



**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, April 15, 2018

10:00 am

Theme: Changing Faith

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

**Prelude:** *Kari Orosz - “Morning Has Broken”*  
- arr. by Larry Shackley

**Welcome** to our Livestream Worship Service

**Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 Land**

**Greeting One Another & Announcements**

**Introit:** *Dance with the Spirit (Walk & Sing)*

**MV#156**

**Christ Candle & Silence**

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer**

**Ministry of Music:** *The Youth Choir - “Let Alleluias Resound!”* by Dave and Jean Perry

**Scripture:** *Luke 24:36-48*

**Ministry of Music:** *The Pembina Trails Singers—*  
*“The Gift of Love” - by Hal Hopson; Conductor - Val-dine Anderson*

**Children's Time**

**The Message:** *“Changing Faith”*

**Hymn:** *Who Is My Mother*

**MV#178**

**Minute for Mission:** *Mission & Service 101*

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Opportunity to Open Hands**

**Ministry of Music:** *The Pembina Trail Singers & The Youth Choir—“Change the World with Love” - words by Joseph Martin, music by Joseph Martin & Brad Nix*

**Offertory:** *Grateful (Chorus Only)*

**MV#182**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Call to Prayer:** *Now the Green Blade Rises (vv. 1 & 4)*

**VU#186**

**Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus**

**Hymn:** *And on This Path*

**MV#8**

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**In the wake of the horrific tragedy** involving the **Humboldt Broncos** hockey team, let us be reminded that we are not alone. In the midst of the devastation, Canadians have come together to offer support, comfort, and strength through solidarity. In the midst of this accident in our own backyard, the world, too, has offered its condolences and words of reassurance. What a blessing it is to be living in a place where, when heartbreak of this magnitude takes place, we are one people. We all are hurting, we all need a shoulder to cry on, we all yearn to yell about the unfairness, we all want healing. And as we come together, we are reminded of what it means to be people of God and our responsibility to live out God's love in the world. There have been many responses across this United Church of ours and heartfelt tributes made at vigils and gatherings held in Saskatchewan and elsewhere. We are a resurrection people, so may we have hope that we will persevere and we will heal, knowing that we are not alone.

**You might have noticed a red dress** hanging in our Narthex. Please take a moment to read the explanation below of why it is there and the importance of the campaign. **The Red Dress Campaign for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:** The Red Dress Campaign symbolizes the quest for justice and equity for Indigenous women who have been murdered and gone missing, and for whom justice has yet to be served. It recognizes their families and friends who continue to wait to know what happened to their loved ones, and reminds us of our responsibilities to help stop violence not only against Indigenous women, but against all people in our community. This red dress commemorates those who grieve, those who remember, and those who have died.

The Paths to Reconciliation Team invites you to come and learn more about the Red Dress Campaign and other important work with which it is engaged. The purpose of this team is to help St. Thomas live out the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and build respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples.

**Neighbour Day:** Please mark **June 16** on your calendars! Watch for more details in the announcements and newsletters.

**Every Sunday during April**, there will be a "Big Birthday Card" in the Narthex to mark Florence Comstock's upcoming 100th birthday on **May 13**. Everyone is invited to sign, share memories, and extend their greetings for her special day.

**Have you remembered** the **Veteran's Food Bank** when you have been out shopping? Canned meats and fish, baking supplies and mixes, jams, puddings, and fruit cups, as well as the usual pasta, cereals, and beans are appreciated. At this time, the generous Christmas donations will need replenishing. Thanks everyone!

**Primetimers**: All adults are welcome. Our next date for coffee and conversation will be **Tuesday, April 17 at 10am** in the Narthex. Save the date!

**Please plan to stay after the service on April 22** and **May 6** for the next instalments in the "Lunch & Learn" series. On April 22, we will welcome special guest, Lyall Gardiner. With the recent verdict and fallout from the Colton Boushie case, Lyall will discuss his experience of working in the criminal justice system in First Nations communities, both as a prosecutor and defence counsel, including jury selection, the large number of Indigenous people in the correction system, and his experience with the Child Welfare System in B.C. On May 6, we will screen the Canadian documentary, "We Were Children". Made in 2012, this film is about the experiences of First Nations children in the residential school system, told through the voices of two such children. For over 130 years, until 1996, more than 100,000 of Canada's Indigenous children were legally required to attend government funded schools run by various Christian faiths (including the United Church). Most children were sent to faraway schools that separated them from their families and stripped them of their cultural identity. (Please note - deals with mature subject matter). Hope you'll be able to attend one or both of these events!

**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.

**Teen Choirs Unite!** The St. Thomas Youth Choir and the Pembina Trails Singers from Winnipeg, MB will be sharing their musical talents at the Sunday Worship service on **April 15 at 10am**. You are invited to stay for a short concert immediately after the service, followed by a congregational lunch with the choirs. Pembina Trails Singers are a mixed auditioned divisional choir affiliated with the Pembina Trails School Division in Winnipeg, under the direction of Valdine Anderson. (For more information, see the article in the April newsletter.)

**Habitat for Humanity Women Build – May 5, 2018:** This is St. Thomas' 6<sup>th</sup> year supporting this event that inspires women to build homes - this year it's in the historic Calgary community of Bowness. **Ladies – if you are interested in coming please contact Melinda-Rae Lyse at [melindaraelyse@altig.com](mailto:melindaraelyse@altig.com) or 403-926-2787. We have openings for two more women to participate.** It's a lot of fun! **We need financial support to send women on the build (\$350 per person).** Our goal is to raise \$1,400 and send four women to participate. We appreciate all donations, large or small. Donations over \$25 will be issued a tax receipt. We are well on our way but need additional finances to meet our goal. To donate to this worthy project, look for the birdhouse in the Narthex (cheques should be payable to Habitat for Humanity), or visit our giving page <https://fundraise.habitatsouthernab.ca/team/161794>.

**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.

**The Bible Study** group is reading the story of David (1 & 2 Samuel) every **Thursday from 1 to 2pm**, in the library. You are welcome to join us at any time.

**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.

**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.

**Garage Sale:** It's that time of year again! Please start collecting your gently used items (a good excuse for spring cleaning?!?) to donate to the St. Thomas garage sale. The sale will be **held May 26 from 9am-2pm**, with setup the afternoon of May 25. Watch for a sign-up sheet for volunteers in the Narthex coming soon! Maxine Mendritzki and Brenda Roberts. **Items we will NOT accept:** Furniture, car seats or infant furniture, weapons, hazardous waste, construction materials, large appliances, stereo consoles, flammable products, food, carpets, newspapers, encyclopedias, glass jars, swing sets, TVs, computer monitors, mattresses, waterbeds, auto parts.

**# ChooseKind:** The Sunday School kids are 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!

**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 **23** 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>.

**Would you like to help** a Kurdish refugee family from Iraq living in Bowness? Occasional or weekly volunteers to visit, help complete forms, drive to appointments, practice ESL, and introduce them to Calgary activities are required. Gently used or new items needed: glasses, cutlery, television, computer, Lego, bikes for teenagers and a five year old, easy children's games like Uno, Candyland. Please contact Pat Shier 403-208-6853 for more information, or to arrange pickup or drop-off of items.

**The Decorating Committee** consisted of: Diane Latter, Bev Smith, Valda Clements, Heather Worton, and Louise and Tim Scott. This crew was amazing and creative. And it only took one hour (thanks in part to Anett Chicomny Pon who helped take down WINTER after church on Palm Sunday). Of course, the other half of the decorations are the fabulous BANNERS that St. Thomas United is blessed with. Much appreciation to Lyn and Hal Tonkin, and Deyelle and Hilda MacDonald, for their huge part in changing out the wall and pulpit banners and altar coverings. Happy Easter and springtime to all at St. Thomas. Lori Weller

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

**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.

*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.*

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

	Community Time After Each Service
<b>Sunday, April 15</b> 10:00 am	Worship
<b>Monday, April 16</b> 9:30 am 10:45 am 1:00 pm 5:15 pm 7:00 pm	AM Fitness Moment of Peace Bridge Sparks Orchestra
<b>Tuesday, April 17</b> 9:00 am 10:00 am 4:15 pm 6:30 pm	Quilting Primetimers Karate Brownies
<b>Wednesday, April 18</b> 9:30 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	AM Fitness Cooking with Friends Art Group Youth Choir Executive Council Meeting
<b>Thursday, April 19</b> 9:00 am 1:00 pm 4:15 pm 5:45 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:15 pm	Quilting For Others Bible Study Karate Sparks Strummers Children's Choir Adult Choir
<b>Friday, April 20</b> 9:30 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	AM Fitness Youth Group Sewing Group

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

Please feel free to take a bulletin with you after Worship.

## Worship Services

April 15: Changing Faith

April 22: Change in Our Church



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](http://www.united-church.ca))

### Today's Service

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

100 Hawkwood Blvd. NW Calgary AB T3G 2S9  
office@stthomasunited.ca -  
[www.stthomasunited.ca](http://www.stthomasunited.ca)  
403-241-0366