term camper/staff member at United Church summer camps in Ontario. She was drawn to Bridgewater United because of its dynamic community and ministry and has been a member at Bridgewater United for over six years. She has offered her time, talents and treasures to various youth programs at Bridgewater United.

**Get to Know your Church Council Executive Secretary**

Edna Matheson has been serving as Secretary of Church Council since 2021; the same year she retired from 44 years as a Registered Nurse. Born and raised in Nova Scotia, she is the daughter of Rev. Parker and Anna Matheson. After living in Calgary for a decade, Edna and her husband, Brad Davidson, returned to Nova Scotia in 1991 to be closer to family, and made their home in Pleasantville. They have three children, a granddaughter and several pets. She has been a member of Bridgewater United Church for 30 years and became actively involved with the Affirming Ministry process at Bridgewater United Church because it was finally ‘the right thing to do’.

**Get to Know your Church Council Executive Treasurer**

Blake Hirtle, is the son of Eula and Mac Hirtle, and grew up along with his sister, Cathy, on Hirtle Island (part of the LaHave Islands Group.) He was home-schooled until grade 9, after which he had a school-boat picking up all the various island kids, then they were delivered to the first school bus stop at Bush Island. His first permanent employment was with Doane Raymond Chartered Accountants (Currently Grant Thornton) in 1972. He moved from their Digby office in 1976 to begin work in the fishing industry as controller at Seldon Miller Fisheries where you learned basically everything. He soon knew what it was like to order $200,000.00 in cash at the local Scotiabank, pick it up in his car and settle (pay off) an offshore fishing boat! All fish purchases and expenses were handled by cash with the company safe at times having close to a half-million dollars in it. No debit or credit cards or even cheques were used. He moved to Bridgewater in 1980, met Yvonne and became a member of Bridgewater United soon after. He has served on various church committees and as Church Treasurer for 20+ years. He is still operating a small accounting and income tax business and doesn’t like the word retired. He is looking forward to someone with new ideas and excess energy to fill the Church Treasurer’s position at the end of 2023. Be sure to come and ask him about it.

**Get to Know your Church Council Committees and Ministries**

For 2023, our Church Council has *ex officio* voting members representing each of our active Committees and Ministries which includes Regional Council 15, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Board of Trustees, Faith Formation Committee, Pastoral Care Ministry, District Representative Outreach Ministry, Worship Committee, Finance and Stewardship Committee, Ways and Means Ministry, Property Committee and Women’s Ministry. All committees and ministries of Bridgewater United are essential to providing a welcoming and sustainable Community of Faith here at B-United!

***“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 indicating the designation.

**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 events.

**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.*

**Treasurers’ Report to the Church Congregation**

**for the Two-Month Period ending February 28, 2023**

**Receipts**  **February 2023**

Total Local Receipts $ 34,259.00

Trust Receipts

Mission and Service $ 3,230.00

UCW Funds for M&S $ -

Food Bank Receipts $ 1,190.00

Disaster Relief $ -

Misc. Trust Receipts $ 230.00

Building Use Receipts $ 10,325.00

Fundraising Receipts $ -

Misc. Receipts $ 778.00

**Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 50,012.00**

**Disbursements**

Total Trust Disbursements $ 4,420.00

West Side/B-United Agreement $ 6,300.00

Total Personnel Expense $ 14,008.00

Total Office & Admin Expense $ 2,184.00

Heating Fuel $ 12,331.00

Lights, Water & Sewer $ 1,843.00

Snow Removal & Salting $ 5,249.00

Insurance $ 2,228.00

Floor Maintenance $ -

Other Premises Expenses $ 2,403.00

UCC Assessment $ 2,678.00

Other Misc. Expenses $ 318.00

**Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 53,962.00**

**Operating (Deficit) at End of Period**   **($ 3,950.00)**

**Bank Balance**: $ 99,739.38

**Note 1:** Total Receipts and Disbursements does not include Building Fund Receipts or Disbursements and the B.U.C. Brigade Mission Fund Transactions.

This report is a brief summary of the 2023 Actual Sage Accounting Income Statement and includes a significant one-time Bequest.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Hirtle; *Bridgewater United Church Treasurer*

March 17, 2023