**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United West Side United New West Pine United Caledonia Pastoral Charge St. Andrews-St. Marks United**

**March 5th, 2023 2nd in Lent Annual Meeting Sunday**

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

**Greeter:** *Joy Bird* **Greeter:** *Diane Patten* **Student Minister:** *Donna Kelly*

**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

**\*Hymn:** **# 663 VU – My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

Welcome and Announcements

**Invitation to Worship:**

Greetings, may peace, love and gratitude surround us.

**We come to celebrate God’s presence.**

We come to remember Jesus’ ministry

**and how we are called as disciples.**

We come to embrace the Spirit

**and be guided in ways of faith, justice and hope.**

God, Jesus and Spirit are among us

**so let us worship this day.**

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**A New Creed (1968) – page 918 VU**

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

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

**As we worship, we look behind and witness what we have done, and our hearts are filled with gratitude. We look around us and see those who share their journey of faith and appreciate the gifts each one shares. We look forward to the days before us, with hope, trusting in your presence to guide us. Over our heads, beneath our feet, within our hearts, you are here. Thank you, God. Bless our worship, our discerning, our conversations and our meeting. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: PIE Day 2023; Moderator Carmen Lansdowne

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering Our Gifts of Ministry in 2022**

**Hymn: # 595 VU – We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)**

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 – Gifts of Thanksgiving

Church Council – page 16

Regional Council 15 – page 16

Ministry and Personnel Committee – page 17

A Moment of Silence in Honour and Remembrance

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:18-22 – Call of Discipleship

Board of Trustees – page 18

Memorial Ministry – page 18

Ministerial Team – page 19 -21

Our Discipleship Lived Out

Faith Formation Committee – page 22-23

Pastoral Care Ministry – page 25

District Representative Outreach Ministry – page 26

**\*Hymn: # 260 VU – God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness**

Finance and Stewardship Committee – page 27

Ways and Means Ministry – page 29

Property Committee – page 40

Redevelopment Committee – page 40

Reading: Women Disciples: A Valued Ministry

United Church Women – page 41

Prayer Shawl Ministry – page 43

Coffee, Tea and Conversation – page 43

Greeters – page 43

Special Ushering – page 43

Reading: I Celebrate the Church of Jesus *by Ann Weems*

Radio Broadcast Ministry – page 44

Be United Digital Ministries – page 44

Reading: When *by Joyce Rupp*

Bridgewater Day Care Centre – page 45

3rd Bridgewater Scout Group Committee – page 56

Universal Cheer Club – page 56

Bridgewater Inter-Church Council – page 57

Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank – page 57

B.U.C. Brigade Mission Trip – page 58

**We Respond**

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*.**

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

**Dear God, accept the gifts we offer to support Your work throughout the world. We offer our words, talents, time and treasures. Receive our gifts and the words of our Ministry. May all that we offer be transformed into messages filled with Your love. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: # 150 MV – Spirit God, Be our Breath**

Extinguishing The Candles

**We Live The Story**

All Purpose Break - A time to get a coffee/tea, a few cookies and to attend to our personal needs as we prepare to move into the Business portion of our Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting – All are encouraged and welcomed to stay and participate.

**Closing Prayer**: (*unison)*

**God of many blessings and abundant gifts, You call us to ventures, which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go with courage, not knowing where we go, but only what Your hand is leading us, and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

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

***and in loving memory of friends and loved ones,***

***gift of Marion and Ted Browne and family.***

***The March church website is presented to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of Ian MacKinnon, gift of his family.***

**Bridgewater United Church**

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

1. Please pass along your email to the Church Office at [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto: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.

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**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 McEwen[westsideunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:westsideunitedchurch@gmail.com) (902) 523-5687

Barbara Pate [music@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:music@bridgewaterunited.ca) (902) 830-0708

Church Office E-mail:  [info@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:buc@tallships.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**

**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 5th – Reverend Neil McEwen (Annual Congregational Meeting)

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. Participants who are not yet baptized are also welcome in a confirmation group. Baptism is included prior to the act of confirmation for them. Confirmation involves exploring, affirming, and claiming the Christian faith as one’s own, in a journey that is both individual and part of a group. Confirmation is a time when we publicly declare our intention to live in Christ and practice our faith within the life and fellowship of the church. 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, and many who regularly attend worship are adherents rather than members. In order to become a full member, a person goes through a process called "confirmation". This is offered to adults (starting at around age 13) and usually involves a series of classes about the beliefs of the United Church. Following this, the candidate makes a public profession of faith before the congregation, thereby "confirming" the statements made by his or her parents during baptism. If the person is unbaptized, the minister baptizes the person before the profession of faith. The new member's name is then entered on the official Roll of Members for that congregation. 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.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present."*

*~ Albert Camus*

**Get to Know B-United – Stained Glass Windows**

The two traditional stained glass windows on the west wall of the Church were removed from the former Grace Methodist Church when it was demolished in 1972 and were incorporated into the new Sanctuary, opened in 1974. They were both restored and re-leaded in the mid-90’s. “The Good Shepherd,” stained glass window was restored in 1995. The representation of Jesus Christ as Shepherd of the sheep is one of the most beloved images in the Christian faith. The shepherd takes total responsibility for the sheep, making sure there is sufficient food and water, offering protection from predators, leading them to pasture, and rescuing those who wander off. *“Lord, thou hast here thy ninety and nine; are they not enough for thee? But the Shepherd made answer: This of mine, has wandered away from me. And altho’ the road be rough and steep I go to the desert to find my sheep, I go to the desert to find my sheep.” ~ Elizabeth C. Clephane*. “The Good Shepherd,” was given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of R.C. Durling.The restoration of the window was given in memory of Clifford R. Blades (August 1922 – June 1995.)

*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.” ~ John 10:14-15*

*“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”* *~ Psalm 23:1*

**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.

**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.

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

March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th via Zoom at 7:00pm

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