**Bridgewater United Church**

**January 8th, 2023 1st after Epiphany The Baptism of the Lord**

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

**Greeter:** *Diane Patten* **Greeter:** *Marlene Pater* **Lay Presider:** *David Walker*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Evan Rafuse* **Sound Engineer:** *Randall Knox*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 82 VU – A Light Is Gleaming**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus:** **# 85 MV – Take, O Take Me as I Am (x 2)**

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

**The song of the angels is stilled. The star in the sky is gone. The kings and the shepherds have found their way home. And now the work of Christmas has begun. Thank you, God, for the journey of Advent and Christmas that brought your message of Love to us in an abundant way. As we embrace this new season, the Season of Epiphany, we let the Light of your Beloved Jesus illuminate our hearts and lives, as we go deeper into our relationship with you and your messengers, as the followers of Jesus. May our faith be deepened, our witness more prophetic, our Ministry more enlightened and our worship more profound. Journey with us, God, as we journey with you. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: [It's Your Call: A Podcast by UCC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMhL9ZeVbE8)

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**Your Light and Love are illuminating our lives. We bask in the glow and let it warm our hearts and our spirits. May this gift you offer to us be one that we share with others through our acts of faith and gratitude. As we offer our gifts of time, talents and treasures may Your Light and Your Love, through us, be a blessings and gift to many. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 12 MV – Come Touch Our Hearts**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn:** **# 330 VU – Jesus Shall Reign**

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.***

**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 Tree of Life” stained glass window. It was dedicated on March 1, 1981. The Tree of Life symbolizes both the separation of humanity from God through sin as described in Genesis 3, and the healing of the schism by Christ’s death and resurrection, culminating in The Kingdom of God in Revelation. The author of Revelation pictures the restoration to fellowship with God in terms of the Garden of Eden. *“There, there on the banks of a river bright and free, yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be.” ~ Carolyn McDade.* The Tree of Life window was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Everett Leslie Burns.

*“On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:2)*

**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, Canned Meat, Canned Fish, Peanut Butter and Soda Crackers. Thank you.

**New Table Project for Bridgewater United Church**

As we continue to find some normalcy in 2023, we are seeing more events taking place within our building, which is a sign of growth and fellowship within our Church Community. With this, we are looking to improve a few things in the New Year. 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 (Gym). The approximate cost of one of these table ranges between $80.00 to $160.00 plus tax. With the purchase of these tables, it will create more space on the stage, eliminate volunteers manoeuvring on the stage to get the tables separated and placed down on the gym floor, and make set-up/tear-down for events smoother. If you would like to assist with this project, please mark on your givings, “New Table Project.” Your contribution to this project is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Annual Reports of B-United**

Committees, Ministries and Groups within B-United should be preparing their program reports for inclusion in the 2022 Annual Report. The Church Office asks that all program and financial reports be typed and emailed in a Word Document by Tuesday, January 31st, 2023. **NO PDF FILES.** 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, Ways and Means Ministry, Property Committee, United Church Women and Financial Report, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 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.*

**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. Please make sure that your address is correct. 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 Rafuse; Envelope Steward at (902) 543-4833 or at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca). Please only use envelopes dated for 2023.

**Time, Talent and Treasures**

Prayerfully decide what you will give each year to your Church and divide that amount by twelve. You can donate by e-Transfer at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca). You can send cheques in by mail, you can sign up for pre-authorized remittance (PAR), as we can rely on those sorts of consistent funds. Contributions provided each week, help our Church’s Ministry to increase our overall financial stability. Thank you.

**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. 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 the Church approximately $1,600.00 a year in postage cost. Please reach out to the Church Office if you feel this Outreach Ministry is calling you to serve.

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**

*“Forget the past, it's gone,*

*but glance back occasionally,*

*to remind yourself where you came from,*

*and where you are going.”*

*~ Chloe Thurlow*

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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