**Bridgewater United Church**

**April 21st, 2024 Fourth of Easter**

**Vocation Sunday Earth Sunday**

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

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

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Liam Wamboldt*

**Greeter:** *Karen Townsend* **Greeter:** *Marion Demond*

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Inclusivity Candles

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

The one who knows you is calling you by name,

inviting you to be enfolded into community.

**We will follow the voice of love.**

You will find here refreshment for your body and soul,

and space to rest your weary bones.

**We will follow the voice of love.**

A table of community is set for you,

and the enemies around and within, all are welcome.

**We will follow the voice of love and worship this day.**

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

**Loving God, Gentle Shepherd,**

**through the gift of this gathered community,**

**may we know your attentive care,**

**abundant beauty, and the power of reconciliation.**

**Guide us, protect us, feed us, renew us, love us. Amen.**

**\*Chorus Video:** “B-United”

Special Music: Harlequinade *played by Lainey Wamboldt*

Special Music: Sonatina in G Major *played by Danica Wamboldt*

Special Music: The Four Seasons: Autumn *played by Lainey and Danica Wamboldt*

Your Generosity Matters: Earth Week; Moderator Carmen Lansdowne

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.*

**\*Hymn:** “Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love” (VU 574)

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

**We thank you, God, for the gifts we have received,**

**and seek your blessings upon the gifts we share.**

**Inspire our givings and our offerings;**

**guide our ministry and the sharing of your love.**

**We dedicate our time, talents, treasures and our lives,**

**as your messengers and as the followers of Jesus today. Amen.**

Learning Together

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “This Is God’s Wondrous World” (VU 296)

**Responsive Scripture Reading**: Psalm 23 (VU 749)

My shepherd is the Lord,

**nothing indeed shall I want.**

Gospel Scripture Reading: John 10:11-18

May God’s Blessings be upon these words of scripture and upon our hearts;

as we reflect on them in faithful meditation.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “We are Sheep and Shepherds”

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “Psalm 23 – The Lord’s My Shepherd” (VU 747)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

**\*Blessing and Benediction**:

I am the shepherd. I am the sheep.

**I am the sheep. I am the shepherd.**

Let us go to care and love one another.

**Let us go to care and love one another. Amen.**

\*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.***

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**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**

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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**

**Earth Sunday**

Earth Day is celebrated in communities around the world on April 22nd. This Earth Week, we are invited with ecumenical partners to Act, Learn, and Pray for Climate Justice. The United Church of Canada is a founding member of For the Love of Creation, a national faith-based coalition for climate justice. It enables us to work together under one banner to mobilize education, reflection, action, and advocacy for climate justice. Climate change impacts us, the local ecosystems of which we are a part, and partners The United Church of Canada is connected with around the globe. The impacts of climate change are not borne equally or fairly between rich and poor, women and men, racialized and non-racialized, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, or older and younger generations. The greatest burden of climate change is falling on people in the Far North and global South—those who have contributed least to the problem. Climate justice, racial justice, Indigenous justice, gender justice, and economic justice are all interconnected. Working together we are stronger!

**Sponsorship of Bulletin, Website or Radio Broadcast**

We have a few opportunities to sponsor Church Bulletins for $35 and possibly a co-sponsorship of a Radio Broadcast for $100. If you are interested in this sponsorship opportunity, please reach out to the Church Office during Office Hours. Thank you.

**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.

**Student Care Packages**

The Faith Formation Committee sent out twenty student care packages to our students in post-secondary studies with a letter of encouragement, a box of Girl Guide Cookies and a $10 Tim Hortons gift card. Thank you to everyone that assisted with this Outreach. This ministry not only sent love to our students but it also assisted the Bridgewater Girl Guides Iceland 2027 Trip; a wonderful youth organization in our local community. If you would like to help with the cost of postage or cookies, you can designate your donation to, “Student Care Packages.” Thank you in advance.

**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.

**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. 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. At 3:00pm, everyone will head down to the beach to cheer on our Spring Splash participants! Please register for the clean-up at [ed@sherbrookelakecamp.org](mailto:ed@sherbrookelakecamp.org).

**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 the session on Thursday, April 25th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Please register by sending a message to the Church Office.

**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**

*“Nature is painting for us,*

*day after day,*

*pictures of infinite beauty.”*

*~ John Ruskin*

***“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)**

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**B-United PAR Authorization**

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

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_