**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church** **West Side United Church**

**October 29th, 2023 22nd after Pentecost Reformation Sunday**

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

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Ewart Morse* **Sound Engineer:** *Tracy Rafuse*

**Greeter:** *Joanne Johnson* **Greeter:** *Carolyn MacKay*

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 245 VU – Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

Welcome to this spacious place,

**where we are fed by the Word.**

Welcome to this spacious place,

**where we are refreshed by the Spirit.**

Welcome to this spacious place,

**where we are invigorated by the life of Jesus.**

Welcome to this spacious place,

**let us worship God.**

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

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

**Creator God, Lover of Justice, Source of Courage, be present among us this day as we continue to discern how your Spirit is leading us to be your messengers. May our prayers be filled with action, our words abundant with love and our hearts overflowing with compassion. Be present among us as we worship. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: Healthy Babies in Gaza

Offering our Thanks

**Offertory Response:** **# 541 VU – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

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

**The gifts we offer, O God, are a portion of the blessings we have received. Work through our gifts and work through us to transform the world, convey your love and make a difference in the lives of others. Bless our gifts and the ministry we share in your name. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 649 VU – Walk with Me**

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Matthew 22:34-40

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message: “God’s Story; Our Story”

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 288 VU – Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

Extinguishing The Candles

Commissioning And Benediction

Postlude

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

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

***and in loving memory of our family members,***

***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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**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**

**Attention Knitters**

UCW will be 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.

**UCW “No Baking” Bake Sale**

The UCW are having a “No Baking” Bake Sale during the month of October. The success of this project in the past has been due to your generous response and will be much appreciated again this year. Contributions may be left with the Church Office or with a UCW member. Please make cheques payable to Bridgewater UCW.

**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. We offer to our Communities of Faith this resource but also the opportunity to come together to discuss what we have heard and experienced. An in-person discussion will be held at Bridgewater United on Tuesdays at 1:00pm and a ZOOM discussion session will be held on Wednesdays at 10:30am. Contact the Church Office for a Zoom link.

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

The Ways and Means Ministry of Bridgewater United Grocery Card Fundraiser will be held on November 12th. Cash or cheques are welcomed, (cheques made payable to Bridgewater United Church,) with both Sobeys and Loblaws/Superstore grocery cards available. Gift Cards of $50, $100 and $200 denominations. Submit cash or cheque together with the order form, no later then Sunday, November 12th. Forms can be found in the Narthex. Post-dated cheques up until November 30th accepted.

**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.

**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. Vendors can reserve a table for $20.00 by phoning (902) 688-1580. A variety of vendors offering Crafts, Gift Ideas, Food and Baked Goods and more. Silent Auction and Canteen. Door Prize Draw.

**Universal Cheer Christmas Market**

Universal Cheer will be hosting a Christmas Market on Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00am – 1:00pm at Bridgewater United. Admission is $3.00. Vendors can reserve a space for $25.00 by registering on Universal Cheer’s Facebook page. Space is limited.

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

Journey through this Season of Thanksgiving, by gifting yourself with an intentional time of silence to write down ten blessings in your life (feel free to write more) and put that list some place where you can see it regularly. Be still. Be calm. Reflect.

**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.

**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. Partners are prepared to expand their activity into Gaza when a humanitarian corridor is opened, allowing for safe access to provide relief. Currently, there is an urgent need for food, as well as non-food items such as medicines, psychosocial support, and shelter. They are working with their partners ACT Alliance and Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). As a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we are also working with the Humanitarian Coalition to provide tangible support for the people of the Middle East. Your help is urgently needed. Pray for peace with justice for the people of Palestine and Israel. Monetary donations can be given and will be directed to the United Church of Canada Mission and Service Emergency Response Fund.

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

On Friday, October 27th, a survey was emailed to all persons on our email list, on behalf of the Profile Committee. The Profile Committee would like a better understanding of the worship life of our Church Community. We ask that everyone in the household with a connection to Bridgewater United, complete their own individual survey. Your honest and constructive feedback will help the Profile Committee to present the best worship opportunities for our congregation. In the Narthex, there are a limited number of hard copies of the survey for those who do not have access to a computer or email. All surveys, both electronic and hard copied, must be **returned by Sunday, November 12th**, to be included in the results. There will be a sealed boxed in the Narthex, for those returning hard copies of the survey.

**14th Annual Bridgewater United Pie Sale Fundraiser**

On November 24th and 25th, under the guidance of Yvonne Hirtle, Bridgewater United is hoping to have our 14th Annual Pie Sale. With this, many volunteers are needed to create pie crust, peel apples and make the pies. We are looking for 8 volunteers on November 24th at 2:30pm and 12 volunteers for making pies and 8 volunteers to peel apples on November 25th at 9:00am. These volunteers must be in place by November 1st, or the decision to not hold this fundraiser will be made. Phone the Church Office to volunteer your time at (902) 543-4833. Thank you.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him.*

*I ended up by asking God to do His work through me.” ~ Hudson Taylor*

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