**Bridgewater United Church**

**March 17th, 2024 Fifth in Lent**

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

**Organist and Pianist**: *Walter Delahunt*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Walker* **Sound Engineer:** *Liam Wamboldt*

**Greeter:** *Marion Demond* **Greeter:** *Karen Crouse*

*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****:**

God has called us to this place.

**To worship and rejoice.**

God has called us to this place.

**To learn and know.**

God has called us to this place.

**To be formed and grow.**

God has called us to this place.

**To worship with all our hearts, minds and spirits.**

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

**Awesome God, out of nothing you created the universe;**

**out of dust you made us, your people.**

**We shake our heads in wonder**

**that you moulded each of us in your image,**

**that you call us by name and claim us.**

**With the law and love on our hearts,**

**guide us as we live as your people. Amen**

**\*Hymn:** “Great Shepherd of Your People” (VU 398) (Tune: 344 VU)

Your Generosity Matters: Affirming/PIE Day; Moderator Carmen Lansdowne

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:** “As Those of Old Their First-fruits Brought” (VU 518)

(Verses 1 and 3)

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

**You have written your promises on our hearts, faithful God. As we learn your words of love for us, may we continue to give our whole selves to serving you. Bless what we offer today – gifts of our lives and our labour. We pray this through the one who gave his very self for us, Jesus, your beloved. Amen.**

Learning Together

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (VU 382)

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 51:1-12

God, I call to you for help;

**in your mercy, hear my prayer.**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

May God’s Blessings be upon these words of scripture,

and upon our hearts, as we reflect on them in faithful meditation.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: “A Sanctuary for God”

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “Let All Things Now Living” (VU 242)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

\*Blessing 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, Clifford and Lorna Blades,***

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

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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**

**BUD Online Ministries**

We continue to provide Online Video Worship Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and Online Audio Podcast Messages on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays. The Audio Podcasts are Scripture and Reflections from our B-United On-Site Worship Services.

**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 will alternate between Bridgewater United and West Side United on Wednesdays at 7:00pm and a ZOOM discussion will be held on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

**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, so we can have an estimate for the gathering size. Happy Spring!

**Easter Egg Hunt in the Sanctuary**

All youth are asked to meet in the Chapel at 9:45am on Easter Sunday, March 31st, for an Easter Egg Hunt in the Sanctuary. Come and join us for some fun and treats!

**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.

**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.

**Rose Cousins in Concert: A Gary Lohnes Event**

Enjoy a wonderful evening of music with Rose Cousins in Concert in support of Second Story Women's Centre at Bridgewater United Church on April 27th at 8:00pm. Doors open at 7:00pm. Advance Tickets Only. Reserve Seating: $40.00. General Admission: $35.00. All tickets can be purchased by contacting Gary Lohnes; Event Coordinator at garylohnes@bellaliant.net or by phone at (902) 688-2447.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp 60th Anniversary Homecoming**

Join Sherbrooke Lake Camp from August 2nd – 4th, as they host a big homecoming event to welcome folks back to Sherbrooke Lake Camp in celebration of 60 years of friendship, faith and fun! This weekend event will offer some of your Sherbrooke Lake Camp favourites, from campfires to candle lighting! We're also excited to have some live music to help us celebrate on Saturday This is a family-friendly event. Visit <https://www.sherbrookelakecamp.org/> for more information about the event.

**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.

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

Created as a response to the killing of 69 protesters at a peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has been observed around the world every year on March 21st since 1966. To lament is to express sorrow and grief. To lament is to weep, to sob, to wail in the face of injustice. To lament is to mourn what has been lost and to express regret for wrongs done. During these 40 days of Lent, we are invited to lament the deep harm inflicted upon the First Peoples of Canada through the imposition of Western ways and culture, through the residential schools, and through continuing stereotypes and racism. In lamenting, we open the path for reconciliation and healing that will bring wholeness and well-being to all the peoples.

**Send A Kid To Camp**

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if every child could have an opportunity to go to a United Church Camp? Kids need camp more today than ever before. It's a place for kids to be themselves, to learn new skills, unplug, develop independence and meet friends. To attend a week of camp, it costs $435.00. Please consider donating to “Send a Child to Camp,” as all funds raised will help youth of B-United attend camp this summer.

**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.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“It’s impossible, said pride. It’s risky, said experience.*

*It’s pointless, said reason. Give it a try, whispered the heart.”*

*~ Anonymous*

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

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