



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, May 26, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: **The Greatest Showman**
Worship Series

VU = Voices United

MV = More Voices

Prelude: *Kari Orosz - “Never Enough”*

by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3
Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Christ Candle Lighting

Introit: *Come All You People (2x)*

MV#2

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*

Scripture: *Matthew 5:11-16*

Ministry of Music: *The Adult Choir- “This Is Me”*

by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul; arr. Mac Huff

Solo: Kari Orosz

Children's Time

Message: *“Pivotal Moments”*

Hymn: *I Am a Child of God*

MV#157

Minute for St. Thomas: *“The Music Committee”*

Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Invitation to Open Hands

Opportunity to Open Hands

Offertory: *Grateful (Chorus Only)*

MV#182

Offertory Prayer

Call to Prayer: *Spirit of the Living God (v.2)*

VU#376

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: *When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides*

MV#169

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

NEW THIS WEEK

Hymn Sing 9:45 June 2: 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!

A special thank you to Arnold Murray for planting the church gardens. All of the plants Arnold starts himself, tends them for two to three months, then gets down on his knees to plant them!

St. Thomas Babes (ex-UCW) Potluck Brunch: Please note: Change of date. Back to our original **Sat. June 1, 10 am-12 pm**. We will eat brunch at 10:30. Must be out of Narthex by 12:15. Bring your potluck offering, utensils, and plates. This is open to all ladies of St. Thomas.

Fair Trade Coffee Orders: Just in time for your summer sipping!! We will be taking Fair Trade coffee orders at the usual table in the Narthex on **Sun. June 2 and Sun. June 9**. Selection and prices remain the same. Because of your support, we are able to buy all of the coffee wholesale for the church to use – and it's Fair Trade coffee so we are all helping the farmers who grow the crops! Now is the time to stock up for the summer as the next order after this will be in September. Thanks so much for your support! Marilyn Barry (marilyn.barry4@gmail.com) and Judy Booth (jabooth@telusplanet.net).

Veteran's Food Bank: Let's remember to fill up our Veteran's Food Bank box before we head out on holidays this summer. Thank you!

COMING UP

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday June 2, 2019 following the worship service. The meeting will be to present two items - the updated draft of the Bylaws (current is dated 2011) and the 2019-2022 Strategic Plans for St. Thomas. Come learn how we all can "Boldly Make a Difference".

Correspondence Club: Everyone has something to say and should be encouraged to do so. Pen and ink or pencil and lead, coupled with paper, can be the most effective weapons in a person's communication arsenal. Whether it be for activism, information, or just plain fun, writing a letter to someone helps you to be heard. Please join the inaugural meeting of Correspondence Club on **May 27 from 7 – 8:30 pm** in the Lounge at St. Thomas for issue discussion and ideas for writing letters. This is a family-friendly club and children are invited to come and make their voices heard.

May Birthday Sunday will be **May 26**. Wanda Veer

Primetimers: Our **Barbeque** is this Tues. **May 28**, at 11 am at Bowness Park. Bring a lawn chair. Also, in keeping with our positive thoughts, bring your sun hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen (just in case!). Please sign up today (Narthex), Sunday, in order that we know how many people are coming. If the weather is not cooperating, we will send you an email by 9 am Tuesday. If you don't hear from us, we are waiting for you at Bowness Park! We are asking for a small monetary donation (at the park) to help cover the costs of this event. See you there!

Our next **Coffee and a Chat** will be held Tues. **June 25** at 10 am in our Narthex. We are asking you to consider bringing your own cup to the event. This will save the cost of cups, prevent burning our fingers on the paper ones (!), and most importantly, help our planet. If you wish to leave your clean, labelled cup at the church, we will have a covered bin in which to store it. If anyone would like to bring a baked treat, or fruit or cheese, etc., for our table, just let us know.

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).

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!

St. Thomas is compiling a list of this year's graduates from high school, university, and college, which will be included in the announcements on Father's Day. We rely on the congregation to pass along the names of individuals to congratulate. Please submit the graduate's name, program completed, and future plans, in writing, to Sandra by filling out a communication card or by emailing office@stthomasunited.ca.

Colour to Conquer Cancer invites all Canadians to colour their hair and raise funds to help conquer cancer in our lifetime. Vote on what colour Rev. Tracy, Erin, and Evangeline will colour their hair by dropping a loonie or toonie into the basket(s) of your choice. All the money used to vote will go towards our \$1,000 goal. For more details, check out

<https://pmhf3.akaraisin.com/ui/ColourToConquerEn/team/229456>

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Nursery and Sunday School Volunteers are needed. If you can help, please contact Erin MacLean-Berko at erinmacberko@gmail.com. We are running very short of Sunday school volunteers for the end of May and June. Please considering giving your time, or we will only be offering minimal classes.

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! Final day for accepting donations will be **June 2**. We will be having a special children's offering at that service, so please bring any spare change for this great cause!

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, June 7** at 6:30. 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, **June 9** 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.

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

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.

A PLACE FOR YOU

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!

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). Our last meeting will be May 29. We will resume in September.

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.

OUTREACH

Habitat for Humanity 7th Annual Women Build: *THANK YOU* for all of your incredible support! Your generous contributions of \$2,255 enabled six women to participate in a fun and rewarding experience building homes to give families a "hand up" to a safe and affordable place to call home. Hats off to our amazing team of Lori Weller, Betty Smith, Shelley Herman, Barb Veitch, Gisele Scott-Woo, and Linda Bouchard for working on the May 4th build and making such a difference!

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.

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 sideby-side@vapc.ca, or through the VAPC office at (403) 288-0544.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.

Leadership Opportunities: 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.

OFFICE

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.

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

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.

Please Note: The EDNS preschool will have a bin to **collect used markers**, sharpies, and dry erase markers. They will then take them to be recycled. We have been invited to bring our used markers in and add them to their bin.

OUTSIDE ST. THOMAS

Healing Touch Level 1 *offered June 8-9; contact Linda Martin at 403-601-0529 and June 22-23; contact Betty Minifie at 403-474-7399.*

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. At the next meeting of the Hillhurst Right Relations Circle, they'll be screening the film River of Silence. Written, directed, and produced by Cree filmmakers, River of Silence challenges media stereotypes of missing and murdered Indigenous women as being the ones who put themselves at risk. Tues. May 28, 7 - 9 pm. Hillhurst United Church, 1227 Kensington Close NW.

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, May 26

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

Monday, May 27

9:30 am AM Fitness
 1:00 pm Bridge
 7:00 pm Correspondence Club

Tuesday, May 28

11:00 am Primetimers
 4:15 pm Karate
 6:30 pm Pathfinders/Brownies

Wednesday, May 29

9:30 am AM Fitness
 9:30 am Hospitality Meeting
 1:00 pm Open Art Studio
 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Knitters
 6:15 pm Sparks/Brownies
 7:00 pm Cool Choir

Thursday, May 30

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

Friday, May 31

9:30 am AM Fitness
 10:30 am Sportball
 6:30 pm Youth Group
 8:00 pm Ramadan Supper

Saturday, June 1

8:30 am Karate
 10:30 am UCW Brunch

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

May 26: The Greatest Showman Worship Series
 June 2: The Greatest Showman Worship Series
 June 9: Pentecost Sunday
 June 16: Father's Day
 June 23: Freedom and Faith
 June 30: Follow Me
 July 7: Strummers Stampede Service
 July 14: The Good Samaritan
 July 21: Martha & Mary
 July 28: Prayer
 August 4: Wordly Things
 August 11: Thieves & Treasure
 August 18: The Cause of Division
 August 25: Sabbath Healing



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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