**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**November 19th, 2023 25th after Pentecost Children’s Sunday**

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

**Audio Visual Technician:** *David Moran* **Sound Engineer:** *Shelley Moran*

**Greeter:** *Cathy Etter* **Greeter:** *Karen Townsend*

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

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

Prelude

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

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

As dry land thirsts for water.

**As budding plants reach for the sun.**

As dying leaves fall to the earth.

**Our longing souls calls us to worship.**

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

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

**Today and every day, may we build each other up in love. May our faith protect us from utter despair and our love for you and each other strengthen us. As we worship this day may the spirit of the risen Christ give us courage to see ourselves as a vibrant image of God’s love in this place, in our community and in the world. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Leading the Way

Offering our Thanks

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



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

**Thank you, God, for this community of faith and for the responsibility of being your people. As a community, help us to support and encourage each other so that we can share all of our gifts for, and to, your glory. Bless the gifts we offer, both seen and unseen, that they might be a blessing to many. Amen.**

Time with Children

Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn: # 371 VU – Open My Eyes, That I May See**

**Responsive Reading:** **Psalm 123 – page 847 VU**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 212 MV – Sent Out in Jesus’ Name**

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 Ian MacKinnon,***

***Bob and Jean MacKinnon and David and Doris Aitken.***

**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**

**Advent and Christmas Season**

Thank you to Bob and Marg Forbes for donating the trees for the UCW Christmas Bazaar and our Angel Tree Project. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Donations of Christmas plants for the Sanctuary are most welcomed. Dedications need to be in by Thursday morning of each week to ensure inclusion in the bulletin.

Bridgewater Inter-Church Council Ecumenical Community Advent Carol Service and Reception will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at 7:00pm at Bridgewater Baptist Church; 564 Glen Allan Drive. A Free-Will Donation will be in support of the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank. Come celebrate the Season of Advent.

**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 Christmas 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 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 by email at music@bridgewaterunited.ca or by phone at (902) 830-0708.

**Salvation Army Christmas Boxes**

Bridgewater United Church has been asked to provide one-hundred-fifty cans of canned turkey or beef gravy for the Salvation Army Christmas Boxes. These can be dropped off in the Brother Lawrence’s wheelbarrow by December 5th. Thank you.

**Angel Tree Sunday**

Angel Tree Sunday is on December 10th. Our B-United Church Community will be providing Christmas for six families from our area through the Christmas Daddies program. From November 19th until December 3rd (or when all tags are gone,) there will be trees in the Sanctuary and by the Church Office, with angels on them. Please choose an angel to help create a special Christmas for families in the Outreach of our Church Community. Please wrap the gift in Christmas wrap, place a blank gift tag on them and include the angel tag. We will be receiving these gifts during our Worship Service on December 10th, and through the Church Office from November 21st to December 8th. Thank you for your continued support of this wonderful Outreach.

**Christmas Eve at Bridgewater United**

Bridgewater United will be worshipping on Christmas Eve at 10:30am for Advent IV and then at 8:00pm for our Christmas Eve evening service. Come join us for a time of celebration and reflection as we get ready to welcome, Emmanuel, Christ with us.

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

As we come to the end of our Journey through this Season of Thanksgiving, let us read Deuteronomy 8:7-18. What are the blessings you have received from God? How do you express your gratitude? How do you share the gifts of God?

**Revitalizing The Sanctuary Space at Bridgewater United**

A huge thank you is extended to Randall Knox, Brenda Knox, Karen Townsend, Yvonne Hirtle, Blake Hirtle, Kevin Morrison and Bob Forbes, who worked diligently to steam-clean all the chairs and organize the space in the Sanctuary. We are grateful.

**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. Today is Faith Formation Sunday. Please consider donating to this Outreach that supports groups under our umbrella and beyond. Thank you.

**Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour Bridgewater**

Continuing with their motto, “A Random Act of Kindness, Helps Change the World,” the B-United Youth will be creating Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour Bridgewater on December 15th. If you would like to help with this Outreach, we are looking for 15 of each of the following items: new warm mittens, new deodorant, new travel toothpaste, Clif Bars, new disposable razors, new travel shaving cream, gum, new warm socks, new travel body wash and new travel shampoo by December 8th. Monetary donations are most welcome in support of this Community Outreach.

**Transgender Day of Remembrance**

The Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20th, was set aside to recognize those who have been killed due to ignorance and hatred, targeted because they were trans or gender non-conforming. The first event took place in 1999 in San Francisco to honour Rita Hester, who had been brutally murdered. It is sacred work to make sure that in this world, all are treated equally, all have the right to live a safe life, and every person is counted as a whole, and complete person created in the image of God. Let us stand together and act together so that no one may remain broken.

**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.

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

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. Thank you.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.”*

*~ Leo Buscaglia*

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