**Bridgewater United Church**

**March 26th, 2023 5th in Lent**

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

**Guest Minister:** *Reverend Vivian Moores* **Presider:** *Ewart Morse*

**Greeter:** *Jane Martin* **Greeter:** *Joanne Johnson*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Moran* **Sound Engineer:** *Shelley Moran*

*The asterisk (\*) indicates the congregation may stand, as they are able.*

*The print in* ***BOLD*** *is where the congregation participates.*

Prelude

**\*Gathering Hymn:** **# 703 VU – In the Bulb There Is a Flower**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Call To Worship:**

Today, during our worship, we continue to journey with Jesus.

**A journey from the wilderness,**

**to the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane.**

While in the Garden, the disciples failed to stay alert and pray,

Judas betrayed and ALL the disciples scattered and fled.

**We now arrive at the trial of Jesus before the High Priest,**

**and notice Peter in the courtyard.**

In witnessing Peter's words and actions,

let us reflect upon our own faith journey with Christ.

Let us worship God together.

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

Opening Prayer

Your Generosity Matters: Calling for a Guaranteed Livable Income for All

Offering our Thanks

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

(Tune: # 161 MV - I Have Called You by Your Name)

***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*.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Centring Hymn: # 382 VU – Breathe on Me, Breath of God**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 16:13-19

Gospel Scripture Reading: Luke 22:54-62

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message: “The Words You Can’t Take Back!”

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\*Closing Hymn: # 586 VU – We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection**

Extinguishing The Candles

**Commissioning:** (*unison)*

**As we draw closer to the cross, we see in the shadows of our own lives where we have been a Judas, a Peter or like another disciple. Times when there has been an opportunity to be identified as a follow of Jesus . . . but we have weakened our discipleship under the circumstances around us. May the forgiveness and faithfulness of our Lord Jesus, be our inspiration and motivation. May the power of God's Holy Spirit be our source of strength – as we go forth into another week. Amen.**

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,***

***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,***

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

**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**

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For April, there is a request for Canned Fruit, Elbow Macaroni, Pudding, Instant Oatmeal and Cereal. Be mindful of expiration.

**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 $375.00. Please consider donating to “Send a Child to Camp,” as all funds raised will help youth of B-United attend camp this summer.

**3rd Bridgewater Scouts Seed Fundraiser**

3rd Bridgewater Scouts are participating in the 2023 Scout Seeds Fundraiser until April 30th with proceeds going to support their ongoing activities. They are selling multiple flower, herb and vegetable seed collections ranging in price from $10 to $20. Each collection contains 5-10 seed packages. Seeds will be shipped directly to your home at a cost of $2.50 per seed collection ordered. If you have any questions, please contact Tobias Benne at tobi.565@gmail.com or call (902) 685-2798. Thank you.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Do you like to knit or crochet? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for more volunteers to take part in this wonderful Outreach. Prayer Shawls provide comfort to those dealing with a personal struggle. Please contact Diane at (902) 543-4330.

**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 28th hosted at Bridgewater United at 7:00pm

April 4th hosted at West Side United at 7:00pm

March 29th and April 5th via Zoom at 7:00pm

**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 and are to be submitted by March 31st.

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

Our Maundy Thursday Worship Service will be held at West Side United on April 6th at 7:00pm and our Good Friday Worship Service will be held at Bridgewater United on April 7th at 10:30am. Easter Sunday will include a Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Bell Island with West Side United, please contact Reverend Neil McEwen for directions. Easter Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion will be at both Bridgewater United and West Side United at 10:30am. Flowers are welcomed.

**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.

**Guest Minister – Reverend Vivian Moores**

We are so blessed to have Reverend Vivian Moores (retired June 2021) sharing in Worship with us today. She presently lives in Rose Bay. As part of her seminary requirements, she was a student under Reverend Paul Cumming (1983) at Bridgewater United Church. Graduating from the Atlantic School of Theology (1984) and ordained (1985), she has served on the Brooklyn Pastoral Charge, Riverport Pastoral Charge and Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge over thirty-seven years of Ministry. She is passionate about her faith and enjoys every opportunity to worship and fellowship with others as part of the Body of Christ. Please be sure to say Hello.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

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

April 2nd (10:30am) – Reverend Neil McEwen (Palm Sunday)

April 6th (7:00pm) – B-United worships at West Side United (Maundy Thursday)

April 7th (10:30am) – Reverend Neil McEwen (Good Friday)

April 9th (10:30am) – Reverend Dr. Wayne Smith (Easter with Holy Communion)

April 16th (10:30am) – Reverend Neil McEwen

April 23rd (10:30am) – Reverend Vivian Moores

April 30th (10:30am) – B-United worships at West Side United

**Important Notice from the Envelope Steward**

A Comparative Report was provided last week as a monthly outlook of our financial stability at Bridgewater United. Due to a miscommunication, this was not to be a Comparative Report but rather a Two-Month Report with the period ending February 28th, 2023. Please find on page three of these announcements, the correct Two-Month Treasurer’s Report to the Congregation. I am terribly sorry for any confusion this may have caused. Please be reminded, that your support to Bridgewater United is needed each week. With a dependable flow of contributions, it helps our Church’s Ministry, to increase our overall financial stability. Thank you.

**Supporting Mission and Service Through Lent**

Envelopes in the Narthex are to be used for your Mission and Service donations for Lent. 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. Aiming for long-term solutions over quick fixes because they want to make a lasting difference.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Think twice before you speak, because your words and influence,*

*will plant the seed of either success or failure in the mind of another.”*

*~ Napoleon Hill*

***“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.*

**Treasurers’ Report to the Church Congregation**

**for the Two-Month Period ending February 28, 2023**

**Receipts**  **February 2023**

 Total Local Receipts $ 34,259.00

 Trust Receipts

 Mission and Service $ 3,230.00

 UCW Funds for M&S $ -

 Food Bank Receipts $ 1,190.00

 Disaster Relief $ -

 Misc. Trust Receipts $ 230.00

 Building Use Receipts $ 10,325.00

 Fundraising Receipts $ -

 Misc. Receipts $ 778.00

 **Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 50,012.00**

**Disbursements**

 Total Trust Disbursements $ 4,420.00

 West Side/B-United Agreement $ 6,300.00

 Total Personnel Expense $ 14,008.00

 Total Office & Admin Expense $ 2,184.00

 Heating Fuel $ 12,331.00

 Lights, Water & Sewer $ 1,843.00

 Snow Removal & Salting $ 5,249.00

 Insurance $ 2,228.00

 Floor Maintenance $ -

 Other Premises Expenses $ 2,403.00

 UCC Assessment $ 2,678.00

 Other Misc. Expenses $ 318.00

 **Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 53,962.00**

**Operating (Deficit) at End of Period**   **($ 3,950.00)**

**Bank Balance**: $ 99,739.38

**Note 1:** Total Receipts and Disbursements does not include Building Fund Receipts or Disbursements and the B.U.C. Brigade Mission Fund Transactions.

This report is a brief summary of the 2023 Actual Sage Accounting Income Statement and includes a significant one-time Bequest.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Hirtle; *Bridgewater United Church Treasurer*

March 17, 2023