**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**November 26th, 2023 26th after Pentecost Reign of Christ**

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

**Guest Minister:** *Reverend Vivian Moores* **Presider:** *Tracy Rafuse*

**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

**Hymn:** **Psalm 100 – Make a Joyful Noise – page 820 VU**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

Invitation To Worship:

As we gather to worship, may we hear the call of Christ to renew our faith.

May we feel the love of Christ and be restored in hope for ourselves and the world.

May we be open to the ways Christ challenges us

and encourages us to be a people of faith.

Let us join together as people of God –

worshipping and praising as we ought before the Holy One.

**Chorus:** **St. Richard’s Prayer**

Opening Prayer

Your Generosity Matters: Indigenous Peoples Speak to the Remit

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**Holy and gracious God, we thank you for your Word which reminds us that when we help feed the hungry and thirsty, when we help cloth the naked and welcome the stranger, when we care for the sick and visit the lonely and forgotten, it is as if we are doing these things to you.**

**As the season of Christmas fast approaches, give us eyes to see, ears to listen and a love to respond to you - in the needs of others.  Accept these gifts that others will be blessed. Amen.**

Time with Children

Prayer with The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn: # 600 VU – When I Needed a Neighbour**

**Responsive Reading:** **Psalm 51 – page 776 – 777 VU**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 21-23

Let us hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God for the Word among us.**

Message: “Year End Diagnosis - Heart Trouble?”

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 126 MV – Are You a Shepherd?**

Extinguishing The Candles

**\*Commissioning:**

On this last Sunday of the church year, Reign of Christ Sunday,

let us leave this place of worship reminded of how easy it is,

to let our Christian faith degenerate into merely outward motions -

becoming a substitute for a living and genuine faith.

**As Christians, let us keep the eyes and rhythm of our heart healthy,**

**so that the vision of God and God's reign does not grow dim.**

**Let us go forth in anticipation and joy.**

\*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 our fathers, Mervyn Colp and Philson Freeman;***

***grandparents, David and Sarah Frail, Harris and Elsie Colp***

***and David and Mary Gilmour, a gift of Ian, Natasha, Adriane and Claire.***

***The November church radio broadcast is 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](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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**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 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**

**Ecumenical Community Advent Carol Service**

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. They have asked for donations of cookies and sweets for the reception. These can be dropped off at the Church Office on December 1st from 10:00am-12:30pm or before worship on December 3rd. Thanks.

**Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour Bridgewater**

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.

**Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing**

Join us on Saturday, December 9th in the Chapel from 7:00pm-8:00pm, as we pull out the old Christmas Carol song sheets and share in fellowship and music with one another. We will be blessed with Barbara Pate on piano, and the B-United Youth will have Hot Chocolate and Cookies for all to share. It will be evening of joy and fun!

**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. We will present these pieces during the Angel Tree Service at Bridgewater United on December 10th. Please contact Barbara at [music@bridgewaterunited.ca](mailto:music@bridgewaterunited.ca) or by phone at (902) 830-0708.

**Angel Tree Sunday**

Angel Tree Sunday is December 10th. Our B-United Church Community will be providing Christmas for six families through the Christmas Daddies program. Please choose an angel from the tree in the foyer by the Church Office, 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.

**Scotia Brass at Bridgewater United**

Bridgewater United and Scotia Brass will be co-hosting a concert on Thursday, December 14th. Scotia Brass is Nova Scotia's premier large brass ensemble, featuring brass musicians from HRM and beyond. More details to follow. Free-Will Donation. Bridgewater United’s portion of the donations will be split between the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank and Souls Harbour Bridgewater. Save the date for music!

**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.

**Guest Minister – Reverend Vivian Moores**

We are so blessed to have Reverend Vivian Moores (retired June 2021) sharing in worship with us today. As part of her seminary requirements, she was a student under Reverend Paul Cumming (1983) at Bridgewater United Church. Graduating from the Atlantic School of Theology (1984) and ordained (1985), she has served on the Brooklyn Pastoral Charge, Riverport Pastoral Charge and Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge. With close to 40 years in ordained ministry, she is still very passionate about her faith and enjoys every opportunity to share the amazing love of God with others.

**Thank You From The United Church Women**

Thank you from our UCW to all members who supported our No Bake Sale and Christmas Bazaar. A profit of approximately $3,900.00 was realized from both events. Although down considerably from years past, your contributions will help to assist us with the various Missions we support.

**3rd Bridgewater Scouting Volunteers Needed**

3rd Bridgewater Scouts is currently seeking volunteers to sustain its operation. We are the last remaining Scouting group in Lunenburg/Queens County, with 5 groups having closed within the past ten years. We remain grateful to Bridgewater United Church who has supported our program faithfully for decades. We are in dire need for volunteers for Scouts, the program for youth ages 11-14. We currently have two full time leaders and will be down to one full time leader starting in January. Without 2 full time leaders who are willing to sign on for a commitment of a minimum of one year, Scouts Canada will not allow us to operate the Scouts section starting in January. We are trying to focus on having two to three fully trained leaders to start in January 2024 who are able to commit to running the Scout program on a weekly basis. Leaders require time to complete police and vulnerable sector checks as well as a number of hours of on-line training before they can work with youth, so we need to start the process now to be ready for January 2024. If you, or you know of someone, who might be interested in volunteering, please contact Peter Lake, 3rd Bridgewater Group Commissioner at peter.lake@bellaliant.net or by phone at (902) 523-4070.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For December, there is a request for Pasta Sauce, Spaghetti, Canned Fruit, Instant Muffin Mix, and Granola Bars. Thank you.

**Salvation Army Community Christmas Boxes**

Bridgewater United Church has been asked to provide 150 cans of canned turkey or beef gravy for the Salvation Army Community Christmas Boxes. These can be dropped off in Brother Lawrence’s wheelbarrow by December 5th. Thank you.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“You don’t have to see the whole staircase,*

*just take the first step.”*

*~ Martin Luther King, Jr.*

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