



**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, March 3, 2019**

**10:00 am**

**Theme: Transfiguration Sunday**

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**

**Opening Prayer**

**Opening Hymn:** *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* **VU#315**

**Scripture:** *Luke 9:28-36*

**Ministry of Music:** *Adult Choir- “Let Hope Arise”*  
-by Tom Eggleston

**Children's Time**

**Message**

**Hymn:** *How Good, Lord, to Be Here* **VU#103**

**Minute for Mission:** *“Deepening Ministry”*

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Opportunity to Open Hands**

**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:** *Joyful, Joyful We Adore You* **VU#232**

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**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.

**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 to learn what is coming up in the future of St. Thomas. **Please pick up your copy of the 2018 Annual Report before the meeting!**

**Opportunity!** 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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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, furies. 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](http://www.vilya.com/spirituality-of-fandom/survey) and fill out the form online. I hope I hear back from you!

**Fair Trade Coffee:** With the cold weather we've had, what's your favourite way to stay warm and cosy? One way is to brew a nice cup of fresh, steaming, Fair Trade coffee! ***Can't you just smell it?!*** This Sunday you can order your own supply. On 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](mailto:marilyn.barry4@gmail.com)).

**Pyjama Day on March 10th** because we lose an hour of sleep due to Daylight Saving Time. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour. And don't forget to come to church in your pajamas!

**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.

**Junior Youth Group Sunday Morning:** On **March 17**, the youth group are planning and leading the service. We invite all Junior Youth Group aged children (grades 4 to 6) to come and experience the energy and excitement of the annual youth service.

**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!

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

**Exploring Social Justice Lunch and Learn** scheduled for this Sunday (Need in our Neighbourhood) is cancelled, and will be re-scheduled on a date to be announced. The next ESJ Lunch and Learn will be April 28th, with Tony Snow as speaker on "Social Justice and Right Relations."

**Hymn Sing March 3 at 9:45 am:** 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!

**February Birthday Sunday:** Thank you to the cake bakers: Elaine Gray, Berniece Roth, Carol Mumey, and Wanda Veer. Also thanks to Jan Campbell who helped Elaine and me serve. Kudos to our garbage police: Teri and Amy Smith!!!

**March Birthday Sunday will be March 31:** I will be contacting the bakers and servers. Really appreciate all your support in this, St Thomas! Wanda Veer.

**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!

**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).

**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.

**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.

**2018 Income Tax Receipts:** Income tax receipts for your 2018 donations have been mailed. **2019 envelopes** are ready to pick up in the Narthex.

**Nursery and Sunday School Volunteers** are needed for the Nursery and Sunday School on Sunday mornings. If you can help please contact Erin MacLean-Berko at erinmacberko@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).

**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).

**Hillhurst United Church:** The Right Relations Circle of Hillhurst United Church meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. Please contact Elaine Gray at sarahegray@telus.net for more information.

*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, March 3

10:00 am Worship

### Monday, March 4

9:30 am AM Fitness  
1:00 pm Bridge  
5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm M & O Committee Meeting  
7:00 pm Orchestra

### Tuesday, March 5

9:00 am Quilting  
1:00 pm Strummers  
4:15 pm Karate  
5:00 pm Pancake Supper  
6:30 pm Pathfinders/Brownies  
7:00 pm Movie

### Wednesday, March 6

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, March 7

9:00 am Quilting for Others  
1:00 pm Together We Worship  
4:15 pm Karate  
6:00 pm Children's Choir  
6:00 pm Strummers  
7:15 pm Adult Choir

### Friday, March 8

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

Check the digital sign in the Narthex for location

Today's Service

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

## Worship Services

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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