**Bridgewater United Church**

**March 12th, 2023 3rd in Lent**

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

**Greeter:** *Carolyn MacKay* **Greeter:** *Cathy Etter* **Presider:** *Tracy Rafuse*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **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

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 345 VU – Come, Children, Join to Sing**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Chorus: # 18 MV – God, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

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

**In a difficult world, we seek you, O God. We yearn for you. We claim you as our God! You are the Holy One, the Divine Mystery, the Creator and Sustainer of all life. We gather to worship you, O God, to look for your creative Spirit at work, in our lives and in the world around us. We praise you today, for you are worthy to be praised! Nothing can satisfy the longing in our souls but you! We call on you for help. We rely on you for strength. In times of need, we remember who you are, O God, and place our trust in you in all things. Be with us as we meditate upon your holy presence today. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Educating the Ministers of Tomorrow

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: For Creation and The Gift**

***For creation and the gift of Your Love;***

***for the Spirit, present with us as we live.***

***Lord, we thank You, as we give from the fruit of these, our hands,***

***may Your Grace be known by all the gifts we give*.**

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

**Loving God, when we asked for a cup of water, you gave us a fountain. When we asked for living water, you gave us truth. May these gifts we bring, be poured out upon a thirsty world, bringing both comfort and truth. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn:** **# 273 VU – The King of Love (Verses 1, 2, 3 and 6)**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn:** **# 332 VU – The Church’s One Foundation**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

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



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

***and in loving memory of parents, Clifford and Lorna Blades,***

***gift of daughter, Diane Patten.***

**Bridgewater United Church**

**Wants To Stay In Touch With You!**

1. Please pass along your email to the Church Office at 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.



**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 McEwenwestsideunitedchurch@gmail.com (902) 523-5687

Barbara Pate music@bridgewaterunited.ca (902) 830-0708

Church Office E-mail:  info@bridgewaterunited.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**

**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 with 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.

**Be United In Faith Lenten Book Study**

Bridgewater United and West Side United are co-hosting a weekly On-Site Lenten Book Study on the United Church resource, Good Courage: Daily Reflections on Hope, which will alternate between locations. We are also doing the Lenten Study through Zoom. Please contact the Church Office for the Zoom Link.

March 14th, and March 28th hosted at Bridgewater United at 7:00pm

March 21st and April 4th hosted at West Side United at 7:00pm

March 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th via Zoom at 7:00pm

**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. Student Care Letters are created and coordinated with the generous support of our congregation. 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.

**UCW 60th Anniversary and Mission and Service Sunday**

Next Sunday, we will be celebrating UCW’s 60th Anniversary and Mission and Service Sunday. The UCW of B-United provide 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 Mission and Service Fund. Please make cheques payable to Bridgewater United UCW.Your support changes lives! Storm date: April 2nd.

**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 $25.00, with cheques made out to Bridgewater United, and all renewals must be submitted to the Church Office by March 31st.

**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.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are truly blessed to have reflections each week at B-United. Check out March!

March 12th – Reverend Neil McEwen (via Video Sermon and Lay Leadership)

March 19th – Reverend Neil McEwen (UCW Mission and Service Sunday)

March 26th – Reverend Vivian Moores

**Confirmation Class**

Are you interested in Confirmation class (Grade 8 and up) at Bridgewater United Church? 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. Confirmation signifies full membership in the congregation and the United Church of Canada. Contact the Church Office for more information.

**Joining Membership with Bridgewater United Church**

Are you interested in joining the membership of B-United? On Sunday, April 2nd, we will be welcoming new members by Confirmation or Transfer of Membership from another congregation. A full member is one who has been baptized, either as infant, child, youth or adult, and has made a public profession of faith before the congregation. Membership is not required in order to worship at a United Church, but only members can vote at congregational meetings, although members can vote to extend voting privileges to adherents. 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 from congregation to congregation. Contact the Church Office for more information.

**Supporting Mission and Service Through Lent**

Envelopes that are on the seats are to be used for your Mission and Service donations for 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 United Church of Canada 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 because they want to make a lasting difference.

**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, Elbow Macaroni, Pudding, Instant Oatmeal and Cereal. Be mindful of expiration.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“True silence is the rest of the mind, and is to the spirit,*

*what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment.”*

*~ William Penn*

***“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 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. 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)**



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