

Sunday Morning
Worship Time
Every Sunday
Starting at 10:30 am



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The St. Thomas Newsletter is published monthly. Submissions are due by the 15th of the preceding month.

Send submissions to
pr@stthomasunited.ca

Minister's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS!!!

When it comes to the Church seasons, I have many meaningful times of the year, but Epiphany is most likely at the top of the list, or at least very close to the top. Why? You might wonder.

Epiphany, to me, is all about fresh starts (a new year), moments of awe, and wonder. It's about re-orienting ourselves after a busy Advent and Christmas season to what really matters, and to what we are called to do. After all the hubbub of the past year has passed, Epiphany reminds me of our role in the story. For me, it is about being "Alongside."

Last year we took time during our Epiphany service to choose 'Star Words.' Words that we could carry with us throughout the year as a guide and for inspiration. Words such as kindness, love, inclusiveness etc.

I bet you can guess, if you haven't already, what my word was; 'Alongside(ness).' I want to share how my 'Star Word' impacted me during this past year.

Last Epiphany I posted my star word on my refrigerator and it has remained there throughout the year. I see it whenever I go to grab something out of the fridge. I feel like it was the perfect word for me because after some reflection, I can truly say that I had a year full of practising 'Alongsideness.'

St. Thomas is a busy Faith Community that has provided me many opportunities to come 'Alongside,' for which I am very blessed.

Reverend Marion Martin

Worship at St. Thomas - Cathy Rivard

This month, come join us on Saturdays for movie night, 6:00 pm, January 13, 20, and 27. On the following Sundays Reverends Tracy, Vicki, and Marion will share messages from the movies: Onward, Women Talking, and A Man Called Otto.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sundays.

Upcoming Services for January

January 7

Epiphany
(Rev. Tracy)

Scripture:
Matthew 2:1-12

Music:
Kari Orosz, Adult
Choir.

January 14

Reel Theology
Intergenerational
Service
"Onward"
(Rev. Tracy)

Theme: Love is a
Journey, Not a Desti-
nation.

Scripture:
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Music:
Kari Orosz, Children's
Choir, Strummers.

January 21

Reel Theology
"Women Talking "
(Rev. Tracy)

Theme: The Struggle
of Justice: Do Noth-
ing, Stay and Fight, or
Leave.

Pre-recorded mes-
sage - Rev. Vicki.

Scripture:
Matthew 15:7-11

Music:
Orchestra, Loree Ir-
ving.

January 28

Reel Theology
"A Man Called Otto "
(Rev. Tracy)

Theme: The Power of
Relationship.

Pre-recorded mes-
sage - Rev. Marion.

Scripture:
Galatians 5:13-25

Music:
Adult Choir, Kari
Orosz.

Paths to Reconciliation/Outreach - Elaine Gray

As some of you know, eight people from St. Thomas went to Métis Crossing this past September and had a very enjoyable and educational visit. In case you missed it, Reverend Tracy spoke about this visit in her October 1 message entitled "Reflections from Métis Crossing" (<https://youtube.com/live/htGjX1Wctek>). Paul Bercier from our congregation is an Elder of the Métis Nation and he was one of our wonderful hosts.

A recent issue of Travel + Leisure Magazine, published November 7, 2023, has an excellent article which highlights this amazing facility. (https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/666965532/metis-crossing-unveils-new-winter-packages). We plan to organize another trip, probably in the first half of the new year; hope you'll be able to join us!

St. Thomas Book Club - Rachel Murray

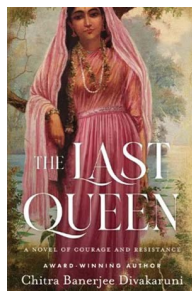
Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. This year's book choices are:

For more information
contact Rachel at
rachelmurray@shaw.ca

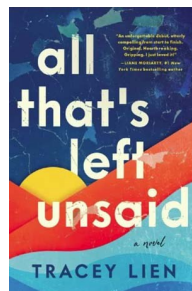
New members welcome!



January
2023



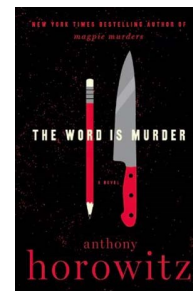
February
2023



March
2023



April
2023



May
2023

Affirming Committee - Ev Robertson

Thanks to our small, but very efficient committee, the Affirming Team has some big plans for 2024. Many thanks to those who have supported our endeavours in 2023 – such as PIE Day in March, the Pride Prom in June, and the Pride Parade in September.

Our first event will be held on January 14, 2024, where a Lunch and Learn will be held after the service. The focus of this will be gender differences, the different queer flags, and pronoun usages; while still having a fun and engaging time. We will be providing lunch for those who attend!

And, whilst you are indoors during January and February, why not consider making pies for our PIE DAY on March 10? In addition to an art sale from local vendors, we plan to serve pies, sell pies, and even have a pie silent auction. Watch for more details in the bulletin!

For those of you who think "Affirming" is just about 2SLGBTQIA+ issues, it's time to broaden your scope. It's also about other social barriers that many folks face, such as accessibility (ever struggled to find an easy way into a building while pushing a walker or using a wheelchair?), racism (yep, still very much around), age (who knew?), physical and mental health issues (both incredibly impactful on people's lives), and many other things that can create social divides. If you are interested in helping us to pursue these topics, along with 2SLGBTQIA+ issues, please consider joining our committee!

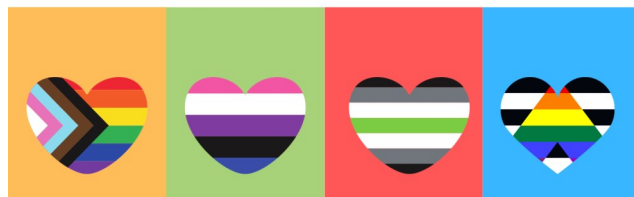
Plan to join us January 14, we look forward to seeing you there! Happy New Year!



**The St. Thomas United Church
Affirming Committee
invites you to a
Lunch and Learn**

January 14, 2024 after the service

Ev will be leading the event with the assistance of
the Affirming Committee,
and the topic will be around gender differences, flags, and pronouns.



The Wise Women of St. Thomas

I Used to Believe - A Joint Effort by Ruthann, Wanda, and Meaux

This theme turned out to be much more difficult than we anticipated. Looking back on beliefs requires an examination of context, which can trigger all sorts of emotions: anger, pain, incredulity, humour. One of our common beliefs is that one month is plenty of time to write a Wise Women submission and that we'd be ready long before the deadline.

Here's what we came up with as we each prepared for Christmas and anticipated the New Year:

That God was a terrifying figure with a long beard and a staff for smiting and a permanent frown. And that Bible stories are factual. These stories were written decades or centuries after the events. If you ever ask a couple about their holiday together, you hear different details. Or, in some cases, they appear to have been on different trips! The important thing about Bible (and holiday) stories is the essence – the messages and lessons to be learned from them.

That we'd never be so old as to be at parties where no one can drink alcohol or coffee after mid-afternoon. And that metabolism doesn't change significantly with age. At the current rate, some of us will be living on 200 calories a day by the time we're 90 – which is the new 50.

That, as we were told in the 1990's, when women were lectured about the merits of multi-tasking, if one was organized enough, and had enough lists and exercised enough self-discipline, and didn't sleep too much, the obligations of a full-time job, family, church, and volunteer commitments could all be met whilst keeping a clean and tidy home and yard.

That one's house needed to be clean before the Christmas decorations were put up. And that Christmas cards should be sent by December 1, or maybe December 15. Or January 1. And now - email greetings sent on Valentine's Day help to save the environment and are not an indication of procrastination.

That unfinished projects should be left spread out on the dining table because one will get back to them very soon. Like those homemade Christmas gifts to be started in early January when nothing was going on. Well, maybe Epiphany... Valentine's Day at the latest. After all, procrastination is a gift.

That overripe bananas must be frozen because waste was a sin. Apparently composting freezer-burned bananas isn't, because no smiting has occurred.

That athletic skills were achievable with lots of practice and hard work. Wrong. We finally learned to ditch the things in life that DNA wasn't supporting and move onto things that we're good at.

That boys have cooties. We all have sons and learned that gym clothes and sports bags were much worse than imaginary infestations.

That Christmas is always happy.

That the people we love will live forever.

That mental health issues and poverty are things you can get over.

That residential schools were something that happened long ago.

Continued...

That everyone had a wonderful upbringing surrounded by supportive and loving parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

That, as our parents said, most political parties behave much the same way once they get into government. And that most politicians just want to do what's best for the country.

That everyone has some good in them. Well... not always. Also, that most people genuinely want to live in peace. But why are we so susceptible to messages intended to stir up outrage and anger against our fellow humans? That being said, our glorious world is full of good deeds, amazing friends and family, and folks who are selfless and fine.

All three of us have changed our New Year's resolutions to Do Less Cleaning, Eat More Snacks, See Friends More Often, and Appreciate the Blessings in Life Every Day. We wish that for you in 2024.

Avenue 15:

A challenge to the Men of St. Thomas (the whole, not the group)! A challenge to join me in making dinner for the unhoused at Avenue 15 on the 3rd Sunday of February, March, April, May or June! (<https://www.growwithtrellis.ca/youth-programs/housing-shelters>).

Bring your (STUC) friend, bring two, or three, and stay to enjoy the dinner we made!! You don't need to be a great cook as long as you can use a knife to chop veggies! I know the February date is a long weekend, hence the challenge, but we need people for all the months.

So, who will join me?

Hope Cochran 587-581-2619

Exercise Update:

Exercise members are rejoining the classes, admitting that they missed the workouts, and realizing how important they are. They appreciate the variety of movements that we do to work on different muscle groups as well as stretching, cardio, and balancing.

Are you missing out on something that is good for you physically, mentally, and emotionally?

Make a January resolution to join am Fun and Fitness.

Classes Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings.

For more information:

Pam Bazinet: pmbazinet@shaw.ca

Barb Robertson: barbrob@telus.net

2023 Annual Report:

In preparation for our Annual Congregational Meeting later in the winter, we ask all Committee and Team chairs or leaders to submit their annual reports to the office by the end of January. If there is any reason your submission might be late, please let us know.

Thanks very much! Jane Wittstock,

office@stthomasunited.ca

Wanda's Preserves:

Thanks to all those who buy my preserves, eat my preserves, and bring me empty jars. A donation of \$818.50 will be made to St Thomas. (Plus \$100.00 at the Festive Fair). Much appreciated!

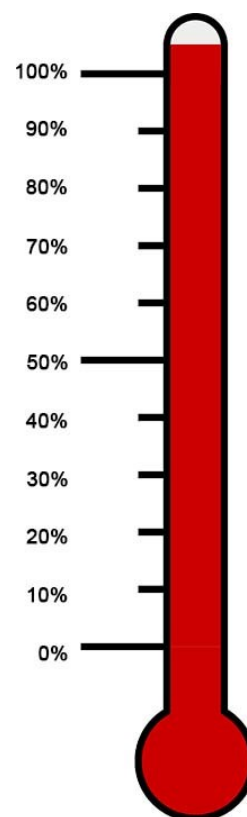
Gift Cards - Richard Taylor-Kerr

As of December 20, we have fundraised an astonishing \$8,250 for St. Thomas through Grocery Gift Card sales. So much for the goal of \$8,000. We blew right past it. Total cards purchased in 2023 was an amazing \$151,000. That is a lot of groceries! Thank you for your continued support of this very successful fundraiser for St. Thomas.

This fundraiser will continue again in 2024. We have gift cards available in \$50s and \$100s for Safeway/ Sobeys, Co -op, and Superstore. Payment is by e-transfer, cash or cheque (payable to St. Thomas United Church). Safeway/Sobeys and Superstore cards can be used in any of their affiliated stores across Canada. Co-op cards can only be used in Calgary.

The best way to order cards is to e-mail fundraising@stthomasunited.ca. Cards will be ready for you on the following Sunday. We can also make arrangements for pickup.

Thank you to all who purchased gift cards in 2023 and we look forward to your support in 2024. Every purchase helps, no matter how small.



YYC Campus Ministry Community Connector Program - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

YYC Campus Ministry has hired three Community Connectors (CCs) for this school year. While their main work is on campus, each of the CCs will also act as a bridge between campus life and the worship and community life of the congregations to which they are assigned. Herman Ng, one of our youth leaders, is a CC assigned to work with St. Thomas and Symons Valley. During the first semester, he has helped with St. Thomas' Stewardship Fair and our Haunted Hallway Halloween Happening. He also took a leadership role with Symons Valley's Advent Festival.

YYC Campus Ministry Calgary was led by Reverend Tim Nethercott until his retirement as of December 31, 2023. Tim was the United Church Chaplain for this ministry for over 20 years at U of C and MRU. We were honoured to have Tim lead St. Thomas' worship service on December 31, 2023, as one of his last activities prior to retirement. We wish Tim all the best in his retirement.

St. Thomas Decor Committee

Christmas Down and Winter Up! Thursday, January 11, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Five or six helpers are needed including a couple of strong fellows to help with Christmas trees. Email Lori if you can help:

leweller@shaw.ca. Thank you!

Primetimers - Jan and Keith Campbell

Our Primetimers' Christmas luncheon was, once again, a lovely gathering of wonderful people, all of whom were in the full Christmas spirit! The luncheon, a turkey dinner catered by "An Affair To Remember", was delicious.

Thank you to our son, Brett Turner, who walked right beside us throughout this event. He is always willing to help us and, bonus, knows how to operate the dishwasher at STUC!

Thank you also to the Strummers: Ron French, John Burgess, Keith Campbell, John Robertson, and Terry Brotherston. It's a wonderful sharing of strumming music, singing, laughing, and "join-in caroling"!

I have been singing with the Strummers and Stummers Outreach lately. They are all wonderful, talented individuals. We are so blessed to have them at the church and in the community.

Keith and I have managed to eat most of the fruit cake before Christmas! It's a personal weakness, but that cake is so yummy with a cup of tea in the evening! Our children don't eat it, so it's ours anyways.

It's a busy time for many, and a sad time for others. Some of our Primetimers have experienced some major life changes. Let each of us take a moment to just breathe, think about our life, others, and what we can improve upon in the New Year. A simple phone call can be so encouraging.

Our first "Coffee and a Chat" for 2024 will be on Thursday, January 11, 2024. It will be in the STUC Narthex at 10:00 am. Be ready to share or listen to stories from the Christmas season. Feel free to bring any leftover Christmas baking as our group tends to love sweets. The coffee will be on! Keith and I have a few events planned for the New Year. We hope you will be able to join us.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very peaceful New Year. We look forward to informing you of our upcoming planned Primetimers' events. Be well and be happy, dear friends. Peace.



Youth Group News

Youth Group (Grades 7 to 12)

The Youth Leaders of St. Thomas and Symons Valley are excited to invite you to Youth Group! Typically, we meet on Friday evenings for our social event and at service on Sunday morning. The Youth Leaders will send out an email every Monday to let you know what activities will be taking place that week. Our social events typically last two hours and include activities such as charades, crafts, and movie night. Sunday mornings are focused on checking in, discussing social justice issues, and doing activities to benefit our church community. Friends are always welcome to come to Friday activities and Sunday mornings. We ask that if you bring friends, please get them to fill out the forms, please and thanks!

If you are interested in joining us and aren't currently receiving our weekly emails, please reach out and send us an email at youth@stthomasunited.ca or call the church office to be added to our mail-out list!

Our Sunday January theme is New Year's Resolutions and all it entails. It should be interesting to hear how your Christmas and New Year's went too!

Here are the events we currently have planned for January. Please remember that this schedule is subject to change on short notice. Keep an eye on our weekly emails for the most up-to-date information!

Friday, January 5: Join us at St. Thomas from 7:00 -9:00 pm for Ping-Pong and Games! This will be a good chance for you to ease back into Youth Group.

Friday, January 12: Join us from 7:00 -9:00 pm at the Calgary Climbing Centre, Rocky Mountain location for some rock climbing.

Friday, January 19, Naked Faith: From 6:00 - 10:30 pm at (location TBA). Come experience what it's like to have a rock band sing to you! Naked Faith is a worship service aimed at youth and young adults, focusing on relevant themes. Following the service more activities are planned for both youth and young adults. Dinner is provided. Vegetarian and gluten-free options available.

Friday, January 26, Board Game Night: Join us at Symons Valley from 7:00 -9:00 pm for a chill board game night! We recognize a number of our youth will be writing exams, so come hang with us for a couple of hours as a distraction!

January and February Youth Group Fundraiser:

The youth of St. Thomas and Symons Valley are fundraising for Emma Maternity House in Kensington as part of the Coldest Night of the Year. Emma House is a safe and supportive transitional housing program for expectant mothers ages 12+ who are experiencing, or are at risk of, being homelessness within Calgary and surrounding area. Emma House is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness among pregnant women/youth and equips the residents with resources to build sustainable futures for themselves and their new babies. We are collecting monetary donations on Sunday mornings or at the following link: [PLEASE SPONSOR St. Thomas and Symons Valley Youth Group \(e2rm.com\)](https://e2rm.com)

Rendez-vous 2024

Rendez-vous 2024 is taking place July 3-5 at Brock University in St. Catharine's, Ontario. It is a couple of days of guest speakers, workshops, and lots of worship! It's primarily aimed at youth, young adults, and their leaders. We are going to be hosting two info sessions for parents and youth at the end of January to see if there is any interest in youth wanting to go. They will be January 21 at St. Thomas, immediately following the service, and January 28 at Symons Valley, immediately following the service.



Junior Youth Group

Junior Youth Group is for children in grades four, five, and six. We will offer both virtual and in-person meetings this fall. Friends are always welcome. An email will be sent from junior-youth@stthomasunited.ca with details before each meeting. If you know of a child in this age range who would be interested in joining in and they aren't already on the email distribution list, please email junior-youth@stthomasunited.ca to be added to the list.

Monthly Virtual Junior Youth Group meetings will include the opportunity to chat and play some online games. The next meetings will be Friday, January 26, and February 23 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Ev looks forward to having you join in the fun.

Monthly in-person Junior Youth group meetings will include some active games, crafts, a snack, and the opportunity to get to know each other. The next meetings will be Friday, January 12 and February 2, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. The meeting on January 12 will be a joint meeting for junior youth from St. Thomas and Symons Valley United Churches. This event will be held at Symons Valley United Church. Sam looks forward to having you join in the fun.



Calgary Regional Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Calgary Queer Church

Calgary Queer Church is a community of people who are passionate about leading a spiritual life. We are an inclusive space where faith and identity can be reconciled. If it's your first time or you've come every time, you are welcome in the space and encouraged to check it out! Everyone is welcome at Calgary Queer Church. You can find more information about upcoming services on their website at <http://www.calgaryqueerchurch.com/> or on Facebook by searching Calgary Queer Church.

Naked Faith

The next service will be January 19, 2024, location is TBA! Naked Faith is an alternative worship experience aimed at youth and young adults, but open to all. The evening begins with dinner at 6:00 pm, with the service starting at 7:00 pm. Youth are welcome to stay for games after until 10:30 pm and young adults go out to a pub. All are welcome!

Dirty Theology

The next Dirty Theology will be Sunday, January 7, 2024, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Fish Creek United Church. It is a Christian program, but very open and intended for all young adults across Calgary and beyond, from any or no faith tradition. It is the beautiful space you've all been waiting for, where adult conversations meet Christianity, no holds barred. It's a space for young adults to build connections, get real, and dig deep into the lived reality of our faith and our lives; the good, the bad, and the ugly. Our favourite topics are taboo topics, and we love exploring questions without needing answers.

Young Adult Pub Night

Next Pub Night will be Thursday, January 25, 2024, starting at 7:00 pm at the Southland Bull and Finch pub. For more information, check out the Regional Youth and Young Adult Facebook page, contact Brenda McKellar at 403-850-7874 or contact the youth leaders for more information.

Hospitality News - Wanda Veer

St. Thomas has been one busy place in 2023. Thanks to all who participated, and to all who contributed to the festivities. Now on to 2024.

We continue to need folks to sign up to make and serve coffee. Please consider this; it's easy and a great way to see everyone in the congregation. We can help if you're nervous!

The next Birthday Sunday will be January 28. Watch for details in the bulletin.

Happy New Year from our super great Hospitality team: Elaine Gray, Cindy Huisson, Sherrill Knight, June Powell, Reverend Tracy Robertson, Kathleen Stonehouse, Wanda Veer (Chair).

And Maggie Gidley, and Erin Maclean-Berko who are on a brief recess.

Music News - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Upcoming Special Music Presentations and Events:

January 7 – Twelfth Night 7:00 pm at St. David's United Church. The NW Calgary United Church choirs come together to share a couple of their anthems from the Christmas season. Goodies are served afterward. It is always a very enjoyable evening!

February 4 – Joy of Song worship service. This service will involve anthems from all three Choirs, the Orchestra, and the Strummers. It is a celebration of the role music plays in our lives.

April 27 – STUC show featuring the music from the musical *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*. There will be an afternoon and an evening show with goodies and socializing to follow.

Group	Practice Time	Ages	Contact
Children's Choir	Thursdays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	ECS – Grade 6	Kate Power childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca
Youth Choir	Wednesdays 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Grade 6 – University	Barb Robertson barbrob@telus.net
Adult Choir	Thursdays 7:15 pm – 9:30 pm		Pam Bazinet pmbazinet@shaw.ca
Orchestra	Mondays 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm		Dick Worton dworton@telusplanet.net
Strummers	Thursdays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm		Ron French rondifrench@telus.net
Strummers Outreach	Tuesdays 1:00 pm - 3:00pm		George Zirotf gzirotf@shaw.ca

Adult Choir

Happy New year to you all. We hope you had a good Christmas with friends and family, and were able to create some new memories.

This January the Adult Choir will be busy practicing for Twelfth Night which will be held at St. David's United Church on Sunday, January 7 at 7:00 pm. Please join us, if you can, for a night of wonderful Christmas music from the northwest Calgary United Churches.

Coming up events include Joy of Song and our STUC show *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat*.

New members are always welcome to join this great group. Enthusiasm and love of singing is required. Ability to read music is not required. Give your brain a treat and come sing with us.

Pamela Bazinet pmbazinet@shaw.ca

Youth Choir

The youth and children presented a wonderful Christmas message December 17 with the musical, *Room for Christmas*. You can still watch this via the St. Thomas YouTube Channel (<https://youtube.com/live/c7HGiT4100Y>). It was lots of fun to prepare and a chance to collect toys for donation. Thank-you to all who participated.

We now look forward to singing with the United Churches in northwest Calgary for Twelfth Night.

There is still the opportunity to join the choirs as they look forward to the music of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* in April. We are looking for sopranos, altos, and basses. In other words, any youth who like to sing, socialize, and have the odd snack. The youth have been working with some changing male voices. It would help this transition if we could find a few more boys for support.

Practices resume [Wednesday, January 10, 2024](#), for the youth, grade six to university.

Barbara Robertson and Charles Xing,
Email barbrob@telus.net for more information

Children's Choir

Big thanks to all who contributed to the toy drive in our *Room for Christmas* musical. The Women's Centre Calgary Toy Room donation encompassed several boxes.

The choir will recommence rehearsals on [Thursday, January 11, 2024](#), and sing in church with the Strummers on [Sunday, January 14, 2024](#). Good thing we've been practicing our song already!

Kate and Kari childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca

Orchestra

The Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and we share our music at services about once a month. We are now looking forward to playing our Christmas music at the Twelfth Night celebration and preparing for Joy of Song. The Orchestra is a friendly and welcoming group. New members are always welcome.

Dick Worton dworton@telusplanet.net

Strummers

The Strummers practice on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm in the library. They sing at worship services about once a month. They provided music for the Service of Hope and Light at Foothills United on December 17.

Other Opportunities for Soloists and Instrumentalists

If you would like to share your talents as a singer or instrumentalist during the offering time, as a Prelude or Postlude or when one of our regular groups is not available to provide an Anthem, there are lots of opportunities to do so. This invitation is open to people of all skill levels. It would be particularly fun to have some children play the piano or another instrument, for example. If you are interested send an email to music-team@stthomasunited.ca or talk to Elaine Taylor-Kerr.

Pastoral Care - Richard Taylor-Kerr

The past year was a busy one for the Pastoral Care committee now that the world is getting back closer to "normal".

Some recent highlights:

- In December we joined Foothills United at their church for the Hope and Light Christmas Service. Music was supplied by the St Thomas Strummers.
- 45 Christmas bags were put together and delivered to various people within the congregation before Christmas.
- Nearly 100 cards were sent out throughout 2023, not including the cards sent with the Christmas bags.

As we move into 2024, the Pastoral Care Committee will continue to provide practical, caring help through: home and hospital visits, phone calls, the Friend to Friend program, emergency food support, prayer shawls, baptismal shawls, quilts, cards, funeral receptions, benevolent fund, and inspiring educational programs.

We can all do Pastoral Care within our daily lives. Connect with people, let them know that they are not alone. Know what it means to have Open Hands, Open Hearts, Open Minds. As we head into the new year, I challenge you to not make a new year's resolution that you are just going to break, but rather, do small things that will make a difference in someone else's life. Such as:

- Spend time with an old friend. Give them a call or drop by. Take time to really connect.
- Perform a random act of kindness. Google "random acts of kindness ideas" and you will be astonished at how easy this can be.

If you know of someone who could use a spiritual lift, a visit, a phone call, or some other kind of support please do not hesitate to be in touch with any of us on the Pastoral Care Committee . (pastoral-care@stthomasunited.ca) or our ministers.

On behalf of the Pastoral Care Committee: Richard Taylor-Kerr, Marj Aucoin, Diane Latter, Jan Mingo, Cathy Olson, Louise Scott, Betty Thompson, and Heather Worton.

Message from Women of the United Church Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit

Pam Won has a request for all the women of the United Church. They are wondering if news of women's groups activities can be forwarded to them at pcwon88@gmail.com

Adopt-A-Family Thank You - Karen Kavanagh

The Adopt-A-Family project was a huge success this year all thanks to your generous donations. We had 13 boxes of gifts and \$1600 in grocery store gift cards. These donations will help 10 people to stay warm, dress nicely, have fun, enjoy healthy food, and feel the love of Christmas this year. You have really made a difference in the lives of these two families!

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good News

If you are interested in what the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good (CACG) accomplished in 2022/2023 you can read [the full annual report by clicking here](#)

It is truly amazing what can be accomplished by gathering together to support the people in Calgary that need our help the most. The people we are helping through our work with CACG are everyday people who are living with challenges, and more people every day are joining them as Calgary becomes more expensive for everyone. Thank you for supporting CACG by writing letters to City Councillors, coming to CACG events, and supporting the work by giving financially to St.

Confirmation Class Field Trips - Rev. Marion

The Confirmation class will be going on some field trips in the new year, [and you are invited to come along!](#)

We will be visiting:

The Beth Tzedec Synagogue on January 5 at 10:00 am (1325 Glenmore Trail SW)

The Green Dome Mosque on February 18 at 1:30 pm (4616 80 Ave NE).

Chapel of the Bells, McInnis & Holloway Funeral Homes on March 3 at 1:30 pm (2720 Centre Street N)

Please RSVP either Reverend Tracy (tracyrobertson@stthomasunited.ca) or Reverend Marion (marionmartin@stthomasunited.ca) if you are planning on attending.

St. Thomas United Church Confirmation Class

field trip

January 5, 2024

The Beth Tzedec Synagogue

February 18, 2024

The Green Dome Mosque

March 3, 2024

Chapel of the Bells, McInnis
& Holloway Funeral Homes

Community Engagement - Todd J. Robertson

The Community Engagement Team were able to orchestrate some well attended events and fulfill their mandate in December.

We helped organize a carol singing event in the Dalhousie LRT station that became memorable for being prematurely ended. There was miscommunication on the part of the parties involved and it devolved into us being asked to leave early, though we did get to perform for an hour. Regardless of that, we did have a good reaction from those who were able to hear us, so a thank you (and an apology) to all those who made this event happen.

We had our second annual meal giveaway in the week before Christmas. The meal giveaway is meant to go to anyone who is finding the Christmas season stressful and could use a meal. We gave away 15 +, meals mostly to staff at the Hawkwood Elementary School. They very much appreciated being able to have a meal made for them during the busy time of the year.

We had another trivia night at Brewster's in Crowfoot for their Harry Potter trivia night. We had 19 people come with us from St. Thomas including some guests from Symons Valley. Most of our teams did very well though ~~my~~ one of the teams was noticeably weaker than the others, in fact all of that teams points should be credited to Maureen.

The final thing we were able to squeeze into the month was a family friendly movie. We are not able to advertise outside of church means, announcements and newsletter, due to licensing restrictions, but had a good time with everyone who managed to come see the movie.

Community Engagement events are an opportunity to have fun and get people involved in activities that they might not have considered. If you would like to know more please email community-engagement@stthomasunited.ca



St. David's United Church presents:

Twelfth Night

A Musical Celebration

Featuring

St. Thomas United Church Adult Choir
Symons Valley United Church Choir
Northminster & St. David's United Churches Choir
Wild Rose United Church Choir
Parkdale United Church Choir
Hillhurst United Church Choir
St. Thomas United Church Youth Choir
St. Thomas United Church Orchestra

January 7, 2024

7:00 pm

St. David's United Church
3303 Capitol Hill Cres NW



stthomasunited.ca



**St. Thomas United
Church Primetimers**

January Coffee and Chat

You are invited to our Coffee and a Chat, Thursday, January 11, at 10:00 am in our Narthex. Let us know if you would like to contribute a treat.