**Bridgewater United Church**

**May 14th, 2023 6th of Easter**

**Christian Family Sunday Rural Life Sunday**

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

**Presider:** *David Walker* **Musical Guest:** *Patricia Watson*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Tracy Rafuse* **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: Deep in Our Hearts *sung by Patricia Watson*

Prelude: We Are Marching (Siyahamba) *sung by Patricia Watson*

**\*Hymn:** **# 333 VU – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

Come to this place with open minds and open hearts.

**We leave our prejudices at the door and open ourselves to God’s spirit.**

This is a place where we look deep within ourselves,

**prepared to let the Spirit shape us into the people God calls us to be.**

Come and prepare to be changed.

**With every whisper of God, we are transformed.**

Let us worship God, as we come together.

Amen. **Amen.**

**Chorus: Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place**

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

**Wise and Loving God, you are the one who guides us, counsels us, and teaches us. We open our hearts and minds to your presence, which permeates all of creation. You are known by many names, Counsellor, Advocate, and Spirit of Truth, but you are one Holy Spirit. You are like the glowing embers of a fire that has long since been lit. Even exposed to the rain and wind, you continue to burn steadily. We come before you, humbled by your presence, willing to follow your lead, and listening to your small still voice. Amen.**

Special Music: Blessed Assurance *sung by Patricia Watson*

Your Generosity Matters: Making a Home for Refugees

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 218 VU – We Praise You, O God – Verse 1**

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

**O God of unending and faithful provision, accept these portions of our bounty blessed with our gratitude and willingness to share. May these gifts be consecrated for your purposes. Amen.**

Time with Children

The Lord’s Prayer *sung by Patricia Watson*

**Hymn: # 44 MV – Shadow and Substance**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Acts 17:22-29

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Special Music: My Body, My Temple of God *sung by Patricia Watson*

Prayers of the Community

**\* Hymn: # 343 VU – I Love to Tell the Story**

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 my mother, Greta Lohnes***

***and my mother-in-law, Myrtle Hebb, gift of Elsie Hebb.***



**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**

**No Mow May**

Gardeners are being urged to put lawnmowers down this May and let bee-friendly wildflowers grow instead. The Rafuse’s wanted you to be aware of this initiative in case you were wondering why some dandelions were popping up in the Church yard.

**Volunteers for Worship at Bridgewater United**

We are always looking for volunteers for Worship. This could be a Lay Leader, a Presider, a Scripture Reader, a Greeter or an Audio Visual or Sound Engineer. They all provide an essential service to our Worship. Contact the Church Office.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For May, there is a request for Canned Baked Beans, Juice, Baby Food, Flour (2lb) and Canned Ravioli. Be mindful of expiration.

**Pieces of Motherhood: A Celebration in Song**

The South Shore Chorale presents an afternoon of music with Amelia McMahon; *Artistic Director*, Sharon Gow-Knickle; *Collaborative Pianist* and special guests, MIRTH. Sunday, May 14th at Central United; Lunenburg at 2:00pm. $20 and $10 for students.

**B-United Youth Group**

All youth in Grade 6 to Grade 12 are asked to join us on Friday, May 19th from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Use the entrance by the Church Office. We will be cleaning up the front yard and painting the Picnic Tables. Wear clothing that can get dirty and stained.

**Music from the East and West**

The Bridgewater Fire Department Band is delighted to welcome the Band of the Calgary (AB) Fire Service, the "Cappy Smart Band" to Nova Scotia as they share in a Spring Concert at Bridgewater United Church on May 21st from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Donations at the door, either monetary for the ongoing work of the Bridgewater Fire Department Band or items for the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank.

**Seaside A Cappella ChoirFest 2023**

The Seaside A Cappella Choir will be a hosting a ChoirFest on May 27th at 2:00pm at Bridgewater United Church. The event will include twelve choirs/musicians from the local area. An afternoon of wonderful songs. $10 at the door. Cash only.

**Youth@Region**

Y@R is a place of community and a place of faith where United Church youth, between grade 6 and 12, meet from across Nova Scotia and Bermuda. It takes place during the Annual Meeting of Regional Council 15 (RC15), June 9th – 11th at Mount Saint Vincent University. Registration fee assistance is available.

**B-United Church Picnic and Fellowship**

Following Worship on June 11th, we will be having a picnic and fellowship outside by our picnic tables supporting by the Faith Formation Committee. There will be entertainment, food, drinks and a time to gather among friends. Please let the Church Office know by June 1st if you will be in attendance, so we can plan for enough food.

**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.

**Musical Guest: Patricia Watson**

Since retiring, Patricia has been involved in singing at various churches, music festivals and theatres. She has a love for jazz, gospel music and theatre, Patricia Watson entertains superbly by exciting one’s imagination and simultaneously soothing the soul. She sings with The Patricia Watson Quintet, Ocean Blue Quartet and Seaside A Cappella Chorus. Patricia is the chair of the Bridgewater Anti-Racism Task Force. She is the Co-Director of the Wisdom of the Heart Study group which has been meeting since 2003 in the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Patricia volunteers to read, online, to the second-grade class at New Ross Consolidated School. Patricia is a graduate of Antioch University. She received her license as a Practitioner (spiritual coach) in 2004 from the Centers for Spiritual Living.

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

May 14th – Reverend Neil McEwen (via Video) with musical guest, Patricia Watson

May 21st – Reverend Neil McEwen

May 28th – Reverend Vivian Moores with musical guest, Terra Lee Kelly

**May is Asian Heritage Month**

In May, we celebrate Asian heritage in The United Church of Canada. Chinese and Japanese congregations took part in church union; strong Korean and Filipino communities have taken shape since. The Very Rev. Sang Chul Lee became the church's first Moderator of Asian heritage in 1988. The intercultural vitality of the church continues to expand today, including through mutual recognition of ministries with The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). In Korean, the idiom of having a “wet heart” means to be overcome with emotion.

*Caring God, thank you for your blessings in our life. Your love overflows and wets our hearts. We also share what we received by you, and hope this offering wets the hearts of others with love. Amen.*

**International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia**

The International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia takes place around the world on May 17th. This day emphasizes that homophobia, transphobia, and biphobia are still the reality in the daily lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans members of our communities. It was not until 1990 that homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder by the World Health Organization. Still, more than one-third of all countries criminalize same-sex relationships. LGBTQ2S+ people face prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility, violence. This year’s theme is “Together always: united in diversity.” Learn more at <https://affirmunited.ause.ca/>.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*‘In the stillness of the mind, I saw myself as I am – unbound.”*

*~ Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj*

***“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 Three-Month Period ending March 31, 2023**

**Receipts**

 Total Local Receipts $ 47,593.00

 Trust Receipts

 Mission and Service $ 4,150.00

 UCW Funds for M&S $ -

 Food Bank Receipts $ 1,620.00

 Disaster Relief $ -

 Misc. Trust Receipts $ 390.00

 Building Use Receipts $ 15,412.00

 Fundraising Receipts $ 470.00

 Misc. Receipts $ 1,322.00

 **Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 70,957.00**

**Disbursements**

 Total Trust Disbursements $ 5,760.00

 West Side/B-United Agreement $ 9,450.00

 Total Personnel Expense $ 21,452.00

 Total Office & Admin Expense $ 4,604.00

 Heating Fuel $ 16,760.00

 Lights, Water & Sewer $ 2,176.00

 Snow Removal & Salting $ 7,551.00

 Insurance $ 3,342.00

 Floor Maintenance $ -

 Other Premises Expenses $ 3,036.00

 UCC Assessment $ 2,678.00

 Other Misc. Expenses $ 703.00

 **Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 77,512.00**

**Operating (Deficit) at End of Period**   **($ 6,555.00)**

**Bank Balance**: **$ 101,621.46**

**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*

April 23, 2023