

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



Minister's Message: Reverend Tracy Robertson

As I begin my Sabbatical time, I find myself having a hard time...PTSD maybe? My last Sabbatical, I came back to COVID and didn't get a chance to see any of you, so I embarked on "Hearts and Hugs" where I visited people with my signs and talked to you on the phone as we looked at each other through a window or from a balcony. That was so much fun and our awesome Hospitality Team then arranged for driveway birthdays and anniversary gatherings and we stayed connected with Christmas and Easter giveaways that volunteers delivered. It was a challenging time for sure BUT because you are all so awesome, we persevered, and we came back together, and we're growing. I will miss you all but am looking forward to resting and doing some intentional learning on how to write a book and see where that takes me. Tanzania in early July is a bonus, and you all know that I'll be spending loads of time hanging out with Ev in Medicine Hat and my mom on the farm. I pray you all have a great three months and summer! I can't wait to catch up with you when I'm back August 1.

I was very touched that congregant, choir member, and trombone player, Art Vesterdahl wrote a poem about my being on Sabbatical and I received his permission to share it with you all. You can also hear him recite it using this link: <https://youtube.com/shorts/HuH7-BZKzFg>

Sabbatical Musings by Art Vesterdal

Our minister's on her trip,
Over to sabbatical days,
For learning and relaxing,
And planning of her ways.

To be a churchian minister,
It is a difficult call,
When sharing and selling religion,
Whilst teaching love for all.

It's not like architect work,
Building the tall or wide,
Instead she labours hard,
At building what is inside.

Perhaps like herding cats,
While they are running free,
Perhaps impossible task,
Yet she does this with glee.

So to sabbatical goes,
With hope of learning stuff,
Rebuilding one's own wellspring,
And finding that she's "enough."

In this issue:

- Minister's message - 1
- April Worship - 2
- Wise Women - 3
- Garage Sale: 2025 - 4
- Special article by Sharon Ramraj-Thompson - 5
- Faith Formation - 8
- AM Fitness - 9
- Book Club - 9
- Pastoral Care - 10
- Gift Cards Update - 10
- Primetimers - 11
- Volunteer Opportunities with Foothills United Church - 11
- Youth News - 12
- Music News - 13

The St. Thomas Newsletter is published monthly except for July and August. Submissions are due by the 20th of the preceding month. Send submissions to pr@stthomasunited.ca.

Worship at St. Thomas - Cathy

Come join us in May.

Look for a variety of Worship Themes this month at St. Thomas. David Gray and Kari Orosz will start things off with a 'May the 4th Be With You' musical celebration and message. Feel free to dress up. Ashley Dressler, our Sunday School Coordinator, and Kate Power, our Children's Choir Director, will lead us in a Mother's Day Service on **May 11, 2025**. Continuing with our Reel Theology series, Reverend Hillary Van Spronson of Symons Valley United Church will share her pre-recorded message on the animated movie, *The Wild Robot*. We'll close out the month with our annual Youth led worship service on **May 25, 2025**, this Sunday we will also acknowledge Jane Wittstock our Office Administrator, who will be retiring at the end of June, and those celebrating birthdays in May.

Upcoming Services for May, 2025

May 4

May the 4th Be With You

David Gray, Kari Orosz
 Scripture:
 Ephesians 6:10-13

Music:
 Children's Choir, Pam Bazinet, Kari Orosz.

May 11

Mother's Day Service

Ashley Dressler, Kate Power
 Scripture:
 Proverbs 31:10-31

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

May 18

Reel Theology: *The Wild Robot* pre-recorded message
 Rev. Hillary Van Spronson

Elaine Taylor- Kerr
 Scripture:
 Matthew 25:31-40

Music - Adult Choir, Kari Orosz

May 25

Youth Led Worship Service 'Star Wars Theme'

Music - Adult Choir, Kari Orosz

The Wise Women of St. Thomas United Church

Unintended Consequences Def: Results of an action that differ from an expected outcome. Can be positive or negative.

- Ruthann Watson

Decades ago, my mother kvetched, again, that "you kids all live so far away." We had only done what she had very frequently encouraged us to do: travel, do new things, meet new people, etc. I admit that settling in Alberta was never part of my plan but marrying a Calgarian also has unintended consequences.

Everyone having a personal computer was supposed to be liberating, efficient, and increase productivity. Now I get calls and emails telling me that I need to submit a form and all that requires is to install Adobe and learn how to execute a digital signature. Or, if I'm really that dim, I could sign, and scan, and email said form. But please don't sign and snail mail it to the head office because then someone who charges me service fees would have to leave their home to pick it up, scan it and upload it...

The labour movement worked for decades to get an 8-hour workday. Now we need legislation to protect employees if they (gasp) disconnect for a few hours to sleep. Scrooge and Bob Cratchit come to mind.

I used to hear, "I could never live in a small town. Everyone knows your business." We have an unimaginable amount of connectivity and previously unheard-of degrees of loneliness.

AI generated response: To deal with unintended consequences, anticipate potential outcomes, be flexible and adaptable, and learn from past mistakes. This includes thorough planning, evidence-based decision-making, and actively seeking feedback to adapt strategies as needed.

That would require a lot of coffee and chocolate, which could have unintended consequences. I've found that the older I get, the more relevant the Psalms seem.

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

May all your consequences, intended or otherwise, be positive!

Unintended Consequences - Maureen Dodd

When I think of unintended consequences, the phrase 'be careful what you wish for' usually comes to mind. Like when your children throw your own wisdom and dire warnings back at you. So, humbling. But at least they were listening at some point!

Biblical events offer early examples of unintended consequences. When Paul found enlightenment on the road to Damascus, little did he anticipate he'd have to write all those letters over the next few years. And were Eve and Adam aware that just having a bite of an apple would spawn a whole industry in clothing? Did the early Biblical scribes ever consider that their words might be used AGAINST certain groups of people?

Continued...

When I was first diagnosed with celiac disease, I grieved over all the food I wouldn't be able to eat, because gluten is delicious. But a positive unintended consequence was that I no longer had to partake of the giant slab cakes brought in to work for someone's birthday. I could save those calories for nachos and prosecco. Then there was the time when I didn't eat at the Christmas potluck, in case of gluten contamination. Lucky me, because most of the office came down with food poisoning. But my smugness was short-lived since there were only two of us in the office the next day to do everyone's work.

In preparation for Easter guests, I spent a morning trying to scrub marks off the wall, which was a mistake because then I saw that the walls actually need painting. So, I've given up cleaning to avoid the unintended consequence of seeing how much work I really need to do.

It's hard to avoid unintended consequences, because we don't know what we don't know, but the one I am thankful for is that after coming to St. Thomas over thirty years ago for a baptism, I am still here and have made amazing friends!

Unintended Consequences - Wanda Veer

Hmm. Unintended Consequences, or Serendipity, or Fate, or Happenstance, or Coincidence. It happens to us all. Probably every day.

I am a list maker. I get up each day, record what happened the day before, and carefully lay out my plan of what to accomplish in the next 24 hours. I have even got so desperate as to include MAKE LIST, on my TO DO LIST. But, for those of you who are NOT list makers, I want you to know that I have never ever completed my daily list. I blame it on "unintended consequences". When I opened the freezer to get meat out for supper, a package of strawberries fell out, barely missing my toes, so I either had to do something with the strawberries or clean the freezer! This is how my well-planned days end up being shifted.

Visits to any store are perfect examples as well. The clever retailers know this, and by the time I leave with bags bulging, wallet emptied, I barely remember what potential purchase drove me there in the first place.

I've learned to love these diversions to my plans. Some of our best adventures happened when we took a short cut, only to find it was a long cut, but full of interesting people and places. Memories are made of these events. Such as: remember when we decided to go to Nakoda Lodge for Mother's Day Brunch? When we arrived, it was full, with an hour or more wait. We left, thinking we'd stop in Cochrane. What could be easier? Every place was booked featuring swarms of Moms and Families. After trying 3 more stops, we gave up, came home, and cooked ourselves brunch. Probably the most memorable of all Mother's Days. We had a fun ride exploring our beautiful west country in May! Giggling, grumbling, and wishing ill on everyone ahead of us in line.

Continued...

Sometimes, these consequences are life changing. My grandfather, Fred Beynon, took Normal School in Manitoba when he finished Grade 12. At the same time, he was accepted into Medical School. His father, a Methodist minister, had died many years previously, leaving Fred, as the eldest son, to help his mother provide for five other siblings. Thus, years more schooling was out of the question, and Fred took a teaching job in Saskatoon. There he met a fellow teacher, who said "ever thought of farming? I've heard of good cheap land just across the Saskatchewan/Alberta border". And so, on a lark, they decided to try it for a summer. After all, they could always return to teaching. He stayed, loved it, excelled at it, and wouldn't have had it any other way. Which means, I was raised in the Esther/Sibbald area, instead of who knows where, had my grandpa become a Doctor.

May your "unintended consequences" be mostly joyful, and always memorable.

Garage Sale: 2025 - Maxine Mendritzki

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Recycle, recycle, recycle. Donate and buy!

A sign-up sheet will be available soon for our wonderful volunteers.

We CANNOT accept the following items:

Clothing, furniture, car seats or infant furniture, weapons, hazardous waste, construction materials, large appliances, stereo consuls, flammable products, newspapers, encyclopedias, swing sets, TVs, computer monitors, mattresses, waterbeds, auto parts.

Donations can be brought to the church's upper parking lot on Friday, [May 16, 2025](#), between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at maxinemend@gmail.com



M and P - Maureen Dodd

Save the Date! Jane Wittstock's Retirement Celebration – [May 25, 2025](#).

Our beloved and hard-working office administrator, Jane Wittstock, is retiring at the end of June. Please join us after church on [May 25, 2025](#), for treats and to wish Jane a wonderful retirement. We were so excited to have Jane back as our office administrator four years ago, after several years away from the position. She keeps us organized and on top of all the activities at St. Thomas, and we will miss her desperately.

See you on [May 25, 2025](#)! Watch the bulletins for more details.

Faith Formation - Gayle Wilderman

As we head towards wrapping up for the year here are a few of the things you might be interested in putting on your calendar.

Sunday School – On Mother’s Day, **May 11, 2025**, the Sunday School would like to do a celebration of the mothers and mother figures in our lives. Please share a photo or photographs of a past or present mother figure in your life, or even one of you with your own children. **May 1, 2025**, is the hoped for deadline, and the video is going to be shared during the service.

- Last Sunday School, June 8!
- Messy Church: Done for the year, but we are booking dates for next year. We really enjoyed the fellowship, activities, “thinking faith time” with Reverend Marion, and of course the food.
- Library: Organized, some new books, and ready to have you choose and take out a book. Simply pick a book, fill out a card and enjoy a book that may be spiritual, philosophical, informative, and entertaining.
- Church Picnic – Baker Park on June 15, 2025, Entertainment by the Strummers. Hopefully, we have some good weather. More details to follow.
- Camp Caravan is happening: Light, laughter, and hopeful new beginnings. Registration is open. St. Thomas is hosting from August 11-15, 2025. Two age groups can register:
- Children 5-11: <https://app.amilia.com/store/en/chinook-pacific-uccan/shop/activities/5972359>
- Children 12-14: <https://app.amilia.com/store/en/chinook-pacific-uccan/shop/activities/5972360>

Committee members – Fiona Craig, Ashley Dressler, Elaine Gray, Myrna Malanik, Reverend Marion Martin, Sheila Humphrey, Sharon Ramraj-Thompson, Gayle Wilderman.

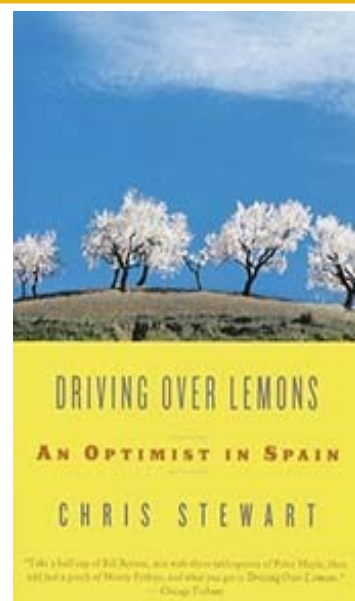
St. Thom- as Book Club - Rachel Murray

For more information
contact Rachel at

Rachelmurray
@shaw.ca.

New members wel-
come! Meets every
second Wednesday
of the month at 6:30
pm on Zoom. Our
book choices for the
remainder of the year
are:

May



Pastoral Care - Richard Taylor-Kerr

This is a more detailed version of the “Minute for STUC” for the Pastoral Care Team that was presented at the April 13th service:

Our purpose is to care for the congregation in a practical way by working with the ministry team and initiate and oversee compassionate programs. Everything we do is through our Faith Statement of Open Hands, Open Hearts, and Open Minds. St. Thomas believes in supporting each other. It never ceases to amaze us that so many are so willing to lend a helping hand. Pastoral Care is what we are passionate about through:

- Food support during times of crisis
- Friend-to -friend visiting program: home and hospital visitation (look for more information coming in the Fall of this year)
- Inspiring Conversations that Matter – programs geared to compassion, health, wellness, safety, seniors, families such as Senior’s Wellness Day and The Art of Farewell We are potentially looking at another Senior’s Wellness Day in early 2026
- Funeral receptions: we handled three in late February and early March. We thank everyone who helped out in any way.
- Hope and Light Christmas Service each December.
- Prayer Shawls, Baptismal Shawls, Prayer Squares, Pet Squares, and Quilts. We work with the Knitters and Quilters to distribute shawls, squares, and quilts as appropriate.
- Deliveries of Christmas candy bags
- Tea to Go: Work with the Hospitality Team to organize Tea to Go. These have been organized in Senior residences or private homes. Several congregants who live in the general area of where the Tea is being held are invited. It is a great opportunity for people to socialize, especially those who don’t get out on their own very often.
- Cards sent for a range of occasions on behalf of the congregation. Also, special birthday cards for anyone 90 and over!
- Benevolent Fund: Funds available for those in extreme need.
- Support and referrals to Rise Calgary
- Support Rev Tracy in delivering monthly Church Services at Senior Residences in Varsity and Rocky Ridge

We are here to respond in a practical and caring way to the emotional and spiritual needs of the congregation of St. Thomas.

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.

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

A.M. Fitness - Barb Robertson and Pam Bazinet

St. Thomas United Church
A.M. Fun and Fitness Group

Are you in shape for all of the outside summer activities? Are there some muscles that might have been underused over the last few months?

Join us to get those muscles ready for walking, hiking, gardening, pick-leball, swimming, and playing outside games with kids and grandkids

We focus on balance, cardio, stretching, abs, legs, arms with a group of fun, supportive. We even add a few basic dance moves. You are welcome to substitute your own exercises if ours are "too easy"!!!!

Classes are Monday, Wednesday and Friday most weeks.

Barb: barbrob@telus.net, Pam: pmbazinet@shaw.ca



Celebrating 10 Years of Spirit-filled Day Camps
in Calgary and Southern Alberta!



More info here!

Camp Caravan is a week-long summer day camp designed for children from kindergarten to grade 8, bringing adventure, creativity, and community to various locations across Southern Alberta. Each day is packed with dynamic activities, hands-on learning, and unforgettable experiences that help children explore God's love and "Follow the Spirit" in their everyday lives—all while making new friends and having a blast!

Join us this summer www.camp-carvan.ca

Gift Cards - Richard Taylor-Kerr

As of mid April, we have fundraised over \$3000 through the sale of gift cards. This is excellent as we near one third of the way through the year. Fantastic work St Thomas!

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/Sobey's 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. I am usually available with cards in the narthex after the service. Don't be shy, just look for me and ask

Thanks for you for supporting this important fundraiser. Every purchase helps, no matter how small.

Richard Taylor-Kerr

Paths to Reconciliation - Elaine Gray

Take a stand against colonization, racism and the injustice of the Murdered and Missing and speak out against this epidemic. You can show your support for the families, and demand justice for the missing and murdered, by participating in two upcoming days of action:

- May 5 is Red Dress Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). On this day you can wear red, hang a red dress outside your home or church, and participate in Red Dress events in your community.
 - May 15 is Moosehide Campaign Day. This year, we are invited to walk and fast to end violence. The United Church supports the Moosehide Campaign. For more information on this year's Campaign Day activities, please visit the [website](https://tinyurl.com/pa56nurf) <https://tinyurl.com/pa56nurf>
 - And don't forget St. Thomas has Moosehide pins available on the table in the Narthex for no charge..
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Primetimers - Jan and Keith Campbell

Hello everyone. The Primetimers have had a busy time and a load of fun. Seeing the Play, *Steel Magnolias* was a treat and emotionally triggering for many. It was so well done by Morpheus Theatre. And, it goes without saying ,but I will, that our meals and time spent at Mitillini's Restaurant in Silver Springs, after the Play, was a fun time. Please visit this family-owned restaurant, as the owners have been so supportive of our church, now, and in the past.

Save the date: The Primetimers will be holding their Annual Picnic/ Barbecue at Bowness Park on Wednesday, **May 28, 2025** at 11:30 am. May the Sunshine follow! Watch for further details in the Bulletin and in the Narthex.

Camp Kasota West - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Camp Kasota West is a United Church camp on Sylvan Lake near Red Deer. They offer week long residential camping experiences in July and August for children who have completed grades 1 – 9. They also offer counsellor in training weeks for youth who have finished grades 9 – 11 and sailing camps for youth who have finished grades 9 – 11. The rates are very reasonable. Several St. Thomas children have attended over the years. Several of our former youth group members have been counsellors at camp. All have enjoyed the experience. For further information see www.campkasotawest.com

Naramata Centre Summer Programs for all ages - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Naramata Centre is conference and retreat centre of the United Church of Canada. Open to people of all ages, Naramata Centre is an inclusive, welcoming place to connect and deepen in mind, body and spirit. Situated on 23 acres of land on the east shore of Lake Okanagan, the Centre provides a peaceful oasis for children, teens, adults, families, and elders to play, relax, grow, and be authentically themselves, supported in community.

Naramata Centre draws and inspires people from many paths and walks of life, as a place for learning, sharing, contemplation, personal growth, and spiritual renewal. The Centre has long provided a space for spiritual retreat and reflection, intentional engagement and professional development. The Centre offers a wide variety of programs in music, the arts, health and well-being, leadership, social justice, and spiritual nurture.

The essence of Naramata Centre is difficult to capture in words. It is a place where being present and connecting to oneself, others, nature, and the Sacred become easier. Come stay at the Centre to experience what it has to offer. Enjoy a program or retreat. Walk the labyrinth and visit the Chapel. Do yoga or play on the beach. Jump into the lake. Snooze or read in the shade under the canopy of trees. Sink into community and laugh and sing. Join others in Sacred Pause or meditate. Explore Naramata village and Naramata Bench wineries. So much to experience...come and discover!

Registration for summer weeks is open. See <https://www.naramatacentresociety.org/> for program descriptions, accommodation descriptions and to register.

Clothing Donations- Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Foothills United Church collects used clothing and then holds a monthly sale where members of the community can come in and shop. This is both an outreach and a fund raising initiative for them. They are in need of donations of gently used clothing. Donations can be dropped off at Foothills United Church between 9:00 am and noon Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. If you have clothing to donate but are unable to get to Foothills United Church, please contact Elaine Taylor-Kerr.

Fall Fling - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Save the Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025, for this third annual family event. Come and enjoy a live band performing 60's, 70's and 80's music. Snacks will be provided and wine, beer and pop will be available for purchase. Join us for an evening of fun and relaxation or hit the dance floor and shake a leg. Tickets priced at \$20 per adult and \$10 per child and \$50/family will go on sale in September. Family and friends are welcome! For more information contact Carol Rix (pgrix14@gmail.com) or Elaine Taylor-Kerr (taylor-kerr@shaw.ca).

Youth Leader Needed - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

St. Thomas and Symons Valley United Churches have a very active youth group for Junior High and Senior High school students. The program includes social events, mission and outreach activities, involvement in the life and work of the two congregations, and Sunday morning faith exploration and social justice discussions. The group meets Sunday morning at each church and holds a weekly joint social event typically either on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon. They also attend Fish Creek Shared Ministry youth events.

We are currently looking for an enthusiastic and energetic person to join the youth leader team. The person in this role will be key to the continuation and growth of the shared youth program at St. Thomas and Symons Valley United Churches. Responsibilities will include planning and running social activities and Sunday morning youth classes as well as communicating with other staff members and committee members to ensure the success of this program.

For further information or to apply, please email youth-advisory@stthomasunited.ca

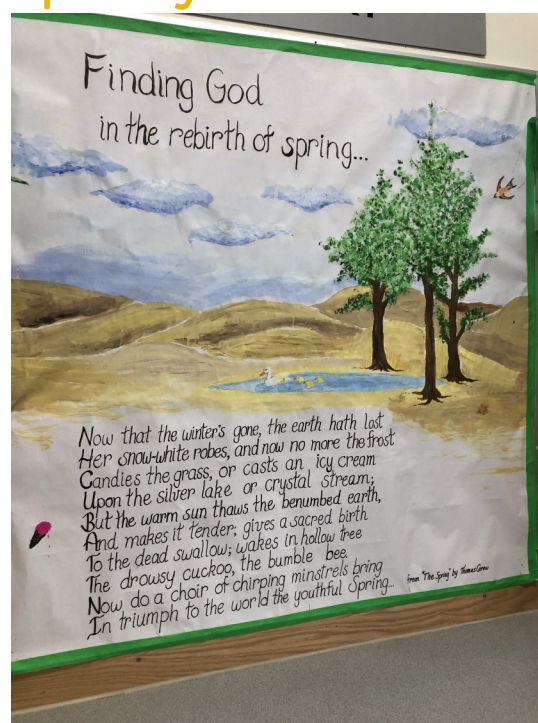
Library Poster - Sheila Humphrey

It's midday somewhere in the country. The three trees that once stood like the crosses on Golgotha are transformed. The snow that cloaked the earth has melted away. A storm has come and is long gone, barely seen on the distant horizon. Spring brings a rebirth to our world.

Thomas Carew's poem paints a similar picture. When he writes: "But the warm sun thaws the benumbed earth,/ And makes it tender; gives a sacred birth/ To the dead swallow..." he echoes the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Life comes again to a once dormant world, asking us to look at life anew.

The dripping strawberry ice cream cone just might be a hint of the warmest season yet to come!



Youth News

Junior Youth Group

The Junior Youth Group is an energetic group of children in grades four – six. They've had a lot of fun playing active games around the church, doing crafts, and connecting online to play video games together. All Children in grades four, five, and six are welcome to join in.

We are offering both in person and virtual events again this school year. We are also continuing the collaboration with Symons Valley United for some of the in-person events. If you know of a child who is in this age range this school year, who would be interested in joining in, and who isn't already on the email distribution list, please email junior-youth@stthomasunited.ca to be added to the list.

The next in person events will be on **May 23, 2025**, and **June 6, 2025**. The May event will be at Symons Valley and June Event will be at St. Thomas. The next virtual events will be **May 2, 2025**, and **June 13, 2025**.

Ev and Sam look forward to seeing you there!

Youth Group (Grades 7 to 12)

Hey everyone!

We hope this message finds you well and soaking in the signs of spring! We've got an exciting month ahead packed with fun, fellowship, and a little something for everyone. Mark your calendars and bring a friend—it's going to be a great month of connection and community!

Sundays of May: On the Sundays in May we will focus on prepping for our youth led service. A time we are all looking forward to getting to hear what the youth have to say.

Friday, May 2, 2025 - Movie Night: We're kicking off the month with a cozy movie night at the church! Grab your comfiest blanket, your favorite snacks, and get ready to relax with friends as we watch a great film together.

Friday, May 9, 2025: Naked Faith: Naked Faith is an alternative worship service that is directed toward youth and young adults but welcome to all. Its a place of worship, good food, and building meaningful connections.

Friday, May 16, 2025 - Mini Golf: Putt your way to a great time with us at Mini Golf! Whether you're aiming for a hole-in-one or just in it for the laughs, it's going to be a blast.

Friday, May 23, 2025 – Bake Night: It's time to get your hands floury! We're baking up some sweet treats together in the church kitchen. Whether you're a pro or a first-time baker, it'll be a delicious time and yes, there will be samples!

Friday, May 30, 2025 – Wide Games: We're ending the month with a bang! Wide Games night is all about high-energy fun. Think big team games, friendly competition, and lots of laughs.

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – Coffee Check-In: Let's take a moment to catch up. Join us for a chill coffee check-in—good vibes, good conversation, and maybe a few pastries. This will be a relaxed time to talk about life, share laughs, and support each other.

-Jonah Edwards

Music News - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

All of the musical groups are looking forward to another year of making music together. New members, regardless of skill level, are always welcome in all groups.

Upcoming Special Music Presentations and Events:

July 6, 2025: Annual Stampede service

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

The choir had a wonderful time preparing and sharing their Easter music from Palm Sunday to Good Friday to Easter Sunday. We hope you found it as appropriate and uplifting as we did.

Now we move on to music for May. We have a slow quiet piece and then a fast upbeat piece for you in the coming weeks. We end our season off with "The Prayer" which will be directed by Bud Berges. I will have the opportunity to sing with the choir!

As always, new members are welcome. If you are interested in singing, come on out on a Thursday evening and try us out. You do not need to be able to read music. You just have to love to sing!

Pam Bazinet pmbazinet@shaw.ca

Youth Choir

We will sing "Cantate Exultate" (Sing and Rejoice) to celebrate moms on Mother's Day. In June we will share our music at Foothills United. We had a musical Easter egg game at practice in April. We look forward to a final celebration with games and snacks in May/June. Would you believe that we are already looking for a musical for Christmas 2025? Do you know someone who would like to join the Youth Choir in September? Practices are Wednesday evenings. New members always welcome.

For further information please contact: Barb barbrob@telus.net Barb and Cindy

Children's Choir

The month of May marks the end of the Children's Choir year. We have an exciting Star Wars song for May 4th, and we will sing our final song on Mother's Day. Thanks for an excellent 2024-25 choir season! If you have any soon-to-be Kindergarten students in your life who love to sing, keep an eye out for our Fall start date. New members are always welcome. Kate Power childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca

Orchestra

The Orchestra has had a great year and enjoyed sharing our music with the St Thomas family. We completed our year with the service on April 24, 2025. The Orchestra is a friendly group of people who enjoy sharing their music. New members are always welcome. Dick Worton dwor-ton@telusplanet.net

Strummers

The Strummers are practicing on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm in the Library. They practice for both church services and outreach concerts. A subset of the group also practice on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm to learn extra music for their outreach program. They plan to sing for worship services and at various seniors' residences.

New members are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Ron French rondifrench@telus.net

St. Thomas Strummers Musical Outreach - George Zirotf

The Strummers Musical Outreach group originated from our church choir, and provides music for some of our church services. In 2016 we began performing in seniors homes, at day programs for dementia patients, and at a United Church Women's Conference. We have done more than 70 performances. The 10 or so members in our group play guitars, ukuleles, violin, bass guitar, and sing an eclectic mix of songs from oldies through to light rock, folk, country, and spiritual numbers. At least 90 percent of our songs are well known to residents so they can sing along, or dance to the music if they are able. We recently acquired a used sound system with funds raised from performing. The sound system will enable the audience to hear our voices better and for us to hear each other singing harmonies. We have six performances booked over the next few months and are very excited to use our new sound system.

Please contact George at: 403-874-0431, or email: georgezirotf@gmail.com

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.