



**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, January 13, 2018

10:00 am

Theme: **Baptism of Jesus Sunday**

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

**Prelude:** *Kari Orosz-“Christmas Star”*

*by John Williams*

**Welcome** to our Livestream Worship Service

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

**Greeting One Another & Announcements**

**Christ Candle Lighting**

**Introit:** *Arise, Your Light Is Come (vv.1&4)* **VU#79**

**Call to Worship**

**Ministry of Music:** *The Children's Choir*

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn:** *There's a Voice in the Wilderness*

**VU#18**

**Scripture:** *Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22*

**Ministry of Music:** *The Strummers - “That'd Be Alright”* by Mark Daniel Sanders/Tia M. Sillers/Tim J. Nichols

**Children's Time**

**Message**

**Hymn:** *Behold, Behold I Make All Things New*

**MV#115**

**Minute for Mission:** *Multi-Faith Spaces for Students*

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Opportunity to Open Hands**

**Ministry of Music:** *The Strummers-“Most People Are Good”* by Josh Kear, Ed Hill, and David Frasier

**Offertory:** *As with Gladness Men of Old (v.3)*

**VU#81**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Call to Prayer:** *A Light Is Gleaming (Chorus 2x)*

**VU#82**

**Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus**

**Hymn:** *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized (to the tune of VU#537 - Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands*

**VU#99**

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Unified Board Meeting January 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 - 1:30:** This is your opportunity to gather as a community to discern and decide our future goals and directions. Have your say and be part of the future of St. Thomas United. All members of all committees within our community are invited to participate in this conversation about what is next for St. Thomas. Join us after worship as we REFRESH & RE-NEW our way forward.

**MOST Men's Breakfast - January 26:** The Men of St. Thomas are invited to a men's breakfast in the Narthex on Saturday, January 26th. Doors open at 8:30 and breakfast will be served at 9:00 am. Following breakfast, Greg Hyatt will present a travelogue in the Sanctuary on either Iceland or Canada's Northwest Passage. RSVP to Ryan Sanderson or the office and let us know your preference for the travelogue and any dietary restrictions.

**Mental Health Weekend at St. Thomas United!** Join us **February 1-3** as we explore mental health together. Mental health is something that we all struggle with from time to time, so let's talk about it! Join us on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7 pm for family movie night as we watch and discuss Pixar's Inside Out. Then on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1-9pm join us for a day of mental health workshops, resource booths, information, and fellowship. We will have groups from all over Calgary to share the many ways that we can learn and support one another no matter where we are on the journey. Then, on Sunday morning, the Calgary regional youth band, Naked Faith, will be with us, leading a worship service in their signature style, centered on mental health. Mark your calendars and join us all weekend!!

**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.

**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 indepth 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!

**January Birthday Sunday:** Will be held on Sunday, January 27. Stay for cake and the Unified Board Meeting. (Maybe I'll start baking with cannabis to keep the whole meeting easy and relaxed!!) Thank you for filling in my sign-up sheet. I will be contacting the bakers and servers. Wanda Veer

**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.

**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).

**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.

**St. Thomas Kitchen Cleaning, Jan. 3:** Many, many thanks to the fun, keen, and industrious work party that cleaned the upstairs kitchen: Marj Aucoin, Barb Cousens, Judy Booth, Lori Weller, Sandra Burgess, Bob Barradell, Ron and Diane French. Thanks to Bob's energies, the fridge and freezer got defrosted & vacuumed, and better resituated against the wall. Several ladies tackled the general cleaning of same. NOTE: all users MUST date and label ANY FOOD ITEMS left in fridge or freezer. **Please be VERY SELECTIVE in what items** you leave in our kitchen areas. Ron scrubbed the footstools from the bathrooms on the main level - so needed! We others cleaned drawers, cupboards, bins, the trollies, etc. The Narthex Kitchenette is for another time. Thanks, group. **St. Thomas Kitchen Committee**

**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](mailto:hopeco7@gmail.com).

**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. The Right Relations Circle meeting at Hillhurst United Church will be on **Wednesday January 23** (please note change of date) at 7 pm. A guest speaker from the Vancouver School of Theology will give a presentation on Indigenous Spirituality. Questions? Please contact Elaine Gray, sarahegray@telus.net.

**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 16, 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.

**Adopt A Family:** Thank you for your generosity! We were able to deliver all of the requested gifts and gift cards as well as generous grocery store gift cards to all four of our "Adopted" families. The families were very appreciative of your kindness. This is truly helping your neighbour have a much merrier Christmas.

**Advent Calendar:** We hope that you spent time as a family reviewing all of the items on our Advent Calendar this year. It was our wish that it would create interesting family conversations about poverty in Calgary. A total of \$635.58 was donated toward St. Thomas joining the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good and helping to create a better city for all who live here.

**Veterans Association Food Bank:** *Veterans Helping Veterans:* The new food bank is up and running despite a lack of funding! Companies are donating furniture, veterans are volunteering, and even the receptionist is working for free. Some meals and new programs and services are being offered to veterans. Thank you for your continued support. (More updates will follow.)

**BowWest Volunteer Opportunity:** BowWest is the Community Resource Centre that St. Thomas supports to help families struggling in our neighbourhood. They are looking for two adult volunteers to provide childcare for a program that they are running from the Ranchlands Community Association called Nurturing Parenting. It runs on Thursdays from 10 -11:30 am starting January 17 for 9 weeks. If you are able to help for any or all of the weeks, please contact Karen Kavanagh at 403-286-8073 or karenkavanagh80@gmail.com. This is a great way to support parents of young families improve their parenting skills and confidence.

**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](mailto:sidebyside@vapc.ca), or through the VAPC office at (403) 288-0544.

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

**Primetimers:** Our next Coffee and a Chat will be on Tuesday, **January 22<sup>nd</sup>** in the Narthex. If anyone would like to host it, or bring a treat, just let us know.

**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.

**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.

**2019 envelopes** are ready to pick up in the Narthex.

**Please Note:** We do Livestream most Worship Services. Here is the link with info: [https://youtu.be/wel\\_ZSaZpdU](https://youtu.be/wel_ZSaZpdU).

*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, January 13

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

### Monday, January 14

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

### Tuesday, January 15

9:00 am	Quilting
4:15 pm	Karate
6:30 pm	Pathfinders/Brownies

### Wednesday, January 16

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

### Thursday, January 17

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

### Friday, January 18

9:30 am	AM Fitness
10:30 am	Sportball
1:00 pm	Naked Faith

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

January 13: Baptism of Jesus Sunday

January 20: Witnessing God's New Way in the World

January 27: Shaped by God's Word



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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