**Bridgewater United Church**

**February 18th, 2024 First in Lent Scouting Sunday**

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

**Organist and Pianist**: *Walter Delahunt*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Evan Rafuse*

**Greeter:** *Phyllis Munroe* **Greeter:** *Joanne Johnson*

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

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

Prelude

\*3rd Bridgewater Scouting Colour Party Processional

Words of Welcome

**\*Hymn:** “All Creatures of Our God and King” (VU 217)

**Invitation to Worship****:**

We seek the presence of God.

**Our hearts are searching.**

We open our lives to God.

**Our hearts are open.**

We find the love of God.

**Our hearts are full.**

We come in worship.

**Glory and honour be to God.**

**\*Chorus Video: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Inclusivity Candles

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

**We come and worship, God,**

**seeking your presence in our lives.**

**Open our hearts to hear your call;**

**open our spirits to the power of your Spirit.**

**Equip us to go forth into the world to be your voice**

**and to shine the radiance of your love. Amen.**

**Hymn:** “We Praise You, O God” (VU 218)

Your Generosity Matters: Celebrating a New Year with Scouts Canada

Announcements

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 you 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)*

**In each new day, O God, you bring us fresh blessings.**

**With grateful hearts, we return to you our first fruits of our labour.**

**We pray that through these offerings,**

**your reign of love and joy may be vibrant in the world**

**and within the ministry we share. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time For All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:** “It Only Takes a Spark (Pass It On)” (VU 289)

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message: “Religion In Life”

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” (VU 651)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

\*Commissioning And Benediction

\*3rd Bridgewater Scouting Colour Party Recessional

\*Postlude

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

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

***and in loving memory of our family members,***

***gift of Ivan and Shirley Rodenhiser.***

**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**

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**

**Community Outreach Opportunity**

We have had a request for a Syrian Canadian family who just moved to Bridgewater from Mahone Bay. Normally, there are two family members that need to go to language class twice a week from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Lunenburg Academy. There is already a volunteer for one of those days, but we need someone to fill in on the second day. The family would need to be picked up in central Bridgewater at 8:30am to get there for 9:00am and then picked up in Lunenburg at 12:30pm and driven back home. The family has a high beginner level/intermediate level of English, so communication with the driver is not difficult. The family is quite flexible on which days they can go to school, as the language school offers classes on weekday mornings. Please contact Alison Smith at [alison@aesmithwriter.com](mailto:alison@aesmithwriter.com) for more info.

**Bridgewater United Grocery Card Fundraiser**

By purchasing grocery cards from our fundraiser, it benefits both yourself and the church. Cash or cheques are welcomed, and both Sobeys and Loblaws/Superstore cards are available. Submit payment and forms by today. Forms are in the Narthex.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Prayer Shawl will meet today at 2:00pm. Calling all people who knit or crochet. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and knitting in the Parlour. These prayer shawls are knitted by a dedicated group of people who weave prayers into them. If you know of someone that would appreciate one, visit our Prayer Shawl cabinet in the Chapel.

**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. 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 until March 27th. Be The Change. Lenten Booklets are in the Narthex.

**B-United Church Council**

Church Council will be meeting in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 28th at 7:00pm. All committee reports are to be sent to Edna at [ednamatheson@gmail.com](mailto:ednamatheson@gmail.com). The deadline for submitting reports is the Saturday before the meeting, so they can be distributed to members. All are welcome to attend the meeting, but only Committee Chairpersons have the right to vote. Please advise of any regrets.

**Bridgewater United Church Annual Congregational Meeting**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3rd, with a storm date of Monday, March 4th at 6:30pm. 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 proceed with the Business Meeting to review the Annual Report immediately following the service. All are encouraged to attend.

**Today is Scouting Sunday**

Bridgewater United has been the sponsor of 3rd Bridgewater Scouting since both were formed in 1946. Scouting has been a familiar activity at 87 Hillcrest since 1963, when the Christian Education Centre was opened. Over the past 70+ years, a great number of people of our congregation have passed through the embrace of 3rd Bridgewater, either as youth or as adult volunteers, and some as both. Please find on your seats and in the Narthex, envelopes in support of 3rd Bridgewater Scouting. With your support, this 3rd Bridgewater Scouting Group can continue to grow and flourish.

**B-United Search Committee**

At our Special Congregational Meeting held on Monday, February 12th, the motion to search for one Full-Time Ministry Personnel (100%) and one Part-Time Ministry Personnel (50%) for Bridgewater United was approved. We look forward to establishing a Search Committee in the next week to begin the process. We have some potential candidates but if anyone else is interested in serving on the Search Committee, you can contact Audrey Wamboldt; *Church Council Vice-Chairperson* at (902) 354-5572 or by email at [oddpike@gmail.com](mailto:oddpike@gmail.com) by Friday, February 23rd. We need to have all potential candidates’ names ready for review for our next Church Council meeting on Wednesday, February 28th. Thank you for your consideration.

**A Message from your Envelope Steward**

Your offering envelopes and 2023 Income Tax receipts are in the Narthex and listed alphabetically. Envelopes allow your church givings to be tallied into a year-end tax receipt. Please contact Tracy Rafuse; *Envelope Steward* at (902) 543-4833 or by email at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca) for more information. With your tax receipt, you will find an important form (on pink paper) to fill out by all congregational families to help the Church Office update important details in our PowerChurch files.

**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 and Canned Soup. Thank you for your continued support.

**Why Volunteer?**

Here at B-United, we are always looking for volunteers during our Worship Service as well as on Committees/Ministries. Take some time and think about the various volunteer portions of our Worship Services; Greeter, Sound Engineer, Audio Visual Engineer, Scripture Reader, Offering Counter, Community Choir and Sunday School Volunteer. All of these are important to the growth of our church. Reach out today!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more,*

*learn more, do more and become more,*

*you are a leader."*

*~John Quincy Adams*

**A Lenten Prescription**

The rituals of Ash Wednesday belong together with those of Shrove Tuesday.

The word “shrove” comes from the Old English verb “to shrive”

which means “to write.”

Traditionally, on Shrove Tuesday,

people would come to church to have a Lenten prescription “shriven” for them. (Note that the word “prescription” derives from the same verb.)

You are invited to write your own Lenten prescription in the space below.

You can then say you were in church

and that you “shrove” yourself a prescription for Lent!

In the space below, you can “shrive” some commitments

for your spiritual practice during Lent,

such as keeping a journal or daily meditation.

During Lent this year I commit to the following spiritual practice(s):

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

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**Come Together for Holy Week and Easter Services**

**March 24th – Palm Sunday**

**10:30am** Palm Sunday Worship Service and Sunday School

Bridgewater United Church; 87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater

*“Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem”*

**March 28th – Maundy Thursday**

**7:00pm** Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Holy Communion

Bridgewater United Church; 87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater

*“A commemoration of the Last Supper”*

*Individual Communion Provided*

**March 29th – Good Friday**

**Church Office Closed**

**10:30am** Good Friday Worship Service

West Side United Church; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz

*“The crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary”*

**March 31st – Resurrection Sunday: Easter Day**

**6:30am** Easter Sunrise Worship Service

Hache Cottage; Lewis Walfield Road on Bells Island

*“The resurrection of Jesus from the dead”*

*A service which blends Indigenous and Christian traditions*

**10:30am** Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion

Bridgewater United Church; 87 Hillcrest Street, Bridgewater

*“Christ is risen! Hallelujah!”*

*Individual Communion Provided*

**10:30am** Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion

West Side United Church; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz

*“Christ is risen! Hallelujah!”*

*Individual Communion Provided*

**April 1st – Easter Monday**

**Church Office Closed**

**April 2nd**

**Church Office Closed**

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

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

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