**Be United Communities of Faith**

**Bridgewater United Church**

**September 24th, 2023 17th after Pentecost Creation III**

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

**Guest Minister:** *Reverend Vivian Moores* **Presider:** *Audrey Wamboldt*

**Greeter:** *Cathy Etter* **Greeter:** *Marion Demond*

**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

**\*Hymn:** **# 217 VU – All Creatures of Our God and King**

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Chorus: B-United**

Lighting of the Christ and Inclusivity Candles

Invitation To Worship: (*Isaiah 40:31*)

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings as eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint."

In the presence of our Lord . . . let us worship!

**Chorus:** **# 371 VU – Open My Eyes, That I May See (Chorus Only)**

Silently now I wait for thee,

ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

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)*

**As we present our offerings humbly before you today, O Lord, we are reminded of the wise words of your servant Billy Graham who said that "Being a Christian is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ.” May these gifts reveal the growing desire within us to love others as you love them and to care for them in body and spirit. Amen.**

Time with Children

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: # 41 MV – O Beautiful Gaia**

Gospel Scripture Reading: Romans 12:1-21

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Message: “How To Keep A Vital Faith”

Reflective Meditation

Prayers of the Community

**\*Hymn:** **# 271 VU – There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy**

Extinguishing The Candles

**\*Commissioning:** (*unison)*

**Let us leave this time of worship, following the example and inspiration of the Apostle Paul. Shining as lights for Christ in our mission, evangelism, and love we strive for a vital faith that . . . never lacks in zeal, keeps our spirit aglow and serves the Lord.**

Benediction

Postlude

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

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

***and in loving memory of my parents, Reverend Reuben and Anna Humby, gift of son, Wylie and Violet and family.***

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

***and in loving memory of husband and father, Karl Greek,***

***parents and grandparents, Martin and Isabel Menssen***

***and Worrell and Luetta Greek, gift of Ingrid Greek and family.***

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

***and in loving memory of our parents, Robert and Irene Holdright***

***and Mansfield Hirtle, gift of Blake and Yvonne Hirtle.***

**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**

******

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**

**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.” Donations will be credited to your Church Income Tax Receipt.

**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.

**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.

**Sunday School and Worship Nursery**

Sunday School is every Sunday 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.

**Blessing of the Animals Service**

Join the congregation of West Side United; Pentz **today at 1:00pm**, as they 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 **tonight at 7:00pm** for our Memorial Hymn Sing. Please note that donations are **not** a prerequisite for your attendance, it is open to all who enjoy a night of music.

**Church Council**

Church Council will meet on Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00pm in the Library. Please send reports to Edna by September 24th, so they can be distributed. This meeting is open to all, but only the Chairperson of each Committee can vote.

**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.

**Guest Minister – Reverend Vivian Moores**

We are so blessed to have Reverend Vivian Moores (retired June 2021) sharing in Worship with us today. As part of her seminary requirements, she was a student under Reverend Paul Cumming (1983) at Bridgewater United Church. Graduating from the Atlantic School of Theology (1984) and ordained (1985), she has served on the Brooklyn Pastoral Charge, Riverport Pastoral Charge and Petite Riviere Pastoral Charge, with over thirty-seven years of Ministry. She is passionate about her faith.

**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.

**Bridgewater United Church Anniversary Sunday**

The origin of the Bridgewater United Church resulted from the union of Grace Methodist Church and St. John’s Presbyterian; both churches became part of the United Church of Canada. The earliest record of the Methodist Church in Bridgewater dates from 1855. The earliest record of Presbyterians in Bridgewater was 1753. A new Christian Education Centre was opened on May 26th, 1963, followed by the Sanctuary on September 22nd, 1974. Our history is rich and ever growing!

**Honour Children Who Attended Residential Schools**

On September 30th, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their communities and families to residential institutions. This year, Indigenous communities across the country continue to share the truth they have always known, that many of the children who never returned home remain on the grounds of those institutions in unmarked burial sites. These communities are now seeking to honour the missing children. On Orange Shirt Day we also observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For non-Indigenous Christians in particular, this is a time to reflect on their role in colonialism and the ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

**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.

**Minute for Mindfulness**

*"It's the quiet moments after prayer that really matter.*

*They nourish authentic Christianity.*

*Power flows out of stillness, strength out of solitude.*

*Decisions that change the course of lives come out of these quiet times."*

*~ Bill Hybels*

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

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

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