

St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Theme: Youth Sunday

Online VU = Voices United MV = More Voice

Worship link can be found here:

<https://stthomasunited.ca/>

Prayer for Young People

Dear God,

You are so wonderful and we worship you.

You are the source of a river of love and grace that transforms the world. We offer you our young hearts, minds and bodies.

Help us to grow in the goodness of your kingdom.

May we shine out in times of darkness, Stand safely upon the truth and not be shaken,

And see your vision for the world and follow you.

Come use our energy to care for the lost.

Come take our creativity to meet with the brokenhearted,

Come use our youthfulness to bring joy and peace,

And your hope to bring light to every-one.

Amen.

Prelude: Kari Orosz: *Sweet Child of Mine*: Axl Rose, Slash, Izzy Stradlin', Steven Adler & Michael McKagan

Welcome to our Online Worship Service

Acknowledgement of Treaty 7, Métis Region 3 Land

Candle Lighting & Silence

Introit: Teen Choir: *I've Got Peace Like a River* **VU#577**

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: *Holy God, as we gather in this virtual environment here today, we recognize that we are still in community even as we are physically apart. Let us remember that we are not alone even throughout these challenging times, because we are in this together. Remind us to not sweat the small stuff, and help us appreciate even the smallest good things around us. Guide us, God as we look to the future, and the joyous things to come Amen.*

Hymn 1: *Like A Rock*

MV#92

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17, Reader: Heather Robertson

The Message: Connections & Rendez-vous

Ministry of Music: Naked Faith Band: *Don't Lose Heart* by Andrew Nicholson

Invitation to Open Hands

Offertory Prayer: *Holy One, Creator of all untamed energy, we are grateful to be your people. Given strength to live boldly, unconstrained by stained glass and church walls, unbound by expectations and stereotypes that our spirits may soar, sing to the sky, link to the earth, wade in the waters and find belonging in You. Through these years of growing we pray for faith that roams to find meaning, purpose, passion...You. May this virtual gathering cause a viral love to be unleashed upon this big, beautiful world. Amen.*

Hymn 2: *Take My Life and Let It Be* (1 & 4)

VU#506

Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus

Hymn: Naked Faith Band: *This is The Day*

MV#122

Commissioning & Benediction

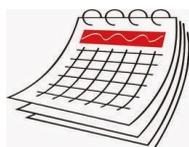
Postlude: Kari Orosz: *If We Hold On Together* by James Horner and Will Jennings

UPDATES



Coffee Chat Sunday Mornings! Join us Sunday mornings as we gather via Zoom for a time to watch the online worship service together as community starting around 9:45 am with the service starting at 10 am. Then stay after the service for a time of checking in and conversation. To register and receive the Zoom invite, send us an email at coffee-chat@stthomasunited.ca and we'll email the info on Friday afternoons.

I am not getting many calls about **Birthdays and Celebrations**, folks. And I know each of you is having a birthday this year. I've even resorted to looking at the past year's Birthday Sunday pictures. PLEASE rat on your neighbour, tattle on your spouse. We'd LOVE to celebrate with you. -Wanda Veer



The 2021 UCC calendars are now available. Please contact the office to arrange purchase, pick up or delivery.

Youth Group (grades 7-10) meets weekly for social events with a mix of in-person, physically distanced and virtual meetings. If you would like to join us, please email the youth leaders at youth@stthomasunited.ca.

Junior Youth Group (grades 4-6) meets virtually through ZOOM every second week. Upcoming meetings are Nov 20, Dec 4 & 18. If interested, please email junioryouth@stthomasunited.ca.

Grocery Gift Card Sales are available for Safeway/Sobeys, Co-op and Superstore in \$50's and \$100's. Email fundraising@stthomasunited.ca with your order and we can arrange pickup/delivery. Thank you. -Richard Taylor-Kerr

UPDATES

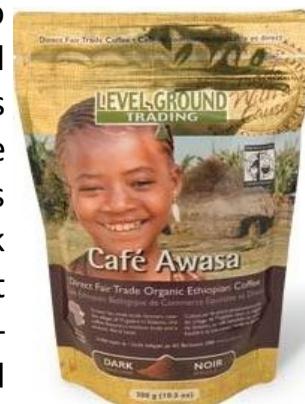
Call for Play-Doh! We are looking for donations of GREEN Play-Doh for our Advent Wreaths. If you're able, please drop playdoh off at the church **between Nov 23 - 27 (no earlier please)**, there will be a box in the entrance of the Narthex.

November 29th Wreath kit pickup! If you and your family would like to participate in our traditional homemade wreaths, please signup here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0945a9aa22abf49-advent> -Erin MacLean Berko



The Hospitality Committee is planning to distribute **Christmas Bags** to congregants in December. Please watch the bulletin for more details and for volunteer opportunities like delivering in your area, or helping us fill the bags. -Wanda Veer

Fair Trade Coffee: Have you been thinking about what to get someone at Christmas and do not want to go out and shop? Why not buy them some coffee! I am taking orders and arranging home deliveries courtesy of Ron & Diane French! As well as our regular line up, three new coffees have been introduced by our supplier: Rift Valley (Dark Roast), Andes Mountain (Medium Roast) and Bright Roast (their lightest roast). The seasonal Winter Blend (Medium-Dark Roast) is also available. All are available in 300 g and 5 lb. sizes. Please place your orders by contacting me via email at jaboath@telusplanet.net or phone 403 547 8988. I will be taking orders until end of day Sunday, Nov 29th. Thank you for your support.



-Judy Booth

BEYOND ST THOMAS



My Bear Clan Patrol Experience: I have gone out with the Bear Clan Patrol four times now and last Friday night was the most moving experience I have ever had. We gathered in a parking lot to load our wagons full of supplies and 20 of us headed out for a patrol: 4 people in 2 vans and 2 groups of 8 pulling the wagons and carrying backpacks of supplies. The vans carried warm clothes and blankets. One van carried a box of coffee and hot water

for tea. The other van carried an enormous pot of hot venison soup and bannock that one of the Indigenous families had made. We walked along the back streets of Forest Lawn and along 17 Ave SE and everywhere we went we would meet people in need of warmth. Some were walking the street and many were hunkered down for the night trying to stay warm. We woke up any that were sleeping to make sure they were ok and offer them warm soup and supplies to help them through the night.

This experience broke my heart, on such a deep level, to see that people have to live this way in a city where we have entire heated office buildings that are vacant. The evening also warmed my heart profoundly, to see that we could be the arms of God, hugging these people with warm soup, warm clothing and letting them know someone cares. We were thanked over and over again for the little bit we were able to do.

You can be a part of providing these people with the love of God by donating new socks, underwear, warm hats and gloves or gently used backpacks, winter clothing and blankets. If you provide receipts over \$50 to the office your donation will be added to your St. Thomas giving's. Please ensure the receipts are only for donated items and write Bear Clan and your name and address on them. If you are able to drop off donations at the church during office hours, there is a Bear Clan Patrol bin in the Narthex. If that is not possible, I will happily pick up donations from you, if you contact me at 403-286-8073 or karenkavanagh80@gmail.com.

BEYOND ST THOMAS



Adopt A Family is online: This year, due to us not having in-church services, we offer an opportunity to sign up online for the gift you would like to give our 'Adopt A Family'. We will adopt 3 families again this year, two we have been supporting for years; the Yalda's, our refugee family from Iraq, our All Roads Lead Home family and a third family that comes to us from BowWest. To donate a Christmas gift, sign up at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ky4CQSXuFnYnKlscJ_Vm8gMhNxzJRykJ/view.

If you have a Gmail or Google account: Sign in. Place cursor at top of the page and click on 'open with' at the top centre and choose Google docs. Fill in your name and contact information in the appropriate line. Exit the page to save text.

If you do not have a Google account: Place cursor on the plus sign (+) in the upper right corner. Highlight the gift you wish to donate and another plus sign (+) will appear on the right side of the page. Click on the new plus sign and add your name and contact information in the text box that appears. Click on the word "comment" to save that text. Exit the page to post your comment.

If you have any issues, please contact me at karekavanagh80@gmail.com or 403-286-8073.

Please drop off the gifts by December 14 to the appropriately numbered box or envelope in the Narthex during office hours. If you are not able to go to the church during office hours, contact me and I will arrange pickup. The grocery store gift cards can be purchased through fundraising@stthomasunited.ca, please advise Richard they are for 'Adopt A Family' and I will pick them up from from him. If you are unable to shop and still want to support the program you can send a cheque, by December 5st, to the church office: 100 Hawkwood Blvd NW, Calgary T3G 2S9.

This has been a difficult year for many people and this is a wonderful opportunity to bring some real Christmas cheer to these families that are struggling. Thank you for showing them God's love.—Karen Kavanagh

BEYOND ST THOMAS



When you are out shopping, please consider the following wish list from the **Veteran's Food Bank**. All donations may be dropped off at #10, 820—28 St NE or at our church. Please call the church office to arrange your drop off time. Thank you.—Loree Irving

SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER
BODY WASH
LOTION
SHAVING CREAM
DISH SOAP
HAND SANITIZER
CLEANING SUPPLIES
PAPER TOWEL
COFFEE
COOKIES
CRACKERS

PEARS - CANNED
MANDARIN ORANGES
CREAM CORN
MIXED VEGGIES
SALAD DRESSING
RELISHES
HONEY
HASHBROWNS – COSTCO
CRANBERRIES
PIE FILLING

KRAFT DINNER
HAMBURGER HELPER
BAGGED OATS
PANCAKE MIX
INSTANT RICE
SARDINES & OYSTERS
SALAD DRESSING
BBQ SAUCE
APPLE SAUCE
CANNED TUNA & SALMON

The **Centre for Newcomers** is asking for winter wear such as jackets, scarfs, gloves, toques and winter boots for both women and men. If you have any items, new or gently used to donate, please contact Hope Cochran at hopeco7@gmail.com. I can come pick it up or you can take it to Community Wise at 223 - 12 Ave SW. Thank you for your support for those less fortunate.

The COVID-19 outbreak has changed our daily routines and adjusting hasn't been easy. Not for anyone. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, help is available—24/7. Visit alberta.ca/mentalhealth to find resources.



THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

Sunday, Nov 22

10:00 am Online Worship

Monday, Nov 23

no events

Tuesday, Nov 24

4-10 pm Karate

Wednesday, Nov 25

7:00 pm Youth Choir

7:30 pm 12 Step Group

Thursday, Nov 26

9:00 am Worship Filming

4-10 pm Karate

6-7 pm Children's Choir

7-8:30 pm Virtual Adult Choir

Friday, Nov 27

1:30 pm Al Madinah Islamic Assembly

6:30 pm Virtual Junior Youth Group

7:00 pm Virtual Youth Group

Saturday, Nov 28

8:30 am-5:00 pm Karate

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
Caitlin Hornbeck
Jacqueline Verwaayen

Sunday School Coordinator: Erin MacLean-Berko

Upcoming Service Themes:

Nov 22: Youth Service

Nov 29: Advent 1—Hope

Dec 6: Advent 2—Peace

Dec 13: Advent 3—Joy

Dec 20: Advent 4—Love

Dec 21: Blue Christmas

Each Sunday we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 7 land, not out of guilt or shame, but in recognition of the land on which we gather. We give thanks for the traditional territories and oral practices that have lived on this land for thousands of years through the Indigenous Nations of the Siksika, Kanai, Piikani, Stoney-Nakota and Tsuut'ina and all people who make their homes in this, our Treaty 7 region of Alberta, and the Region 3 Métis Nation.



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 info about the United Church **visit www.united-church.ca**



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