**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United West Side United New West Pine United Caledonia Pastoral Charge St. Andrews-St. Marks United**

**February 5th, 2023 5thafter Epiphany**

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

**Greeter:** *Phyllis Munroe* **Greeter:** *Linda Rowter*

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

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

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

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 88 MV – Over My Head**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus:** **Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord**

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

**Light of our life. Light of our hearts. Shine around us, as we gather in worship. Illuminate the paths we walk, and the faith shared each day. Guide our words and our actions. Be our beacon of safety that leads us through storms and direct us into harbours of daily living, where we can embrace the joys of full and abundant living. Light of our life, warm us with your love. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: UN Decade for African Descent

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**Our offerings represent the dedication of our hearts, the treasures of our hands and the gifts of our lives. You, O God, have gifted us abundantly and we are asked to return a portion of what we received back to you with our gratitude and thanks. Receive the gifts we offer today and every day, and may they be transformed by your Love to make a difference in the lives of many. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light!**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 646 VU – We Are Marching (Siyahamba)**

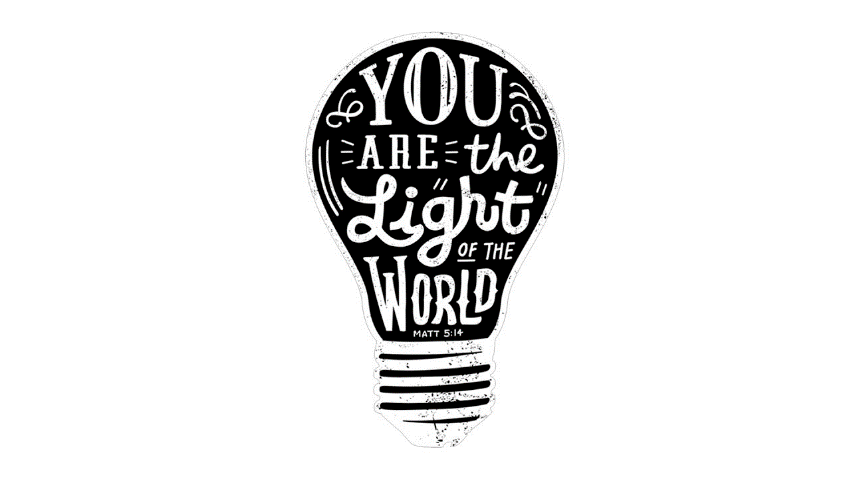
Extinguishing The Candles

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 father and grandfather, Wayne Burridge,***

***gift of Chad, Elizabeth, Victoria and Laura Burridge.***

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

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

**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**

Looking clockwise from the right front of the Sanctuary, you will find “The Fish” stained glass window. It was dedicated on March 1, 1981. In this window, the fish, “Ichthys” in Greek, is the symbol for the Saviour Jesus Christ because the word could be used as a rebus from which a statement of faith could be derived. The word consists of five letters in the Greek alphabet. The early Church regarded these letters as initials for five words, “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Saviour.” The fish shape was used as a sign by which early Christians found and identified each other, especially during times of persecution. “The Fish” stained glass window was given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones and friends, erected by Memorial Donations.

*“And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ~ Matthew 4:19.*

**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 February 12th. For the month of February, with all the publicity of this event, let us be reminded of the needs of others. Bring in a can of soup in support of the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank in addition to your regular contribution.

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

The Ways and Means Ministry of Bridgewater United 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. Gift Cards of $50, $100 and $200 denominations. 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.

**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.

**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.

**A Message from your Envelope Steward**

Your offering envelopes and 2022 Income Tax receipts are in the Narthex in alphabetical order. Envelopes allow your church donations to be tallied into a tax receipt. If you would like church envelopes, please contact Tracy at (902) 543-4833.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are truly blessed to have reflections each week from a variety of Ministers and should give thanks that they have been with us on this journey with B-United. Things are moving forward with grace and kindness, and we hope that you will continue to journey with us, where all are welcome in our midst. See what February has in store!

February 5th – Reverend Neil McEwen and Donna Kelly; Student Minister

February 12th – Reverend Neil McEwen

February 19th – Reverend Neil McEwen

February 26th – Reverend Vivian Moores

**New Table Project for Bridgewater United Church**

We are looking to purchase ten plastic folding tables (6 person capacity), so that the tables can be used by all groups for events in the C.E. Centre. The approximate cost ranges between $80.00 to $160.00 plus tax each. If you would like to contribute to this project, please mark on your givings, “New Table Project.” It is truly appreciated.

**What is a District Representative?**

A District Representative is the key to providing a constant line of communication with our Church Community. A District Representative is assigned a list of members, who they contact under the guidance of the Pastoral Care Ministry. Volunteer today!

District 3 - *Alexandra Avenue/ Evergreen Road* (5 families)

District 12 – *Sherbrooke Avenue, Thomson Drive, Haven Drive, Belmont Drive* (9 families)

District 15 - *Dufferin Street/Pleasant Street* (4 families)

District 17 – *Blockhouse Area* (11 families)

District 21 – *Dawson Street, York Street, Dominion Street* (7 families)

District 34 – *Bakers Settlement/West Clifford Area* (6 families)

District 35 – *Highway 10 (Cookville)* (7 families)

District 41 – *Upper Branch Road (Auburndale/Midville Branch)* (7 families)

District 46 – *Hollingsworth Drive/Sweeny Lane* (8 families)

District 48 – *Long Distance Phone Call List* (10 families)

District 49 – *Highway 3, Highway 332 (Upper LaHave)* (4 families)

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“There is always light.*

*If only we’re brave enough to see it.*

*If only we’re brave enough to be it.”*

*~ Amanda Gorman*

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