



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 24, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: **Be Holy**

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

Prelude: *Kari Orosz-Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah/Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik arr. by D. Linda McKechnie*

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

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *Take Time to Be Holy* **VU#672**

Scripture: *Luke 6:27-38*

Ministry of Music: *The Orchestra – Ancient Aires and Dances Suite No. 1, "Balletto" by Ottorino Respighi; arr. by Jerry Brubaker*

Children's Time

Message: *"The Sermon I Didn't Want to Write"*

Hymn: *Deep in Our Hearts* **MV#154**

Minute for Mission: *"Planning Team Update" - Linda Miller*

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Ministry of Music: *The Orchestra - Winscott by Samuel Wesley*

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: *Come Touch Our Hearts* **MV#12**

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held **Sunday March 10, 2019** following the worship service. This is where we review the life and work of the past year, present the year end financial statements for 2018 and budget proposal for 2019, and elect the new Executive Council. We encourage you to attend to enjoy this great summary of what has happened in the past and learn of what is coming up in the future of St. Thomas.

Opportunities! Elizabeth Morton is resigning as chair of Faith Formation. Anyone interested in exploring the opportunity to lead the Faith Formation team, please contact Rev. Tracy Robertson or Linda Miller (403-383-9045).

Are you interested in the wider church perspective and willing to offer your talents? Executive Council is seeking more Regional representatives. The closest similarity would be to the former Presbytery representatives - similar but different. For more information, contact Linda Miller (403-383-9045), Hugh Johnson, or one of the ministers.

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. To enquire about the position, contact Linda at ljmiller7@shaw.ca or 403-383-9045.

Interested in serving on a St. Thomas United Church committee? Here are two teams that need your help: Affirming Group and Finance. Please contact the office if you're feeling called.

Fair Trade Coffee: With the cold weather we've had, what's your favourite way to stay warm and cozy? One way is to brew a cup of fresh, steaming, Fair Trade coffee! ***Can't you just smell it?!*** For two Sundays you can order your own supply. On Sunday **Feb. 24** and Sunday **Mar. 3** we will be accepting orders for Fair Trade coffee that you'll pick up right here at St. Thomas. We will be at our usual table in the Narthex collecting orders, and love it when people pay us upon ordering. Thanks! Marilyn Barry and Judy Booth. (marilyn.barry4@gmail.com).

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 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 2nd Tuesday of the month from Feb. to June. To register please email Daryl at dfenty@telus.net, or call or email the church office. Registration is limited to 20 people.

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.

Primetimers: Our next event will be a musical concert: "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", performed by the Calgary Wind Symphony (our own Dick Worton is a member). It will be on Sunday, **March 17, at 2:30 pm** at the Rozsa Centre, Eckhardt-Grammate Hall, University of Calgary. Cost is \$15.00 per person, cash or cheque made payable to Jan Campbell. Note: **Deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 3** (see poster in Narthex). An option for after the concert: Dinner at Nick's Restaurant on Crowchild Trail.

Tracy's Sabbatical Project - The Spirituality of Fandom

Sabbatical planned for January - March, 2020. During 2019 and in preparation for my Sabbatical, I would like to invite you to participate in my crazy project, The Spirituality of Fandom. Spirituality? What is spirituality? I'm sure it's different for everyone. For me, spirituality is the feeling of being connected. Fandom is sharing that connection with others who feel the same way. Connections can be through nature, relationships, faith, sports, pop culture, tractor pulling, dog showing, quilting, etc. – you get the idea. I'm wondering, what is your take on spirituality? My family is involved in many different, pop culture fandoms: comics, superheroes, video games, furrries. I like learning how those loves of pop culture enhance our spirituality. I would also like to learn about yours! Check out the hard copy of the invite and survey in the Narthex or go to www.vilya.com/spirituality-of-fandom/survey and fill out the form online. I hope I hear back from you!

Hey, all you people, come and join our **AM Fitness and Fun** group. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings in the Mountainview Hall from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. Give it a try!

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.

Veterans Association Food Bank: Please remember the Food Bank this month. In short supply are cookies, snack and soda crackers, sardines and oysters, pancake mix and syrup, jams and sugar. They could also use salmon, but not tuna. Thanks everyone!

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, March 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.

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: **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 are 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.

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

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.

In celebration of Freedom to Read Week, Wordfest has partnered with the Calgary Public Library for the Alberta Premiere of "Three Feathers", the feature-length film adaptation of Richard Van Camp's novel by the same name. Set in the spectacular Northwest Territories, the film explores the power of grace and restorative justice in one Northern community as it follows the life journey of three young Indigenous men. Richard Van Camp is a proud member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Nation from Fort Smith, NWT. Free admission. Sunday February 24, 2 pm Memorial Park Library, 2nd floor.

Hymn Sing 9:45 am March 3: Come early to Church on March 3 and enjoy singing some hymns prior to the service. If you have a favourite you would like to sing, come prepared to suggest it!

Join us on Shrove Tuesday, March 5, for a pancake supper at 5 pm followed by the movie “Wonder” at 7 pm. ***Wonder***, starring Owen Wilson and Julia Roberts, is a film based on the best selling novel of the same name, by R.J. Palacio. It tells the story of August Pullman, a boy born with a rare facial deformity, who enters fifth grade and confronts the challenges of attending a mainstream elementary school for the first time.

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. Please contact Elaine Gray at sarahegray@telus.net for more information.

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), Anett Chicomny-Pon (anett@shaw.ca), or Rev. Tracy Robertson (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_yyc.

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 24

10:00 am	Worship
11:00 am	Music Meeting
11:00 am	Greeter Training
1:30 pm	Planning Team Meeting

Monday, February 25

9:30 am	AM Fitness
1:00 pm	Bridge
1:00 pm	Faith Formation Meeting
7:00 pm	Orchestra

Tuesday, February 26

1:00 pm	Strummers
4:15 pm	Karate
6:30 pm	Pathfinders/Brownies

Wednesday, February 27

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

Thursday, February 28

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, March 1

9:30 am	AM Fitness
10:30 am	Sportball
6:30 pm	Youth Group
7:00 pm	Sewing Group

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

Today's Service

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

Worship Services

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)

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