



**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 20, 2018

10:00 am

Theme: Witnessing God's New Way  
in the World

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

**Prelude:** *Kari Orosz-“Outer Hebrides”*

by Paul Halley

**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**

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn:** *This Is God's Wondrous World*

VU#296

**Scripture:** *John 2:1-11*

**Ministry of Music:** *The Adult Choir -“O God Beyond All Praising”* by Perry & Holst; arr. Abriol

**Children's Time**

**Message:** *“Behind the Scenes”*

**Hymn:** *All Praise to You*

VU#297

**Minute for Mission:** *LGBTQ Two-Spirit Global Consultation*

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Opportunity to Open Hands**

**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:** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* VU#333

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**Unified Board Meeting January 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am- 1:30 pm:** 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 RE-FRESH & RENEW 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> at 7 pm for family movie night as we watch and discuss Pixar's Inside Out. Then on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1-9 pm join us for a day of mental health workshops, resource booths, information, and fellowship. We will have groups from all over Calgary in 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, centred 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](mailto:marj123@shaw.ca) so that we have enough handouts.

**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

**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).

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

**Primetimers:** Happy New Year, everyone! Just a reminder that you are invited to our Coffee Party **Tuesday, January 22 at 10:00 am** in the Narthex. Please join us as we visit and share ideas, plans, and past adventures. Coffee and treats will be served. See you then.

**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!

**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.

**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.

**Décor Committee:** Many thanks to the hard working crew that arrived on Thursday afternoon, January 10 to take down Christmas and put up winter. There was lots to do and everyone shared the load. Utmost appreciation to : **Diane Latter, Greg Hyatt, Drina Nixon, Bev Smith, Pat Usher, and Heather Worton.** Tim and Louise Scott were just sick that they had to miss the event, because they were just that!! The flu bug got 'em, so they sent their regrets. We hope you are better now. So until spring time, enjoy the calm and quiet of the winter season.  
Lori Weller

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.)

**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).

**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.

**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](mailto: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. Rev. Ray Aldred, a status Cree from Treaty 8 land in Northern Alberta and current Director of the Indigenous Studies Program at Vancouver School of Theology, will speak about Reconciliation. Questions? Please contact Elaine Gray, [sarahegray@telus.net](mailto:sarahegray@telus.net).

**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.

**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.

**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 staff meeting.

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

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

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

**Protestant Communion Service at Bethany:** How would you like to help out with the mini church service held once a month at Bethany Calgary, the long-term care facility (916 – 18A Street NW), just south of North Hill Shopping Centre? This is a rewarding experience and only takes 1.5 – 2 hours of your time once a month. There is lots of free street parking. As a volunteer, you could porter the residents from their rooms to the chapel and then help them hold hymnbooks, etc., or you could help with the service by reading scripture or prayers prepared by the minister and/or by serving communion. The residents greatly value the church service and would hate to lose it due to a lack of volunteers. For more information speak to Loree Irving, or call Bethany at 403-284-6000 or their Pastoral Care Office at 403-284-6004.

*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 20

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

### Monday, January 21

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

### Tuesday, January 22

10:00 am      Primetimers  
1:00 pm      Strummers  
4:15 pm      Karate  
6:30 pm      Pathfinders/Brownies

### Wednesday, January 23

9:30 am      AM Fitness  
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, January 24

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 25

9:30 am      AM Fitness  
10:30 am      Sportball  
6:30 pm      Youth Group  
6:30 pm      Jr. Youth Group

### Saturday, January 26

8:30 am      Men's Breakfast

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 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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