**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United West Side United**

**January 29th, 2023 4thafter Epiphany**

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

**Greeter:** *Jane Martin* **Usher:** *Joanne Johnson*

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

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

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

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 222 VU – Come, Let Us Sing**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus:** **# 150 MV – Spirit God, Be Our Breath (Verse 3)**

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

**O God our Creator, in you alone are the riches of life. We come from a variety of life paths, yet we merge into this sacred time of worship as one community of faith, divinely guided by your Spirit to share the journey as the followers of Jesus. As we sing, pray, reflect and offer praise, may we hear again your message of how we are blessed and called to be a blessing to others. Be our Breath. Be our Light. Be our Song. Be with us. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Crossing the Ocean for Peace: Korea Peace Appeal

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**Caring God, as you receive our offerings, remind us how to share your Love with the world. Make us aware of the opportunities to be an angel to others. Inspire us to seek the needs of our community and to act, that we might lessen the struggles and challenges for each other. Encourage us to use the way you have blessed our lives that we might be a blessing for others. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 619 VU – Healer of Our Every Ill**

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 15 – page 736 VU**

**Scripture Song: Matthew 5 (Blest Are They)** *(Congregation to join in the Refrain)*

***Rejoice and be glad!***

***Blessed are you, holy are you!***

***Rejoice and be glad!***

***Yours is the kingdom of God.***

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 1 MV – Let Us Build a House (Verses 1, 3 and 5)**

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 fond gratitude of an amazing mother, grandmother,***

***friend and faithful church member, Ruth Rudderham,***

***gift of Jim (Jamie) and Cheryl Rudderham.***

**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**

The “newer” stained glass windows in our Sanctuary were produced by the P & B Stained Glass Studio of Saint John, New Brunswick. They depict Christian symbols, each against the background of a large cross. Looking clockwise from the right front of the Sanctuary, you will find “The Anchor” stained glass window. It was dedicated on June 5, 1983. In this window, the anchor is the symbol for Christian hope. As the anchor holds the ship in place, so hope holds the believer to Christ. The hymnwriter put it this way: *“We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll, fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.” ~ Priscilla Jane Owens*. “The Anchor” window was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Stanley S. Rafuse (1893 - 1980) and his beloved wife, Rita L. Durling Rafuse (1893 – 1981). *“We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain.” ~ Hebrews 6:19*

**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. **“Souper” Bowl Sunday** is February 12th. How wonderful would it be if everyone in our Church brought a can of soup for the Food Bank in addition to their regular Food Bank contribution. Our support of this Outreach Ministry is important.

**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.*

**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 February 28th at 7:00pm, Bridgewater United and West Side United will be co-hosting a weekly 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. 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 five-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. 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, with whom they contact approximately four times a year, under the guidance of the Pastoral Care Ministry. We need District Representation for eleven Districts. This wonderful Outreach helps B-United remain current with our Church Community.

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**

*“Focus on your strengths, not your weaknesses. Focus on your character, not your reputation.*

*Focus on your blessings, not your misfortunes.” ~ Roy T. Bennett*

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