**Be United Communities of Faith**

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

**April 7th, 2024 Second of Easter**

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

**Organist and Pianist**: *Walter Delahunt* **Accompanist:** *Terra Lee Kelley*

**West Side United Student Minister:** *Donna Kelly*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Randall Knox*

**Greeter:** *Angela McGinnis* **Greeter:** *Judy Stringer*

*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 are an Easter people!

**Jesus lives. Hallelujah!**

The tomb is empty.

**Jesus has risen! Hallelujah!**

The light of Jesus shines for all.

**We thank you Jesus. Hallelujah!**

Let us celebrate the Good News of the risen Christ

**We are an Easter people. Jesus lives. Hallelujah!**

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

**Wondrous God,**

**You touch our lives with healing and with justice;**

**new life is your gift.**

**We praise you for the Good News which is ours through Jesus.**

**Come to us as we gather here today.**

**Surround us with your love and grace,**

**and help us to grow in faith and love with you and each other,**

**as your Spirit works among us. Amen.**

Prayer of Reconciliation:

Holy One, Maker and Keeper of Creation,

Life of Life, we praise you! We sing joy!

Open us to the new life you are creating in us.

Forgive us when we choose our ways instead of your ways.

Forgive us when we let our world get so small,

that there is no room for strangers or new ways.

Free us from the fear that keeps us stuck,

but do it gently, Lord – we like our routines.

We like our security and our comfortable habits.

Show us a new way, Loving God.

As your Spirit moves among us,

prune us where we have not been fruitful.

Drive out fear that blocks us from confidence.

Take root in us and help us to grow in love and in peace,

until we are complete in your care. Amen.

**Words of Assurance:** (*unison)*

**Jesus said to his disciples,**

**take heart. Have no fear.**

**As disciples of Jesus,**

**we are blessed and renewed through God’s forgiving love.**

**Let us be open to the light of Christ, showing us the way. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “This Is the Day That God Has Made” (VU 175)

Your Generosity Matters: Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm Project, El Salvador

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 your leave.*

*The offering plates are not circulated among the congregation during our Service of Worship.*

**\*Offertory Response:** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (VU 541)

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

**Take these gifts we offer, O God, and bless them as our hallelujahs!**

**May they become hallelujahs for people near and far,**

**our discipleship lived in answer to fear, to separation, and to inequity.**

**In our giving, may we become hallelujahs for each other**

**and for people we encounter,**

**living signs of your love in the world. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time for All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Joy Comes with the Dawn” (VU 166)

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 133

Behold how pleasant,

**how good it is!**

Gospel Scripture Reading: 1 John 1:1–2:2

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Walking in the Light”

**\*Hymn:** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” (VU 179)

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (VU 333)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

**\*Commissioning:** (*unison)*

**May God be our light where we do not see light.**

**May God be our hope when we do not have hope.**

**May God be our joy when we cannot feel joy.**

**The risen Christ walks beside us,**

**to comfort and support us on our life journey.**

**We are an Easter people.**

**Let us go forth with joy and with the light of Christ shining around us,**

**within us, and through us to others. Amen.**

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

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

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

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

***a 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,***

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

**BUD Online Ministries**

Did you miss Sunday Worship? Did you know that on our website, you can hear the Audio Recordings for our On-Site Worship Services as well as download our weekly bulletins. Never miss a thing that is happening at Bridgewater United! You can also find on our website our Online Video Worship Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and Online Audio Podcast Messages on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. The Audio Podcasts are Scripture and Reflections from our B-United On-Site Worship Services.

**Why Volunteer?**

Here at B-United, we are always looking for volunteers during our Worship Service as well as on Committees/Ministries of Bridgewater United Church. Taking the first step to see what volunteering is all about, is the toughest part, but in the end, the rewards are endless. Not only do you get to use your own gifts to help others, but you may also build new skills as you go along. Volunteering allows you to meet new people, and build a strong fellowship within your Church Community. Speak to our Ministry Team today or reach out to us by email at info@bridgewaterunited.ca.

**A Message from your Envelope Steward**

Have you filled out the pink paper that you received in February? The Church Office wants to update details in our PowerChurch files. Please check off the information you are comfortable with the Church Office releasing to Committees/Ministries of Bridgewater United. This allows us to respect the privacy of all of our members.

**What is a District Representative?**

A District Representative is the key to providing a constant line of communication with our Church Community and Bridgewater United Church. A District Representative is assigned a list of members, with whom they contact approximately four times a year, under the guidance of the Pastoral Care Ministry. This wonderful Outreach helps B-United remain current on our Church Community’s concerns. Please contact the Church Office if you feel this Outreach is calling you to serve.

**Youth@Region**

Youth@Region is a place of community and faith where United Church youth, between grade 6 and grade 12, meet from across Nova Scotia and Bermuda. It takes place during the Annual Meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council (BNS), held this year from May 10th – 12th, at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (Truro, NS.) They 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 will help assist with registration cost.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp 60th Anniversary Homecoming**

Join Sherbrooke Lake Camp from August 2nd – 4th, as they host a big homecoming event to welcome folks back to Sherbrooke Lake Camp in celebration of 60 years of friendship, faith and fun! The camp is looking for old photos throughout the past 60 years, that alumni took during their experience at Sherbrooke Lake Camp. You can send copies of these pictures to ed@sherbrookelakecamp.org. Thank you in advance.

**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 sessions on Thursday, April 18th and Thursday, April 25th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Please register by sending a message to the Church Office at info@bridgewaterunited.ca or by phone at (902) 543-4833.

**Support Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel**

After more than 100 days of conflict, a permanent ceasefire is essential to allow for the flow and safe delivery of critical humanitarian relief into Gaza. Mission and Service partners are responding to those impacted by the conflict in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They are prepared to rapidly expand their activity and provide aid into Gaza when a safe humanitarian corridor is opened. There is an urgent need for food, non-food items such as medicines, psychosocial support, and shelter. The United Church is working with Mission and Service partners ACT Alliance and Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR.) As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, they are also working with Foodgrains Bank partners on the ground to offer lifesaving support to Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Gaza. Pray for peace with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel. As people of faith, we bring the grief, compassion and concerns of a hurting world to God. To financially support this initiative, please make cheques payable to Bridgewater United Church, and designate it as “Peace in Gaza.” Thank you.

**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.

**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. Thank you for your continuous support of this wonderful Outreach Ministry!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Kindness is universal. Sometimes being kind allows others to see;*

*the goodness in humanity through you. Always be kinder than necessary.”*

*~ Germany Kent*

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