**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**November 12th, 2023 24th after Pentecost**

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

**Accompanist:** *Phyllis Munroe* **Presider:** *Tracy Rafuse*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Evan Rafuse* **Sound Engineer:** *Randall Knox*

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

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

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

Prelude

**Hymn:** **# 223 VU – Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

Pay attention, Children of our Creator! Pay attention!

**We see the transformation of leaves and landscape,**

**and witness the migration of birds moving to their winter homes.**

Feel the diversity in temperatures and the coolness of the breeze.

**We observe the changes all around us,**

**from the sparkling appearance of frost on windows,**

**and animals scurrying to gather supplies for the coming months.**

Creation is changing. Time is moving forward.

**And through it all is the constant presence of our Creator God,**

**who journeys with us every step of the way.**

Let us gather in the presence of Eternal, Unchanging Love.

**Let us worship God.**

**Chorus:** **# 381 VU – Spirit of Life (x2)**

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

**It is in knowing that we can find ourselves in loving community that we come to this sanctuary, O God. It is in the sharing of prayers and in upholding one another through difficult times that we feel called to be here. It is in singing together that our spirits are uplifted. It is in reflecting together that we discern how best to serve you and one another. It is in summoning your name that we are healed from our wounds and our weariness. Gather us close to you so that we may feel the warmth and comfort of the deep love you have for us. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Guaranteed Livable Income for All

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 191 MV – What Can I Do?**

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

**Bless the gifts we offer, O God, shaping them to bring life, beauty and colour to the greys of life, rooting them in movements for justice and peace, branching them throughout the world in loving partnership, invigorating them by the rainbow of our sharing and caring. Amen.**

Time with Children

Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn: # 238 VU – O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)**

**Responsive Reading:** **Psalm 78:1-7 – Part 1 – page 792 VU**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 421 VU – Lead On, O Cloud of Presence**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning And Benediction

Postlude

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

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

***and in loving memory of Barbara Fulton,***

***gift of Hedley and 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, 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.



**Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice**

The United Church of Canada is a community of hope, a vibrant and vital church with both purpose and vision. We live in a time of rapid change in religious life, great inequities between peoples, and collective harm to our earth community. Together, we strive towards repentance, repair, and right relations with all peoples and the planet. Living purposefully into this call and vision anticipates becoming the Beloved Community—the ever inbreaking, transforming, reconciling realm of God, Today!

**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**

**40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism**

We offer this opportunity to learn and grow in our understanding and faithful response to racism in our church, community and circles of living. An in-person discussion is held at Bridgewater United on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and a ZOOM discussion session is held on Wednesdays at 10:30am. Come join the conversation!

**Bridgewater United Church Women Christmas Bazaar**

The UCW Christmas Bazaar will be held on **Saturday, November 18th** **from 10:00am-1:00pm** in the C.E. Centre (Gym) at Bridgewater United. Bazaar tables include Baking (Christmas and other baking); Trinkets and Treasures (No White Elephant items please); Jams, Jellies and Pickles; Plants and Flower Arrangements and Craft and Knitting. Donations for these tables will be greatly appreciated by your UCW and can be brought to the church **on Friday, November 17th from 1:00pm-4:00pm and 6:00pm-8:00pm.** Come prepared to do some Christmas shopping.

**Faith Formation Sunday**

The Faith Formation Committee supports many wonderful aspects of our Church Community, whether it is our Sunday School, B-United Youth Group, Send a Kid to Camp, Student Care Letters, Angel Tree, Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour, Bible Study and so much more. Faith Formation Sunday is held on Children’s Sunday, November 19th. It is an opportunity to lift the needs and celebrate the gifts of all ages in our own communities and around the world. Please consider donating to this Outreach that supports groups under our umbrella and beyond. Thank you so much.

**Workshop Opportunity at West Side United Church**

Donna Kelly; Student Minister at West Side United will be hosting a workshop and training session to enable people to become comfortable sharing their gifts of voice with others and to enhance worship services with increased laity participation. The workshop is open to all who are interested and will take place immediately following worship at West Side United on Sunday, November 19th. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Contact Donna at dmkelly22@outlook.com or at (902) 523-1658.

**West Side United Christmas Craft Market**

Join West Side United; 2702 Highway 331, Pentz on Saturday, November 25th from 8:30am – 3:00pm for their Christmas Craft Market. A variety of vendors offering Crafts, Gift Ideas, Food and Baked Goods and more. Silent Auction and Canteen. Door Prize Draw. Come and find those special Christmas gifts for your loved ones.

 **Come and Join our Community Choir**

All friends of the Be United Communities of Faith, young and young-at-heart, are invited to join together to make music for Christmas! We will gather together after church on Sunday, December 3rd to rehearse together and sing, Angels We Have Heard on High, Still, Still, Still, Go Tell It On the Mountain and Little Donkey. We will present these pieces during the Angel Tree Service at Bridgewater United on December 10th. What a wonderful way to come together to share the joy of the season! Please contact Barbara at music@bridgewaterunited.ca or (902) 830-0708.

**Guest Accompanist**

We would like to welcome and thank Phyllis Munroe for providing Music Ministry for our congregation this morning while Barb is away performing with Seaside A Cappella in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the International Convention and Contest.

**Living out our Faith with an Attitude of Gratitude**

Journey through this Season of Thanksgiving, and be kind to yourself and one another. Be generous in your words. Smile. Offer words of encouragement and support that are filled with love and respect. Continue to be a Disciple of Jesus.

**Bridgewater United Church Worship Volunteers**

B-United requires volunteers from time to time. Please find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, and consider offering your time where you feel the Spirit is calling you.

**Words of Thanks from Marilyn and Jack Logan**

We would like to say thank you to our family and friends who helped us to celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary on October 28th. Special thanks for the cards and best wishes that were extended to us and to the UCW for hosting the reception.

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

Food banks are reporting an increase in clientele, which has put a huge strain on them financially. Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For November, there is a request for Canned Milk, Instant Rice, Instant Coffee, Apple Juice and Canned Chicken. Thanks.

**Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East**

UCC Mission and Service partners are currently responding to those who are impacted by the conflict in West Bank and East Jerusalem. They are working with their partners ACT Alliance and Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, they are also working with the Humanitarian Coalition to provide tangible support for the people of the Middle East. Pray for peace with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel. Monetary donations can be given and will be directed to the UCC Mission and Service Fund.

**Attention Knitters**

UCW are collecting mittens that you have been busily knitting for the Schools Plus programs in Lunenburg and Queens Counties. They will be accepted by any UCW member or for pick up you may call Diane Patten at (902) 543-4330. Thanks.

**Worship and Life of Bridgewater United Church Survey**

Your honest and constructive feedback will help the Profile Committee to present the best worship opportunities for our congregation. All surveys, both electronic and hard copied, must be **returned by Sunday, November 12th**, to be included. Thanks.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*God, kindle a flame within my heart to keep me alert and vigilant,*

*ready always to see and follow your ways of wisdom. Amen.*

***“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.

**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.

**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.*

**B-United PAR Authorization Form**

 **(Pre-Authorized Remittance)**



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