**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**September 10th, 2023 15th after Pentecost Creation I**

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

**Greeter:** *Karen Townsend* **Greeter:** *Carolyn MacKay* **Presider:** *David Walker*

**Audio Visual Technician:** *Evan Rafuse* **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

**\*Hymn:** **# 325 VU – Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

As our lives return to regular routines after a long-weekend conclusion to summer, let us gather to offer thanks for the ways that we have reconnected with the holy this summer, enjoying God’s creation in nature.

**Our rich blessing as Canadians is to have lakes and mountains,**

**star-filled night skies, fishing and boating, golfing and gardening, hiking and biking, swimming and sunshine.**

In our worship this day, may we share gratitude for these gifts and be inspired to conserve them for future generations. May we come to know our place within the web of life God has placed us in on earth.

**Let us praise God, the giver of all good things.**

**Chorus:** **O God We Call**

O God we call,

**O God we call,**

from deep inside we yearn,

**from deep inside we yearn,**

**from deep inside we yearn for you.**

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

**Creating God, help us to grow as trees do:**

**stretching ever upward, arms open to the world around us,**

**ready to let go of what we carry in due season. Amen.**

Your Generosity Matters: The Mod’s Book Squad

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**We dedicate these gifts in the name of our Creator, giving from our hearts to help make possible how God imagines the earth coming to life. Amen**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 161 MV – I Have Called You by Your Name**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:19-21-25-34

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 232 VU – Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**

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 my husband, Ralph, and my parents,***

***Olive and Leaman Zwicker, gift of Corrine Zinck.***

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

***and in loving memory of our parents, Kay and Russell Taylor***

***and Pat and Neil Walker, gift of Linda and David Walker.***

**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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**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**

**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 will begin today for youth, ages 3 to 18. Information on Worship Nursery for infants to age 2, will be made available in November. Welcome back!

**B-United Popsicle Social**

Join us by our picnic tables following worship today for a Popsicle Social hosted by the Faith Formation Committee. Join us for a time of fellowship with our Church Community. In case of rain, we will meet in the Chapel next to the gymnasium.

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

Bridgewater United Church Grocery Card Fundraiser will be due on Sunday, September 17th. 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 are available. Post-dated cheques for September 30th will be received with thanks. By participating in this fundraiser, it benefits the work of Bridgewater United Church. Forms are available in the Narthex.

**Coffee, Tea and Conversation**

Come join us in the Chapel on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning September 12th for Coffee, Tea and Conversation. This social-time was created during COVID-19 to create a safe space for all to gather for fellowship and community. See you there!

**Come and Celebrate 70 Years of Marriage**

All are welcome to join Ivan and Shirley Rodenhiser in the Chapel on Saturday, September 16th from 2:00pm-4:00pm, as they celebrate 70 years of wedded bliss. Come and reminisce, sharing stories with one another. Refreshments by the UCW.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Join us in the Parlour to knit or crochet and create expressions of God's love through the ministry of the shawl. The shawls are blessed, remembering the hands who have made them and those who will receive them. Join us on Sunday, September 17th at 2:00pm and come along and experience the warmth of this ministry. All are welcome.

**Bridgewater United’s Anniversary Memorial Hymn Sing**

Join us on Sunday, September 24th at 7:00pm for our Memorial Hymn Sing. It offers an opportunity to dedicate hymns in the names of family, friends and loved ones. Please note that donations are NOT a prerequisite for your attendance, it is open to all who enjoy an evening of music. Memorial Hymn Sing letters will go out next week.

**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 Tea/Coffee. 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.

**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. As church, we have been complicit in injustice. And yet we have this hope. We believe we continue to be called to witness in love and justice to the liberating, healing Christ risen in this place and time. Together, we strive towards repentance, repair, and right relations with all peoples and the planet. Our call and vision statement speaks to how we boldly embody the Christian story in this time, filled with the certainty of resurrection and hope for new life. 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 in our time. It is shared with the community as a pledge of identity and hope.

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

Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated throughout the month. For September, there is a request for Cereal, Oatmeal, Granola Bars and Canned Vegetables. Be mindful of expiration dates.

**What is a District Representative?**

Providing an open line of communication between our Church and our Community ensures that B-United’s love for one another is extended to all. We are currently without District Representation for ten Districts and need to fill these positions. Everyone on our list is important to B-United. Thank you for your consideration.

**Volunteers Needed – Ways and Means Ministry**

The Ways and Means Ministry require **three members.** This Ministry is responsible for developing and promoting financial stewardship programs and activities.

**Volunteers Needed – Board of Trustees**

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 property.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*“If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully.*

*However, the wisest thing you can do is to be present in the present. Gratefully.”*

*~ Maya Angelou*

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