**Bridgewater United Church**

**May 21st, 2023 7th of Easter**

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

**Greeter:** *Joy Bird* **Greeter:** *Joanne Johnson*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Randall Knox*

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

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

Prelude: When a Poor One

Prelude: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness – Verses 1, 2 and 4

**\*Hymn:** **# 646 VU – We Are Marching (Siyahamba)**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

With a welcome heart, we shine.

**With a joyful heart, we sing.**

With a happy heart, we laugh.

**With a loving heart, we grow.**

With a dancing heart, we delight.

**With unified hearts, we worship.**

**Chorus: # 381 VU – Spirit of Life**

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

**God of enduring promise, you know our hearts and minds. Fill us with your thoughts and right action according to your design. Help us to be loving and kind. We know that you speak and journey with us, as we listen for your wisdom now and in the days to come. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Affirming Gender and Sexuality are Gifts from God

Offering our Thanks

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



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

**God of enduring promise and radical generosity. You make yourself known to us through the many blessings we have received. May our lives and our faithful witness be filled with the same promise and generosity you bestow upon us. Guide our hearts in our giving and sharing and bless the gifts we offer. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 702 VU – When a Poor One**

Gospel Scripture Reading: John 17:1-11

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

**\* Hymn: # 221 MV – I Am Walking a Path of Peace**

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 Betty Blades, Ford Robar,***

***Margory Crouse, Caroll Crouse and Hubert Burrill,***

***gift of Diane Patten.***



**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.

**B-United Grads of 2023**

The Church Office is looking for names of students who are graduating in 2023, whether it is from high school or post-secondary education. Please contact the Church Office by June 1st, so we can organize the information that is needed.

**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. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for you to add your name too. Thank you in advance.

**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.

**Music from the East and West**

The Bridgewater Fire Department Band and the Band of the Calgary (AB) Fire Service, the "Cappy Smart Band" will share in a concert at B-United TODAY from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Donations at the door, either monetary for the Bridgewater Fire Department Band or a food bank item 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 June 9th – 11th at Mount Saint Vincent University. Registration assistance is available.

**B-United Church Picnic and Fellowship**

We invite all from Bridgewater United, West Side United, New West Pine United, Caledonia Pastoral Charge and St. Andrews-St. Marks United to join in a time of fellowship on June 11th following Worship. There will be entertainment with Stewart Franck, food and cold drinks. The Faith Formation Committee will be catering this event, so we are asking that all that plan to attend, to contact the Church Office by June 1st, so we can have enough food for the event. Bring a lawn chair if you can!

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Never say you are alone, for you are not alone,*

*your God and your genius are within.”*

*~ Epictetus*

**Worship at Bridgewater United**

May 21st (10:30am) - Reverend Neil McEwen

May 28th (10:30am) - Reverend Vivian Moores with musical guest, Terra Lee Kelly

June 4th (10:30am) - Reverend Neil McEwen with musical guest, Charlotte Brooks

June 11th (10:30am) - Youth of B-United with musical guest, Terra Lee Kelly

June 18th (10:30am) - Reverend Neil McEwen with musical guest, Terra Lee Kelly

June 25th (10:30am) - Bridgewater United worshipping at West Side United

**Get To Know B-United – Church Council**

The Manual of the United Church of Canada (UCC) sets out a requirement for each Pastoral Charge (PC) to have a formal governing body. The governing body is the court of the PC, one of three levels of courts within the United Church and is the principle decision making body for the (PC). Bridgewater United Church (BUC), a Pastoral Charge of the UCC, has established a Church Council as its governing body; as such, the Council is the court of BUC. All activities of the Bridgewater Pastoral Charge shall be carried out by, or organized through, the Church Council and its Committees or Ministries. Any responsibilities not otherwise assigned shall be the responsibility of the Church Council. The ex officio voting members are the Past Council Chairperson; Church Council Treasurer; a Lay Regional Council 15 Representative; and the Chairpersons, or their appointee, for Ministry and Personnel Committee, Board of Trustees, Faith Formation Committee, Pastoral Care Ministry, Finance and Stewardship Committee, Property Committee, Worship and Inclusivity Committee and a representative from the United Church Women. The members of Church Council Executive: Elizabeth Burridge; *Church Council Chairperson*, Audrey Wamboldt; *Church Council Vice-Chairperson*, Edna Matheson; *Church Council Secretary*,Richard Greek; *Finance and Stewardship Committee Chairperson*, Blake Hirtle; *Church Council Treasurer*, Sam Elsworth; *Ministry and Personnel Committee Chairperson*,David Walker; *Past Church Council Chairperson* andRev. Neil McEwen; *Minister.*

**Get To Know B-United – Board of Trustees**

The congregation appoints a Board of Trustees, including a Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, which shall be governed by the policy and guidelines set forth in the Manual. A majority of the Trustees must be members of the United Church. The Trustees are responsible for holding all congregational property for the congregation as part of the United Church; this includes land, buildings, funds and investments, and any other kind of property. The Trustees must give the same care and attention to congregational property as a reasonable person would give to their own property. In consultation with the Property Committee, the Board of Trustees recommends to Church Council appropriate property and liability insurance coverage levels. The Trustees must comply with all decisions about congregational property that are made by the Church Council, or Regional Council 15, and all other United Church requirements for Trustees and congregational property. **The Board of Trustees require three members immediately, which include the positions of Treasurer and Secretary**. Please contact the Church Office at (902) 543-4833 if this Ministry is calling you. We will redirect you to Brian Buck; *Board of Trustees’ Chairperson*.

***“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](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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_