**Be United Communities of Faith**

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

**May 7th, 2023 5th of Easter Mental Health Sunday**

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

**Greeter:** *Karen Townsend* **Greeter:** *Diane Patten*

**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:** **# 331 VU – The Church’s One Foundation**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus Video: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

In some parts of the world, today feels like spring.

In some parts of the world, today feel like summer.

And in some places, it feels like autumn and in other places winter.

**We worship the God of new life, growth, harvest and rest.**

We worship the God that is with us around the globe and here in this place.

**We worship the God of all seasons.**

**Chorus: You Are My All in All**

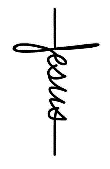
**Opening Prayer:** (*unison)*

**Guide us in our worship, Holy Spirit. As we hear words of love and challenge, move through us to act upon them. As we sing praises, may our hearts be lightened. Inspire us to reconnect with you in ways we never imagined possible; to be changed because we have been here to worship our God. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: The Moose Hide Campaign

Offering our Thanks

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



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

**We abide in you, God, and offer you, our lives. You use even what is pruned for the growth of your reign. We bring the first fruits of our lives, the first fruits of our vines to you today. We offer them with reverence and awe for the good of your reign. May you use them in ways that bear good fruit. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 670 VU – Precious Lord, Take My Hand**

Gospel Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Time to Reflect

Prayers of the Community

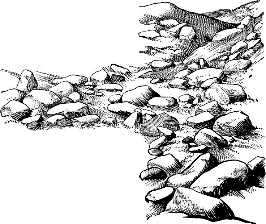
**\*Song: Shine, Jesus Shine**

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 Reverend Reuben and Anna Humby***

***and Herb and Olive Ritcey, gift of Sam and Dale Elsworth.***

***The May Church website is given to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of parents; sister, Florence Gardner***

***and niece, Lynn Brush, gift of Ivan and Shirley Rodenhiser.***

**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**

**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. Saturday, May 13th at St. Paul’s Lutheran; Bridgewater at 2:00pm and Sunday, May 14th at Central United; Lunenburg at 2:00pm. Tickets available at Buchanan’s Music, Kinley Pharmacy and Pharmasave. $20 and $10 for students.

**An Evening of Original Music**

“An Evening of Original Music” with Paul Buchanan, Stephen Dicks, Sandy Now and Danny Pink, presented by Trinity United Church in association with Hemford Hill Music. The concert will be at Trinity United; Mahone Bay on Friday, May 19th at 7:30pm (Doors open 7:00pm.) Pay what you can. Refreshments at intermission.

**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 and refreshments. If it rains, we will move into the C.E. Centre for fellowship.

**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**

May 7th – Be United Communities of Faith – Reverend Neil McEwen

May 14th – Reverend Neil McEwen (via Video Sermon and Lay Leadership)

May 21st – Reverend Neil McEwen

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

**Red Dress Day**

Red Dress Day was on May 5th. Red Dress Day honours the memories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across Canada. Métis artist Jaime Black helped inspire the red dress movement, where red dresses are hung from windows and trees to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors. Originally starting as the REDdress art installation, Red Dress Day became a grassroots movement across North America. The artist chose the colour red after speaking with an Indigenous friend who told her that is the only colour spirits can see. Red dresses are used to call the spirits of missing and murdered women and girls back to their loved ones. The goal was to speak to the gendered and racialized nature of violent crimes against Indigenous women and to evoke a presence by marking absence.

**The Moose Hide Campaign**

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. Wearing the moose hide pin signifies a commitment to honour, respect and protect the women and children in your life and speak out against gender-based and domestic violence. The inspiration for the campaign came to co-founders Raven Lacerte and her father, Paul, in 2011 during a moose hunt on their traditional Carrier territory along the Highway of Tears in Northern BC – where so many women, many of whom are Indigenous, have gone missing or been murdered. Since then, annual gatherings and ceremonial fasts have taken place and more than three million squares of moose hide have been distributed to Canadians, from young to old to students and organizations across the country. As the campaign spreads across Canada and internationally, the Moose Hide Campaign is aiming to have 10 million Canadians wearing their pins and one million people fasting together in ceremony to end violence against women and children. People of all ages, genders and cultures are invited to participate. May 11th, 2023, marks twelve years of the Moose Hide Campaign! Violence against women and children remains an unacceptable reality. Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. More than 6,000 women and children are housed in emergency shelters each night across Canada, seeking refuge from abuse.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*"Set a goal so big that you can't achieve it until you grow into the person who can."*

*~ Zig Ziglar*

***“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.*

**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