**Bridgewater United Church**

**February 12th, 2023 6thafter Epiphany**

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

**Greeter:** *Dave Rushton* **Greeter:** *Sue Rushton* **Presider:** *David Walker*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Randall Knox*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 625 VU – I Feel the Winds of God**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Call To Worship:**

God calls us:

**to faith,**

**to service,**

**to generosity,**

**to life in all its fullness,**

**to joy and to thanksgiving.**

As we gather this day,

**may our hearts be open,**

**to receive that call,**

**and to know that we are worthy to answer.**

**Chorus:** **# 672 VU – Take Time to Be Holy – Verse 3**

Opening Prayer

Your Generosity Matters: Nourishing Bodies and Hearts – Ashrafi’s Story

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 542 VU – We Give You But Your Own**

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

**We offer the gifts of our lives and the gifts of our hearts to you, O God. May what we offer today, carry forth a message of your deep love for all. As You continue to bless us, may we continue to be a blessing to others. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 506 VU – Take My Life and Let It Be**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 119: 1-8 – page 838 VU – Part 1**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 232 VU – Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**

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 my mother, Mary Ann Fickes,***

***a gift of daughter, Barbara Pate.***

**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**

**Get to Know B-United – Stained Glass Windows**

We have journeyed clockwise from the right front of the Sanctuary these past six weeks, and now find “The Vine” stained glass window. It was dedicated on August 7, 1983. Few symbols so effectively illustrate the close union of Christ with the members of the Church as does the figure of the vine and the branches. As a branch thrives on its connection with the stem and root system, so Christians become fruitful in all good works as they remain in Christ through diligent use of prayer and the Word. “The Vine” was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Douglas George Spence (1930-1954), placed by Mr. and Mrs. Harley Spence and family.

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” ~ John 15:5*

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

The Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser will be held on February 19th. Cash or cheques are welcomed, (cheques made payable to Bridgewater United Church,) with both Sobeys and Loblaws/Superstore grocery cards available. Submit cash or cheque together with the order form, no later then Sunday, February 19th. Forms can be found in the Narthex. Post-dated cheques up until February 28th accepted. By participating in the Grocery Card Fundraising Program, it benefits the work of Bridgewater United Church, with every dollar you spend on your regular, everyday grocery purchases. The church receives as much as 5% of your purchase.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake and Sausage Supper**

Join West Side United Church; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz for a Pancake and Sausage Supper on February 21st from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, a variety of desserts and beverages. Adults $10, Children (5 to 12) $5 and under 5 is free. For more information phone Bev. at (902) 543-2272 or Linda at (902) 688-1101.

**Be United In Faith Lenten Book Study**

On Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm, Bridgewater United and West Side United will be co-hosting a weekly On-Site Lenten Book Study on the United Church resource, Good Courage: Daily Reflections on Hope, that will alternate between locations. The first evening will be on February 28th at Bridgewater United. We will also be offering the Study Group by ZOOM on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, with the first evening being March 1st. Find comfort with examples of practical and courageous hope in the midst of despair and accept the challenge to deepen your theological understanding of hope, resurrection, and new life. This will be an opportunity to come together with others, to share insights and challenges encountered within the readings. $20.00 per book. Phone the Church Office to sign up for this six-week journey and be inspired to hope against hope, and to work towards a better world.

**Bridgewater United Church Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday, March 5th, with a storm date of March 12th. This meeting is to review the Annual Report and hold elections. We will highlight all our Committees and Ministries throughout the Worship Service, and then review the Annual Report following the Service. All are encouraged to attend.

**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.

**February is African Heritage Month – Seas of Struggle**

The 2023 African Heritage Month theme, Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore, recognizes the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia -- with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection. The theme highlights the role the sea has played in the long-standing history of people of African descent in the development of Canada and Nova Scotia. This year’s theme aligns with 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 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 another opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present. Learn more at <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month>.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are truly blessed to have reflections each week at B-United. Check out February!

February 12th – Reverend Neil McEwen (via Video Sermon)

February 19th – Reverend Neil McEwen

February 26th – Reverend Vivian Moores

**A Message from your Envelope Steward**

Your offering envelopes and 2022 Income Tax receipts are in the Narthex in alphabetical order. If you would like envelopes, contact Tracy at (902) 543-4833.

**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 Vegetables, Apple Sauce, Snack Crackers and Noodle Side Dishes. **“Souper” Bowl Sunday** is today. Bring in a can of soup in addition to your regular contribution.

**New Table Project for Bridgewater United Church**

We are looking to purchase ten plastic folding tables (6 person capacity), so the tables can be used by all groups for events in the C.E. Centre. The approximate cost is $100.00 plus tax each. Thank you to all who have contributed to this project thus far, with your kindness we have almost raised enough for four new tables. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark on your givings, “New Table Project.”

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Happiness cannot be travelled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed.*

*Happiness is a spiritual experience of living every moment with love, grace and gratitude.”*

*~ Dennis Waitely*

***“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 indicating the designation.

**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 events.

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