



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 10, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: Service of Ashes

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

Prelude: *Kari Orosz - Winter* – by Tori Amos
Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service
Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3 Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Christ Candle Lighting

Introit: *Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face* (v. 2, Refrain)
VU#105

Call to Worship

Ministry of Music: *Strummers - “Ancient Words”* by Lynn DeShazo

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes* (Tune of VU#374)
VU#107

Scripture: *Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-20*

Ministry of Music: *Youth Choir-“Gloria Tibi Domine”* music by Greg Gilpin, traditional Latin text

Children's Time

Message: *“Fasting and Celebrating”*

Hymn: *Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face* (v.1, Refrain)
VU#105

Imposition of Ashes

Prayer after the Imposition of Ashes

Hymn: *Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face* (v.3, Refrain)
VU#105

Minute for Mission: *“St. Thomas Mission & Outreach Committee: “The New Veterans Association Foodbank”* - Loree Irving

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Ministry of Music: *Strummers - “How Then Shall I Live”* by Linnea Good

Offertory: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* (v. 5)
VU#114

Offertory Prayer

Call to Prayer: *Jesus, Remember Me* (2x) VU#148

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*
VU#104

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held today, **Sunday March 10** 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!**

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

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 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.

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!

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.

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 30 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. An option for after the concert: Dinner at Nick's Restaurant on Crowchild Trail.

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 \$240. 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. **Only one spot left!!**

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

Volunteers Needed at Side by Side Program: 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 co-ordinator) by e-mail at sidebyside@vapc.ca, or through the VAPC office at (403) 288-0544.

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.

Please Note: We Livestream most Worship Services. Please go to <https://livestream.com/StThomasUnited> to watch them online.

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.

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!

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."

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 Gray and Wanda Veer serve. Kudos to our garbage police: Teri and Amy Smith!!!

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 and fill out the form online. I hope I hear back from you!

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.

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.

Nursery and Sunday School Volunteers are needed. 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).

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.

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 at 403-286-6308, 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, March 10

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday, March 11

9:30 am AM Fitness
1:00 pm Bridge
7:00 pm Planning Team Meeting
7:00 pm Orchestra

Tuesday, March 12

4:15 pm Karate
6:30 pm Pathfinders/Brownies
7:00 pm Drum Circle
7:00 pm Building & Property Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

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
7:00 pm Wed. Night Book Club
7:00 pm YAC Meeting

Thursday, March 14

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 15

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

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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