**Bridgewater United Church**

**March 24th, 2024 Palm Sunday**

**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:** *Karen Townsend* **Greeter:** *Linda Rowter*

*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****:**

Shout for joy, people of God; rejoice and sing praise!

**Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in God’s name!**

God’s love is revealed to us in the faithfulness of Jesus,

who was faithful, even to death on a cross.

**Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in God’s name!**

Look, the Christ comes to you, humble and riding on a donkey.

**Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in God’s name!**

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

**God our Hope, today we joyfully acclaim Jesus our Christ.**

**Where our hosannas are empty and misguided, forgive us.**

**Help us to honour Christ every day,**

**that we may celebrate your reign in a new Jerusalem,**

**and live with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** “All Glory, Laud and Honour” (VU 122)

Your Generosity Matters: Easter Message; 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:** “Grant Us, God, the Grace” (VU 540)

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

**Generous God, we see your presence in Jesus, giving all you have.**

**We thank you for this witness to the power of your love.**

**Help us to be faithful in our response:**

**that we may walk through Holy Week**

**and live our lives in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Learning Together: A Time for All Ages

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** “Sanna, Sannanina\*” (VU 128)

*\* Sannanina is an African version of Hosanna*

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29

Herein is wisdom,

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-11

Herein is good news,

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: “Is this The One?”

**\*Hymn:** “Fairest Lord Jesus” (VU 341)

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** “In Suffering Love” (VU 614)

\*Extinguishing The Candles

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

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

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

***and in loving memory of parents, Kay and Russell Taylor***

***and Pat and Neil Walker, a gift of Linda and David Walker.***

***The March church radio broadcast is given to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of my parents, Reverend Douglas and Verna Gass,***

***a gift of daughter, Debby Gass.***

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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.

**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.

**Youth@Region**

Youth@Region is a place of community and a place of faith where United Church youth, between grade 6 and grade 12, meet from across Nova Scotia and Bermuda. It takes place during the Annual Meeting of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council (BNS), which is a gathering of representatives who make decisions and set policies for the United Church of Canada, held this year from May 10th – 12th, at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (Truro, NS.) The group creates an inclusive, diverse and safe community for youth in the name of Christ. We provide a place for youth to explore their faith and to learn more about the United Church of Canada while sharing in music, worship and fun in a spirit-filled community. The Faith Formation Committee will help assist with registration fees for youth who would like to attend to this event!

**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.

**Stay In Touch With Bridgewater United!**

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 closures. Check out our website at www.bridgewaterunited.ca for information about our Church, event calendar, worship services and so much more. 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, Facebook and the church voicemail stating the cancellation by 9:00am on Sunday. Stay in touch with your Church Community!

**Why Volunteer?**

Here at B-United, we are always looking for volunteers during our Worship Service as well as on Committees/Ministries of Bridgewater United Church. Taking the first step to see what volunteering is all about, is the toughest part, but in the end, the rewards are endless. Not only do you get to use your own gifts to help others, but you may also build new skills as you go along. Volunteering allows you to meet new people, and build a strong fellowship within your Church Community. Take some time and think about the various volunteer portions of our Worship Services; Greeter, Sound Engineer, Audio Visual Engineer, Scripture Reader, Offering Counter and Sunday School Volunteer. All of these are important to the growth of our church, so think where your talents and gifts can be offered, and speak to our Ministry Team today or reach out to us by email at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:info@bridgewaterunited.ca).

**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**

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 allows us to continue to respect the privacy of all of our congregational members.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Courage is the ladder on which*

*all the other virtues mount.”*

*~ Clare Boothe Luce*

***“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.*

**Treasurers’ Report to the Church Congregation**

**for the Two-Month Period ending February 29, 2024**

**Receipts**

Total Local Receipts $ 22,296.00

Trust Receipts

Mission and Service $ 1,755.00

Scouting Sunday Funds $ 245.00

Food Bank Receipts $ 615.00

Faith Formation Funds $ 10.00

Misc. Trust Receipts $

Building Use Receipts $ 10,275.00

Radio Broadcast Service $ 1,450.00

Fundraising Receipts $

UCW Donation $

Misc. Receipts $ 40.00

**Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 36,686.00**

**Disbursements**

Total Trust Disbursements $ 2,370.00

West Side/B-United Agreement $ 6,985.00

Total Personnel Expense $ 19,391.00

Total Office & Admin Expense $ 3,981.00

Heating Fuel $ 10,824.00

Lights, Water & Sewer $ 1,955.00

Snow Removal & Salting $ 7,926.00

Insurance $ 2,334.00

Floor Maintenance $

Other Premises Expenses $ 451.00

UCC Assessment $

Other Misc. Expenses $ 655.00

**Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 56,872.00**

**Operating Deficit at End of Period**   **$ 20,186.00**

**Bank and GIC Balance**: **$ 117,662.74**

**Note 1:**

Total Receipts and Disbursements does not include Building Fund Receipts or Disbursements, Memorials to Memorials and the B.U.C. Brigade Mission Fund Transactions. This report is a brief summary of the February 29, 2024 Actual Sage Accounting Income Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Hirtle; *Bridgewater United Church Treasurer*

March 22, 2024

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