**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**October 8th, 2023 19th after Pentecost**

**Creation V Thanksgiving Sunday**

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

**Greeter:** *Yvonne Hirtle* **Greeter:** *Joanne Johnson* **Presider:** *Tracy Rafuse*

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

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

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

Prelude

**\*Hymn:** **# 516 VU – Come, You Thankful People, Come**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

In worship, we celebrate the diversity of God’s love.

Young and old, tall and short, all cultures, skin colours, and genders.

**Let our differences remind us of the power of God’s creative love.**

In our prayers, we affirm the support of God’s hopeful love.

In our hymns, we affirm the vitality of God’s joyful love.

**In our worship, we affirm the abundance of God’s forgiving love.**

Together, we give thanks that God loves us.

Together, we remember God calls us to love.

**Together, we proclaim that God is love.**

**Chorus:** **# 18 MV – Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary**

Opening Prayer

Your Generosity Matters: UCC Thanksgiving Appeal

Offering our Thanks

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



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

**Generous God, remembering that you love a cheerful giver, knowing all that we have is yours, with joy and thanksgiving we give back to you our time, our talents, and our monetary gifts. May we be faithful, joyful stewards of all we are given. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 182 MV - Grateful**

**Responsive Scripture Reading: Psalm 65**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;

to you shall vows be performed.

**You give heed to prayer;**

**to you all mortals shall come.**

The burden of our sins is too great for us,

**but you will purge them away.**

Blessed are the people you choose

and bring to dwell in your courts.

**We shall be filled with the blessings of your house,**

**your holy temple.**

You visit the earth and water it,

**You make it very fruitful.**

The waters of heaven brim over their banks,

**providing us with grain,**

**for so you have prepared the land,**

drenching its furrows, settling its ridges,

**softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with goodness,

**and your paths overflow with plenty.**

The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass,

**and the hills are girded with joy.**

The fields are clothed with sheep;

**the valleys are decked with wheat,**

**so that they shout and sing for joy.**

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 520 VU – We Plough the Fields**

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 Dora and Lawrence Llewellyn,***

***gift of their family.***

***We wish to express our thanks and gratitude to***

***Chris and Pam Hebb of Bob and The Boys Farm Market,***

***for the donation of produce to beautify our church for Thanksgiving.***

**#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**

**A Season of Thanksgiving**

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

Each week there is a different way for us to journey through this Season of Thanksgiving. The theme for each week will be posted on our Facebook Page. We also provide you with this copy for your personal use or sharing with others.

**Week 1 (October 8th to 14th)**

Send a card, write an email or make a phone call to someone to express your thanks and gratitude for the work they do (volunteered or paid) in your community and in your life.

**Week 2 (October 15th to 21st)**

Take a drive or a walk around your community or simply get outside; observe the way the season of autumn changes the landscape. If you see some neighbours, stop and talk – even if you don’t know who they are.

**Week 3 (October 22nd to 28th)**

Consider purchasing an extra item or two when grocery shopping for the Food Bank or Souls Harbour and put it in the collection boxes at the grocery store or bring to worship to be combined with the other contributions.

**Week 4 (October 29th to November 4th)**

Gift 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.

**Week 5 (November 5th to 11th)**

Reflect on the privileges of your freedoms. How can you ensure others in our communities, country and around the world can enjoy the rights and freedoms of your life?

**Week 6 (November 12th to 18th)**

Be kind. Be generous in your words. Smile. Offer words of encouragement and support that are filled with love and respect.

**Week 7 (November 19th to 25th)**

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?



**Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

“Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.



**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 October, there is a request for Peanut Butter, Jam, Cheese Whiz, Animal Crackers and Instant Rice. Thank you.

**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. If you wish to participate in receiving information about this learning opportunity, please reach out to our Church Office. Please register before October 16th to receive the daily reflections and view other ways of engagement. We offer to our Communities of Faith this resource but also the opportunity to come together to discuss what we have heard and experienced. Two one-hour learning sessions will be available for your participation. An in-person discussion group will be held at Bridgewater United on Tuesdays at 1:00pm starting on October 24th and a ZOOM discussion session will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:30am starting on October 25th.

**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!

**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 10th. Voicemail and emails will be checked upon Tracy’s return on October 11th. For Pastoral Care concerns during this time, please phone Reverend Neil McEwen at (902) 543-6854. Thank you.

**B-United Youth Group**

Please join us on Friday, October 20th from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the gym at Bridgewater United. We will be playing badminton. Bring along a racket, if you have one, and some comfy clothes! Bring a friend! All youth in Grade 6-12 are welcomed!

**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.

**Staying Connected Faithfully with Bridgewater United**

Bridgewater United provides Video Worship Services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday and Audio Podcasts on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday. DVD or Audio CD of these services are available to anyone. Thank you to David Barnes for creating these DVDs/CDs each week. All services, both Online and On-Site, can be found on our website at [www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://www.bridgewaterunited.ca). We are blessed to be in Shared Ministry with West Side United and Reverend Neil McEwen and their Student Minister, Donna Kelly. Reverend Neil shares in Ministry at Bridgewater United on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, on the 2nd Sunday; we have a Video Sermon with Lay Leadership, the 4th Sunday; we welcome a Guest Minister and the 5th Sunday; we alternate between worshiping at Bridgewater United and West Side United. This relationship also welcomes New West Pine, Caledonia Pastoral Charge and St. Andrews-St. Marks through our Be United Communities of Faith, who share in worship with us on the 1st Sunday and use our BUD Ministries services on other Sundays at their church. Our Community is thriving and providing faith beyond our walls. We are truly blessed. **#ChooseLove**

**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 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**

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. In the past, the UCW have supported projects such as Grandmothers to Grandmothers, Starfish Canada, Schools Plus Emergency Fund, Brunswick Street Mission, our Mission and Service Fund. 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. Thank you.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“I cried because I had no shoes, then I met a man who had no feet.”*

*~ Mahatma Gandhi*

***“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.*

**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

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