



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, December 30, 2018
10:00 am
Theme: Challenging Perspectives

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

Prelude: *Kari Orosz* - "What Child Is This"
arr. by *Vince Guaraldi*

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Pre-Service Carol Sing

**Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3
Land**

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Christ Candle Lighting

Introit: *A Candle Is Burning* VU#6

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* VU#58

Scripture: *Luke 2:41-52*

Ministry of Music: *Dennis Watson* - "Joseph's Lullaby"
by *Brown Bannister and Bart Millard*

Children's Time

Message

Hymn: *Once in Royal David's City* VU#62

Minute for Mission: *Thank You!*

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Offertory: *In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)*

Offertory Prayer

Call to Prayer: *Hope Shines as the Solitary Star*
MV#220

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: *Jesus, Our Brother* VU#56

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

Finance Update: Our Local Operating Fund is running a year-to-date deficit to November 30, 2018 of \$16,700. We are currently projecting a full year deficit in this fund in the order of \$15,000. We would very much welcome any additional year end contributions that would help mitigate this projected deficit. 2019 envelopes are ready to pick up in the Narthex.

December Birthday Party: Thanks to Barb Cousens, Wanda Veer, and Lori Weller for providing the cakes. Also to Bev Smith who provided fruit and helped serve along with Gloria Moffat, Barb, and Wanda. Watch the bulletin for info about our January birthday party.

Wanda's Preserves: Well, St. Thomas, I do appreciate all you jam, jelly, pickle, and antipasto eaters! Also, those who give me their empty jars. I will be donating \$853.00 to the Kitchen Fund. Merry Christmas, and keep eating jam!

Ex-UCW Post-Christmas Brunch Potluck: Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019. 10 am, in the Narthex. This is open to all ladies of St Thomas. A wonderful gathering of great food and fun stories. Please bring your potluck offering, plus your own plate and utensils. If you wish further information, please contact Wanda Veer 403-239-5964.

Primetimers: Our next Coffee and a Chat will be on Tuesday, **January 22nd** in the Narthex. If anyone would like to host it, or bring a treat, just let us know. Keith and I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

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 \$225 (due January 31). 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.

Calgary Cooperative Memorial Society (CCMS) will be here to do a presentation on **Sunday, January 20, 2019** right after our worship service. Membership in CCMS is only \$40. Members of this co-op receive very affordable packaged funeral plan options through a provider such as McInnis & Holloway. This presentation is for anybody who thinks they're going to die some day. **Presentation for adults only. Child care will be available if necessary.** RSVP by calling the office or contacting Marj at marj123@shaw.ca so that we have enough handouts.

Kitchen/Kitchenette Semi-Annual Clean up: This is booked for **Thursday, Jan. 3 from 9 am – 11:30 am**. Your St. Thomas Kitchen Committee has suggested a 6 month clean up of these areas to be done when the majority of the church renters are NOT booked in. This is July and August and the Christmas-New Year's school break. We have a few core volunteers but invite anyone from the congregation interested in donating their time and EXPERTISE to this 2 ½ hour project. We would like at least 10 helpers that morning. Please call Lori at 403-239-1705 or email leweller@shaw.ca to offer your services. Thanks. St. Thomas Kitchen Committee

Faith Formation Lunch-and-Learn Sunday, January 13: "Social Justice and Politics". We welcome the Rev. Bill Phipps (Past Moderator of the United Church of Canada) and Joe Gunn (Executive Director of Citizens for Public Justice and author of "Journeys to Justice") to our Sunday worship service as they gift us with a dialogue sermon on biblical faith, justice, and politics. Our Lunch-and-Learn will follow the service, providing the opportunity to join them for an in-depth discussion exploring co-operation and solidarity in justice work, and to share stories, concerns, and questions about the role of faith in the political arena.

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!

Twelfth Night Concert, January 6 at 7:00 pm at Parkdale United Church: The NW Calgary United Church choirs come together to sing some of their Christmas anthems for each other and sing Christmas carols. Goodies are served following the concert. This year, Parkdale United is hosting. It is located at 2919 8 Ave NW. Everyone is welcome.

Junior Youth Sunday Morning: On Sunday, **January 13** 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 **Friday, January 11 at 6:30**. 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 the night of the meeting.

The Observer: It is time to renew or subscribe to The Observer magazine. A yearly subscription (11 issues), costs \$25.00. Please make your cheque payable to St. Thomas. Please label your envelope “Observer”, and place in the offering plate or, deliver it to the Office, “Attention: Jan Campbell”. Or give it to Jan in person. **Deadline is January 6, 2019.** It’s an earlier deadline this year. Thank you for your support of The Observer. If you no longer wish to receive it, please let me know and I will remove your name from the list. - Jan Campbell

The 2019 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.

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).

Hillhurst United Church: The Right Relations Circle of Hillhurst United Church meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. To find out more about events concerning the Indigenous community in Calgary, you may add your email address to their mailing list by either contacting Helena Lamb at right.relations@hillhurstunited.com or by signing up using the sheet on the Mission & Outreach notice board in the St. Thomas Narthex.

Avenue 15: Our Sunday dinners at the shelter for homeless youth are ongoing. We are looking for volunteers for the following date: **January 20, 2019**. If you are unable to help make dinner, we are always looking for items for donation to the shelter, such as toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, condoms, make-up, gently used clothing, teddy bears, and sample size/hotel shampoo, conditioner, and soaps. All undergarments, toiletries, and make-up **MUST BE NEW**. If you have any questions or donations, please contact Hope Cochran at 587-581-2619 or hopeco7@gmail.com.

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).

Please call the office to have the link for the Children's Musical sent to you.

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

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

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.

Healing Touch will be offered in the Sanctuary by appointment on the first Tuesday evening (7 pm and 8 pm) of each month.

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

Volunteers needed at Side by Side: Side by Side is a volunteer-run day program for people with dementia, and has been offered free of charge at Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church (VAPC) since 2015. The program includes a variety of activities, and takes place most Thursdays from 9:45 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. We have a lot of fun at Side by Side, and we are always looking for more volunteers!! There are a number of different volunteer opportunities available, but in particular, we need people who are interested in working one-on-one as partners to participants who have dementia. If you would like more information, or would like to come and visit on a Thursday to check things out, please contact Claire Huene (program coordinator) by e-mail at sidebyside@vapc.ca, or through the VAPC office at (403) 288-0544.

Please note that the office will be closed from Saturday, December 22 until Tuesday, January 1 inclusive. We will reopen on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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, December 23

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Advent Bible Study

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm Kids, Carols, & Chaos Service
8:00 pm Adult Choir Cantata
10:00 pm Communion

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 26

Boxing Day

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

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

Worship Services

December 23: Advent 4

**December 24: 3pm - Kids, Carols, & Chaos
8pm Adult Choir Cantata
10pm Communion**

December 30: Challenging Perspectives

January 6: Epiphany Sunday

January 13: Baptism of Jesus Sunday



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)

Today's Service

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

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