**Bridgewater United Church**

**March 10th, 2024 Fourth in Lent**

**UCW Mission and Service Sunday**

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

**Organist**: *Walter Delahunt* **Accompanist**: *Phyllis Munroe* **Soloist**: *Barb Bolton*

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

**Greeter:** *Margie Hubley* **Greeter:** *Heather Morrison*

*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****:** *(adapted from the UCW Vision Statement)*

We have gathered in worship to celebrate our faith in God:

**We believe in nurturing Christian spirituality,**

**by reaching out through commitment**

**and devotion to all God’s people,**

**in the promotion of truth, justice, peace, caring and respect,**

**for all throughout the earth, God’s world;**

We believe in honouring God the Creator,

and loving others through generous giving and joyful living.

**We believe in affirming and strengthening ourselves,**

**both individually and together through creative study,**

**prayer, and action.**

**Opening Prayer:** (VU 564) (*unison)*

**Jesus Christ, our Saviour,**

**alive and at large in the world;**

**help us to follow and find you today**

**in the places where we work and meet people,**

**spend leisure time and make plans.**

**Teach us to see through your eyes,**

**and to hear the questions you ask;**

**by the power of the Cross,**

**and in the freedom of your Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “How Firm a Foundation” (VU 660)

*(sung at the Inaugural Service of the UCW; 1962)*

Your Generosity Matters: Real-Time Relief Really Makes a World of Difference

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:** “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (VU 543)

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

**Gracious God, we present our offerings,**

**that they may be used to support the work of the gospel.**

**We offer our varied ministries,**

**that each of us may be part of your response**

**to the needs of the world. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time For All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “In Loving Partnership We Come” (VU 603)

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Herein is wisdom.

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Scripture Reading: John 3:14-21

Herein is good news.

**Thanks be to God**

Special Music: ‘We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)

Sermon: “God So Loved the World”

**\*Hymn:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (VU 333)

Recognition of UCW Ministries

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Prayer Shawls

Life Members and Executive Officers

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**UCW Purpose:**

**To unite women of the Community of Faith for the total mission of the church and to provide a means through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship, and service.**

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” (VU 560)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

**\*UCW Closing Prayer**: (*unison)*

**And now, go with us, God into the days ahead.**

**Strengthen us for peace.**

**Give us wisdom, keep us humble, and may we live and work together,**

**And so striving, build a new and better world for tomorrow. Amen.**

\*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 former members,***

***Marge Dykeman, Mildred Dechman, Maureen Hopkins, Chris Langille, Edna Kent, Lorna Blades, Jean Schmeisser, Reta Saunders,***

***Lillian McDormand, Marguerite Merry, Annette Veinot, Dot Thomas,***

***Ethel Dillon, Barbara Rhodenizer, Marguerite Zwicker, Elizabeth Oickle, Violet Copeland, Magreta Burton, Verna Gass and Gwen Corkum,***

***a gift of Unit 7, UCW.***

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

***and in loving memory of Katherine Cramm, Pat Conrad,***

***Shirley Himmelman, Dianne Hay, Muriel Hubley, Ruth Rudderham***

***and Mildred Jodrie, a gift of Arts and Crafts Unit, UCW.***

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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**

**Lenten Study: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism**

We offer this opportunity to learn and grow in our understanding and faithful response to racism in our church, community and circles of living. Our in-person discussion group will be alternating between Bridgewater United and West Side United on Wednesdays at 7:00pm and a ZOOM discussion session will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. These sessions will continue until March 27th. Be The Change.

**International Women’s Day**

International Women’s Day is observed each year on March 8th. The Thursdays in Black campaign of the World Council of Churches encourages people of faith worldwide to wear black as a sign of our solidarity with the victims and survivors of gender-based violence. The United Church has been participating in Thursdays in Black since 2015. As we journey through Lent, consider what you can do to end violence against women. Your prayers, attention and action make a difference!

**National Affirming/PIE Day**

PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. These are the standards we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we become affirming, welcoming, or inclusive communities. March 14th is a chance to serve some pie and roll out the PIE by celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people in faith communities and beyond.

**Faith Formation Committee Student Letters**

The Faith Formation Committee and B-United would like to remember our students in post-secondary studies with a letter of encouragement during final exams in April. If you know a student that is in studies whether on-site or by virtual classes, please contact the Church Office with their address no later thanMarch 15th. If you would like to support this wonderful Outreach; you can always make a monetary donation to “Student Care Outreach” to help cover the cost. Thank you for your support.

**Welcome To Spring: A Social Gathering for Seniors**

Please see the inserted coloured sheet for MORE information. We request that you RSVP by March 20th to one of the individuals on the bottom of the coloured inserted sheet, so we can have an estimate for the gathering size. Happy Spring!

**Broadview Subscription**

Broadview is an independent Canadian magazine featuring award-winning coverage of spirituality, justice and ethical living. Through their compelling stories and engaging images, Broadview challenges and inspires readers seeking to live a purpose-filled life. Each annual subscription is $30.00, with cheques made out to Bridgewater United, and all subscriptions must be submitted to the Church Office by March 31st.

**Come Together for Holy Week and Easter Services**

Our Maundy Thursday Worship Service will be held at Bridgewater United on March 28th at 7:00pm and our Good Friday Worship Service will be held at West Side United on March 29th at 10:30am. Easter Sunday will include a Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Bell Island with West Side United and Worship with Holy Communion will be at both Bridgewater United and West Side United at 10:30am. Flowers are welcomed.

**UCW Mission and Service Sunday**

Today, we are celebrating UCW Mission and Service Sunday. The UCW of Bridgewater United Church provides a wonderful Outreach to both our church and beyond, and we are so blessed for all their contributions. You will find envelopes on your congregational chairs, and with your help, we can continue to support the wonderful work of the UCW. Make cheques payable to Bridgewater United UCW.

**Supporting Mission and Service Through Lent**

Loving our neighbour and compassion, lies at the heart of generosity. Mission and Service transforms and saves lives, inspires meaning and purpose and helps to build a better world. Mission and Service of the UCC is all about respect. They work in partnership with people and organizations and never impose their solutions, ways of doing things, or belief systems. They aim for long-term solutions over quick fixes.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For March, there is a request for Canned Fruit, Canned Soup, Canned Peas, Boxed Cereal, and Elbow Macaroni. Thank you.

**A Message from your Envelope Steward**

Envelopes allow your church givings to be tallied into a year-end tax receipt. Please contact Tracy Rafuse; *Envelope Steward* at (902) 543-4833 or by email at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca) for more information. With your February letter/tax receipt, you will find an important form (pink paper) to be filled out by all congregational families to help the Church Office update details in our PowerChurch files. Please check off the information you are comfortable with the Church Office releasing to Committees/Ministries of Bridgewater United. This aspect of the form helps us to continue to respect the privacy of all of our congregational members.

**Confirmation Class**

Are you interested in Confirmation class (Grade 8 and up) at B-United? In the United Church of Canada, confirmation means the “confirming” of baptismal vows, which were taken earlier, usually when a person was an infant or a child. Participants who are not yet baptized are also welcome in a confirmation group. Confirmation signifies full membership in the congregation and the UCC. Contact Reverend Neil for details.

**Joining Membership with Bridgewater United Church**

Are you interested in joining the membership of B-United? We will be welcoming new members by Confirmation or Transfer of Membership. Although confirmation takes place at the congregational level, the person is a member of the entire United Church of Canada, not just one congregation; therefore, membership can be transferred freely between congregations. Contact Reverend Neil for details.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*"Don't think about making women fit the world –*

*think about making the world fit women.”*

*~ Gloria Steinem*

**Treasurers’ Report to the Church Congregation**

**for the One-Month Period ending January 31st, 2024**

**Receipts**

Total Local Receipts $ 11,502.00

Trust Receipts

Mission and Service $ 1,060.00

UCW Funds for M&S $

Food Bank Receipts $ 370.00

Faith Formation $ 10.00

Misc. Trust Receipts $ 40.00

Building Use Receipts $ 4,390.00

Radio Broadcast Service $ 400.00

Fundraising Receipts $

UCW Donation $

Misc. Receipts *(overstated bank deposit)* $ 1,440.00

**Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 19,212.00**

**Disbursements**

Total Trust Disbursements $ 1,430.00

West Side/B-United Agreement $ 3,492.00

Total Personnel Expense $ 9,434.00

Total Office & Admin Expense $ 1,718.00

Heating Fuel $ 4,843.00

Lights, Water & Sewer $

Snow Removal & Salting $ 5,001.00

Insurance $ 1,167.00

Floor Maintenance $

Other Premises Expenses $ 259.00

UCC Assessment $

Other Misc. Expenses $ 297.00

**Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 27,641.00**

**Operating Deficit at End of Period**   **($ 8,429.00)**

**Bank Balance**: **$ 132,325.33**

**Note 1:**

Total Receipts and Disbursements does not include Building Fund Receipts or Disbursements and the Memorials to Memorials (if received.) This report is a brief summary of the January 31, 2024 Actual Sage Accounting Income Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Hirtle; *Bridgewater United Church Treasurer*

February 28, 2024

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

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

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