



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

Welcome to Worship!

St. Thomas United is an open, affirming, accepting, and child friendly faith community. With children present we expect noise and movement, so there's no need to leave the Sanctuary when it happens. If parents feel more comfortable with their children in nursery care, we have a nursery for babies & children under 3 years of age – just follow the posted signs.

We hope that your worship experience will feed you and challenge you on your faith journey.

Please talk to a greeter or the folks wearing an “Ask Me” badge if there's anything you are unsure of or have a question about.

There are Hearing Assistance Sets available. Ask a greeter or Ask Me person to get one.

We project everything you will need to participate in worship. You will also find hymnbooks in your seats if you'd prefer to use them.

Newcomers – please fill out one of our Communication Cards. This is our first opportunity to be in touch with you so that we can start to get to know one another.

Ministers: Rev. Tracy Robertson,
Rev. Justin McNeill

Office Manager: Sandra Dusoswa

Music Team: Pam Bazinet, Barb Robertson,
Dick Worton, Erin MacLean-Berko

Accompanists: Kari Orosz, Kloria Wen

Youth Leaders: Heather Robertson,
Eden Middleton

Sunday School & Nursery Coordinator:
Erin MacLean-Berko

Office Email: office@stthomasunited.ca

Sunday, March 11, 2018

10:00 am

Theme: Change Over

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

Prelude: Kari Orosz - “Londonderry Air”- arr. by
Melody Bober

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Introit: *God of the Bible* (v.3)

MV#28

Christ Candle & Silence

Ministry of Music: *The Children's Choir*

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights*
(vv. 1-3)

VU#108

Scripture: *Exodus 20:1-7 & John 2:13-22*

Ministry of Music: *The Orchestra - An Irish Lullaby*
- by Stephen Bulla

Children's Time

The Message: “Change Over”

Hymn: *Though Ancient Walls* (vv. 1-3)

VU#691

Minute for Mission: “Thank You from Green Bay”

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Ministry of Music: *The Orchestra—“This Little
Light of Mine”* - by Harry Dixon Loes

Offertory: *Grant Us, God, the Grace*

VU#540

Offertory Prayer

Call to Prayer: *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*
(vv. 3&5)

VU#121

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

VU#703

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

Remember Daylight Saving Time! Sunday, **March 11, 2am** clocks are turned forward 1 hour.

STUC On The Thommies: Thank you audience, performers, and back stage crews for braving the elements to offer a top-notch show on Saturday, March 3. We have received many compliments about our performances. You should be very proud of yourselves. Special mention to some folks who weren't acknowledged in the Programme: My kitchen crews of Diane French, Ed Gibbons, Bev Smith, Heather Worton, Evangeline Robertson, Linda Bouchard, Pauline Wu. They worked very hard to lay out a fabulous snack time. Also to the best dressed bartenders: Tom Snowden, Barb Veitch, Betty Ann Murray, Doug Whitnack, Rick Humphrey, Al Brooks. Thanks also to all those who brought food offerings. Wanda Veer and the STUC On Committee

Come celebrate St.Patrick's Day with the Prime Timers, Tuesday, **March 13** at 10am in the Narthex. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Everyone is welcome. Wear green, if you like! **Saturday, May 5, 2:00 PM:** Morpheus Theatre's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "**HMS Pinafore**", Pumphouse Theatre. Cost \$16.00 per person (cash or cheque payable to Jan Campbell) Sign up in Narthex by April 8.

Faith & Film Lenten Study: Each and every Wednesday between **Feb. 21 & Mar. 28** we will be taking a faith-filled look at different movies and examining how these films reflect the themes of Lent. Join us from 7pm-9pm as we watch a variety of films on our journey towards Easter.

The Faith Formation program, *This Is the Story* (aka "bible study") will begin a new instalment, but with a different time-slot, in March. We will read the story of David (1 & 2 Samuel) in the "Bible as literature" kind of way (it *is* literature, and the story of David is one of the world's greatest.) We'll read this story more like you would read a great novel as part of a book club, than as a bible "study." It's a rip-roaring good tale, very *Game of Thrones* Hebrew version. So come join us, beginning **Thurs. Mar. 15, from 1:00 - 2:30pm, in the library.**

Fair Trade coffee is back!! You may have heard that UCW has disbanded, but a couple of UCW members did not want the coffee to go away! Fair Trade coffee orders will be taken for the next two Sundays: **March 11 and March 18**. Did you know that with the profit from the Fair Trade Coffee sales, St. Thomas UCW was able to buy all of the coffee for church consumption? Yes!! All the coffee that you drink at the church is Fair Trade coffee! So, for every order you place now, you will help St. Thomas continue to do that. As a bonus, at home, you will be also drinking Fair Trade coffee, thus helping out the farmers who produce it. Thanks for your continued support! Please make cheques out to St Thomas United Church. Marilyn Barry(marilyn.barry4@gmail.com) and Judy Booth (jabooth@telusplanet.net).

Loblaw Gift Cards: Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Inn from the Cold drive put on by the Youth Group in February! We understand that the complimentary Loblaw cards are in the process of being mailed out, so if you still wish to donate your gift card to Inn from the Cold but haven't received it yet, please pass it on to Eden Middleton, Heather Robertson, or a member of the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) at any time. We will accept the cards for as long as needed, and we'll make sure they get to Inn from the Cold! Thanks for your help and your donations!

ChooseKind: The Sunday School Kids are going to be doing a book study of the book "**Wonder**" by **R.J. Palacio**. We will introduce the novel OR the Early Childhood version of "Wonder" at the **beginning of March**, and do a discussion on **April 22 in Sunday School**. This remarkable book is a story of empathy, understanding, acceptance, and friendship. I highly recommend everyone read it, but especially the kids! Either take the book out of the library, buy a copy, or let Erin know and she will find a copy for you to borrow!

Healing Touch will be offered in the Sanctuary by appointment on the first Tuesday evening (7pm and 8pm) and the second Thursday of each month (1pm and 2:30pm) until July.

Junior Youth Sunday Morning: On Sun. **Mar. 11** during the service, there will be a special program geared towards children in grades 4 – 6. It will be led by one of the Junior Youth Leaders. The children will start the morning in the service and then leave for their program when the rest of the Sunday School and the Senior Youth Group leave. Friends are always welcome.

Junior Youth Group Social Event: Junior Youth Group is for grades 4 - 6 preteens. They meet once a month for fun and community building. The children are encouraged to bring their friends. The next Junior Youth Group is on Fri. **Mar. 9** at 6:30pm. Volunteer leaders are Sam Abel, Evangeline Robertson, and Matthew Worton. All youth attending are requested to fill out a registration and waiver form the first time they attend during a school year. Forms are available on the website at <http://stthomasunited.ca/Junior-Youth-Group.aspx> or at the Church.

Drumming Circle will be offered the second Tuesday evening of the month from 7-9pm, February until July. Registration is required and will be limited to 30 people.

You are invited to a guided cross-cultural training tour! This bridge-building experience has been described as a fascinating and unsettling experience. The day includes a guided visit to a Muslim mosque, Sikh temple, Hindu temple, and a Buddhist temple. Registration fee of \$69 includes a delicious ethnic lunch! The expected outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- Creating diversity awareness in Calgary, AB and other surrounding communities
- Beating racism with education and increased cultural tolerance
- Enhancing cross-cultural communication skills
- Providing ongoing outreach/resources to help create healthy communities
- Appreciating and celebrating diverse multi-cultural communities

Avenue 15: Volunteers are needed to spend approx. 3-3.5 hours to prepare and share dinner at the Avenue 15 homeless youth shelter on a Sunday afternoon. Our next dinners are **April 15, May 27, and June 24.** Please sign up on the sheet on the M&O board in the Narthex, or contact **Hope Cochran at 587-581-2619** for more information.

Confirmation Classes are being held on the last Sunday of each month after church (as of Sept. 24). Anyone interested in becoming a member of St. Thomas United Church is encouraged to commit to participating in the classes on the following dates: Mar. 11, 18, & 25. Confirmation Sunday will be Palm Sunday - March 25.

Camp Kasota West: Camp Kasota West is a United Church camp on Sylvan Lake near Red Deer. It offers week-long residential camping experiences in July and August for children who have completed grades 1 – 9. It also offers counsellor-in-training weeks for youth who have finished grades 9 – 11, and sailing camps for youth who have finished grades 8 – 11. The rates are very reasonable. An early bird discount of \$40 applies to registrations received by March 24. Several St. Thomas children have attended over the years. Parents have described it as ‘the best deal for summer.’

Naramata Centre 2018: Naramata offers programs that inspire, entertain, teach, and allow space for individual expression for people of all ages. The Centre will be offering a variety of programs from mid May until mid Oct. You may also choose to go there simply to relax. For further information, check out <https://www.naramatacentresociety.org/programs/>
Program registration and accommodation booking opened Feb 6.

Any announcements, advertisements, or requests for non-church related products, services, or donations to organizations contained in this bulletin/newsletter should not be interpreted as recommendations, endorsements, or permissions by St. Thomas United Church.

August 18-19, 2018: In 2017, **Team 4 All** raised **\$47,200.26** with nine people riding **The Ride to Conquer Cancer** for the **Alberta Cancer Foundation**. So far in **2018**, **Team 4 All** has **22** people: more than double the 2017 **Team 4 All**! Come join us in 2018: everyone from clowns, to food, to hauling trucks, to riders of all kinds. The ride continues ... David Robertson, david.j.robertson@shaw.ca, 403-547-3123, <http://www.conquercancer.ca/goto/DavidRobertson2018> or <http://www.conquercancer.ca/goto/Team4All2018>.

Volunteer Opportunity: Bowwest Resource Centre is asking for volunteers to provide child care and meals for programs to help parents with raising children. One program is “Nurturing Parenting”, which will run on Wednesdays for 10 weeks starting **Mar. 7** from 10-11:30 am, at Crowfoot Library. They need two adults to take care of children under six years old. The second program is “Lone Parents”, which helps single parent families build parenting skills. This will run for five weeks starting Wed. **Mar. 14** from 5:30-7:30pm at Westview Baptist Church. For this program we are looking for seven – eight people, which could be a mix of teens and adults, willing to do child care for a broad age range of children. We also need someone who would be willing to make a simple dinner for around 30 people, and bring it to the church. We request that people commit to helping with these programs soon, as volunteers will need to apply for Police Checks and Vulnerable Sector Verifications, prior to the program start dates. This is an amazing opportunity to really help parents develop better child-rearing skills, which can have a lasting effect for generations to come. Please sign up on the sheets in the Narthex or contact Karen Kavanagh at karenkavanagh80@gmail.com or 403-370-8073 for more information.

A Moment of Peace: A meditative service is held every Monday morning at 10:45am and the last Monday evening of each month at 5:30pm.

Sign Up for St. Thomas Announcements and E-Letters: Want to know what’s going on? Sign up for announcements by filling out a Communication Card or calling the office at (403)241-0366.

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

	Community Time After Each Service
Sunday, March 11	
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Music Meeting
11:30 am	Confirmation Class
Monday, March 12	
9:30 am	AM Fitness
10:45 am	Moment of Peace
1:00 pm	Bridge
5:15 pm	Sparks
5:30 pm	Worship Comm. Meeting
7:00pm	Orchestra
Tuesday, March 13	
9:00 am	Pastoral Care Comm. Meeting
10:00 am	Primetimers
1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters
4:15 pm	Karate
6:00 pm	Brownies
6:30 pm	Pathfinders
7:00 pm	Drum Circle
Wednesday, March 14	
9:30 am	AM Fitness
10:30 am	Cooking with Friends
1:00 pm	Art Group
7:00 pm	Youth Choir
7:00 pm	Faith & Film Lenten Study
7:00 pm	Wed. Night Book Club
7:00 pm	YAC Meeting
Thursday, March 15	
9:00 am	Quilting For Others
1:00 pm	Bible Study
4:15 pm	Karate
5:45 pm	Sparks
6:00 pm	Children's Choir
6:00 pm	Strummers
7:15 pm	Adult Choir
Friday, March 16	
9:30 am	AM Fitness
12:00 pm	Naked Faith

Check the digital sign in the Narthex for location of activities.

Worship Services

- Mar. 11: Change Over
- Mar. 18: Trusting Change
- Mar. 25: Palm Sunday
- Mar. 30: Good Friday



MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

Through our gifts we commit ourselves to live out the mission and ministry of the church. Please give generously to the Mission and Service Fund to make this possible.



St. Thomas is an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. LGBTQ2 people are whole people and full members in this community of faith.

The United Church of Canada



St. Thomas is proud to be part of the United Church of Canada which ministers to close to 3 million people in 3,500 congregations across the country. (For more information about the United Church visit its website: www.united-church.ca)

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Today's Service

Thanks to everyone who helped make this Worship service a reality.