**Bridgewater United Church's Living Faith Story**

**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

**Theological Rationale**

**We are called to share our gifts in community,**

**seeking fellowship and praising God.**

*“All who believed were together and had all things in common;**they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceedsto all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at homeand ate their food with glad and generoushearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” ~ Acts 2:44-47*

**As disciples we are called to be stewards of God’s Grace**

**by serving one another with the gifts we have been given.**

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. ~ 1 Peter 4:10-11*

As a Community of Faith, God calls us to be:

* A welcoming body that provides time and space for all people to explore and grow on their faith journey.
* A diverse community that seeks to explore and grow in our faith journey.
* A community that values the old and the new, building on the traditions of the Church, cherishing our history, embracing new opportunities and creatively exploring our purpose as Christ’s body in the world.
* People who openly share their talents and gifts with one another to further the life and work of the Church.
* Lifelong learners through Christian education and fellowship for children, youth and adults.
* Stewards of God’s Grace for ourselves and others by supporting Outreach within our Congregation, Community and beyond.
* People who inspire and motivate one another to deepen our relationship with God and each other.
* People who encourage one another, offering care and support through all of life’s stages.
* Willing to listen for the Spirit and open ourselves to new opportunities through the inspiration of Christ’s teachings in Scripture and the continuing work of God in the world.

**All Are welcome!**

Bridgewater United Church, an Affirming Ministry, welcomes Ministry Personnel to join them in the pursuit of living out the fullness of our Vision and Mission Statements and Core Values. As an active Community of Faith, we have one Ministry Personnel (50% position at Bridgewater United Church (Bridgewater Pastoral Charge) in collaboration with West Side United Church (LaHave New Dublin Pastoral Charge) to create a Full-Time Ministry,) where the duties and responsibilities are detailed in our Position Description. The Ministry Personnel works collaboratively with the Congregation and the Music Ministry Director, to be a vibrant, caring and welcoming Ministry for our multigenerational and diverse community.

**Bridgewater United’s Vision for Ministry**

We recognize that Ministry is changing, and we are committed to becoming a church that energetically engages our community, the acceptance of all people, and promotes love for God, Self, and Others. We have updated our Marriage and Baptism policies to reflect a broader inclusivity and acceptance. We understand the need for exploring new models of Ministry and are eager to continue moving beyond ourselves and our walls to serve the needs of our community. Over the past number of years, we have made many changes including a new Governance Model, Introduction of Technology in Worship and enjoy a relaxed, relevant, and vibrant time of Worship. We are also in the early stages of exploring what a redevelopment of our facilities could be in service of our congregation, mission and need for future sustainable revenue.

**Description of the Community – Town of Bridgewater**

Town of Bridgewater website ~ <https://www.bridgewater.ca>

Bridgewater, a town of just over 9370, is 100 km southwest of Halifax, in the South Shore region of Nova Scotia. Located approximately 12 km inland from the Atlantic Ocean on the beautiful LaHave River, Bridgewater boasts many amenities: great shopping; recently built Lifestyle Centre that houses a full NHL-size ice surface, an aquatic centre, a therapeutic pool, and a public library; a Museum; an inclusive School System, including a French Language School; the Lunenburg Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College; an 18-hole championship Golf Course; and a Regional Hospital with an Emergency Room, intensive care unit, diagnostic, maternity, mental health and surgical services. Major denominations are also represented in Bridgewater, with an active and collaborative Bridgewater Inter-Church Council.

In the most recent census (2021), Bridgewater grew by 3.0%, the only rural town in Nova Scotia to grow. The economy is stable; a major employer is Michelin, an international tire manufacturing facility. Approximately 75% of the economy is industrial and the rest is resource-based (fishing, farming and hunting). The seafood is always fresh!

The housing market is active with several new listings monthly. A wide variety of housing is available in a wide price range, with a recent influx in new-build dwellings including; apartments, condos, duplexes and single family homes. In addition, modern rental units are available for a reasonable price.

**Pertinent websites are:**

**South Shore Health**

<https://www.nshealth.ca/locations-details/South%20Shore%20Regional%20Hospital>

**South Shore Regional Centre for Education**

<https://ssrce.ca>

**Centre Scolaire de la Rive-Sud**

<https://rive-sud.ednet.ns.ca>

**Bridgewater United Church**

[www.bridgewaterunited.ca](http://www.bridgewaterunited.ca)

**Bridgewater United Church YouTube Channel**

[www.youtube.com/bridgewaterunited](http://www.youtube.com/bridgewaterunited)

**LighthouseNow Progress Bulletin Newspaper**

<https://www.lighthousenow.ca>

**Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre**

<https://www.lclc.ca>

**Description of Bridgewater United Church**

**History of Bridgewater United Church**

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 in 1963, followed by the Sanctuary in 1974.

Our congregation moved to the Council Model of Governance in 2013/2014.

Bridgewater United Church became an Affirming Ministry in November 2018.

A more in-depth history of Bridgewater United Church can be found at the following link:

<https://ucceast.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Bridgewater-PC-finding-aid.pdf>

YouTube Channel link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BridgewaterUnited>

Bridgewater United Church also has a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BridgewaterUnitedChurch>

**Fellowship**

**Music Ministry**

We are open to a variety of musical genres and styles so we can offer a modern, meaningful, spiritual experience for our community. Praise choruses, along with Hymns, meditative pieces, special music groups and soloists, as well as instruments, are all ways we enhance our worship experience. Video/TV Monitors in the Sanctuary allow the Congregation to be stimulated by images, learn through videos, and follow along with scripture readings and songs.

**Other Ministries**

We have Sunday School for Youth; Ages 3 to 18, Worship Nursery for Children; under Age 3, B-United Youth Group for Youth; Grades 5 to 12 and an active UCW (United Church Women).

**Adult Study Program**

Adult Studies and Bible Studies are arranged around themes and seasons and can be creative.

**Outreach**

Bridgewater United Church provides many Outreach opportunities, whether it is providing Blessing Bags for Souls Harbour Bridgewater, providing clothing to Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank, providing Worship Services to local Nursing Homes, or our Angel Tree Project that provides gifts and groceries to families in our community at Christmas time, in connection with the Christmas Daddies program. These are only a few examples of how B-United strives to connect to the Community.

**Scouting**

Bridgewater United Church, working in partnership with Scouts Canada, hosts the full spectrum of Scouting opportunities.

**Food Bank**

Bridgewater United Church is a partner church in the Bridgewater Inter-Church Food Bank. Non-perishable food items and monetary donations are welcomed throughout the month, and each month we highlight a Food Bank need.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an Outreach of the UCW. Prayer Shawls are knit by faithful members of the community, and they are blessed with a prayer. These shawls are available for anyone to pick up and give to someone who may need them.

**Radio Broadcast Ministry**

On the third and fourth Sunday of each month, the worship service is broadcast over the local radio station, at 11:00am on CKBW (98.1FM).

**BUD Online Ministries**

Our Online Ministry (BUD – Bridgewater United Digital) provides an Online Worship service through our YouTube channel, on the second and fourth Sunday, for those that cannot attend On-Site Worship or who do not live in the area. It provides an opportunity to reach those in the comforts of their own home and spread the message of God’s Love and Kindness and Inclusivity for all.

**BUD Online Ministries Audio Podcasts**

On April 2, 2022, BUD Online Ministries announced some exciting news that it was adapting a new approach to our Online Ministry with new content and new faith stories. With that, it was announced that we will be mixing our content throughout the month with video content and podcasts (podcasts are audio-only files with old content from previous on-site services). Our Podcasts air on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month.

**Sherbrooke Lake Camp**

Sherbrooke Lake Camp is a Camping Ministry of the United Church of Canada for the South Shore and the Annapolis Valley regions of Nova Scotia.

**Bridgewater Day Care Centre**

The Christian Education Centre is home to the Bridgewater Day Care Centre. The Bridgewater Day Care Centre, operating in an inclusive environment, started in 1969 and is a Non-Profit Child Care Licensed Facility. Bridgewater Day Care Centre is an Outreach of the Bridgewater United Church, and operates as a non-profit organization, licensed for 90 childcare spaces. The Day Care Centre’s revenue is received from two main sources, parent fees and public funding through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada.

**Mission Work**

An Outreach Mission Engagement was launched between B.U.C Brigade Mission Trip and Servant’s Heart Ministries. A Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic was held in 2018. Due to the uncertainty with respect to COVID-19, COVID-19 vaccine status and the health care in the Dominican, a decision was made that any future trips would be put on hold.

**Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council**

Bridgewater Pastoral Charge is part of Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council which includes Nova Scotia and Bermuda. Inspired by God, we are Christ’s people in Bermuda and Nova Scotia, loving each other, following Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council meets once a year in the spring with committee work being carried on throughout the year.

<https://ucceast.ca/regional-council-15#>

**Facilities**

Bridgewater United Church was built in 1974 adjacent to and attached to the existing Christian Education Centre (built in 1963). The modern Sanctuary has beautiful stained-glass windows, a posterior elevated choir loft with a Letourneau organ, a modern sound system, three large video screens for multimedia presentations, and lovely wooden amenities (Communion Table, Pulpit and Lectern, etc.). We continue to explore technological solutions to enhancing worship and are now digitally recording and editing services for our Website. A Yamaha digital piano is situated at the front of the Church. Our Sanctuary is furnished with modern upholstered chairs allowing flexibility in layout and configuration for Special Worship Services.

Linking the Sanctuary to the Christian Education Centre are Office Spaces for Ministry Staff and the Office Administrator as well as a Board Room/Library. In the Christian Education Centre, there is an Industrial Kitchen, a Parlour, a Nursery, and numerous classrooms. At the front of the building is a Multi-Purpose Room/Chapel, and in the centre, there is a Gymnasium with a stage.

**B-United and COVID**

Pre-COVID, Bridgewater United was primed for a technological change. The onset of the pandemic engaged the ministry to pivot according to health guidelines, quickly changing how the church operated, making weekly services inclusive for the congregation. The goal was to make availability of church services accessible to all members for the duration of the phase.

The period of the pandemic saw Bridgewater United maintaining a strong front to keep its parishioners engaged while adhering to COVID health guidelines ensuring safety and comfort for the congregation. Inspiring virtual services, online giving, and community outreach preceded an optional return to the building that included masking, social distancing, and ‘bring your own communion.’

As we enter the recovery phase following the pandemic, we continue to offer services for parishioners to access services, take notes, give, and engage - from the church or at home. These pivots have certainly opened up new possibilities for ministry and connections in the future.

**Bridgewater United Church does not supply a manse.**

**Profile/Descriptions for a Full-Time (100%) and Part-Time (50%)**

**Ministry Personnel Positions**

**Position Summary:**

At Bridgewater United, we are a forward thinking, engaging, and Affirming congregation that is filled with anticipation and hope of what is yet to come in our ministry. We believe the main role of the Team Ministry at Bridgewater is to lead the congregation as it continues to value what it means to be a barrier-free, inclusive, and Affirming community of faith and to support the spiritual care of our members. We look to the Team Ministry to provide innovative and creative ways of worship and outreach through use of technology and digital platforms. We are looking for your leadership as we move towards something new, both within our community of faith and in exploring ways to connect and grow into our growing diverse neighbourhood and wider community. We recognize the need to focus on growth and development and we need your wisdom and guidance to make that happen. We need a Team Ministry that will build upon a vibrant and Spirit-filled ministry.

**Full Time Minister of Worship and Small Group Ministry** (40 hours per week)

Duties and Responsibilities:

***Worship – 40%***

a. The Minister of Worship and Pastoral Care will have primary responsibility for planning and conducting worship services in consultation with the Worship Committee, other ministerial staff and the Music Director. Whenever possible, these services should be used as an opportunity to lead the congregation in exploring new ways of worship and should include lay leadership.

b. Deliver sermons that make connections between God’s teachings and people’s lives in the contemporary world.

c. In coordination with the Minister of Pastoral Care, take primary responsibility to administering the sacraments, performing weddings, and conducting funerals in accordance with Bridgewater United Church policies.

***Pastoral Care – 10%***

a. Assist and support the Minister of Pastoral Care with the implementation of a program of pastoral care, in consultation with the Pastoral Care Committee and other members of the staff.

b. In the absence of the Minister of Pastoral Care, offer visits to members of the congregation, most especially to those who are sick, bereaved, in crisis, or unable to attend Sunday services.

c. Assist and support the Minister of Pastoral Care with training for and empower lay leaders to provide excellent pastoral care.

***Administration – 15%***

a. In collaboration with the Minister of Pastoral Care, attend Church Council, Worship and Pastoral Care Committee meetings as required, and provide support to other committees as needed.

b. Attend staff meetings and duly called meetings of the congregation.

c. Participate in General Council, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, ecumenical, and multi-faith activities as appropriate.

d. Communicate well with the Minister of Pastoral Care, the Office Administrator, the Music Director and/or Organist, the Church Council, the M&P Committee, and the Congregation on a regular basis through a variety of means (personal conversations, phone, social media, email, newsletter articles, newspaper articles, etc.).

e. Liaise with the digital ministries team and provide support for the communities of faith who are receiving recorded BUD ministries by attending their annual meetings and their governance body meetings.

***Faith Formation – 20%***

a. Lead small group book studies, Bible studies or other activities that allow our congregation members to grow in their faith and create a sense of community among our members.

b. In conjunction with the Sunday School Coordinator and the Faith Formation Committee, the Minister will actively support youth education (whether by leading or by supporting volunteer led programs).

***Community Outreach and Social Justice – 5%***

a. Support the Minister of Pastoral Care in their guidance of outreach projects and support the congregation in its many congregational projects and activities.

b. Work with and offer encouragement to the outreach and social justice teams.

c. Be actively involved with local Pride and social justice initiatives and celebrations in the community.

d. Assist the congregation to be aware of and to understand United Church policies and actions in the areas of Affirm United and social justice by attending regular webinars and gatherings.

***Leadership & Stewardship – 5%***

a. Inspire and motivate congregation members to share and act upon their unique gifts and abilities.

b. Utilize a collaborative, consultative, consensus building approach when working with people.

c. Encourage open, direct, and healthy communication.

d. Be inclusive and respectful to all.

e. Guide and support the congregation in identifying goals and priorities and in working together to achieve them.

f. Assist the congregation to focus on stewardship in a positive, meaningful manner.

g. Work closely with other paid staff to ensure the most effective cooperation possible.

h. Work closely with the Church Council to provide effective and efficient governance.

i. Contribute significantly towards developing and implementing a shared vision for a strong and healthy congregation.

j. Employ effective, transparent conflict resolution strategies to deal with differences as they arise.

***Spiritual Development/Renewal – 5%***

a. Collaborate with other local United Churches or Interfaith church community on pastoral care, worship and other programs as appropriate in consultation with the Minister of Pastoral Care.

b. Support the education of laity within Bridgewater United Church.

**Part Time Minister of Pastoral Care and Outreach** (20 hours per week)

Duties and Responsibilities:

***Worship – 20%***

a. In the absence of the Minister of Worship, the Minister of Pastoral Care will have primary responsibility for planning and conducting worship services in consultation with the Worship Committee, other ministerial staff and the Music Director. Whenever possible, these services should be used as an opportunity to lead the congregation in exploring new ways of worship and should include lay leadership.

b. Deliver sermons that make connections between God’s teachings and people’s lives in the contemporary world.

c. In coordination with the Minister of Worship, take secondary responsibility to administering the sacraments, performing weddings, and conducting funerals in accordance with Bridgewater United Church policies.

***Pastoral Care – 40%***

a. Assume primary responsibility for a program of pastoral care, in consultation with the Pastoral Care Committee, the Minister of Worship, and other members of the staff.

b. Offer visits to members of the congregation, most especially to those who are sick, bereaved, in crisis, or unable to attend Sunday services, and provide communion to the homebound.

c. Enable participation in home communion for those who otherwise may be unable to participate through intentional visits with members of the congregation.

d. Act as the staff resource for the Pastoral Care Committee.

e. Provide training for and empower lay leaders to provide excellent pastoral care.

***Administration – 10%***

a. Attend Church Board, Worship and Pastoral Care Committee meetings as required, and provide support to other committees as needed.

b. Attend staff meetings and duly called meetings of the congregation.

c. Participate in General Council, Bermuda-Nova Scotia Regional Council, ecumenical, and multi-faith activities as appropriate.

d. Support the Minister of Worship and the digital ministries team in producing recorded services and liaising with communities of faith in their absence.

***Faith Formation – 10%***

a. In coordination with the Minister of Worship and Small Group Ministries, support or lead small group book studies, Bible studies or other activities that allow our congregation members to grow in their faith and create a sense of community among our members.

***Community Outreach and Social Justice – 15%***

a. With support from the Minister of Worship, the Minister of Pastoral Care will guide and support the congregation in its many congregational projects and activities.

b. Work with and offer encouragement to the outreach and social justice teams.

c. Be actively involved with local Pride and social justice initiatives and celebrations in the community.

d. Assist the congregation to be aware of and to understand United Church policies and actions in the areas of Affirm United and social justice by attending regular webinars and gatherings.

***Spiritual Development/Renewal – 5%***

a. Collaborate with other local United Churches or Interfaith church community on pastoral care, worship and other programs as appropriate in consultation with the Minister of Faith Formation and Spiritual Development/Renewal.

b. Support the education of laity within Bridgewater United Church.