**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**September 17th, 2023 16th after Pentecost Creation II**

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

**Greeter:** *Judy Stringer* **Greeter:** *Angela McGinnis*

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

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

**Invitation To Worship:**

Each blade of grass, every wing that soars,

the waves that sweep across the distant shore,

**make full the circle of God.**

Each laughing child, every gentle eye,

a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,

**make full the circle of God.**

We gather in this place to worship God,

binding our body, mind and spirit with those surrounding us,

and embracing the presence of the Spirit among us.

**In unity and joy we make full the circle of God.**

**Chorus:** **# 15 MV – Holy Sacred Spirit**

Holy sacred Spirit, breathe your breath on us.

Holy sacred Spirit, breathe your life in us.

Create a new heart in me, oh God,

enflame my heart with your love,

your Spirit of love.

Send forth your Spirit and renew the earth,

the longing earth, the waiting earth, the fragile earth.

Opening Prayer

Your Generosity Matters: What is Gifts with Vision

Offering our Thanks

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

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

**The days we spend living amidst the beauty and wonder of your creative goodness is a mere twinkle of time as we reflect on your generous presence as Creator and our God. May the world be made more rich and loving, more generous and kind, as we share our gifts with others. As we have been blessed, may we be a blessing. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 87 MV – Water Flowing from the Mountains (Living Water)**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 211 VU – Crown Him with Many Crowns**

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 H. May Henley and Alice MacKinnon.***

**Bridgewater United Church**

**Wants To Stay In Touch With You!**

1. Please pass along your email to the Church Office at 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.



**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 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**

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

Monetary and non-perishable food donations are always appreciated. For September, there is a request for Cereal, Oatmeal, Granola Bars and Canned Vegetables.

**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 held every Sunday for youth, ages 3 to 18, from 10:45am-11:30am in the Chapel, next to the gymnasium. Information on Worship Nursery for infants to age 2, will be made available in November. Pick up a registration form today!

**Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser**

Ways and Means Ministry Grocery Card Fundraiser is due **today**. By participating in this fundraiser, it benefits the work of Bridgewater United. Forms in Narthex.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Do you like to knit or crochet? Come create expressions of God's love through the shawl **today** in the Parlour at 2:00pm and experience the warmth of this ministry.

**Coffee, Tea and Conversation in the Chapel**

Join us Tuesdays and Wednesdays for fellowship and coffee. This time was created by Reverend Jeff as a safe space for all to gather with our community and beyond.

**B-United Youth Group – Grade 6 to Grade 12**

Youth Group meets once a month for fun, fellowship and learning. We welcome special guests and learn how we can do our best to make our community and beyond a better place. Our first meeting will be on Friday, September 22nd at 6:30pm. We will be playing badminton in the gym. Bring along a racket, if you have one, and some comfy clothes! Come check us out and let’s see what excited things we can do!

**Blessing of the Animals**

On Sunday, September 24th at 1:00pm, the congregation of West Side United; Pentz invite you to bring your beloved pets on a leash or in a pet-carriers. Those attending can also bring a picture. We will include a Time of Remembrance for pets who have died (not just recent deaths.) Even if you do not have a pet, you are invited to attend!

**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. Dedications are due no later then September 19th.

**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.

**Celebrating 70 Years of Marriage**

Due to the forecasted weather, the celebration for Ivan and Shirley's anniversary was cancelled. We will be celebrating this wonderful occasion of 70 years of wedded bliss during worship today. Please take time to sign the card in the Narthex. We wish much love and support to Ivan and Shirley on this amazing and joyous occasion.

**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. As church, we have been complicit in injustice. 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. 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 as a pledge of identity and hope.

**3rd Bridgewater Scouting Group**

As we enter the fall, and the return of some regular activities, our 3rd Bridgewater Scout Group that comprises of Beaver Scouts (Age 5-7), Cub Scouts (Age 8-10), Scouts (Age 11-14), Venturer Scouts (Age 15-17) and Rover Scouts (Age 18-26) are actively looking for youth and volunteers for their Scout movement here at Bridgewater United Church. Through their youth-led programming, Scouting helps to pave paths to outdoor adventure and fun by setting goals, creating organized plans to achieve these goals, and collectively reflecting on experiences and personal development. Youth leadership is one of the many ways that the Scouts Canada program helps youth develop into critical thinkers and team players. Please contact Peter Lake at peter.lake@bellaliant.net or at (902) 523-4070 for more information.

**Volunteers Needed**

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 property.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*"In case you ever foolishly forget, I am never not thinking of you."*

*~ Virginia Woolf*

***“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.*

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