**Bridgewater United Church**

**April 28th, 2024 Fifth of Easter Camping Sunday**

**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:** *Edna Matheson* **Greeter:** *Carolyn MacKay*

*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****:**

We come to worship God who is love,

**that we may learn to love one another.**

Jesus said: No longer do I call you servants;

**now I call you my friends.**

We come to worship God,

**whose friends we are in Christ.**

**Opening Prayer:**

We come to you, O God, our River of Life:

**May we drink deeply, and receive your grace.**

We come to you, O God, our Rock of Ages:

**May we come in trust, and receive your strength.**

We come to you O God, our Source of Love:

**May we open our hearts,**

**and receive your peace. Amen**

**\*Hymn:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (VU 264)

Your Generosity Matters: What is Camp?

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)*

**Gracious God, Source of all that is good,**

**you have given us life and freedom to be your people in the world.**

**You have touched our hearts with hope,**

**so that we long to see the day of your new creation.**

**Accept the gifts that we bring and enable us to use them**

**for the work of the gospel, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Gift of Music: Variations on a Russian Folk Song *played by* *Lainey Wamboldt*

Gift of Music: The Stormy Sea *played by* *Danica Wamboldt*

Gift of Music: Dark Island *played by* *Danica Wamboldt*

Learning Together: A Time For All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Love Us into Fullness” (MV 81)

Epistle Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:7-12

Herein is guidance.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Scripture Reading: John 15:1-5

Herein is good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Heard it Through the Grapevine”

**\*Hymn:** “Though I May Speak” (VU 372)

Prayers of the Community

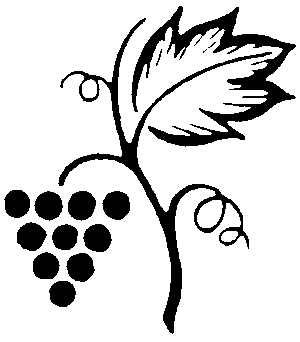
**\*Hymn:** “As a Fire Is Meant for Burning” (VU 578)

\*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,***

***by the grateful and passionate staff of Sherbrooke Lake Camp!***

***Thanks for your generous support and fruitful prayers!***

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

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

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

**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**

**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.

**Hillside Pines Outreach Ministry**

Join Bridgewater United’s Ministry Team on Tuesday, April 30th at 6:30pm, as they offer Worship to the residents of Hillside Pines. Come share in singing familiar hymns and offer fellowship to those beyond our Sanctuary walls. All are welcome.

**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.) Free-Will Offering.

**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. $15 (advance) and $20 (at the door) and they are available at 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.

**Send A Kid To Camp**

A week of camp costs $435.00. Please consider donating to “Send a Child to Camp,” as all funds will help B-United youth attend a United Church camp this summer.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp**

Established in 1964, Sherbrooke Lake Camp is 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. Camps are available for children and youth aged 6 to 16. A day at camp includes swimming, canoeing, crafts, outdoor living skills, singing and more.

**Camp Kidston**

Founded in 1966, Camp Kidston is located on over 460 acres of woods and water in the northeast corner of Halifax Regional Municipality. The camp is 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. Camps are available for children and youth aged 5 to 16. A week of camp allows children and youth to develop new friendships, independence, and leadership skills through out-tripping, environmental education, swimming, canoeing and kayaking and faith exploration.

**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).

**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.

**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.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“In every walk with nature,*

*one receives far more than he seeks.”*

*~ John Muir*

***“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.*

**Treasurers’ Report to the Church Congregation**

**for the Three-Month Period ending March 31, 2024**

**Receipts**

Total Local Receipts $ 38,596.00

Trust Receipts

Mission and Service $ 3,300.00

Scouting Sunday Funds $ 245.00

Food Bank Receipts $ 965.00

Faith Formation Funds $ 70.00

Misc. Trust Receipts $ 785.00

Building Use Receipts $ 15,220.00

Radio Broadcast Service $ 1,600.00

Fundraising Receipts $ 607.00

UCW Donation $

Misc. Receipts $ 143.00

**Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 61,531.00**

**Disbursements**

Total Trust Disbursements $ 4,265.00

West Side/B-United Agreement $ 10,477.00

Total Personnel Expense $ 30,202.00

Total Office & Admin Expense $ 5,419.00

Heating Fuel $ 17,392.00

Lights, Water & Sewer $ 2,286.00

Snow Removal & Salting $ 8,509.00

Insurance $ 3,501.00

Floor Maintenance $

Other Premises Expenses $ 757.00

UCC Assessment $ 2,678.00

Other Misc. Expenses $ 815.00

**Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 86,301.00**

**Operating Deficit at End of Period**   **$ 24,770.00**

**Bank and GIC Balance**: **$ 113,965.56**

**Note 1:**

Total Receipts and Disbursements does not include Building Fund Receipts or Disbursements and Memorials to Memorials. This report is a brief summary of the March 31, 2024 Actual Sage Accounting Income Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Hirtle; *Bridgewater United Church Treasurer*

April 15, 2024

**B-United PAR Authorization Form**

**(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**

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