**Bridgewater United Church**

**January 14, 2024 Second after Epiphany**

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

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Ewart Morse*

**Greeter:** *Joy Bird* **Greeter:** *Carolyn MacKay* **Accompanist**: *Terra Lee Kelly*

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

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

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Inclusivity Candles

Invitation To Worship

**Call to Worship****:**

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort, inspiration,**

**community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves to the power of God’s presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives,**

**and to ask God’s help along the way.**

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

**Tender and mighty God,**

**you touch our lives with healing and with justice;**

**new life is your gift.**

**May this time of worship nourish us,**

**with your promise of meaning and purpose.**

**May we be empowered to carry your goodness**

**into the coming week, as we live our lives**

**in the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word” (VU 84)

Your Generosity Matters: Indigenous Peoples Speak to the Remit

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 your leave.*

*The offering plates are not circulated among the congregation during our Service of Worship.*

**\*Offertory Response:** “Grant Us, God, the Grace” (VU 540)

***Grant us, God, the grace of giving,***

***with a spirit large and free,***

***that ourselves and all our living***

***we may offer faithfully.***

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

**We bring our gifts to you, O God.**

**Here is the work of our hands,**

**and here is the love of our hearts.**

**Accept them and use them,**

**as we live our lives in the Way of Christ. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time For All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Let My Spirit Always Sing” (MV 83)

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-12

Scripture Reading: John 1:35-46

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Come and See”

**Hymn:** “Will You Come and Follow Me” (VU 567)

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands” (MV 173)

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 parents, Alta and Bill Carey,***

***gift of Danny and Rhona Carey and family.***

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

***and in loving memory of parents and grandparents,***

***Agnes and Jim Northover and Anita and Bill Ramey,***

***gift of Gary, Debbie, Stefan and James Ramey.***

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**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**

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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**

**B-United Supports our Local Food Bank**

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For January, there is a request for Canned Fruit, Kraft Dinner, Canned Stew, Rice Krispie Squares and Juice Packs. Thank you.

**A Message from your Envelope Steward**

Your 2024 offering envelopes are in the Narthex and listed in alphabetical order. Envelopes allow your church givings and your child’s Sunday School givings, to be tallied into an end-of-the-year tax receipt. If you would like Church Envelopes, please contact Tracy; *Envelope Steward* at (902) 543-4833 or [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca).

**What is a District Representative?**

A District Representative is the key to providing a constant line of communication with our Church Community and Bridgewater United Church. A District Representative is assigned a list of members, with whom they contact approximately four times a year, under the guidance of the Pastoral Care Ministry. This wonderful Outreach helps B-United remain current on our Church Community’s concerns.

**Why Volunteer?**

Here at B-United, we are always looking for volunteers during our Worship Service as well as on Committees/Ministries of Bridgewater United Church. Taking the first step to see what volunteering is about, is the toughest part, but in the end, the rewards are endless. Not only do you get to use your own gifts to help others, but you may also build new skills as you go along. 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!

**Annual Reports of B-United**

It is that time of year again, when Committees and Ministries of B-United should be preparing their program reports for the 2023 Annual Report. Please be reminded that your report is based on 2023 activities. All reports are to be typed and emailed in a Word Document by Friday, January 26th, 2024. **NO PDF FILES.** Reports are needed from the following: *Church Council, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council Representative, Board of Trustees Report and Financial Report, Memorial Ministry, Ministerial Team, Faith Formation Committee Report and Financial Report, Pastoral Care Ministry, Finance and Stewardship Committee Report and Financial Report, Ways and Means Ministry, Property Committee, United Church Women Report and Financial Report, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Profile Committee, Worship Committee, Music Ministry, B.U.C. Brigade Mission Trip, Bridgewater Day Care Centre Report and Financial Report, 3rd Bridgewater Scouting Group Committee Report and Financial Report and Bridgewater Inter-Church Council.*

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“There are two ways of spreading light:*

*to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”*

*~ Edith Wharton*

**Reverend Hans van Nie**

We are so excited to be in Team Ministry with Reverend Neil McEwen and Reverend Hans van Nie. We welcome Reverend Hans van Nie as our Temporary 50% Supply Minister. Hans is a retired United Church minister currently living in Lunenburg. He began his ministry in Nova Scotia during the 1980’s serving as the founding minister of Orchard Valley United Church in New Minas and as a part-time professor of Scripture Studies at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. For the next 30 years, Hans served congregations in Hamilton and Toronto, while also participating in many Regional and General Council activities. Hans is looking forward very much to working with the congregation of Bridgewater United Church in a part-time supply ministry for the next several months. Please contact Reverend Hans by email at [hans@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:hans@bridgewaterunited.ca) or through the Private Ministers’ Line at (902) 543-6854.

**United Church of Canada Remit 1:**

**Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization**

As General Council 43 ended in 2018, God challenged us with a time of hard, painful conversation about what we said we—as faithful disciples of Jesus—wanted to be as a church. At that national meeting, many of the Indigenous and racialized participants clearly named their difficult experiences of racism and exclusion within this church and called the whole church to engage in a time of learning and transformation. There was beauty too in that challenging conversation because it reminded us of our collective call to continue to trust in God’s faithfulness and the movement of the Spirit. **Remit 1** is another such opportunity to remind ourselves that we are committed to being a justice-seeking people. To you, the non-Indigenous church, we appreciate that there is some nervousness about the unknown and about what an autonomous Indigenous structure within the United Church will look like. Some people in the church have also named their uncertainty about the implications of such a structure in the context of overall declining revenues, and concerns about doctrine and theology. One thing that is critical to note, is that if this remit passes, the Indigenous Church will remain part of The United Church of Canada. It also means that the Indigenous Church would determine their own structure without the need to come back to the non-Indigenous church for approval. The Indigenous Church has put forward a vision of autonomy within the United Church, not a vision of a separate, independent church. This means that as a part of the United Church, the Indigenous Church—including communities of faith and the Indigenous Ministries and Justice unit of the General Council Office—will continue to be funded. Indigenous peoples within the United Church have long held together their Christian faith and Indigenous spiritual practices. The church as a whole has, beginning with the 1986 Apology and most recently in embracing the Calls to the Church, recognized and welcomed this. There may well be issues that need to be worked through as we navigate a new path. We commit to doing so in the relationship the National Indigenous Council envisioned in their proposal to General Council 44: as two canoes travelling parallel in the same river. **Remit 1** is only one facet of our church’s ongoing commitment to reconciliation. *(The Rev. Dr. Michael Blair; UCC)*

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

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