**Be United Communities of Faith**

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

**December 3rd, 2023 First of Advent**

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

**West Side United Student Minister:** *Donna Kelly* **Musical Guest:** *Patricia Watson*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Ewart Morse*

**Greeter:** *Heather Morrison* **Greeter:** *Kevin Morrison*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 1 VU – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *(revised lyrics)*

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Inclusivity Candles

**Advent Candle Prayer:**

In a world filled with tragedy and chaos,

we arrive weary, wary, and wrung out.

**We come to find shelter from our fears,**

**to discover hope as we practice our faith in worship.**

We’re tired of this marathon of difficulty,

longing for relief through a return to what we once thought normal.

**We come because the vulnerable Christ child,**

**enlightens us with possibility.**

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this first candle symbolizing hope -

the assurance that the risen Christ transforms all things in love.

Candle of Hope Is Lit

**Advent Chorus:** **Hope Is A Candle (Verse 1)**

Flickering and fragile, this tiny flame opens us to wonder,

to the heart of God, which transforms us as we join together in prayer:

**We come to be sustained in life, O God, even as we wrestle.**

**Inspire us to perceive the Way of Jesus as the path of wholeness.**

**Unite us to become a community of faith woven as one by the Spirit.**

**Teach us how to live by loving-kindness,**

**becoming catalysts for hope in the hearts**

**of those we encounter. Amen.**

Advent Video: Advent Appeal 2023

**Chorus: # 22 VU – Wait for the Lord**

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

**Creator, Loving Presence, Source of Blessings, we celebrate the blessings of this time of worship as we embrace the beauty of stories and songs that inspires memories, joys and gladness in our hearts. Be among us in our worship and within each of us throughout this Advent Season. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: What Is Gifts With Vision?

Special Music: What Child Is This? *sung by Patricia Watson*

Special Music: O Holy Night *sung by Patricia Watson*

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 55 VU – In the Bleak Midwinter – Verse 4**

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

**Generous God, we bring our gifts to you. May our act of giving symbolize hope to the world. As we worship you through the Advent journey, may all our offerings be blessed to bring hope for our ministry in this place and in your world. Amen.**

Time with Children

Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn: # 7 VU – Hope Is a Star**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Special Music: Sweet Little Jesus Boy *sung by Patricia Watson*

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 29 VU – Hark the Glad Sound**

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 Mildred Dechman,***

***gift of her daughter, Heather and granddaughter, Chelsee.***

***The December church website is given to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of parents, family, and friends,***

***gift of Everett and Margaret Anne Cook and family.***

**#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**

**Ecumenical Community Advent Carol Service**

Bridgewater Inter-Church Council Ecumenical Community Advent Carol Service and Reception will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at 7:00pm at Bridgewater Baptist Church; 564 Glen Allan Drive. A Free-Will Donation will be in support of the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank. They have asked for donations of cookies and sweets for the reception. These can be dropped off at the Church Office on December 1st from 10:00am-12:30pm or before worship on December 3rd. Thanks.

**Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour Bridgewater**

The B-United Youth will be creating Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour Bridgewater on December 15th. If you would like to help with this Outreach, we are looking for 15 of each of the following items: new warm mittens, new deodorant, new travel toothpaste, Clif Bars, new disposable razors, new travel shaving cream, gum, new warm socks, new travel body wash and new travel shampoo by December 8th.

**Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing**

Join us on Saturday, December 9th in the Chapel from 7:00pm-8:00pm, as we pull out the old Christmas Carol song sheets and share in fellowship and music with one another. We will be blessed with Barbara Pate on piano, and the B-United Youth will have Hot Chocolate and Cookies for all to share. It will be evening of joy and fun!

**Come and Join our Christmas Community Choir**

All friends of the Be United Communities of Faith, young and young-at-heart, are invited to join together to make music for Christmas! We will gather after church on Sunday, December 3rd to rehearse together and sing. We will present these pieces during the Angel Tree Service at Bridgewater United on December 10th. Please contact Barbara at [music@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:music@bridgewaterunited.ca) or by phone at (902) 830-0708.

**Angel Tree Sunday**

Angel Tree Sunday is December 10th. Our B-United Church Community will be providing Christmas for six families through the Christmas Daddies program. Please choose an angel from the tree in the foyer by the Church Office, to help create a special Christmas for families in the Outreach of our Church Community. Please wrap the gift in Christmas wrap, place a blank gift tag on them and include the angel tag. We will be receiving these gifts during our Worship Service on December 10th.

**Songs of the Season: Scotia Brass in Concert**

Bridgewater United and Scotia Brass will be co-hosting a concert on Thursday, December 14th at 7:30pm. Scotia Brass is Nova Scotia's premier large brass ensemble, featuring brass musicians from HRM and beyond. Free-Will Donation. Bridgewater United’s portion of the donations will be split between the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank and Souls Harbour Bridgewater. Save the date for a night of music!

**Christmas Eve at Bridgewater United**

Bridgewater United will be worshipping on Christmas Eve at 10:30am for Advent IV and then at 8:00pm for our Christmas Eve evening service. Come join us for a time of celebration and reflection as we get ready to welcome, Emmanuel, Christ with us.

**Thank You – 14th Annual Bridgewater United Pie Sale**

We are so blessed to have had so much support to help make this year’s pie sale a huge success. Thank you to Yvonne Hirtle for steer-heading the fundraiser, and for Brenda Knox, Randall Knox, Cheryl Rudderham, Joanne Johnson, Florence Enslow, Claudine Martin, Sue Morse, Ewart Morse, Audrey Wamboldt, Dawn Pyke, Danica Wamboldt, Lainey Wamboldt, Hazel Hebb, Martin Hebb, Heather Fifield, Joy Bird, Phyllis Munroe, Linda Walker, Don Hopkins, Mike Vandertoorn, Morgan Flynn, Carolyn Price-Selig, Blake Hirtle, Reverend Neil McEwen, Dale Elsworth, Debbie Corkum, Laurel Cowie, Marg Forbes, Kevin Morrison, Judy Schmidbauer and Ingrid Greek, for helping to create the yummy and delicious pies. We are so blessed.

**An Important Outreach: Meals on Wheels**

Volunteers from Bridgewater United help to deliver Meals-on-Wheels to clients in Bridgewater, along with help from other churches. Meals are picked up from Hillside Pines at 11:30am and it usually takes an hour and a half to complete deliveries. Our current volunteers are very faithful, but we would appreciate a few more members on our team. All you need is a vehicle and a vague knowledge of the streets of Bridgewater. Please contact Laila at (902) 688-2488 or [glanvilles@eastlink.ca](mailto:glanvilles@eastlink.ca).

**Christmas Kettles 2023**

Volunteers are welcome to join the Christmas Kettles 2023 as they work within our communities and for our communities. Volunteer time is in two hours shifts, starting at 10:00am and finishing at most locations at 8:00pm. Please contact Lynne McDormand at (902) 523-2727 to volunteer some time during this Kettle campaign.

**3rd Bridgewater Scouting Volunteers Needed**

We are the last remaining Scouting group in Lunenburg/Queens County. We are in dire need for volunteers for Scouts, the program for youth ages 11-14. We are trying to focus on having two to three fully trained leaders to start in January 2024 who can commit to running the Scout program on a weekly basis. Please contact Peter Lake, Group Commissioner, at peter.lake@bellaliant.net or by phone at (902) 523-4070.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For December, there is a request for Pasta Sauce, Spaghetti, Canned Fruit, Instant Muffin Mix, and Granola Bars. Thank you.

**Salvation Army Community Christmas Boxes**

Bridgewater United has been asked to provide 200 cans of turkey or chicken gravy for the Salvation Army Community Christmas Boxes. These can be dropped off in Brother Lawrence’s wheelbarrow by December 8th. Your support is appreciated.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“**Hope itself is like a star –*

*not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity,*

*and only to be discovered in the night of adversity.”*

*~ Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

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