

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS



Sunday, December 3, 2017
10:00 am
Theme: Hope and Peace Sunday

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

Sunday, Dec. 3	Community Time After Each Service
10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Knitting Sale
11:00 am	Stewardship Meeting
11:30 am	Bible Study
1:00 pm	Blue Christmas
Monday, Dec. 4	
9:30 am	AM Fitness
10:45 am	Moment of Peace
1:00 pm	Bridge
5:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting
6:15 pm	Sparks
7:00pm	Orchestra
7:00 pm	M & O Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Dec. 5	
9:00 am	Quilting
1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Knitters
4:15 pm	Karate
6:00 pm	Brownies
7:00 & 8:00 pm	Healing Touch
Wednesday, Dec. 6	
9:30 am	AM Fitness
10:30 am	Cooking With Friends
1:00 pm	Art Group
7:00 pm	Youth Choir
Thursday, Dec. 7	
9:00 am	Quilting For Others
4:15 pm	Karate
5:45 pm	Sparks
6:00 pm	Children's Choir
6:00 pm	Strummers
7:15 pm	Adult Choir
Friday, Dec. 8	
9:30 am	AM Fitness
4:00 pm	Scouts Popcorn Sorting
6:30 pm	Youth Group
7:00 pm	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

Dec. 3 : Advent 1 and 2 - Hope and Peace
1PM - Blue Christmas
Dec. 10 : Advent 3 and 4 - Joy and Love
Dec. 17 : Children's Musical
Dec. 24 : Christmas Eve
10AM - Kids, Carols, and Chaos
8PM - Choir Cantata
10PM - Communion (Youth Choir)

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. LGBT2S 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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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: Andrew Taylor-Kerr, Kirsten Carr, Heather Robertson

Sunday School & Nursery Coordinator:

Erin MacLean-Berko

Email: office@stthomasunited.ca

(A full version of this morning's liturgy is available – just ask a Greeter or Ask Me host.)

Pre-Service Carols – *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* VU#44, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* VU#48, *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* VU#43

Prelude: *The Maple Leaf Brass* – "The Sussex Carol" – Traditional English Carol – arr. R. Langlo

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Introit: *A Candle Is Burning* (vv. 1 & 2) VU#6

Advent 1 & 2: (*Candles of Hope & Peace*)

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1, 2, & 7) VU#1

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Ministry of Music: *The Maple Leaf Brass* – "My Spirit Be Joyful" – Johann Sebastian Bach

Children's Time

The Message

Hymn: *O Ancient Love* (vv. 1, 3, & 4) VU#17

Minute for Mission: *Microcredit Funds Hope*

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity To Open Hands

Ministry of Music: *The Maple Leaf Brass* – "Ashokan Farewell" – J. Ungar

† **Offertory:** *In the Bleak Midwinter* (v.4) VU#55

† **Offertory Prayer**

Call to Prayer: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (v. 1) VU#61

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

† **Commissioning & Benediction**

Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* VU#2

Postlude: *The Maple Leaf Brass* – "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" – Leon Jessel; arr. Sherman Montgomery

Today's Service

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

The 2018 United Church of Canada Calendars Are Here! They are only \$5.25; get yours before they are gone.

UCW: Our Christmas Potluck Brunch will be held on **Sat. Dec. 2 at 10am** in the Narthex. All ladies of St. Thomas are welcome. Please bring your potluck offering, plate, cup, utensils, and a donation which will go to Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society. This is a fun event to attend.

Our annual Blue Christmas service will be held at **1pm on Dec. 3**. This is a contemplative service for those of us feeling 'blue' for whatever reason (death, loss of job, or just 'cuz); a service where hope might be rekindled and light brought to darkness. All are welcome; invite family and friends. Light refreshments after the service.

Christmas Wreath Making! Sun. Dec. 3: *A call for green play dough! Please bring ziplock bags of play dough on Sunday morning. We will be making wreaths in Sunday School and following the church service, in the Narthex. A great way to kick off the Christmas Season! See Erin if you have questions.

Adopt A Family: This **Sun. Dec. 3** is the last day you will be able to choose a gift to purchase for our "Adopt A Family" program. All of the gifts and gift cards need to be returned to the Church by **Sun. Dec. 10**. Please attach the tag you picked to the gift or gift card. If you are not able to shop for a gift you can donate money and the shopping will be done for you. Thank you for helping to make a struggling family's Christmas merrier. If you require more information, please contact Karen Kavanagh at karenkavanagh80@gmail.com or 403-286-8073.

Fair Trade Coffee orders: Ready for pick-up in the Narthex.

Prayer Shawl Knitters sale of knit and crocheted items will be held **on Sun. Dec. 3**. All money collected from the sale will be used to buy yarn to make Prayer Shawls and Baptismal Shawls.

Faith Formation series, "This Is the Story", meets for the last time in 2017 this **Sun. Dec. 3**, at 11:30am in the Lounge. The series will begin again on Jan. 11, with the story of Adam and Eve.

Wanda's Preserves: I will have preserves available on **Dec. 10 and Dec. 17**. If you want something specific, or need something before these dates, please contact me at 403-239-5964, 587-224-5455, or wandaveer@shaw.ca. Thanks folks, for all your generous support!

Mission and Outreach will be sponsoring a "**White Gift Sunday**" on **Dec. 10**. We will be collecting grocery items to be donated to the **Calgary Food Bank**. Bring them in a white grocery bag if you like but no need to wrap in white tissue as in years past. A great way to help those less fortunate in our own city this Christmas season.

Avenue 15 Gift Drive: St. Thomas will be collecting gifts for the teens at Avenue 15 this holiday season. Please consider donating something for them to open on Christmas morning. Please place unwrapped items in the indicated box in the Narthex. The Sunday School will be assisting with the sorting on **Dec. 10**, so please consider donating, large or small. We will make sure there is a balance in the gifts. Erin will be delivering them on Dec. 17. Any leftover gifts will be passed along to kids at Inn From The Cold. See Erin with questions.

M&O is collecting small or travel size toiletries to be donated to the youth at Avenue 15. If you wish to participate in this initiative please give your donations to Hope Cochran or any other member of M&O. These small necessities are very much appreciated by the young people at the shelter.

News Flash!! Due to popular demand, additional Healing Touch evening sessions will be offered at 7pm and 8pm on Tues. **Dec. 5**, by appointment. Thursday afternoon sessions **Dec. 14** are also by appointment. For more info, see poster and pamphlet in the Narthex. To book an appointment, please call the church office.

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: Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25. Confirmation Sunday will be Easter - April 1.

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

Please Note: We do Livestream most Worship Services. Here is the link with info: https://youtu.be/wel_ZSaZpdU.

The Nursery on Sunday mornings is a very important part of St. Thomas' hospitality and if you feel called to provide some care for our youngest people, please contact Erin MacLean-Berko (and you're paid \$10/Sunday too!).

August 13, 2017: >1,500 participants raised **\$6.7 million dollars** for the Alberta Cancer Foundation! We know it is more than just 1,500 participants. We also know it is people like you. **Team 4 All** of nine members raised **\$47,200.26!** Come and join us in 2018. **Team 4 All** already have four new people! The ride continues...David Robertson, david.j.robertson@shaw.ca, 403-547-3123
<http://www.conquercancer.ca/goto/Team4All2018>; <http://www.conquercancer.ca/goto/DavidRobertson2018>

The Calgary Drop-In Centre has begun its 'Frosty Bites' campaign. They give out clear plastic bags filled with items such as gloves, toques, socks, lip balm, and hand cream. The kits also contain an info sheet on frostbite. Their goal is to have zero cases of frostbite this year. If you'd like to donate any of these items to the DIC, please leave them in the HUGS (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks) box. Thanks! Elaine Gray

Building Sacred Bridges: Sponsored by the Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Clergy Leadership Team. Looking for that special gift for loved ones? How about a memorable interfaith musical experience? Inspiring works by Muslim, Sikh, Christian and Jewish faith groups including an interfaith children's choir, and a faith band. **Sat. Feb. 10** at Knox United Church or **Sun. Feb. 11** at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. 7pm. Reserve tickets at www.habitatsouthernab.ca/bsb or "Building Sacred Bridges" facebook page. For more information contact Melinda-Rae(melindaraelyse@altig.com)

Drumming Circles: On the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7-9pm. The next drumming circle is **Feb. 13**. To register: complete a communication card or call the office at 403-241-0366.

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.

The Blackadar family is looking for a volunteer to help Shelley at the Winter Club's Aqua fit class – contact Shelley at 403-239-5854 or shelladar@gmail.com for details of the requirements.

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.