**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United West Side United**

**July 16, 2023 7th after Pentecost Celebrating Pride**

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

**Greeter:** *Yvonne Hirtle* **Greeter:** *Marion Demond*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **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

**\*Hymn:** **# 145 MV – Draw the Circle Wide**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:** *(Based on Psalm 19)*

The heavens are telling the glory of God!

**Day to day and night to night,**

**unending is their silent speech of beauty and wonder**.

How shall we join their joyful witness?

**With words that proclaim God’s inclusive love,**

**with works that bring forth God’s powerful justice,**

**with worship that rejoices in God’s wondrous presence,**

**now and always.**

As the heavens declare God’s creative, diverse goodness,

**let us worship as a community gathered in love and faith.**

**Chorus:** **# 220 MV – Hope Shines as the Solitary Star** *(selected verses)*

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

**Creator God, You call each of us into being, You delight in Your works. You gift us with diversity that illuminates the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. May our worship this day be a celebration of Your creative goodness and an affirmation of our calling to be Your messengers of love and acceptance. Amen**

Your Generosity Matters: A Safe Home

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 537 VU – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**

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

**Accept our gifts, O God, because we need to give. Use our gifts to the greatest good they can accomplish here in our midst and far beyond our individual reach. We present them in thanksgiving for all you have given us and in gratitude for the privilege of sharing in your work. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Song: Find A Home Here** *sung by Barbara Pate and Reverend Neil McEwen*

***Find a home here, live out faith here,***

***gather strength here, find fam’ly here.***

***Be yourself here, feel secure here,***

***celebrate here, be at home here.***

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:1–9,18–23

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message: “Sowing Seeds of God's Love”

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 481 VU – Sent Forth by God’s Blessing**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning And Benediction

Postlude

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

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

***and in loving memory of my parents, Gladys and Harry Veinot,***

***my aunts; Jennie and Marie and uncles; Murray and John,***

***gift of Malcolm Veinot.***

**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**

**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.

**Be United Communities of Faith Summer Worship**

July 23rd (5:00pm) – Worshiping with Reverend Neil at Crescent Beach

July 30th (10:30am) – Worshiping with Reverend Neil at Bridgewater United

August 6th (10:30am) – Worshiping with Reverend Neil at West Side United

August 13th (10:30am) – Worshiping with Reverend Neil at Bridgewater United

August 20th (10:30am) – Worshiping with Reverend Neil at West Side United

August 27th (10:30am) – Worshiping with Reverend Neil at Bridgewater United

**The Moose Hide Campaign**

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Wearing the moose hide pin signifies a commitment to honour, respect and protect the women and children in your life and speak out against gender-based and domestic violence. The inspiration for the campaign came to co-founders Raven Lacerte and her father, Paul, in 2011 during a moose hunt on their traditional Carrier territory along the Highway of Tears in Northern BC – where so many women, many of whom are Indigenous, have gone missing or been murdered. Since then, annual gatherings and ceremonial fasts have taken place and more than three million squares of moose hide have been distributed to Canadians, from young to old to students and organizations across the country. As the campaign spreads across Canada and internationally, the Moose Hide Campaign is aiming to have 10 million Canadians wearing their pins and one million people fasting together in ceremony to end violence against women and children. People of all ages, genders and cultures are invited to participate. Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. More than 6,000 women and children are housed in emergency shelters each night across Canada, seeking refuge from abuse. In the Narthex, you will find Moose Hide Campaign pins for you to take and share the story with others. To donate to this campaign, just designate “Moose Hide Campaign” on your church envelope, and the funds will be forwarded.

**What Is a District Representative?**

Being a District Rep involves contacting the members on a church list provided to you, approximately four times a year under the supervision of the Pastoral Care Ministry. This open line of communication is essential to providing love and care to all our members on our Church list. We are currently without District Representation for ten Districts and hope to fill these positions before the **end of July**. Consider being a part of this wonderful ministry. Reach out to the Church Office today!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference,*

*and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity.”*

*~* *George Takei*

**Church Office Hours**

Church Office Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am - 12:30pm, unless otherwise stated on our voicemail or social media. From time to time, you may see staff at the office on Mondays, when they need to access items to complete their work, but please respect the posted Church Office Hours. Thank you.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For July, there is a request for Canned Milk, Canned Sandwich Meat such as Tuna, Chicken or Ham, Vegetable Oil, Applesauce, Bits and Bites and Goldfish Crackers. Be mindful of expiration dates. Thank you.

**Get To Know B-United – Ways and Means Ministry**

The Ways and Means Ministry require **three members.** This Ministry is responsible for developing and promoting financial stewardship programs and activities.

**Get To Know B-United – Board of Trustees**

The Board of Trustees require **three members.** The Board is responsible for holding all congregational property for the congregation; this includes land, buildings, funds and investments. They must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property.

**Church Office Vacation**

The Church Office will be closed from August 1st to August 4th and August 9th – August 11th for vacation. Voicemails and emails will be checked when the Church Office reopens on August 15th. For Pastoral Care concerns during this time, please phone (902) 543-4833, to be connected to our Pastoral Care Ministry Team.

**Berwick Camp UCW Afternoon**

On August 2nd at 2:00pm, the Maritime United Church Women will hold a very special afternoon at Berwick Camp. The afternoon will be hosted by your Co-Presidents and along with the enlisted help of other UCW members who are available, we will bring you news of the Maritime UCW, share in a worship/devotion program and a time which will include the dedication of a bench in memory of Ruth Rudderham. Refreshments and social time will follow at the Cookie Cottage. Plan to attend this fun and meaningful afternoon “under the hemlocks.” All UCW and Berwick campers are invited to join us. The camp runs from July 28th to August 6th.

**Church Office Closed**

The Church Office will be closed on August 8th in lieu of the Civic Holiday/Natal Day on August 7th. For Pastoral Care concerns, please phone (902) 543-4833.

**West Side United’s Lobster Roll Take-Out Supper**

West Side United; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz will be hosting a Lobster Roll Take-Out Supper on August 13th from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Lobster Roll, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Macaroni Salad and Dessert for $28. The alternative will be their own cooked ham with salads and dessert for $18. Please phone (902) 688-1580 to place your order.

***“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 Supports Inclusion For All**

In the front windows of the Sanctuary, facing the roadway, you will see five flags:

The Mi’kmaq Grand Council Flag is also referred to as the Santéé Mawióómi flag. The wapéék (white) denotes the purity of Creation, mekwéék klujjewey (red cross) represents mankind and infinity (four directions), náákúúset (sun) represents forces of the day, and tepkunaset (moon) signifies forces of the night. We acknowledge that Bridgewater United Church is on the traditional lands of the Mi’kmaq People, on the traditional ancestral homelands of the Mi’kma’ki. Indigenous people have lived lightly and with respect upon this land, a territory upon which we now live. We continue to journey to reconciliation with the land, the water, and the air, and among the people.

The Pan-African Flag was created in 1920 with the support of Marcus Garvey, founder of the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association.) Today, variations of the flag have been used in various countries and territories in Africa and the Americas to represent Pan-Africanist ideology. The colours of the flag represents the blood that unites all people of Black African ancestry, and shed for liberation (red), Black people whose existence as a nation, though not a nation-state, is affirmed by the flag (black) and the abundant natural wealth of Africa (green).

The Progressive Pride Flag was designed in 2018 by graphic designer, Daniel Quasar. A five-colored chevron was added to the classic Rainbow Flag to place a greater emphasis on “inclusion and progression.” Five arrow-shaped lines were added to the six-colored Rainbow Flag, which is widely recognized as the symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ+) community. The flag includes black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color, along with the colors pink, light blue and white, which are used on the Transgender Pride Flag. The purple circle represents intersex which describes people who do not fit the modern interpretation of the gender binary because of sex characteristics. A complete and whole circle represents how complete intersex people are from the moment of birth. The initial rainbow flag, created in the 1970s by gay activist, Gilbert Baker, had eight colors, including pink to represent sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for spirit.

The Every Child Matters Flag is a symbol to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions. Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites.

The Ukrainian Flag reminds us of our solidarity with the country of Ukraine since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. The Ukrainian flag consists of two horizontal bands of equal width, with blue on the top and yellow on the bottom. The combination is commonly decoded as the sky above and the endless fields of wheat beneath it. The invasion has killed tens of thousands and about 8 million Ukrainians were displaced, making it Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II.

**B-United PAR Authorization Form**

**(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**

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**B-United PAR Authorization**

Donor Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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