**Be United Communities of Faith**

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

**October 1st, 2023 18th after Pentecost Creation IV**

**World Communion Sunday**

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

**West Side United Church Student Minister:** *Donna Kelly*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Liam Wamboldt*

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

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

**Prelude: How Then Shall I Live** *written by Linnea Good*

**Prelude: Part of Everything** *written by Linnea Good*

**\*Hymn:** **# 651 VU – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

Pjila’si! Welcome!

**Bienvenue! Willkommen!**

Bienvenida!

**Bonjour!**

Whatever your language, wherever you were born, Welcome.

There’s a place for you here!

**We join together in worship.**

**We join together at the table.**

**We are one family in Christ!**

**Chorus:** **Here I Am To Worship (Chorus Only)**

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

**God, we thank you for words and actions that tell the story of who we are and from where we have come. We thank you for the abundance of your gifts, and for the ability to find something extraordinary in unexpected places. May we uncover something special in this sacred time together. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Moderator Carmen's National TRC Day Message

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response: # 537 VU – Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands**

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

**With gratitude we share our gifts with the church to further our ministry in this place, our community and throughout the world. Receive our gifts God offered today and throughout the moments of each day as we live out our calling as the followers of Jesus. Bless our gifts and transform them into messages of your love through our actions. Amen.**

Time with Children

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

**Responsive Scripture Reading: Psalm 78 (1-7, 12-16)**

Give heed to my teaching, O my people,

turn your ears to the words of my mouth.

**I will open my mouth in a parable;**

**I will reveal the hidden meaning of things in the past.**

What we have heard and known,

what our parents have told us,

we will not hide from their grandchildren,

**But declare to the next generation the testimony;**

**that you have to Jacob and the law you appointed in Israel,**

**which you commanded them to teach their children,**

That the next generation might know them,

children yet unborn,

and these in turn should arise,

and tell their children,

**that they should put their trust in you,**

**and not forget your great deeds,**

**but keep all your commandments.**

Marvellous things you did in the sight of our ancestors,

in the land of Egypt, in the plain of Zoan.

**You divided the sea and let them go through,**

**and made the waters stand up like a wall.**

By day you led with a cloud,

and all the night long with a beacon of fire.

**You split rocks in the wilderness,**

**and gave drink in plenty as from the great deep.**

You brought streams out of the rock,

**And made water run down like rivers.**

Give heed to the teachings of God.

**We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** *(found on yellow insert)*

Special Music: One Day At A Time *sung by Barbara Boulton*

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 334 VU – All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name**

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 Everett Bagnell,***

***gift of his wife, Elva.***

***The October church website is given to the glory of God,***

***and in loving memory of Clifford and Lorna Blades,***

***gift of daughter, Diane Patten.***

**#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**

**World Communion Sunday**

Invitation to the Sacrament of Communion

*Participation in the Sacrament of Communion is for all regardless of age, ability, gender identity or faith tradition. This is a place of inclusion, openness and love where all are truly welcome.*

*If you brought your own elements (bread/cracker and juice/water) for use during communion, you are invited to have them close by for later in our service during our “Sharing” time,*

*when we will partake of the elements as one community.*

*We also have individually prepared elements (rice cracker and grapes) at the front for you to come forward during the service to receive them, return to your seat and then we will*

*partake of the elements as one community.*

**\*Communion Hymn: # 457 VU – As We Gather at Your Table**

Invitation

**Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:**

May God be with us.

**God is here among us.**

Let us open our hearts to God.

**We open them to God and one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Remembering Jesus at the Table

**The Prayer of Jesus (The Lord’s Prayer)**

**Blessing of the Spirit:** (*unison)*

**Come, Holy Spirit, move among us this day. May your energy draw us together with our sisters and brothers in Christ around the world. May this food, which nourishes our bodies and our spirits, fill us with a longing for your realm of unity, freedom, abundance, love and peace on this earth. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine**

This is the bread of joy, wisdom and hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

This is the cup of grace, compassion and strength.

**Thanks be to God.**

These are the gifts of God, offered to us in love and tenderness.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

The Gifts of God for the people of God.

Together let us Share and delight in these gifts.

**Amen.**

A chalice and grapes on a table

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*We have provided individually prepared cups for Communion (rice cracker and grapes) to share. If you brought your own, please have them ready. For those who wish to come forward to receive the “Bread and Cup,” please come up the centre aisle then return to your seat by the side aisle. When all have returned to their seats, we will share/partake*

*of Communion as one Community of Faith.*

The Bread of Life.

**Amen.** *(consume bread/cracker)*

The Cup of Blessing.

**Amen.** *(consume juice/grapes)*

*A period of silence for personal reflection*

**Prayer after Communion:** (*unison)*

**We give you thanks, Gracious God, for satisfying our hungry hearts with this meal. Strengthened and refreshed, we go from here to continue the work of Jesus in the world with hope and love. Amen.**

**Blessing**:

The grace of Jesus, the love of God,

and the communion of the Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

**A black and white dove with a branch

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**Fire Prevention Week**

The theme for this year is “Cooking Safety Starts with You! Pay Attention To Fire Safety!” Fire Prevention Week is from October 8th – 14th. This theme highlights reducing the risk of fire when cooking at home, by keeping yourself and those around you safe. Cooking and unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment. You should be testing your smoke alarms once a month and replacing them every ten years. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately. Close doors behind you as you leave. Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building. At Bridgewater United:

1. Evacuate the building via the nearest exit; if you are the last one to leave the building be sure to close the door.

2. Proceed to the front lawn on Hillcrest Street, under the trees by the picnic tables.

3. Do not return to the building or leave the property until instructed by fire officials.

4. Fire Warden will be the only liaison between the fire officials and the Church.

**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 what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others called the Beloved Community—the ever inbreaking, ever transforming, ever reconciling realm of God, realized now.

**Bridgewater United Church Community**

Are you aware of someone that is in need of the ministry offered by our Pastoral Care Ministry Team? Please speak confidentially to one of our team members: Ewart Morse, Joanne Johnson, Marg Forbes, Tracy Rafuse or Reverend Neil. We rely on your words to assist us with this Ministry to our community. Thank you.

**Bridgewater United Church’s Privacy Policy**

The Church Office is strictly prohibited to give out any personal information for anyone on our contact list. But we still want to assist you with ensuring a letter/card is directed to the correct mailbox. If you bring in your letter/card to the Church Office during office hours, we will address it for you and then mail it out for you.

**Church Office Closed**

The Church Office will be closed on October 3rd. Voicemail and emails will be checked upon Tracy’s return on October 4th. For Pastoral Care concerns during this time, please phone Reverend Neil McEwen at (902) 543-6854. Thank you.

**West Side Players present “More Chaos at the Clinic”**

West Side United will be hosting a Dinner Theatre on October 28th at 6:30pm, November 5th at 3:00pm and November 11th at 6:30pm with a Starter Salad, Turkey Dinner, Dessert and drink. Tickets are $30 each. Please phone (902) 688-2737.

**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.

**Church Office Hours**

Church Office Hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10:00am - 12:30pm, unless otherwise stated on our voicemail or social media. From time to time, you may see staff at the office on Mondays, to access items to complete their work. Thank you.

**Fostering Faith Formation**

We are looking for members of the congregation, with a recent Police Records and Vulnerable Records Checks, to teach Sunday School and volunteer in the Worship Nursery on Sunday morning from 10:15am-11:45am, from September to June.

**Sunday School and Worship Nursery**

Sunday School is for ages 3 to 18, from 10:45am-11:30am in the Chapel. Information on Worship Nursery for infants to age 2, will be made available soon.

**Volunteers Needed for B-United Committees**

The Ways and Means Ministry require three members. This Ministry is responsible for developing and promoting financial stewardship programs and activities. The Board of Trustees require three members. The Board is responsible for holding all congregational property including land, buildings, funds and investments. They must give the same care to congregational property as they would their own.

**UCW “No Baking” Bake Sale**

Now that activities are somewhat back to normal, due to COVID, UCW has realized that we are no longer capable of resuming the major catering/kitchen events we have done in the past. We will continue with our “No Baking” Bake Sale during the month of October as we have for the past three years. The success of this project has been due to your generous response and will be much appreciated again this year. In the past we have supported projects such as Grandmothers to Grandmothers, Starfish Canada, Schools Plus Emergency Fund, Brunswick Street Mission, our Mission and Service Fund as well as some smaller projects. Throughout the month of October, contributions may be left with the Church Office or with any UCW member. Please make cheques payable to Bridgewater UCW and designate “No Baking Sale.” Thank you.

**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. Items can be dropped off in Brother Lawrence’s Wheelbarrow. For October, there is a request for Peanut Butter, Jam, Cheese Whiz, Animal Crackers and Instant Rice. Please be mindful of expiration.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“A joyful life, reaching out to people from all walks of life.”*

*~ Lailah Gifty Akita*

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurers’ Report to the Church Congregation**

**for the Eight-Month Period ending August 31, 2023**

**Receipts**

Total Local Receipts $ 107,459.00

Trust Receipts

Mission and Service $ 8,516.00

UCW Funds for M&S $ 1,000.00

Food Bank Receipts $ 3,440.00

Send a Kid to Camp $ 1,835.00

Misc. Trust Receipts $ 1,760.00

Building Use Receipts $ 45,812.00

Radio Broadcast Service $ 1,050.00

Fundraising Receipts $ 1,005.00

UCW Donation for Local $ 1,000.00

Misc. Receipts $ 715.00

**Total Receipts (Note 1) $ 173,592.00**

**Disbursements**

Total Trust Disbursements $ 14,111.00

West Side/B-United Agreement $ 25,444.00

Total Personnel Expense $ 55,288.00

Total Office & Admin Expense $ 8,720.00

Heating Fuel $ 21,091.00

Lights, Water & Sewer $ 8,917.00

Snow Removal & Salting $ 7,551.00

Insurance $ 8,911.00

Floor Maintenance $ 322.00

Other Premises Expenses $ 9,338.00

UCC Assessment $ 5,355.00

Other Misc. Expenses $ 1,715.00

**Total Disbursements (Note 1)**   **$ 166,763.00**

**Operating Surplus at End of Period**   **$ 6,829.00**

**Bank Balance**: **$ 112,035.12**

**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*

September 21, 2023