



Sunday, September 22, 2019

10:00 am

Theme: Wrestling with God

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:** 'The Foggy Dew' - Irish Traditional, *Kari Orosz*

**Welcome to our Livestream Worship Service**

**Acknowledgement of Treaty 7 & Region 3 Land**

**Greeting One Another & Announcements**

**Christ Candle Lighting**

**Introit:** *Oh a Song Must Rise (Chorus, Vs 3, Chorus)*

**MV#142**

**Call to Worship**

**Ministry of Music:** *Youth Choir*

**Opening Prayer:** *Holy God, we gather to see your presence in our everyday lives. From the first moments we wake, we yearn to know you. Yet, there are times when hearing your voice and seeing your presence, challenge and confound us. Help us to know your love in the midst of strife, as in the midst of calm, calling us to change your world in your ways. Amen.*

**Opening Hymn:** *Immortal, Invisible*

**VU#264**

**Scripture:** *Genesis 32: 22-30*

**Ministry of Music :** *Orchestra: Anthem: Cathedral Grove by Robert Buckley*

**Children's Time**

**The Message:** *Wrestling with God*

**Hymn:** *Creator God You Gave Us Life*

**MV#27**

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Opportunity to Open Hands**

**Offertory Hymn:** *What Can I Do?*

**MV#191**

**Offertory Prayer:** *Out of the gifts that we have in our lives we pour out a portion of what we are able to your work in your world. With open hands, open hearts, and open minds, may we be a part of your call to change in the world. Amen.*

**Call to Prayer:** *Come Touch Our Hearts (Vs 1 & 4)*

**MV#12**

**Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus**

**Closing Hymn:** *My Soul Cries Out*

**MV#120**

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude:** *Kari Orosz*

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

## CALLED TO SERVE

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.

**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.

**Volunteers Needed for Nursery Supervision During Service:** Babies and toddlers can be brought into and left in the Nursery while the parent attend the service. **Volunteers** comfortable with infants and toddlers will supervise these children for approx. one hour. One volunteer per 3 children. **Please sign up** on the **green sign up poster** on the **window of the Nursery Room**. Please plan to be at the room about 10 mins before church begins, even though many times, the children arrive after the children's story. Thanks! - Hospitality Committee.

**Fair Trade Coffee is back by popular demand!** Orders will joyfully be taken Sept 22nd in the narthex. The aim is for pickup on Sept 29th. With any coffee you order, we can continue to supply St Thomas with the FAIR TRADE coffee used in our church! And besides the great taste ..... **When you buy this coffee, communities thrive. In Colombia, kids get uniforms so they can attend school. In Peru, farmers receive education so they can cultivate healthy, organic food. In D.R. Congo, communities access vaccinations to stop the spread of disease.** When you enjoy this coffee, you make a positive impact in coffee farming communities. Thank you for continuing to support our project! - Judy Booth & Marilyn Barry



Have you thought of the **Veteran's Association Food Bank** when shopping lately? Their needs this month include: toiletries like shampoo; conditioner; deodorant; toilet paper; tissue and cleaning products like Windex; Mr. Clean; Magic Eraser; SOS pads, etc. Perhaps these are new ideas for you. Let's see how many we can collect. Thank you. -Loree Irving

**Avenue 15 Dinner:** Please join us on one of the following dates to make a dinner for the homeless youth at Avenue 15 (938 – 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SW) at 3 pm on the Sundays of: Oct 20th, Nov 10th, Dec 15th, or Jan 12th. It takes approximately 3 hours to prepare and eat the meal. Staying to share in the meal is encouraged but not required. Any donations of unused makeup, toiletries, feminine hygiene products, condoms, stuffed animals and gently used, clean clothing is much appreciated. For more information or to donate your items contact Hope Cochran at 587.581.2619 or hopeco7@gmail.com

## UPCOMING

### JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP SOCIAL EVENT

Junior Youth Group is for grades 4 - 6 preteens. We meet once a month for fun and community building. Children are encouraged to bring their friends. Our first social evening of the season is on **Friday, Sept. 20th at 6:30 pm**. 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/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Jr-Youth-Group-Registration-Package-2019-2020.pdf> or at the Church the night of the meeting.

### SENIORS WELLNESS DAY

**Saturday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 the church office at 403-241-0366 to register.

### JUNIOR YOUTH SUNDAY MORNING

On **Sunday, Sept 29th** 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.

### PATHS TO RECONCILIATION

Our next Lunch & Learn is after the service on **Sunday, Sept 29th**. Lunch will be served from approximately 11:30 am. Restorative Justice is very topical these days, with the recent opening of the Calgary Indigenous Court. At Noon we'll be screening a 45 minute film called **Three Feathers**, based on the graphic novel of the same name by Richard Van Camp. When harm is done, justice must heal. After committing a crime that devastated the innocence of their small community, three young men are sent to live on the land for nine months to explore the power of restorative justice. The Elders they live with reconnect them to a life that was taken from them long ago, but it is up to the boys to acquire the humility needed to return home and face their past. This event is free though donations towards expenses would be appreciated.

### FAITH FORMATION

**Our Fall Book Study and Discussion** begins **Monday, Sept. 30th** , 1:30-3:30 in the Lounge. We will read "Call It Grace", by Serene Jones and discuss how her life journey might shed light on our own. Further details in the September newsletter, page 11. Contact Elizabeth Morton, 403-474-3861 if you are interested, or just show up!

## 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 22 & 29.** Thank you for supporting this initiative.

## HOSPITALITY

Reminder that the SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29th. I'll be circulating a sign up sheet for cake bakers. Wanda Veer.

## STAYING CONNECTED

**It has come to our attention that emails being sent to many of you from our office (office@stthomasunited.ca) are being missed and are possibly going into your junk folder. Please take a moment to check your junk/spam folder and mark this email address as safe. This way you will not miss any important communication. Thank you!**

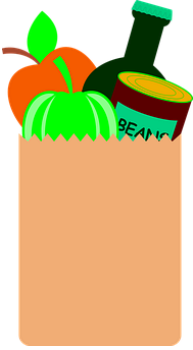
**Twitter:** We now have a new way to stay engaged with the goings-on at St. Thomas. Come and say hi. Go to [https://twitter.com/st\\_thomas\\_yc](https://twitter.com/st_thomas_yc).

**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](mailto: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.*

## FUNDRAISING



### **Grocery Gift Cards**

We are 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](mailto:fundraising@stthomasunited.ca). Cards will be available the **first Sunday** of each month. For Autumn 2019, they will be available **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 info, or to pre-order your cards, contact Richard Taylor-Kerr at [fundraising@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:fundraising@stthomasunited.ca)



### **Coupon Books**

The youth group is selling the ADmazing coupon books again this year. They are \$25 each and will be for sale each Sunday before and after the service. You can also stop by the office to pick one up during office hours.

## 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. Give it a try!

## BEYOND ST. THOMAS

### ***Right Relations Circle: Tuesday, Sept. 24th from 7-9 pm***

Hillhurst's reconciliation journey has spanned many decades. Join us as we reflect upon the life of this church and its outreach to Indigenous people. We will look at past efforts and our current opportunities for sharing and community-building. On Tues, Sept 24th 7 - 9 pm at Hillhurst United Church, 1227 Kensington Cl NW. For more information email: [right.relations@hillhurstunited.com](mailto:right.relations@hillhurstunited.com)

### ***Orange Shirt Day: Monday, Sept 30th***

Canadians wear orange in support of children and communities affected by the Indian Residential School System. Orange Shirt Day is reminder to all Canadians of the need to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

### ***14th Annual Sisters in Spirit Vigil: Friday, Oct. 4th, 11:30 am-1:30 pm***

October 4th is a day where we honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). The violence experienced by Indigenous women and girls in Canada is a national tragedy. We must take the time to give thanks to the families who are our reason for demanding continued action. Family members, Indigenous community members, and concerned citizens gather for a vigil every Oct. 4th to honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Vigils take place in many communities across Canada as well as internationally. These gatherings serve to raise awareness and to provide support to families who have lost a loved one. Join us in honouring missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. "Silent No More" peace march and rally beginning at 11:30 am by Stephen Avenue Mall & 3rd St SW with a march to Olympic Plaza at noon for the official ceremony. Activities include: drumming, speakers, honour songs, traditional ceremony and open mic; bring your drums, shawls, rattles and noisemakers.

For more information please call: (403) 531-1970 Ext. 200 or email: [awotaan@awotaan.org](mailto:awotaan@awotaan.org).

### ***Sisters in Spirit Memorial Feast & Commemoration: Friday, Oct. 4th, from 5-9 pm***

Come and join our gathering for all people to commemorate the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls following the Sisters in Spirit Vigil. Come hear the stories, wisdom, and perspectives of Indigenous Women. This event is co-sponsored by Awo Taan, Hillhurst United Church, the consortium of United Church Right Relations committees, the McDougall Stoney Mission Society, the Urban Indigenous Circle and the Stoney Nakoda Nation. Hillhurst United Church, 1227 Kensington Close SW. For More Information, contact: [right.relations@hillhurstunited.com](mailto:right.relations@hillhurstunited.com)

## BEYOND ST. THOMAS

***Blackfoot Crossing Day Trip: Oct. 5th*** The Outreach Committee of Woodcliff United Church invites you to join us as we journey to the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park at Cluny. The Centre is at the site where the Blackfoot Nation, with seven other tribes, signed Treaty 7 in 1877. There will be a special program for children and a tour lead by an Elder for the adults and youth. Carpool from St. Thomas will leave at 9:00 am. See Elaine Gray after service to sign up. **(Registration due by Sept. 14)** The cost per person if our group is 25 or more will be: Adults \$20, Youth (8 -17) \$12. Children under 7 are free. For more info please email Karen Kavanagh at [karenkavanagh80@gmail.com](mailto:karenkavanagh80@gmail.com)

***Indigenous Voices Showcase: Wednesday, Oct. 16th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm***

Hosted by Shelagh Rogers, with Shane M. Chartrand; Cherie Dimaline; Alicia Elliott; Harold R. Johnson, and Richard Van Camp. The multi-genre standard bearers of contemporary Indigenous writing and cuisine, thanks to the participation of Chef Shane M. Chartrand (each guest will be welcomed with a taste from his new cookbook *tawâw*) — come together to share their current work and engage in a wide-ranging conversation with The Next Chapter's Shelagh Rogers. At Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall, Central Library, 800 - 3rd Street SE. Cost: \$30 + tax For more information and for tickets: <https://wordfest.com/2019/event/indigenous-voices-showcase-2/>

***The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good: Founding Assembly Thursday, Oct 17th at 7 pm***

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 at Knox United Church 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 contact Karen Kavanagh at 403-286-8073 or [karenkvanagh80@gmail.com](mailto:karenkvanagh80@gmail.com) or any member of the Outreach team.

***Wordfest Presents Bob Joseph - Oct. 22nd, 5:00-6:15 pm***

Shelagh Rogers, host of CBC Radio's The Next Chapter, sits down with Bob Joseph to talk about the Indian Act, and why every Canadian needs to understand its repercussions if reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples is to become a reality. Every business and community leader and every Calgarian, young or old, needs to hear this highly sought-after public speaker who has generously distilled a very broad and difficult topic into a practical vision for moving forward. The Hillhurst Right Relations Circle will be attending this event instead of having their usual Circle. Location: Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall, Central Library, 800 - 3rd Street SE. Cost: \$20 + tax For more info and for tickets: <https://wordfest.com/2019/event/wordfest-presents-bob-joseph/>

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

## Sunday, Sept 22

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Music Committee  
6:30 pm Twelve Step Group

## Monday, Sept 23

9:00 am Pastoral Care Meeting  
9:30 am AM Fitness  
1:00 pm Bridge Club  
7:00 pm Orchestra  
7:30 pm Correspondence

## Tuesday, Sept 24

9:00 am Fall Decorating  
9:00 am Quilting  
4:15 pm Karate  
6:15 pm Girl Guides

## Wed, Sept 25

9:00 am Wilbury Gang  
9:30 am AM Fitness  
1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Knitters  
1:00 pm Open Art Studio  
6:00 pm Sparks & Brownies  
7:00 pm Youth Choir  
7:00 pm Cool Choir

## Thursday, Sept 26

9:00 am Quilting for Others  
10:00 am Maple Leaf Brass  
11:30 am Marathon Bridge  
4:15 pm Karate  
6:00 pm Strummers  
6:00 pm Children's Choir  
6:30 pm Pathfinders  
7:15 pm Adult Choir

## Friday, Sept 27

9:30 am AM Fitness  
1:00 pm Al Medinah Islamic Assembly  
6:15 pm Youth Group  
7:00 pm Friday Night Sewing Group

## Saturday, Sept 28

8:30 am Karate  
8:00 am Senior's Wellness Day

For a detailed and up to date calendar, please check out our website at: [stthomasunited.ca/what-we-do/calendar/](http://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.**

## Worship Services

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  
Oct 27: Stewardship Campaign #5  
Nov 3: A Little Bit of Faith  
Nov 10: Remembrance Sunday  
Nov 17: Children's Sunday



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.

Today's Service

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

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[www.stthomasunited.ca](http://www.stthomasunited.ca)