



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, April 7, 2019

10:00 am

**Theme: Lenten Theme:
Voices Against Violence**

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

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *God Weeps (vv. 3 & 4)* **MV#78**

Scripture: *Joshua 1:1-11*

Ministry of Music: *The Adult Choir - “Hosanna Gathering” by Pepper Choplin*

Message

Hymn: *When Painful Mem'ries* **MV#74**

Minute for Mission: *Migrants Are Not Stereotypes*

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Ministry of Music: *The Children's Choir - “To the Sky” folk song; arr. by Jay Althouse*

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: *There Is Room for All* **MV#62**

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

Ladies and Gentlemen! Children of all ages! Come right this way to be amazed and astounded by the movie "The Greatest Showman". May 3 at 6 pm.

There will be a family pizza and movie night on Friday, May 3 hosted by the Music Committee. Pizza will be served at 6. The movie will start at 6:30. Themes from this movie will form the basis of the message for Sunday services between May 5 and June 2. The choirs and orchestra will also be presenting music from The Greatest Showman during this time. Come and join the excitement!

Call for Auction Items: St. Thomas is going to be holding a silent auction at our spring BBQ (June 9). We are looking for items large and small. **All items will be collected June 2.** All proceeds will go towards general church operating. Kari Orosz and Erin MacLean-Berko are organizing the auction; please email if you wish to donate - erinmacberko@gmail.com OR miss.kari.griffith@gmail.com. All items must be NEW (ie: gift cards, wine, art, sports tickets, baby items, etc.) Thank you for your support!

Lent Small Group Study - Voices Against Violence: Please join us after church (11:30 am to 12:30 pm) during Lent to dive into our theme "Voices Against Violence". Lent is a time of contemplation and reflection. Often during Lent, it's an opportunity to engage in some tough subjects or challenge ourselves. This is why we've chosen "**Voices Against Violence**" as our Lenten theme this year. We hope you can join us for the last study group on April 14 - Global Conflicts and What Now? (**Note: the session scheduled for April 7 has been moved to the 14th.**)

Interfaith Opportunity with our Muslim Sisters and Brothers: The St. Thomas United Church family has been invited to 'break the fast' with the St. Thomas Muslim family! This is a HUGE honour and in light of the recent shootings and ongoing Islamophobia, this is a perfect opportunity for us to live out our Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. Supper will be between **9:30 pm and 10:00 pm on May 31**. Please sign up in the Narthex so they know how much food to make for us. Yes, it's late, but as you know, during Ramadan, Muslims don't eat during daylight hours, so breaking the fast happens at sunset. All are welcome and this is a family-friendly event (despite the late hour).

Hymn Sing 9:45 April 7: Come early to Church and enjoy singing some hymns prior to the service. If you have a favourite you would like to sing, come prepared to suggest it!

March Birthday Sunday: Thanks: to Bev Smith who coordinated this and served cake; to our bakers: Drina Nixon, Betty Thompson, Barb Cousens, and Evangeline Robertson; and to Barb Cousens and Myrna Malanik for serving. April Birthday Sunday will be on April 28. Thanks, everyone.

Décor Committee: Winter is coming down and spring is going up! Thurs. April 11, 9:30-11:30 am. At least 8 – 10 volunteers would be so lovely. Please email or call right away: leweller@shaw.ca or 403-239-1705. Thanks. Lori Weller

Sunday School and Junior Youth will begin at 10 am on Sunday, April 7.

Nursery and Sunday School Volunteers are needed. **Nursery help is needed on April 7 and 21.** If you can help, please contact Erin MacLean-Berko at erinmacberko@gmail.com.

Easter Egg Hunt: Kids, bring your baskets to Easter Sunday Service for an egg hunt around the church!

Primetimers: Our next ***Coffee and a Chat*** will be held **Thursday, April 25 at 10 am** in the Narthex. Please note, it will be a Thursday, not a Tuesday. If you would like to contribute a treat for this event, please let Jan Campbell know.

Wanted: Kitchen Volunteer Supervisor— Come on board to help keep the kitchen areas of St. Thomas clean and tidy. You sign on for a month and periodically check on tidiness of fridges, freezers, cupboards, and labeling of goods left in same. (Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex, or read the article in the summer newsletter (out in June), for complete review of this helpful position.) Contact Lori if interested or for more info. leweller@shaw.ca or 403-239-1705.

Garage Sale: It's that time of year again! Please start collecting your gently used items (a good excuse for spring cleaning?!?) to donate to the St. Thomas garage sale. The sale will be **held May 25 from 9 am-2 pm**, with set-up the afternoon of **May 24**. Maxine Mendritzki and Brenda Roberts. **Items we will NOT accept:** Furniture, car seats or infant furniture, weapons, hazardous waste, construction materials, large appliances, stereo consoles, flammable products, food, carpets, newspapers, encyclopedias, glass jars, swing sets, TVs, computer monitors, mattresses, waterbeds, auto parts.

St. Thomas Drumming Circle will continue to be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month from now until June. To register please email Daryl at dfenty@telus.net, or call or email the church office. Registration is limited to 30 people.

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).

Healing Touch will be offered in the Sanctuary by appointment on the first Tuesday evening (7 pm and 8 pm) of each month. May 7 is the last Healing Touch session until fall. Please call or email the office, or email Daryl at dfenty@telus.net for an appointment. **Healing Touch Level 1 offered June 22-23** . Contact Betty Minifie at 403-474-7399.

Habitat for Humanity's Women Build-7th Year for St. Thomas! We have a spot reserved Sat. **May 4** for four women to build homes in Silver Springs. Please You can also donate online at <https://my.habitatsouthernab.ca/womenbuild-2019/stthomas>.

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: **June 9**. It takes approximately three 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.

Veteran's Association Food Bank: Please remember the Food Bank when you are shopping this week. Their needs are cookies and crackers, small Jello servings and Jello puddings, sardines and oysters, as well as little cans of ham and turkey for making sandwiches. Sauces for the summer such as BBQ sauce (not pasta sauce) would also be appreciated. Thank you!

Quilting for Others: Join us to make compassion quilts for charity and congregants. No experience necessary. For more information or to donate items, please contact Hope Cochran at 587-581-2619 or hopeco7@gmail.com.

Junior Youth Sunday Morning: On Sun. **April 7** 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 Fri. **April 12** 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.

Summer Camp at St. Thomas July 22-26: Camp Caravan is a summer day-camp program for children in preschool to grade 6 sponsored by St. Andrew's Regional Ministries. It promises to be a fun-filled week of activities that help children learn about the Bible stories and God's power and love at work in the world. It runs from 9 am – 4 pm and costs \$125/child (financial assistance is available). See <https://andychurch.org/campcaravan/> or call 403-259-4080 for further details.

Camp Kasota West: Camp Kasota West is a United Church camp on Sylvan Lake near Red Deer. Please see the newsletter for more information.

Naramata Centre: Naramata Centre is a conference and retreat centre of the United Church of Canada. See <https://www.naramatacentresociety.org/> for program descriptions, accommodation descriptions, and to register. Registration is ongoing.

Leadership Opportunity! This was Linda Miller's last year as chair of Executive Council. EC is seeking someone to take over immediately. 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.

Opportunity! Elizabeth Morton has resigned 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).

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.

Exploring Social Justice Lunch and Learn: The next ESJ Lunch and Learn will be April 28th, with Tony Snow as speaker on "Social Justice and Right Relations."

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!

Foothills United Church Seeks Accompanist: Foothills United Church currently has a contract position open for an accompanist for Sunday morning worship services and occasional special services. Please go to www.foothillsunitedchurch.org to see the full job description. To apply for this position, please email your resume to foothillsunited@telus.net. Attention: M&P Committee.

"Building Sacred Bridges": An interfaith musical experience. Inspiring works by Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian participants including a Gospel Choir and an interfaith children's choir called "All of God's Children". No charge, but donations accepted for the Interfaith Habitat for Humanity project. At the event we will be celebrating the conclusion of this project's goal of raising \$1M to help families buy their first home. May 5, 7 pm at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1325 Glenmore Trail SW. Reserve tickets at www.habitatsouthernab.ca/bsb.

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

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.

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

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

Community Time After Each Service

Sunday, April 7

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Music Meeting

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

9:30 am Pastoral Care Comm. Meeting
4:15 pm Karate
6:30 pm Pathfinders/Brownies
7:00 pm Drum Circle
7:00 pm B&P Comm. Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

9:00 am Quilting for Others
9:30 am Decorating Committee
4:15 pm Karate
6:00 pm Strummers
6:15 pm Children's Choir
7:15 pm Adult Choir

Friday, April 12

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 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

April 7: Lenten Theme: Voices Against Violence
April 14: Palm Sunday
April 19: Good Friday
April 21: Easter Sunday
April 28: Hot Seat Sunday
May 5: The Greatest Showman Worship Series
May 12: The Greatest Showman Worship Series
May 19: The Greatest Showman Worship Series
May 26: The Greatest Showman Worship Series



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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