**Bridgewater United Church**

**February 11th, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday**

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

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

**Greeter:** *Jack Logan* **Greeter:** *Don Hopkins* **Organist and Pianist**: *Walter Delahunt*

*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**

Come, let us find holy ground on the mountaintop.

**We celebrate the mystery of God’s presence.**

Come, let us find holy ground in our life and work together.

**We celebrate the light of Christ in our midst.**

Come, let us find holy ground in the world around us.

**We celebrate the Holy Spirit, at work in us and others.**

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

**God of grace and glory, Spirit of mystery,**

**you invite us into your radiant presence and onto your holy ground.**

**But we are not prepared for the mountaintop,**

**let alone the foothills and valleys.**

**Strengthen us, O God, to step into your radiance;**

**and then to carry your light with us into our daily lives,**

**as we strive to follow Jesus in the journey to abundant life. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (VU 101)

Your Generosity Matters: The Holy Bible in Mohawk

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:** “Creator God You Gave Us Life” (MV 27)

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

**Radiant God, Holy Mystery, we offer our gifts with gratitude.**

**Through our giving, expand our hearts to make room**

**for challenge and joy, struggle and transformation.**

**Take our gifts and use them to bring new life**

**into our world, into our homes, and within ourselves. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time For All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Shadow and Substance” (MV 44)

Epistle Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Herein is guidance.

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Mark 9:2-9

Herein is good news.

**Thanks be to God**

Sermon: “Holy Three”

**Hymn:** “We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding” (VU 104)

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “Forth in Your Name, O Christ” (VU 416)

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 fond memory of an amazing mother, grandmother,***

***friend and faithful church member, Ruth Rudderham,***

***gift of Jim (Jamie) and Cheryl Rudderham.***

***The February church website is presented to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of my husband, Karl, gift of wife, Ingrid.***

***The church bulletins on February 4th were presented to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of parents, Kaye and Wylie Smith,***

***and brother, Chris, gift of Sandy Smith.***

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**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-United Community Choir**

All friends of B-United, young and young-at-heart, are invited to join together to make music! After worship today, if anyone would like to hang around and meet Walter Delahunt and engage in conversations about future choir opportunities, we would welcome you to do so. Your voices always enhance our service of worship.

**Bridgewater United Profile Committee Information Session**

Please join the Profile Committee in the Chapel following Worship today, for an opportunity to reflect and review Bridgewater United’s Living Faith Story and Profile/Descriptions for Full-time and Part-time Ministry Personnel Positions.

**Bridgewater United Special Congregational Meeting**

The congregation is asked to join your Church Community on Monday, February 12th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary to vote on the approval of Bridgewater United’s Living Faith Story and Profile/Descriptions for Full-time and Part-time Ministry Personnel Positions at Bridgewater United. Your vote is important to this decision.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper**

Join West Side United Church; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz for a Pancake and Sausage Supper on Tuesday, February 13th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, desserts and beverages. Adults $12, Children (5 to 12) $6 and under 5 are free.

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

Come and join us on Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00pm for our Ash Wednesday Service led by Reverend Hans van Nie. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday scriptures focus on turning toward God’s healing. Come and gather as we prepare for this Lenten journey with Jesus.

**Bridgewater United Grocery Card Fundraiser**

By purchasing grocery cards from our fundraiser, it benefits both yourself and the church. The church receives 5% back from the Grocery Store on all cards purchased from this fundraising campaign. Cash or cheques are welcomed, both Sobeys and Loblaws/Superstore grocery cards available. Submit payment and order form, no later then Sunday, February 18th. Forms can be found in the Narthex. Thank you!

**Lenten Study: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism**

We offer this opportunity to learn and grow in our understanding and faithful response to racism in our church, community and circles of living. If you wish to participate in receiving information about this learning opportunity, please reach out to our Church Office by phone or email. We offer to our Communities of Faith this resource from The United Church of Canada but also the opportunity to come together to discuss what we have heard and experienced. Two one-hour learning sessions will be available for your participation. Our in-person discussion group will be alternating between Bridgewater United and West Side United on Wednesdays at 7:00pm starting on February 21st at Bridgewater United and a ZOOM discussion session will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00pm starting on February 20th. These sessions will continue weekly until Wednesday, March 27th. Be The Change.

**Pianist and Organist: Walter Delahunt**

Walter Delahunt is an artist of broad and distinguished experience. His career has taken him throughout Europe, the Middle East, North America and Asia. His musicianship is characterised by tremendous technical command of the instrument, unique sound quality, ease in chamber music, solo playing and accompanying. He has played with some of the world's greatest musicians, including Zara Nelsova, Daniel Hope, Gidon Kremer, Martha Argerich and the legendary violinist, Ida Haendel. He was a professor at the Vienna Academy of Music and has recorded for Panton (Prague) and BMG Japan. He was the Organist and Choir Director at Wolfville Baptist Church, Central United Church, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St Matthew's and Knox Presbyterian Churches. His educational background is a Bachelor of Music in Performance from the University of Toronto. We look forward to spending time in Music Ministry with Walter here at Bridgewater United Church.

**February is African Heritage Month**

The 2024 African Heritage Month theme is Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians. This month is a time to celebrate and recognize the history and culture of people of African descent. The theme aligns with the final year of the United Nations’ International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and recognize their full and equal participation in all aspects of society. Nova Scotia has more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back more than 400 years. African Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, achievements and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present. Visit <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month> today!

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For February, there is a request for Canned Baked Beans, Canned Spaghetti, Alphaghetti or Zoodles, Jam, Goldfish Crackers and Canned Mushrooms. **“Souper” Bowl Sunday** is February 11th. For the month of February, with all the publicity of this event, let us be reminded of the needs of others. Consider bringing in a can of soup in addition to your regular contribution. Thanks.

**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. Reach out today!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl,*

*but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”*

*~ Martin Luther King Jr.*

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