**Bridgewater United Church**

**January 22nd, 2023 3rd after Epiphany**

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

**Guest Minister:** *Reverend Carol Smith* **Presider:** *Tracy Rafuse*

**Greeter:** *Cathy Etter* **Usher:** *Carolyn MacKay*

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

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

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

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 79 VU – Arise, Your Light Is Come**

Welcome and Announcements

**Call To Worship:**

Dear friends, in God’s presence, there is life, there is Light.

**Seeking the Light that comes from God, we gather in this place.**

Our hearts are ready, O God; delight us with your presence.

**We long for you O God; come to us, Beloved One.**

**God above us, God beside us, God beneath us,**

**the beginning, the end, the everlasting Light.**

**Let us worship God**. **Amen.**

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus:** **Closer**

**Prayer of Approach:** (*unison)*

**O God, You promise fullness of grace, and courage in the struggle for justice and peace. You gave us Jesus to be the Light that shows the way. May we learn to dwell in the Light throughout all our days, whether it be in trial or in rejoicing, and most certainly now, in this hour of worship with brothers and sisters in Christ. In whose name we pray, Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Oxford House

Offering our Thanks

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

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 372 VU – Though I May Speak**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 27 – page 754 VU**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Message: “Manifesting the Light”

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 96 VU – Will You Come and See the Light**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning And Benediction:

On this day, may the blessings of heaven, the blessings of earth,

the blessings of sea and sky,

be upon us and bring us into the full light of God’s Love in Christ.

**“Farewell, dear friends, stay safe, dear friends,**

**have peace, have peace.**

**We’ll see you again, we’ll see you again,**

**have peace, have peace.” Amen.**

Postlude

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

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

***and in fond remembrance of Karen Keirstead-Mills***

***and Rev. Dr. Robert Mills, gift of Jo-Anne Ferrier.***

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

***and in loving memory of our mother, Jean Schmeisser,***

***gift of daughters, Carole MacLaren and Marilyn Bolivar and families.***

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

***and in loving memory of Wendy Fraser and Joan Hebb,***

***gift of Anne and Greg Gatchell.***

**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 Cross and Crown” stained glass window. It was dedicated on March 1, 1981. In this window the crown is the Roman laurel wreath – the symbol of victory – and the cross is the reminder of at what cost the victory was won. The imagery of the cross and crown also stands for the reign of Christ and the coming of the Kingdom of God. The “The Cross and Crown” window was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Eva Mae Burns (1900-1980). The contemporary Pentecost hymn uses this imagery very effectively:

*“Take up your cross and follow Christ, think not till death to lay it down; for only those*

*who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.” ~ Charles William Everest*

**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 Kraft Dinner, Canned Fruit, Canned Meat, Canned Fish, Peanut Butter and Soda Crackers.

**New Table Project for Bridgewater United Church**

We are looking to get ten plastic folding tables (72” x 30”) to replace the heavy and hard-to-store current tables we have on-site, so that they can be used for events in the C.E. Centre. The approximate cost of one of these table ranges between $80.00 to $160.00 plus tax. If you would like to assist with this project, please mark on your givings, “New Table Project.” Your contribution to this project is appreciated.

**UCW Saturday Night Baked Beans and Ham Take-Out Dinner**

On Saturday, January 28th, let the Bridgewater United UCW cook supper for you! Baked Beans, Ham, Coleslaw, Brown Bread and your choice of Chocolate or Carrot Cake for dessert. $15.00 per person. Cash or Cheques Only. (Cheques payable to Bridgewater United UCW). Please call the Church Office to order and to schedule your time for pick-up! Only 65 more to be made and last day to order is January 25th.

**Annual Reports of B-United**

All program and financial reports must be sent in by January 31st. Reports are needed from the following: *Church Council, Ministry and Personnel Committee, Regional Council 15 Representative, Board of Trustees and Financial Report, Memorial Ministry, Ministerial Team, Faith Formation Committee and Financial Report, Pastoral Care Ministry, Finance and Stewardship Committee and Financial Report, Music Ministry, B.U.C. Brigade Mission Trip, Bridgewater Day Care Centre and Financial Report, 3rd Bridgewater Scout Group Committee and Financial Report, Universal Cheer and Bridgewater Inter-Church Council. Thank you.*

**Be United In Faith Lenten Book Study**

Starting on February 28th at 7:00pm, Bridgewater United and West Side United will be co-hosting a Lenten Book Study on the United Church resource, Good Courage: Daily Reflections on Hope. 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. $20.00. Phone the Church Office.

**Guest Minister – Reverend Carol Smith**

We are pleased to welcome this morning, Reverend Carol Smith, to share in worship with us at Bridgewater United. Reverend Carol Smith is a minister, wife, proud mother of four and grandmother of seven. She has served congregations and ministries in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario. Her special interests include Prison Ministry, Restorative Justice and Transitional Ministry. She is currently serving as Chair of the Future Directions Committee for Regional Council 15 of the United Church of Canada and as well as the Chaplain for the North Queens Fire Association.

**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 are in the Narthex in alphabetical order. Envelopes allow your church donations to be tallied into a year-end tax receipt. If you would like envelopes, please contact Tracy Rafuse; *Envelope Steward* at (902) 543-4833.

**Snow Removal Needed on Hillcrest Street**

A congregational member who lives on Hillcrest Street is looking to hire someone to shovel/snow blow their small driveway throughout the winter. If you know of someone, please contact the Church Office at (902) 543-4833. Thank you.

**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, with whom they contact approximately four times a year, under the guidance of the Pastoral Care Ministry. We need District Representation for eleven Districts immediately! This wonderful Outreach helps B-United remain current on our Church Community’s concerns and as well helps with saving $1,600.00 a year in postage cost.

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**

*“As we work to create light for others,*

*we naturally light our own way.”*

*~ Mary Anne Radmacher*

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