**Bridgewater United Church**

**February 26th, 2023 1st in Lent**

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

**Guest Minister:** *Reverend Vivian Moores* **Presider:** *Tracy Rafuse*

**Greeter:** *Judy Stringer* **Greeter:** *Angela McGinnis*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Evan Rafuse* **Sound Engineer:** *Randy Rafuse*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 574 VU – Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus: # 18 MV – Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

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

**Holy and Gracious God, on this first Sunday in Lent we gather as people on a journey. We have moved through the Season of Epiphany and now prepare ourselves for a time of reflection and renewal. Let our hearts and minds be open to the presence and leading of your Holy Spirit so we will grow in our faith. Focussing our eyes on Jerusalem, we venture the way of Jesus the Christ.**

Your Generosity Matters: Gratitude for First Third Ministry

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: For Creation and The Gift**

(Tune: # 161 MV - I Have Called You by Your Name)

***For creation and the gift of Your Love;***

***for the Spirit, present with us as we live.***

***Lord, we thank You, as we give from the fruit of these, our hands,***

***may Your Grace be known by all the gifts we give*.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 79 MV – Spirit, Open My Heart**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-11

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message: A Single-Minded Love

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 138 MV – My Love Colours Outside the Lines**

Extinguishing The Candles

**Commissioning:** (*unison)*

**We leave this time of worship knowing that "temptations" will always be part of our faith journey. In Jesus' temptations, he sought prayer and scripture to give direction and strength for his choices. Jesus was focussed on his purpose and mission with a single-minded love for each of us. . . a love that did not give in to pride, fame or comfort. In the moments and days of our lives, we too must choose how our life will unfold. May our choices be God-focused, not self-focused. Jesus was empowered when he remained faithful. Let us rest on these same promises of God.**

Benediction

Postlude

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



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

***and in loving memory of our parents, Stan and Daisy Bayers,***

***gift of sons, Greg, Tim and families.***

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

***and in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Fraser,***

***gift of their daughters, Jean McHarg and Mary Fulleman.***

**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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 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 two traditional stained glass windows on the west wall of the Church were removed from the former Grace Methodist Church when it was demolished in 1972 and were incorporated into the new Sanctuary, opened in 1974. They were both restored and re-leaded in the mid-90’s. “Christ At The Door,” stained glass window was restored in 1996. The window is based on a painting by artist Holman Hunt. It depicts Christ knocking at a door which is overgrown with weeds. The door represents the door of someone’s life. Christ is waiting patiently to be invited in. *“O Jesus, thou art standing, outside the fast-closed door, in lowly patience waiting to pass the threshold o’er.” ~ Willian W. How.* “Christ At The Door,” was given to the glory of God, and in memory of Asaph Newcombe and family.The restoration of the window was provided by Margaret McKee and McGrigor Miller and was given to the glory of God and in memory of their mother, S. Mable Miller, nee Newcombe.

*“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door,*

*I will come in and eat with you, and you with me.” ~ Revelation 3:20*

**Nova Scotia Heritage Day - Honouree Rita Joe**

Elder Rita (Bernard) Joe, a member of the We’koqma’q Mi’kmaq Community and published author, was instrumental in paving the way for other Mi’kmaq authors. She wanted to see that more writings would come from her people and “that the children would read it”. Elder Rita lost both parents at an early age and spent several years in foster care before attending the Indian Residential School in Shubenacadie at the age of twelve. She would suffer the hardships experienced from the residential school. She wanted to share her experiences through writing and celebrate Mi’kmaq culture with a focus on language. Elder Rita was given the name of “Gentle Warrior.”

**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, which will alternate between locations. The first evening will be on February 28th at Bridgewater United. $20.00 per book. Phone the Church Office to sign up for this six-week journey and be inspired to hope against hope.

**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. Paul 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.

**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.

**Guest Minister – Reverend Vivian Moores**

We are so blessed to have Reverend Vivian Moores (retired June 2021) sharing in Worship with us today. She presently lives in Rose Bay. As part of her seminary requirements, she was a student under Reverend Paul Cumming (1983) at Bridgewater United Church. Graduating from the Atlantic School of Theology (1984) and ordained (1985), she has served on the Brooklyn Pastoral Charge, Riverport Pastoral Charge and Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge over thirty-seven years of Ministry. She is passionate about her faith and enjoys every opportunity to worship and fellowship with others as part of the Body of Christ. Please be sure to say Hello.

**Confirmation Class**

Are you interested in Confirmation class (Grade 8 and up) at Bridgewater United Church? In the United Church of Canada, confirmation means the “confirming” of baptismal vows, which were taken earlier, usually when a person was an infant or a child. Participants who are not yet baptized are also welcome in a confirmation group. Baptism is included prior to the act of confirmation for them. Confirmation involves exploring, affirming, and claiming the Christian faith as one’s own, in a journey that is both individual and part of a group. Confirmation is a time when we publicly declare our intention to live in Christ and practice our faith within the life and fellowship of the church. Confirmation signifies full membership in the congregation and the United Church of Canada. Contact the Church Office for more information.

**Joining Membership with Bridgewater United Church**

Are you interested in joining the membership of B-United? On Sunday, April 2nd, we will be welcoming new members by Confirmation or Transfer of Membership from another congregation. A full member is one who has been baptized, either as infant, child, youth or adult, and has made a public profession of faith before the congregation. Membership is not required in order to worship at a United Church, and many who regularly attend worship are adherents rather than members. In order to become a full member, a person goes through a process called "confirmation". This is offered to adults (starting at around age 13) and usually involves a series of classes about the beliefs of the United Church. Following this, the candidate makes a public profession of faith before the congregation, thereby "confirming" the statements made by his or her parents during baptism. If the person is unbaptized, the minister baptizes the person before the profession of faith. The new member's name is then entered on the official Roll of Members for that congregation. Only members can vote at congregational meetings, although members can vote to extend voting privileges to adherents. Although confirmation takes place at the congregational level, the person is a member of the entire United Church of Canada, not just one congregation; therefore, membership can be transferred freely from congregation to congregation. Contact the Church Office for more information.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Ever notice that the whisper of temptation,*

*can be heard farther than the loudest call to duty.” ~ Earl Wilson*

**Bridgewater United Church’s Living Faith Story**

**Theological Rationale**

**We are called to share our gifts in community,**

**seeking fellowship and praising God.**

*“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” ~ Acts 2:44-47*

**As disciples we are called to be stewards of God’s Grace**

**by serving one another with the gifts we have been given.**

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. ~ 1 Peter 4:10-11*

**As a Community of Faith, God calls us to be:**

* A welcoming body that provides time and space for all people to explore and grow on their faith journey.
* A diverse community that seeks to explore and grow in our faith journey.
* A community that values the old and the new, building on the traditions of the Church, cherishing our history, embracing new opportunities and creatively exploring our purpose as Christ’s body in the world.
* People who openly share their talents and gifts with one another to further the life and work of the Church.
* Lifelong learners through Christian education and fellowship for children, youth and adults.
* Stewards of God’s Grace for ourselves and others by supporting Outreach within our Congregation, Community and beyond.
* People who inspire and motivate one another to deepen our relationship with God and each other.
* People who encourage one another, offering care and support through all of life’s stages.
* Willing to listen for the Spirit and open ourselves to new opportunities through the inspiration of Christ’s teachings in Scripture and the continuing work of God in the world.

**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