**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United West Side United**

**August 27th, 2023 13th after Pentecost**

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

**Greeter:** *Karen Townsend* **Greeter:** *Yvonne Hirtle*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Liam Wamboldt*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 567 VU – Will You Come and Follow Me**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

God gathers us in this place.

**We open our hearts to God’s presence.**

We hear God’s call.

**And accept the gracious invitation.**

We come with openness.

**To let the Spirit move among us.**

We respond with enthusiasm.

**To live faithfully as the followers of Jesus.**

In unity with God, Spirit and Jesus.

**We worship this day.**

**Chorus:** **You Are My All in All**

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

**God, we come with eager minds and ready hearts. Help us to feel your presence in the words and music we offer today. Open our hearts to your love and our minds to the possibilities you bless us with. Unite us as a community of your people in gratitude, praise and worship. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: The Path toward Healing

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 537 VU – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**

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

**Generous God, we present these gifts, pleased to be part of your mission and excited to share with those around us. May the gifts we offer share the message of your love to others. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 171 MV – Christ Has No Body Now but Yours**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 154 MV – Deep in Our Hearts**

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 in loving memory of Barbara Fulton, gift of Hedley and family.***

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

***and in loving memory of Mildred Dechman, gift of her children.***

**Bridgewater United Church**

**Wants To Stay In Touch With You!**

1. Please pass along your email to the Church Office at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca), so that you can be added to congregational emails regarding events, services, and storm closures.

2. Check out our website at [www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://www.bridgewaterunited.ca) for information about our Church, event calendar, worship services and so much more.

3. The Church Office wants to remind members of the congregation, if the worship service is cancelled, an announcement will be placed on CKBW (98.1 FM), the church’s website at [www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://www.bridgewaterunited.ca), Facebook and the church voicemail stating the cancellation by 9:00am on Sunday morning.

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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**

**Fostering Faith Formation**

We are looking for members of the congregation, with a recent Police Records and Vulnerable Records Checks, to teach Sunday School and volunteer in the Worship Nursery on Sunday morning from 10:15am-11:45am, from September to June. We want to provide an opportunity for our young families to have a time of peace and renewal, while their young children experience a supportive church environment.

**Church Office Vacation**

The Church Office will be closed from August 29th – September 1st for vacation. Voicemail and emails will be checked upon Tracy’s return on September 6th. For Pastoral Care concerns during this time, please phone (902) 543-6854. Thank you.

**Sunday School and Worship Nursery**

Summer is coming to an end, and the start of activities around the B-United building are beginning. Sunday School will begin for children, ages 3 to 18, on Sunday, September 10th. Registration forms will be sent out, and forms are to be returned to Tracy on your first day of Sunday School. Information on Worship Nursery for infants to age 2, will be made available in November. It will be great to see you all!

**B-United Popsicle Social**

Join us by our picnic tables following worship on Sunday, September 10th for a Popsicle Social hosted by the Faith Formation Committee. Join us for a time of fellowship with our Church Community. In case of rain, we will meet in the Chapel.

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

Bridgewater United Church Grocery Card Fundraiser will be due on Sunday, September 17th. 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 are available. Post-dated cheques for September 30th will be received with thanks. By participating in this fundraiser, it benefits the work of Bridgewater United Church. Forms are available in the Narthex.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

On the third Sunday of the month, a small group meets in the Parlour to knit or crochet and create their expressions of God's love through the ministry of a shawl. At the time of their completion, the shawls are blessed, remembering the hands who have made them and those who will receive them. Prayer shawls are in the Chapel. If you know of someone that would appreciate one of these shawls, be sure to get one from the cabinet. Come join us on Sunday, September 17th at 2:00pm. All are welcome to come along and experience the warmth of this fellowship and ministry.

**Bridgewater United’s Anniversary Memorial Hymn Sing**

Join us on Sunday, September 24th at 7:00pm for our Memorial Hymn Sing. We will sing some of our favourite hymns, and also have the opportunity to hear from some talented musicians. It also offers an opportunity to dedicate hymns in the names of family, friends and loved ones. Please note that donations are NOT a prerequisite for your attendance at this event, it is open to all who enjoy an evening of music.

**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.

**Church Office Hours**

Church Office Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am - 12:30pm, unless otherwise stated on our voicemail or social media. From time to time, you may see staff at the office on Mondays, to access items to complete their work. Thank you.

**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. As church, we have been complicit in injustice. And yet we have this hope. We believe we continue to be called to witness in love and justice to the liberating, healing Christ risen in this place and time. Together, we strive towards repentance, repair, and right relations with all peoples and the planet. Our call and vision statement speaks to how we boldly embody the Christian story in this time, filled with the certainty of resurrection and hope for new life. Living purposefully into this call and vision anticipates becoming what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others called the Beloved Community—the ever inbreaking, ever transforming, ever reconciling realm of God, realized in our time. It is shared with the community as a pledge of identity and hope.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For August, there is a request for Apple Juice, Spaghetti, Pasta Sauce, Jam and Pretzels. Be mindful of expiration dates. Thank you.

**What is a District Representative?**

Providing an open line of communication between our Church and our Community ensures that B-United’s love for one another is extended to all. We are currently without District Representation for ten Districts and need to fill these positions. Everyone on our list is important to B-United. Thank you for your consideration.

**Volunteers Needed – Ways and Means Ministry**

The Ways and Means Ministry require **three members.** This Ministry is responsible for developing and promoting financial stewardship programs and activities.

**Volunteers Needed – Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees require **three members.** The Board is responsible for holding all congregational property including land, buildings, funds and investments. They must give the same care to congregational property as they would their own property.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“The person who follows the crowd will usually go no further than the crowd.*

*The person who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever seen before.”*

*~ Albert Einstein*

***“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 Seven-Month Period ending July 31, 2023**

**Receipts**

Total Local Receipts $ 98,412.00

Trust Receipts

Mission and Service $ 7,856.00

UCW Funds for M&S $ 1,000.00

Food Bank Receipts $ 3,155.00

Send a Kid to Camp $ 1,835.00

Misc. Trust Receipts $ 1,760.00

Building Use Receipts $ 36,398.00

Radio Broadcast Service $ 1,050.00

Fundraising Receipts $ 1,005.00

UCW Donation for Local $ 1,000.00

Misc. Receipts $ 665.00

**Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 154,136.00**

**Disbursements**

Total Trust Disbursements $ 12,821.00

West Side/B-United Agreement $ 22,172.00

Total Personnel Expense $ 48,828.00

Total Office & Admin Expense $ 8,413.00

Heating Fuel $ 21,091.00

Lights, Water & Sewer $ 6,513.00

Snow Removal & Salting $ 7,551.00

Insurance $ 7,797.00

Floor Maintenance $ 322.00

Other Premises Expenses $ 7,632.00

UCC Assessment $ 5,355.00

Other Misc. Expenses $ 1,557.00

**Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 150,152.00**

**Operating Surplus at End of Period**   **$ 3,984.00**

**Bank Balance**: **$ 114,313.13**

**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*

August 21, 2023

**B-United PAR Authorization Form**

**(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**

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**B-United PAR Authorization**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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