**Bridgewater United Church**

**April 23rd, 2023 3rdof Easter Camping Sunday**

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

**Guest Minister:** *Reverend Vivian Moores* **Guest Musician:** *Stewart Franck*

**Greeter:** *Angela McGinnis* **Greeter:** *Judy Stringer* **Presider:** *David Walker*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Moran* **Sound Engineer:** *Shelley Moran*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 395 VU – Come In, Come In and Sit Down (Verses 1, 2 and 4)**

Welcome and Announcements

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

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Call To Worship:**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to learn and grow.**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to try new things.**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to connect with God.**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to share our story.**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to feel the warmth of God.**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to lean on one another.**

As we gather for worship we celebrate.

**A space to be still, listen and feel welcome.**

**Reflective Song: Kumbaya**

*The word “Kum ba yah” is believed by many music historians to be Pidgin English*

*– and a transliteration for the prayerful plea of God: ‘Come By Here.”*

Opening Prayer

Your Generosity Matters: Camping Counts

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 237 VU – Let Us Praise the God of Truth**

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

**Gracious God, we give you thanks for the new life of spring and for the new life of the risen Christ in our lives. We pray that new life will arise in the lives of others because we have given today. May our gifts show compassion and disclose generosity. May these gifts banish fear and bring hope and peace to people of all ages. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

Time with Children

**\*Hymn: # 577 VU – I’ve Got Peace like a River**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Mark 10:13-16

Gospel Scripture Reading: Mark 12:28-34

May these words inspire us.

**We give thanks to God.**

**Camp Song: Fire’s Burning**

Message: Let The Children Come To Me!

Reflective Meditation

**Litany for Camp:**

Creator God, we pray for the ministry of your love that is shared not only at Sherbrooke Lake Camp but at other camps where people both young and old attend. We pray for the Directors, Staff and Volunteers, who work to be examples of your welcoming, gracious and unconditional love.

 **May each know your love and grace.**

We pray for the children and youth attending camp this summer.

While many may be returning, others will attend for the first time.

 **May each know your love and grace.**

For the adventuresome and dramatic youth,

who will grow closer to you with their questions.

 **May each know your love and grace.**

For the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened.

 **May each know your love and grace.**

For all the friendships that will be made and strengthened.

 **May each know your love and grace.**

We give thanks to you O God.

May your Blessing be upon the camping Program offered,

so that each will have a positive experience and treasure their time at camp.

Amen. **Amen.**

**\*Song: This Little Light of Mine**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



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

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

***and out of gratitude from the Campers of Sherbrooke Lake Camp!***

***The April church radio broadcast is given to the glory of God,***

***and in memory of long-time members, Stan and Mae Forbes,***

***gift of their daughter, Janet.***

**#APlaceWhereEveryoneBelongs**

**#ChooseLove**

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87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater, NS, B4V 1T2

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

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

Barbara Pate music@bridgewaterunited.ca (902) 830-0708

Church Office E-mail:  info@bridgewaterunited.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**

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For May, there is a request for Canned Baked Beans, Juice, Baby Food, Flour (2lb) and Canned Ravioli. Be mindful of expiration.

**Multi-Generational Caring Workshop**

Join us Saturday, April 29th from 10:00am – 3:00pm at Bridgewater United Church for a Caring For You - Caring For Me - Caring for Our Church - Caring for the Wider Community Multi-Generational Workshop. $15. The day will include a Time of Welcome with Reverend Neil McEwen, a Drama Presentation and Workshop with Colleen Naomi, a Music Presentation and Workshop with Kevin Parks and Reverend Dana Pardy and a Meditation: Theory and Practice and Workshop with Angela Clifton and Lunch. Please register no later then April 26th by contacting Marg Forbes at (902) 543-2495 or by email at raforbes@ns.sympatico.ca.

**Chicken Take-Out Supper**

West Side United; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz will be hosting a Chicken Take-Out Supper on Sunday May 7th, with pick-up between 3:00pm-5:00pm. $15. Chicken (bone-in) served with Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables and Homemade Dessert. Phone Philip/Neil at (902) 688-1580, to reserve your tickets. Limited tickets available.

**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).

**Music from the East and West**

The Bridgewater Fire Department Band is delighted to welcome the Band of the Calgary (AB) Fire Service, the "Cappy Smart Band" to Nova Scotia as they share in a Spring Concert at Bridgewater United Church on May 21st from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

**Seaside A Cappella Choir Fest 2023**

The Seaside A Cappella Choir will be a hosting a Choir Fest on May 27th at 2:00pm at Bridgewater United Church. The event will include twelve choirs/musicians from the local area. An afternoon of wonderful songs. More information to follow.

**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. Registration fee assistance is available.

**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.

**Guest Minister – Reverend Vivian Moores**

We are so blessed to have Reverend Vivian Moores (retired June 2021) sharing in Worship with us today. As part of her seminary requirements, she was a student under Reverend Paul Cumming (1983) at Bridgewater United Church. Graduating from the Atlantic School of Theology (1984) and ordained (1985), she has served on the Brooklyn Pastoral Charge, Riverport Pastoral Charge and Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge, with over thirty-seven years of Ministry. She is passionate about her faith and enjoys every opportunity to worship and fellowship with others.

**Guest Musician – Stewart Franck**

We are so blessed to have Stewart Franck sharing in Music Ministry with us today. Stewart is often spotted bopping away on the Bass and lead vocals with his Groove-Blues trio GameChangers. Stewart is also a solo artist – vocals, guitar, bass – thankful for the opportunity to perform a collection of classic material from folk to rock to country to gospel, and his favourite songs of peace, love and silliness. When not playing music for pure ecstasy, addictive high and stress-relief, Stewart is an active volunteer promoting public transit, protecting workers’ health and safety, preserving the environment, and helping to improve life in the local community.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

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

May 7th – Be United Communities of Faith – Reverend Neil McEwen

May 14th – Reverend Neil McEwen (via Video Sermon and Lay Leadership)

May 21st – Reverend Neil McEwen

May 28th – Reverend Vivian Moores with musical guest, Terra Lee Kelly

**Volunteers for Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are always looking for volunteers to help within the service. This could be a Lay Leader, where you would lead the service with a provided script and a video sermon from Reverend Neil. This could be a Presider, where you are asked to share announcements with the congregation or welcome a guest of Bridgewater United. This could be a Scripture Reader, where you would read from the Pulpit, the scripture for that Sunday. This could be a Greeter, who welcomes people as they enter the Church and provide them with a bulletin and answer any questions they may have. This could be an Audio Visual or Sound Engineer, that provide an essential service to our Worship, by showing the slides and assisting with sound for participants within the service. All of these are crucial and need volunteers. Phone the Church Office to learn more about these valuable ministries of B-United!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“The wilderness holds answers to questions, we have not yet learned to ask.”*

*~ Nancy Wynne Newhall*

**Why Camp?**

Why is camp such an important ministry? This summer, we had a council member who sponsored a Ukrainian family so their camper could come to Sherbrooke Lake Camp. This is a note from their host family: *“For [this camper], as a recipient of your generous grant to attend camp, the experience was life changing. To that point in time, [this camper] had very little interaction with his peers and so his summer was a very lonely existence. Camp changed all of that, if only for a week. [This camper] wept to leave the camp and I watched him giving hugs to all of his new friends. He begged me to find a way for him to stay another week. He didn't want to leave. Camp gave [this camper] the opportunity to forget about the war that threatens his grandparents and other relatives still back in Ukraine. A war that robbed him of the innocence and freedom of his youth. It gave him the chance to be a 13-year-old boy without fear again for a while and his mother and I are extremely grateful to you for that.”*

**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! Please visit our website at <https://www.sherbrookelakecamp.org/> to sign-up!

**Community Cabin Dedication Day 2023**

With all of the restrictions and supply chain challenges last year, our Community Cabin at Sherbrooke Lake Camp was finished JUST in the nick of time for our 2022 Camping Season. We want to honour all of those who donated to this cabin and the overall update of our cabins since 2017! Join us on May 28th between 2:00pm - 7:00pm to enjoy our beautiful property and officially open Sherbrooke Lake Camp's Community Cabin. We'll have an open afternoon at camp with the opportunity to see all of our cabins, check out our beach and enjoy the grounds. At 4:00pm, we'll gather at our Community Cabin, Cabin 6, to officially open it for our 2023 season. Following the dedication, folks will be invited to the beach for a campfire, hotdogs, chips and some Sherbrooke Lake Camp singing! Please visit our website at <https://www.sherbrookelakecamp.org/> to sign-up if you plan to attend!

**Send a Letter to Our Sherbrooke Lake Camp Staff!**

During the summer, our young staff love to receive notes of encouragement and support. Working at camp is such a gift and comes with a lot of adversity and hard work. Send our staff a letter of love, encouragement and purpose - it will brighten their day and support them in their ministry as a youth! The address below will make sure it gets to them through the summer!

Summer Staff

420 Church Camp Road

Franey Corner, Nova Scotia

B0J 2M0

**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 approximately $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.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp**

Established in 1964, Sherbrooke Lake Camp is needed more today than ever. It's a place for children and youth to be themselves, to learn new skills, to unplug, develop independence and to meet great friends. The staff are well-trained and educated to provide a safe environment. A week of laughter, meeting new friends, eating tasty home cooked meals and making beautiful memories - children and youth are more than likely to ask to come back for another week. Camps are available to children and youth aged 6 to 16. A day at camp includes swimming, canoeing, crafts, nature walks, fun games, outdoor living skills, singing, vespers, campfire and so much more. Sherbrooke Lake Camp offers 7 weeks of 5-day residential camps through July and August, as well as a two-night Family Camp. In the spring and fall months, rental opportunities are available for your group to have a retreat. To send a child to camp, it costs between $395 and $460 but there is financial assistance with camper sponsorships and bursaries. In 2022, we were excited to have 521 campers come through our gates to attend camp!

**Camp Kidston**

Camp Kidston has been building meaningful outdoor experiences for children and youth for more than 55 years! Founded in 1966, Camp Kidston is located on over 460 acres of woods and water in the northeast corner of Halifax Regional Municipality - and it is the ideal place to get away from the hustle and bustle! At Camp Kidston, we are committed to creating a just, nurturing environment in which all are fully free to be themselves. We welcome and honour the beautiful diversity of all people reflected in race, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. A week of summer camp at Camp Kidston allows children and youth to develop new friendships, independence, and leadership skills through out-tripping, environmental education, sports and games, swimming, low elements, arts/crafts, canoeing and kayaking and faith exploration.

**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.

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

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