



**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 begin 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, Caitlin Hornbeck

**Sunday School & Nursery Coordinator:**  
Erin MacLean-Berko

**Office Email:** office@stthomasunited.ca

Sunday, February 10, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: Being Surprised

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

**Prelude:** *Hymn Sing*

**Welcome** to our Livestream Worship Service  
**Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3 Land**

**Greeting One Another & Announcements**

**Christ Candle Lighting**

**Introit:** *I Am the Light of the World (Refrain, v.1, Refrain)* **VU#87**

**Call to Worship**

**Ministry of Music:** *Youth Choir- "Celtic Benediction" by Sue Orrell*

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn:** *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New* **MV#115**

**Scripture:** *Luke 5:1-11*

**Ministry of Music:** *Strummers - "Bread and Fishes" by Alan Bell*

**Children's Time**

**Message:** *"Being Called"*

**Hymn:** *Will You Come and Follow Me* **VU#567**

**Minute for Mission:** *St. Thomas Mission & Outreach Committee: "Calgary Alliance for the Common Good" Elizabeth Morton*

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Opportunity to Open Hands**

**Ministry of Music:** *Strummers - "I Would I Were" by James Keelaghan*

**Offertory:** *Grant Us, God, the Grace(2x) using words written by David Gray* **VU#540**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Call to Prayer:** *Bathe Me in Your Light (v.2)* **MV#82**

**Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus**

**Hymn:** *Your Love Is Amazing* **MV#26**

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Tracy and Justin are offering confirmation classes** for anyone interested in becoming a member at St. Thomas. We will meet from **11:30-12:30** on the following days: **February 17, 24, March 3, 17, and April 7**. Feb. 17 at 12:30 pm, we are touring the Chapel of the Bells Funeral Home, on Centre St. N, with Symon's Valley United. If you are interested, please sign up in the Narthex. If you are interested in baptism or transferring your membership from another church, please call the church office and speak to Tracy or Justin.

**2018 Income Tax Receipts:** Income tax receipts for your 2018 donations are available in the Narthex. Those that aren't picked up by the end of February will be mailed. You can help us reduce postage costs by delivering your neighbours' receipts. **2019 envelopes** are ready to pick up in the Narthex.

**February Birthday Sunday:** Will be held on February 24. Thank you to the bakers and servers for our January 27 birthday Sunday: Dan MacDonald, Heather Worton, Susan Harrington, Wanda Veer, Bev Smith, and Chloe Veer. I will be contacting bakers from my list to bring cakes on the 24th. Thanks for your participation in this celebration.

**Calling coffee & tea makers and bakers!** Pastoral Care thanks all the folks who signed up for coffee making on Sunday mornings! We also have had bakers donate some treats to the Narthex fridge freezer – thank you and keep them coming! Wow, what a great response. The schedule is posted on the Narthex kitchen cupboard and has a few slots in April yet to be filled. It takes two people per Sunday to start the coffee urn, set up the carts with supplies and treats, and clean up afterwards. This is a great way to get involved short term and get to know the regulars who hang around the coffee area. If you can help, please contact Marj at marj123@shaw.ca or 403-239-3057. Thank you!

**Hymn Sing 9:45 am Feb 10:** Come early to Church on **February 10** and enjoy singing some hymns prior to the service. If you have a favourite you would like to sing, come prepared to suggest it!

**Camp Kasota West:** Camp Kasota West is a United Church camp on Sylvan Lake near Red Deer. They offer week-long residential camping experiences in July and August for children who have completed grades 1 – 9. They also offer 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 23. Several St. Thomas children have attended over the years; several of our former youth group members have been counsellors at camp. All have enjoyed the experience. For further information see <https://campkasotawest.com>

**Naramata Centre:** Naramata Centre is a conference and retreat centre of the United Church of Canada. They will be welcoming guests again this spring, summer, and fall. Children's programming is offered each week during the summer. Adult program choices include a variety of music options, arts and creative programs, spiritual development programs, and exercise classes. You don't have to participate in a program to go. It is a beautiful, peaceful, spiritual place on Okanagan Lake. There are cabins, hotel style rooms, and camping options. See <https://www.naramatacentresociety.org/> for program descriptions, accommodation descriptions, and to register. Registration opened February 4.

**Healing Touch** will be offered in the Sanctuary by appointment on the first Tuesday evening (7 pm and 8 pm) of each month, with the exception of March, when it will be offered on the last Tuesday evening (March 26). Please call or email the office, or email Daryl at [dfenty@telus.net](mailto:dfenty@telus.net) for an appointment. A Healing Touch Level 1 program will be offered in Calgary March 2-3, 2019. For more information contact Betty Minifie at 403-474-7399.

**St. Thomas Drumming Circle** will continue to be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from Feb. to June. To register please email Daryl at [dfenty@telus.net](mailto:dfenty@telus.net), or call or email the church office. Registration is limited to 20 people.

**Leadership Opportunity!** This is Linda Miller's last year as chair of Executive Council. EC is seeking someone to take over following the ACM March 10, 2019. It is an opportunity to meet more people of St. Thomas and share in the leadership. Anyone interested in inquiring about the position, contact Linda at [ljmiller7@shaw.ca](mailto:ljmiller7@shaw.ca) or 403-383-9045.

**Trumpet Recital:** Dick Worton will be performing a recital of lyrical trumpet music at St. Thomas United Church on **Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 pm**. The program will also include readings of original poetry by Calgary poet and author Keith Worthington. Admission is free and everyone is encouraged to come and share this musical afternoon with us.

**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 Friday, **February 8 at 6:30 pm**. 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.

**Junior Youth Sunday Morning:** On Sunday, **February 10** 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.

**The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group** meets on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30 pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Lounge. All are welcome to join in. Please direct any questions to: Sandra Burgess (403-701-3479).

**Primetimers:** Our **Pizza Party** will be held **Saturday, February 16, at 3:30 pm** in the Mountainview Hall at St. Thomas. There will be assorted pizza, salad, dessert, and beverages. Cost is \$10.00 at the door. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 10 (sign up on sheet in Narthex). Expect fun, food, and trivia challenges!

**Wild Rose United Church** is hosting their annual Women's Retreat and St. Thomas women are invited! Rev. Tracy will be facilitating the retreat happening **March 15-17** at King's Fold Retreat Centre in Cochrane. Theme of the weekend is "Don't Worry...Be Happy: Joy in Spirituality." Cost \$240. Check out the poster in the Narthex for details. This is the first joint event of the North Cluster (called SPARK), so Rev. Tracy would love to see a bunch of us join in this endeavour.

**Avenue 15 help is needed.** Please join us on one of the following Sundays to help make a dinner at Avenue 15's Homeless Youth Shelter: **February 17, March 17, April 14, May 12, or June 9.** It takes approximately 3 hours to prepare and eat (staying to eat is not required). Any donations of toiletries, feminine hygiene products, condoms, and stuffed animals is much appreciated. For more information, contact Hope Cochran at 587-581-2619.

**Quilting for Others:** Join us to make compassion quilts for charity and congregants. No experience necessary. Our quilts are generally made from scraps, so if you are unable to join us, we are always looking for donations of 100% cotton material, thread, or batting. For more information or to donate items, please contact Hope Cochran at 587-581-2619 or hopeco7@gmail.com.

**Sunday School:** All funds collected for the Sunday School offering this year will be going towards "**Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids**", a local charity that supplies lunch for over 4,400 children in Calgary. \$2 provides a child with a healthy lunch, made from fresh ingredients. We hope you will support this new initiative!

**Habitat For Humanity - Volunteer Opportunity:** We have a fun opportunity for you to help with a casino fundraiser coming up **February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**  
The shifts are: Feb 12, 11 am – 7:30 pm and 11 pm – 3:45 am; Feb 13, 11 am – 7:30 am, 6:45 pm – 3:45 am, and 11 pm – 3:45 am. **If you are interested and available please let me know and I can sign you up. Melinda-Rae Lyse 403-926-2787 or email melindaraelyse@altig.com.**

**Exploring Social Justice Lunch and Learn:** On **Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>** Ryan Andersen, Lead Organizer of **Calgary Alliance for the Common Good** will join us to explain how this organization, new to Calgary, brings together faith-based and civic organizations of Calgary to transform our city into a community that acts justly and respects all, directed by a team of leaders from participating organizations. The objective of CACG is to harness the power of the people of Calgary to identify and address the systems, policies, and underlying causes of poverty and injustice. This is work in which our congregation cannot engage in a meaningful way at present. A number of us are excited by the vision of St. Thomas becoming a member organization of CACG in future, and this Lunch and Learn provides us with an opportunity to introduce its work to the congregation. Lunch is free, but donations are welcome.

**Staff Meetings:** Please note that every **Monday from 10 am to 11:30 am** we have our weekly staff meeting. We would very much appreciate your understanding during this time, and look forward to touching base with you before or after the meeting.

**Office Hours:** Regular office hours are Monday to Thursday 8:30-3:30, Fridays 8:30-12:30.

**United Church of Canada Calendars Are Here!** They are only \$6; get yours before they are gone. They are available in the Narthex on Sunday or in the office.

**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.

**Hillhurst United Church:** The Right Relations Circle of Hillhurst United Church meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Instead of the usual meeting on Tuesday February 26, we'll be going to see the play "Okotoks" at the Jubilee Auditorium at 7:30, presented by the Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society and the Niitsitapi Dance Company. Okotoks tells the story of Holy Bear Woman, a young Blackfoot girl who survived the Baker massacre in 1870. Her resilience is awe-inspiring, proof of which is in the fact that her bloodline has survived. Justin Many Fingers, artistic director of MT7, is one of her many descendants; take a journey with him as he tells this epic story of his grandmother through his art form. If you'd like to meet for dinner at 6 pm at Boston Pizza (North Hill Mall), please let Helena know: [rightrelations@hillhurstunited.com](mailto:rightrelations@hillhurstunited.com). Link for tickets: [https://www1.ticketmaster.ca/event/110055958E694811?dma id = 505](https://www1.ticketmaster.ca/event/110055958E694811?dma%20id%3D505). Cost is \$40 + \$8.50 fees. There's a "Buy 4 for the price of 3" deal; if you'd like a ticket please contact Elaine Gray at [sarahegray@telus.net](mailto:sarahegray@telus.net).

**St. Thomas' Paths to Reconciliation Team** is looking for more members! If you have an interest, questions, or ideas about the subject of creating right relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, please contact either Elaine Gray ([sarahegray@telus.net](mailto:sarahegray@telus.net)), Anett Chicomny-Pon ([anett@shaw.ca](mailto:anett@shaw.ca)), or Rev. Tracy Robertson ([tracyrobertson@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:tracyrobertson@stthomasunited.ca)).

**Please Note:** We Livestream most Worship Services. Please go to <https://livestream.com/StThomasUnited> to watch them online.

**Twitter:** We now have a new way to stay engaged with the goings-on at St. Thomas. Come and say hi. Go to [https://twitter.com/st\\_thomas\\_yc](https://twitter.com/st_thomas_yc).

*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

### Sunday, February 10

10:00 am      Worship  
11:15 am      Lunch & Learn

### Monday, February 11

9:30 pm      AM Fitness  
1:00 pm      Bridge  
7:00 pm      Orchestra

### Tuesday, February 12

1:00 pm      Strummers  
4:15 pm      Karate  
6:30 pm      Pathfinders/Brownies  
7:00 pm      Drum Circle  
7:00 pm      B & P Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, February 13

9:30 am      AM Fitness  
10:30 am      Parent & Child  
1:00 pm      Open Art Studio  
1:00 pm      Prayer Shawl Knitters  
6:15 pm      Sparks/Brownies  
7:00 pm      Youth Choir  
7:00 pm      Cool Choir  
7:00 pm      YAC Meeting  
7:00 pm      Wed. Night Book Club

### Thursday, February 14

9:00 am      Quilting for Others  
4:15 pm      Karate  
6:00 pm      Children's Choir  
6:00 pm      Strummers  
7:15 pm      Adult Choir

### Friday, February 15

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.

## Today's Service

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

## Worship Services

February 10: Being Surprised

February 17: Being Blessed

February 24: Be Holy

March 3: Transfiguration Sunday

March 10: Service of Ashes

March 17: Youth Service

March 24: Lenten Theme: Voices Against Violence



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))

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