



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 28, 2019
10:00 am
Theme: Hot Seat Sunday

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

Prelude: *Kari Orosz - “Dream On” by Steven Tyler*

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3 Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Christ Candle Lighting

Introit: *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!(R.,v.5, R.)*

MV#121

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *Open Our Hearts (2x)* **MV#21**

Scripture: *Luke 24:13-35*

Ministry of Music: *The Strummers - “Beyond the Trail of Tears” by Randy Smith & Mag Maxwhinney*

Children's Time

Message

Hymn: *This Is the Day (2x)* **MV#122**

Minute for St. Thomas: *“Paths to Reconciliation” - Elaine Gray*

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Ministry of Music: *The Strummers- “William Twin” by Cori Brewster & Bob Remington*

Offertory: *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing (v.2)*

VU#169

Offertory Prayer

Call to Prayer: *Now the Green Blade Rises (v.3)*

VU#186

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: *Christ Has No Body Now but Yours*

MV#171

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude: *The Strummers- “Seminole Wind” by John Anderson*

Cake Walk: Mother's Day; bake a cake, win a cake, or both! On **May 12** the Youth group will be running a cake walk after the service to raise funds for the Skipping Stone Foundation. This foundation empowers and supports transgender and diverse youth and their families, and all proceeds from the cake walk will be donated to them. We invite you to join us in the Mountainview Hall after the service on May 12 and participate in the cake walk - hopefully you'll get lucky and win a tasty treat to take home! And if you need something last-minute for mother's day, we've got you covered. If you would like to contribute a cake to the cake walk, please bring it to the church before or on May 12! If you bring a cake to the church before the 12th, please label it so we know what event it is for!

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. **May 10** 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 the night of the meeting.

Junior Youth Sunday Morning: On Sunday, **April 28** and on Sunday, **May 12** 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.

Leadership Opportunities: Executive Council is seeking a dynamic church leader to take on the Chair position. For further information, contact Linda Miller, ljmiller7@shaw.ca or 403 383-9045. In addition, we have three teams needing help: Affirming Group, Faith Formation, and Finance. Please contact Tracy or Justin if any of these opportunities call to you.

April Birthday Sunday will be on April 28. Thanks, everyone.

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!

Interfaith Opportunity with our Muslim Siblings: 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).

Décor Committee sends many thanks to the following who teamed up Thursday am to get winter down, and spring up: Bev Smith, John Burgess, Swee Wong, Diane Bunka, Lori Weller, Diane Latter, Pat Usher, Tim and Louise Scott. Much appreciation to all.

Wanted: Volunteer Kitchen 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.

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.

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 initiative!

Habitat for Humanity's Women Build-7th Year for St. Thomas! We have seven women ready to go, and so far you have raised over \$1500 to send four of them to build in Silver Springs (\$350 per attendee is required). Thank you for your generous support! If we raise more, we can send more women to the build day **May 4**. Donations can be left in the red house in the Narthex (make cheque payable to Habitat for Humanity) or donate online at <https://my.habitatsouthernab.ca/womenbuild-2019/stthomas>. You can email melindaraelyse@altig.com or call Melinda-Rae at 403-926-2787 with any questions. A special THANK YOU to Ron French for building us a new Habitat House for the Narthex. We love it!

Avenue 15 dinners. Please join us on Sunday, **June 9** to help make dinner for the homeless youth at Avenue 15. It takes approximately three hours to prepare and eat the meal and staying to eat is optional. Any donations of toiletries, feminine hygiene products, condoms, stuffed animals, and gently used, clean clothing is much appreciated. Toiletries must be unused. For more information – or to donate your items – contact Hope Cochran at 587-581-2619 or hopeco7@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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.

Ladies and Gentlemen! Children of all ages! Come right this way to be amazed and astounded by the movie “The Greatest Showman”. 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!

Hymn Sing 9:45: Come early to Church on **May 5** and enjoy singing some hymns prior to the service. If you have a favourite you would like to sing, come prepared to suggest it!

Yard Clean-up: The annual spring yard clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at 9 am with May 11 as our backup date if the weather is poor. Everyone is invited to come out for a couple of hours with their rakes and garden gloves to enjoy the spring air, good fellowship, and a little light exercise!

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."

Right Relations Circle at Hillhurst United: The Right Relations Circle of Hillhurst United Church meets regularly on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome. For more info contact: right.relations@hillhurstunited.com.

Primetimers: Save the date - We are planning a picnic at Bowness Park, Tues. **May 28**. Watch for details.

Observer: The United Church Observer magazine has been renamed “Broadview”. The magazine will increase in length by 16 pages per issue. The frequency of publication will be reduced from 11 to ten issues per year. The cost, as part of the church group, will remain at \$25 per year. Also, the magazine will soon be available on newsstands across Canada. Enjoy. Jan Campbell

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

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!

“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.

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.

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

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, April 28

9:00 am Youth Breakfast
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Lunch & Learn

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

8:30 am Planning Team
9:00 am Quilting
1:00 pm Strummers
4:15 pm Karate
6:30 pm Pathfinders/Brownies

Wednesday, May 1

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, May 2

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

Friday, May 3

9:30 am AM Fitness
10:30 am Sportball
6:00 pm Pizza & Movie
6:30 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm Sewing 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 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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