

Sunday, September 1, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: PRIDE SUNDAY

VU = Voices United MV = More Voices

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 Administrator: Halyna Kinasevych

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

Prelude: *Kari Orosz*

Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3 Land

Greeting One Another & Announcements

Christ Candle Lighting

Introit: *Let Us Build a House (vv 1&4)* **MV# 1**

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: *Holy One, who breathes life into each one of us, and all of creation, we give thanks for the wonderful diversity of your hands. Help us to hold one another closely, in love, compassion, and celebration, that we may give thanks that we are all your children. In the name of Jesus, who welcomes each one of us as we are, we work to make this prayer a reality. Amen.*

Opening Hymn: *We Are One (v1-4)* **VU# 402**

Scripture: *Galatians 3:19-29*

Ministry of Music : *Kari Orosz*

Children's Time

The Message: *Straight Pride*

Hymn: *My Love Colours Outside the Lines (V 2/4)*
MV#138

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Open Hands

Offertory Hymn: *For the Gift of Creation* **VU#538**

Offertory Prayer: *Holy One, in the diversity of these gifts is reflected the wonderful diversity of Creation. As all of us are made in your image and likeness, we offer these gifts that we all may be affirmed of our place in your world. In the name of Jesus, who affirmed the marginalized and created community, we pray. Amen.*

Call to Prayer: *Take, O Take Me as I Am* **MV# 85**

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus **VU# 959**

Hymn: *Christ Has No Body But Yours* **MV# 171**

Commissioning

Benediction

Postlude

(A full version of this morning's liturgy is available
– just ask a Greeter or Ask Me host.)

UPCOMING

The Pink Unicorn is a hilarious and heartfelt play put on by Lunchbox Theatre (160, 115 - 9th Avenue SE) about a small-town Texas single mom dealing with her daughter coming out as genderqueer. The Affirming Team has arranged for anyone interested in seeing the play to join together on **Thursday, September 19th at 6:00 pm**. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex; please sign up by September 9th. Tickets \$10 each; all welcome!

Seniors Wellness Day

Sat. Sept 28th 2019, 9 am - 3 pm (Lunch Included)

Come and check out booths, resources and great speakers!

Booths include AHS; Home Care Assistance; Assisted Living & Seniors Residences; Driving Miss Daisy; Carewest; Veterans Assistance; CACG and many more. **Please call 403-241-0366 to register**

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good : Founding Assembly

Thursday, Oct 17 at 7 pm at Knox United Church

This is where the membership of the Alliance will declare the establishment of the collective Alliance as a force for common good. At that Founding Assembly, all of the delegates of St. Thomas will be invited on stage to show their support and state, as a group, why we are a part of CACG. Please come, show your support and demonstrate to the numerous City Councillors, MLA, and MPs at that Assembly, that many of their constituents are a part of this group. Please talk to Karen Kavanagh 403-286-8073 or karenkavanagh80@gmail.com or any member of the Outreach team.

BOOK CLUB

Get ready for the Sept Book Club by reading *"Becoming"* by Michelle Obama

HYMN SING

Come early to Church on Sept 8 (9:45 am) and enjoy singing some hymns prior to the service. If you have a favourite you would like to sing, come prepared to suggest it!

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 and June. Please considering giving your time, or we will only be offering minimal classes.

Junior Youth Sunday Morning

On Sunday, **Sept 8** during the service, there will be a special program geared towards children in grades 4 – 6. It will be lead 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 leaves. Friends are always welcome.

PRIMETIMERS

Summer just flew by! Everyone in the congregation is invited to our **Coffee and a Chat**. It will be Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 10:00 am in our Narthex. If anyone would like to contribute a treat let Jan know at 403-909-7402. See you then! Jan and Keith Campbell.

OUTREACH

Outreach Committee is having a **clothing drive** to help Calgary families who find themselves in less fortunate circumstances prepare for winter. Our main focus is for winter coats and warm clothing that is clean and in good condition. We also request gift cards that can be used to purchase winter boots. We will accept clothing for all ages. Donations will be sorted and sent to: BowWest; Avenue 15; Mennonite Central Committee; Women In Need Society and The Walk In Closet which accepts business clothing to help women reenter the workforce. **Please bring your donations to St Thomas on September 15, 22 & 29.** Thank you for supporting this initiative.

START UP DATES TO REMEMBER

- * AM Fitness starts Sept. 9
- * Choirs:
 - Adult Choir Advance, Sept. 7
 - Children's Choir, Strummers, Adult Choir, Sept. 5
 - Youth Choir, Sept. 4
- * Jr. Youth Group, Sept. 20
- * Marathon Bridge, Sept. 26
- * Open Art Studio, Sept 11
- * Orchestra, Sept. 9
- * Primetimers, Sept. 17
- * Quilting for Others, Sept. 17
- * **Sunday School Registration & Blessing of the Backpacks, Sept. 8**
- * Tuesday's Grace Quilters, Sept. 17
- * **Welcome Back to Church Sunday and BBQ, Sept. 8**
- * Youth Group, Sept. 6

ONGOING

Correspondence Club: Whether it be for activism, information, or just plain fun, writing a letter to someone helps you to be heard. We meet every 2nd and 4th Monday night from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Lounge or Library. All ages are welcome.

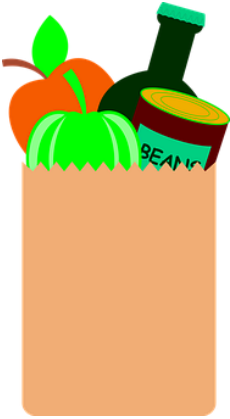
Hey, all you people, come and join our **AM Fitness and Fun** group. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the Mountainview Hall starting Sept. 9th. Give it a try!

HOSPITALITY

Birthday Sundays: Everyone has a birthday! Everyone should celebrate! Everyone likes cake! So we have a Birthday Sunday once a month. Usually the last Sunday in the month, but these dates are sometimes adjusted depending on what else is happening in this very busy and active church. We will be sending around a sign up sheet. If you are able to bring a 9 x 13 cake, OR, if you aren't a baker, you can sign up for serving the cake. This popular event sponsored by your HOSPITALITY TEAM.

FUNDRAISING

Grocery Gift Cards



Starting on Sunday September 8, we will be selling grocery gift cards as a fundraiser for St. Thomas. We buy the cards in bulk at a discount and sell them to you at face value. If you buy a \$100 gift card, it costs you \$100 and it will buy \$100 worth of groceries. Cards for Safeway/Sobey's, Co-op and Superstore will be available in \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Payment is by cheque (made out to St. Thomas United Church), cash, or e-transfer to fundraising@stthomasunited.ca. To pre-order your cards, please send an e-mail to fundraising@stthomasunited.ca.

Cards will be available the first Sunday of each month. For Autumn, 2019, they will be available Sept 8, Sept 15, Oct 6, Nov 3, and Dec 1. With your ongoing participation, it is hoped that the sale of Grocery Gift Cards will be a meaningful St. Thomas fundraiser. For further information, contact Richard Taylor-Kerr at fundraising@stthomasunited.ca

Thirty-One Gifts Fundraiser

September 1-15

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and help St Thomas at the same time! Kari Orosz will be hosting a Thirty-One Gifts fundraiser. This is a faith-based company that offers a variety of products including bags, thermals, home decor and accessories. 100% of the commission will be donated to the STUC general operating fund. Kari will bring catalogues and set up a table with sample items at the BBQ on Welcome Back Sunday (Sept 8). Orders can be placed directly through Kari (credit cards accepted as well as cash or cheque) or online through the STUC party link: <https://www.mythirtyone.ca/ca/en/2613508?pd=488182>

PLEASE NOTE: it is very important to place the order through Kari Orosz in the St. Thomas party in order to collect & track commissions for donations. Orders will be accepted until 9 pm on Sun, Sept 15. Happy shopping!

ST THOMAS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are urgently seeking volunteers to assist with our Sunday, Sept 8th

Welcome Back to Church BBQ.

Sign up sheet is in the Narthex or you can email Halyna at office@stthomasunited.ca.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

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 for complete review of this helpful position.) Contact Lori if interested or for more info. leweller@shaw.ca or 403-239-1705.

The *Affirming Team* is looking for new members who want to **boldly make a difference** as St. Thomas continues to live out its Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. The team will have their first meeting after church on Sunday, September 15th. All interested in this affirming work are welcome to attend.

New Leadership: Our new Chair of Executive Council is Linda Bouchard, and of the Affirming Group is Evangeline Robertson! Welcome to you both!!

Leadership Opportunities at St. Thomas: We still have two teams needing help: Faith Formation and Finance. Please contact Tracy or Justin if any of these opportunities call to you.

BEYOND ST. THOMAS

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.

Compassion Fatigue: The High Cost of Caring:

Saturday, October 19th 9 am – 1 pm

Caring too much can hurt. When caregivers focus on others without practicing healthy care giving they are at risk for developing “**Compassion Fatigue**”. Come and learn how it is possible to practice healthy self-care while continuing to care for others. What is Compassion Fatigue? What are the causes? What is healthy care giving? Breaking the Compassion Fatigue cycle. Developing authentic, sustainable self-care practices. Presented by Rev. Kerri Kroeker at Symons Valley United Church Cost is \$55.00 for CPCA members, \$70.00 for non-members

This event is open to everyone. Refreshments provided. For more information or to register visit <https://cpcassoc.ca>, contact Karen at 403-253-7946 or email events@cpcassoc.ca

STAYING CONNECTED

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.

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 contacting the office at (403)241-0366 or office@stthomasunited.ca.

Note: 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

Sunday, Sept 1

10:00 am Worship

Monday, Sept 2

Labour Day Holiday
Office is closed

Tuesday, Sept 3

8:30 am Nursery School resumes

4:15 pm Karate

Wed, Sept 4

9:00 am Hospitality Committee

9:00 am Wilbury Gang

6:00 pm Scouts Registration

7:00 pm Youth Choir

Thursday, Sept 5

10:00 am Maple Leaf Brass

4:15 pm Karate

6:00 pm Children's Choir

7:00 pm Strummers

7:15 pm Adult Choir

Friday, Sept 6

1:00 pm Al Medinah Islamic Assembly

Prayer Service

7:00 pm Sewing Group

Saturday, Sept 7

8:30 am Karate

For a detailed and up to date calendar, please check out our website at:

stthomasunited.ca/what-we-do/calendar/

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

We give great thanks to all who participated in making today's worship service a reality.

Worship Services

Sept 1: Pride Sunday

Sept 8: Welcome Back Sunday

Sept 15: Transformation

Sept 22: Wrestling with God

Sept 29: Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off

Oct 6: Stewardship Campaign #2

Oct 13: Stewardship Campaign #3

Oct 20: Stewardship Campaign #4



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 www.united-church.ca

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