**Bridgewater United Church**

**February 19th, 2023 Transfiguration Sunday Scouting Sunday**

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

**Greeter:** *Marion Demond* **Greeter:** *Yvonne Hirtle*

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

Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:**

People of the Creator, people of Christ, people of the Holy Spirit,

gathered in this place! What do we promise?

**I promise to love God,**

**and to love my neighbour,**

**as I love myself.**

These are our promises.

**With all our promises,**

**with all of our love,**

**with all that we are,**

**let us worship God!**

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus:** **I Love You, Lord**

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

**We hear You calling, O God. We hear Your voice with our ears and our hearts. You call and we respond as we gather in worship this day. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be filled with joy, gratitude and faithful service. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Scouts Canada: Adventure Awaits

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**The gifts that we offer flow from the blessings we have received. Accept what we offer here today and the gifts we offer each day that enter into the lives of others and carries your message of love, hope and joy. As we have been blessed, may we be a blessing to others. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 560 VU – O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 289 VU – It Only Takes a Spark (Pass It On)**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning And Benediction

Postlude



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

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

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

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

**Bridgewater United Church**

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

1. Please pass along your email to the Church Office at 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.



**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 McEwenwestsideunitedchurch@gmail.com (902) 523-5687

Barbara Pate music@bridgewaterunited.ca (902) 830-0708

Church Office E-mail:  info@bridgewaterunited.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**

The Cross (behind the Communion Table) is a window that features a large, crimson cross, symbolizing the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Near the base of the cross is a circle of green with rays of light radiating from the centre. This depicts the mouth of the sepulchre in which Christ was buried. This speaks of the resurrection and the triumph of life over death. Surrounding the cross are large circles which are not concentric. This manifests itself in the clashing and intersecting of lines depicting the confusion of the world. The clear glass outlining the central cross appears white, symbolizing the cleansing purity of Jesus Christ. As the Spirit of Christ moves outward into the evil and confusion of the world, it manifests itself in wisdom, which is always symbolized by gold. “The Cross” was presented to Bridgewater United Church, in loving memory of Lyle Devlin Hopkins (1902-1976.)

*“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.” ~ Galatians 6:14*

**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 Tuesdays 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. $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.

**World Day of Prayer**

Join us on Friday, March 3rd for the Ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service at The Salvation Army Bridgewater Corps; 116 Pleasant Street at 2:00pm. The service this year has been written by the women of Taiwan: "I Have Heard About Your Faith,” based on Ephesians 1:15-19. This letter was sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God’s glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God’s power. Storm date is March 4th at 2:00pm.

**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>.

**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 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, Canned Soup and Noodle Side Dishes.

**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**

*“Helping others,*

*without expecting anything in return,*

*is what true self-worth is all about.”*

*~ Gavin Bird*

***“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 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. 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 One-Month Period ending January 31, 2023**

**Receipts**  **January 2023**

 Total Local Receipts $ 13,167.00

 Trust Receipts

 Mission and Service $  715.00

 UCW Funds for M&S $  0.00

 Food Bank Receipts $  300.00

 Disaster Relief $ 0.00

 Starfish Canada $ 0.00

 Misc. Trust Receipts $  30.00

 Building Use Receipts $  5,252.00

 Fundraising Receipts $ 0.00

 Approx. Investment Income (Trustees) $ 0.00

 Misc. Receipts $  739.00

 **Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 20,203.00**

**Disbursements**

 Total Trust Disbursements $  1,015.00

 West Side/B-United Agreement $ 3,150.00

 Total Personnel Expense $ 7,410.00

 Total Office & Admin Expense $  285.00

 Heating Fuel $ 6,533.00

 Lights, Water & Sewer $ 0.00

 Snow Removal & Salting $ 2,696.00

 Insurance $  1,114.00

 Floor Maintenance $ 0.00

 Other Premises Expenses $ 345.00

 UCC Assessment $ 2,678.00

 Other Misc. Expenses $  159.00

 **Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$**  **25,385.00**

**Operating (Deficit) at End of Period**   **($ 5,182.00)**

**Bank Balance**: $ 101,922.68

**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.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Hirtle; *Bridgewater United Church Treasurer*

February 10, 2023