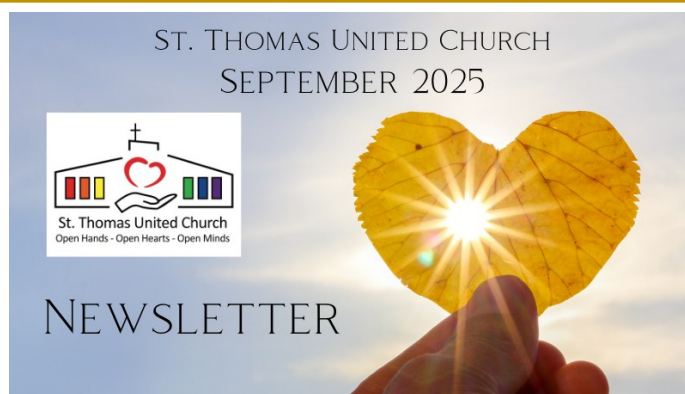


Sunday Morning  
Worship Time  
Every Sunday  
Starting at 10:30 am



## In this issue: Minister's Message: Reverend Tracy

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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](mailto:pr@stthomasunited.ca).

Welcome Back everyone! I am glad to be back. I've been blessed with seeing some of you during August and am REALLY look forward to seeing the rest of you in September and have the church be full, full, full.

My Sabbatical was wonderful and I thank St. Thomas for making it possible for me to be away for three months, and I especially thank Reverend Marion and all the fantastic leadership here at St. Thomas. I've caught up with some of you and look forward to catching up with the rest of you soon. If you don't already know, I love a good visit or walk!

During my Sabbatical, I slept in, worked out at 9:00 am instead of 5:30 am, loads of walking with the dogs, hanging out with Todd, longer visits with my mom on the farm and Ev and Louis in Medicine Hat, sitting on my deck, and started some writing about my personal experiences with inclusion and exclusion. And, of course, Tanzania! Nineteen Diaconal Ministers from Canada travelled to Moshi, Tanzania for a 5-day conference of the Diakonia World Federation. It was amazing to be with 240+ Diaconals from around the world, sharing stories, learning from one another, and experiencing Tanzania. We had three key-note speakers: Reverend Dr. Prof, Jerry Pillay, World Council of Churches, spoke on Public Witness; Council for World Mission's Daimon Mkandawire, Mission Secretary for Ecology and Economy, Africa Region, spoke on Environmental Justice; and Deaconess Mable Sichali, United Church of Zambia, spoke on Gender Justice. Each night we were gifted with presentations, singing, and dancing from various African groups. We even had a cultural night where we all brought treats to share from our respective countries; we brought Cheezies, Coffee Crisps, Bison Jerky and much more! This trip also offered us opportunity to go on a few guided tours and a three-day safari. In October, Marion and I are planning a detailed Lunch-and-Learn complete with pictures, food, and Kilimanjaro black tea.

As we begin another church year, may you come back to your embracing community who care for one another, laugh with one another, and have each other's backs.



## Worship at St. Thomas - Cathy Rivard

Welcome Back St. Thomas. Join us on **September 7, 2025**, for Backpack Blessings and an after-church BBQ. Starting **September 14, 2025**, and continuing into October, Reverend Tracy will share a series of messages based on the Creation theme.

Welcome back also to our Choirs, the Strummers, and Orchestra.

Remember to wear Orange on **September 28, 2025**, as we acknowledge Orange Shirt Day. See you Sundays!

## Upcoming Services for September 2025.

### September 7

Welcome Back  
Sunday - Backpack  
Blessing and BBQ

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
Luke 14:25-33

Music:  
Adult Choir, Kari  
Orosz

### September 14

Creator's Promise to  
Creation

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
Genesis 9:8-17

Music:  
Children's Choir and  
Strummers, Kari  
Orosz

### September 21

When Climate  
Changes

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
Leviticus 25:1-17

Music:  
Youth Choir, Kari  
Orosz

### September 28

The Earth is on Loan

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
Psalm 146

Music:  
Adult Choir, Kari Orosz

## Building and Property - David Blackadar

This summer the sanctuary was given a facelift and new siding was installed on the outdoor shed. The initial plan was only to install new carpet in the sanctuary. To the best of our knowledge, the sanctuary still had its original paint from 1988, and the ceiling had also become mottled and stained from occasional water leaks over the years. There would be no better time to redo the ceiling and repaint the walls than when all the pews and chairs had been removed. Executive Council also decided that this would be a good time to eliminate five of the front pews, to create more space for general use. So, one hundred and ten new chairs were purchased to make up for the pews and to replace the other chairs in the sanctuary. The sanctuary chairs were moved to the Mountainview Hall and the chairs that were there, in poorer condition, were sold and donated. One of the pews was moved to the Narthex and the remaining four pews were taken by a member of the congregation for craft projects.

The work began on [July 6, 2025](#), following the Stampede service when volunteers from the congregation helped move the pews, chairs and other furniture into the Narthex and Sunday School. On [July 7, 2025](#), a rented 40-foot scissor lift was delivered to the church for the use of the ceiling and painting contractors. Hal Tonkin also used it to take down the back screen, projectors, speakers, and cameras. And subsequently, it was also used to replace burnt-out lighting tubes in the Sanctuary and Narthex, clean the fabric screen in front of the organ pipes and install a speed control in the ceiling exhaust fan above the choir. The half-ton organ console was levered onto two furniture dollies so that it could be moved around the stage for carpet-laying and other work.

On [July 8, 2025](#), the ceiling contractor began installing protective plastic over the entire floor, ceiling fixtures, and walls for the spraying of the ceiling. The new chairs were also delivered from Lethbridge and dropped off in the parking lot. Each stack was twelve chairs high. Fortunately, we had church volunteers and campus ministry members to unwrap and maneuver them into the Sunday School.

On [July 13, 2025](#), after the ceiling work had just been completed, there was a hail, rain, and wind-storm in Hawkwood. The ceiling was checked immediately afterward to be sure that the new ceiling work had not been ruined by a new leak. The ceiling appeared to be in perfect condition, but water was found to be leaking into the sanctuary in two locations from under the back wall. Subsequent investigation revealed that portions of the back wall, which had not been designed for burial, were several feet below grade. Over the years, the stucco had cracked, the exterior sheathing had deteriorated, and the interior wall studs had rotted half away at their bases. The repair required removal of an entire section of exterior stucco, sistering of the internal studs, rebuilding the exterior sheathing, insulating, and replacing the interior drywall.

The interior painting was completed, and the new carpet tile was installed except in areas immediately adjacent to the leaks where drywall work was still ongoing. On [July 31, 2025](#), volunteers from the congregation moved the pews, new chairs, and furniture back into the sanctuary.

At the time of writing, the new drywall needs to be painted, the final carpet installation is scheduled for [August 29, 2025](#), and the back two rows of pews need to be relocated and secured to the floor.

Continued...



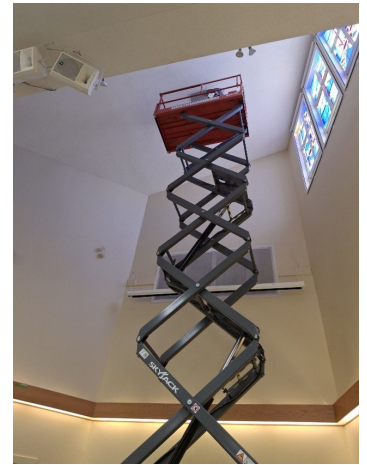
Outdoors, the work will continue in September. New stucco needs to be applied to the repaired wall section, corners need to be resealed, and cracks and openings in the existing stucco need to be filled. The concrete base slab of the sanctuary is now above grade. Landscaping work needs to be done to construct a retaining wall, French drains and piping added to the lower flower bed, to ensure that rain and melt water do not enter the sanctuary.



Preparation for the ceiling work. Everything enveloped in plastic.



The new chairs arrive



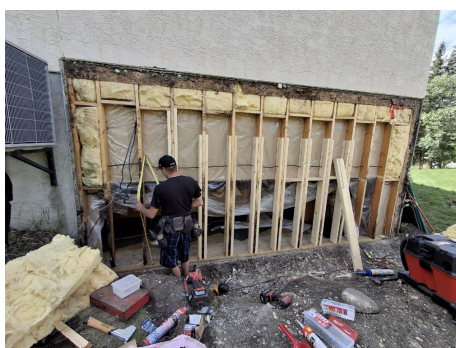
Reinstallation of the exhaust fan with a speed control



Leak at the back of the sanctuary after the hail storm



The source of the leak is uncovered



The sanctuary wall being repaired



The new carpet tile being installed



New siding on the shed

# The Wise Women of St. Thomas United Church

## Random Thoughts - Ruthann Watson

The older I get, the more random my thoughts seem to be, so here are a few bits of wisdom I've collected:

- "The same people you misuse on the way up you might meet on the way down." Trombone Shorty
- "Stay calm. Be brave. Watch for the signs." Dead Dog Café Comedy Hour
- "Watch the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves." Benjamin Franklin (Gen Z-ers might need to Google "pennies"!
- "When the solution is simple, God is answering." Albert Einstein
- "If 2 people can't come to an agreement in an hour, the real issue isn't on the table." Sam Blakely
- "I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." Lily Tomlin
- "I wish I was taller, but it's OK, I am not. So we have to do with what I have." Jasmine Paolini
- "The future ain't what it used to be." Yogi Berra

And a final thought of my own: The words of Jesus and Paul make a lot more sense when you study the Old Testament.

## Random Thoughts - Maureen Dodd

Our original theme for this month was "If I Were Moderator, I Would ...", but Ruthann wisely surmised that any suggestions we made would likely get us put on a committee, so we switched to this less dangerous topic.

Considering the amount of rain we've had, I should have had plenty of opportunity to look out the window and ponder deeply and meaningfully. But I guess deep and meaningful is all relative.

I've concluded that housework is dangerous, because a friend tripped over the vacuum hose and broke her ankle. The hose was out because her husband was due to vacuum, but he decided to golf first. I have been imagining the loving sentiments exchanged during dinner that night.

Outdoor activities also have their dangers. I fell off my bike, but broke only my spirit, and have a few bruises which nobody has been interesting in seeing. Then I smacked myself in the head with my golf club while taking it out of the bag. Best swing I've ever had.

Thus, sitting quietly indoors led me to the summer's Big Idea. Amazon should take over the banks. Then when your debit or credit card gets compromised or lost or thrown down the air vent by a grandchild, you could get another one overnight! Currently one must wait five to seven days because the banks believe there should be consequences for your carelessness. Also, when they close your account in error, it could be reopened overnight, and you wouldn't have to spend days on the phone convincing someone that you didn't close it yourself.

Continued...



My final random thought is how nice the sanctuary looks, with the new paint job, carpet, and comfortable chairs. Kudos to all who helped with that and for the diligence of the Building and Property Committee. There must be no lazy people like me on that committee. I would have just painted over the water damage or moved furniture in front of it, then congratulated myself on saving money for the church. Good job, all of you!

## Random Thoughts - Wanda Veer

We Wise Women were originally going to write about "What would I do if I were elected Moderator of the United Church?". Sounded like a great idea in April, but became too daunting in August. So, we'll ask our readers to ruminate about that subject.

Summer is always a time of reflection. I must say, the comfort and joy I receive from visiting family and long-time friends is very satisfying. It makes me feel like I belong in a community of shared values, interests, and histories.

Everyone has an interesting story. Just ask! You'll be surprised at what you learn.

Health and weather are frequent conversation subjects. They're important because neither can be taken for granted.

Watching children makes me smile and giggle.

I visited the schoolhouse in Pioneer Acres, Irricana. Read up on the Rules for Female Teachers in 1915. Things have changed a lot! For example: "Skirts must be no higher than 2" from the ankle." "If you have a male companion, he must be your father or brother... no kissing cousins." \*\*Note... no mention of husband because married women were not allowed to teach!

My annual flowers are still waiting for hot, sunny days. Which makes me appreciate our prairie perennials, who just soldier through whatever weather extremes there may be.

We've lost too many friends this year. I miss them.

And here we are in September. Time to regroup! Happy Autumn.

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## Gift Cards - Richard Taylor-Kerr

As we close out the summer, we have fundraised over \$5300 through the sale of gift cards. Great work St Thomas! We are well on our way to our goal of \$8000 for the year.

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](mailto:fundraising@stthomasunited.ca) Cards will be ready for you on the following Sunday. We can also make arrangements for pickup.

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

# Sanctuary Renovation Project - Summer 2025 - Cathy Rivard

In 2024 a Sanctuary Renovation Committee was formed, consisting of David Blackadar, Jane Wittstock, Elaine Gray, and Cathy Rivard. The goal was to put together a plan to (1) coat and re-stipple the ceiling, (2) repaint the Sanctuary walls, (3) install new carpet, and (4) create more flexible space in the Sanctuary by removing some pews and purchasing new chairs.

Work on the ceiling and painting started in July, followed by carpet, and the arrival of new chairs. Unfortunately, during the renovations some water damage was uncovered. Internal repairs should be completed by **September 7, 2025**, with external landscaping and stucco work continuing through the month.

This renovation could not have been possible without help from congregation members. We'd like to thank: Sandra and John Burgess, Linda Bouchard, Hope Cochran, William Fisher, David Gray, Cindy and Craig Huisson, Sherrill Knight, Cheryl and Wayne Lang, Jan and Barry Mingo, Myrna Malanik, Tim Power, Bruce Roberts, Barb Robertson, Brian Shewan, Andrea and Mia Sonpal, Louise and Tim Scott, Elaine and Richard Taylor-Kerr, Hal Tonkin, and Campus Ministry.

We'd also like to thank Kim Wagstaff and Dick Worton for taking our pews, breaking them down, and planning to use the wood for furniture and crafts, Curtis Veer who found us a buyer for 50 of our old chairs, and Evelyn Day who arranged for our remaining chairs to find a home at a ranch.

Your support and assistance with this project have been greatly appreciated.

Thank you!



## Stewardship - Andrea Sonpal

Fall means crisp mornings, pumpkin spice, beautiful leaves, and Stewardship! We are changing up the way we do things this fall and planning on doing one stewardship Sunday per month for September through November instead of all-in-one month, as we have done previously. We will kick-off the campaign on [September 21, 2025](#)!

We are planning to do the pledge forms primarily online this year so there will not be individually addressed packages for pickup. If you prefer to do it on paper, we will have several assembled packages available for pickup in the narthex or that can be mailed out to you; just give the office a call. Please watch for a special email going out in October with the links to the full stewardship package. Completing your pledge form is important for financial planning and volunteer commitments. We are hoping to have as many pledge forms completed as possible. We hope to inspire you to continue to share your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We hope you will join us for the fall Stewardship Campaign!

Myrna Malanik, Linda Miller, Andrea Sonpal, Eva Stanley, and Reverend Marion Martin.

## Paths to Reconciliation - Elaine Gray

### Seven Grandfather Teachings

At the service on [June 22, 2025](#), celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day, guest speaker Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes mentioned the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are a set of guiding principles in many Indigenous cultures, focusing on how to live a good life and treat others with respect. They are often represented by animals, each embodying a specific teaching. The core teachings are love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility, wisdom, and truth.

- Love: Unconditional love for all living things.
- Respect: Showing consideration and appreciation for others and all of creation.
- Bravery: Facing challenges with courage and integrity.
- Honesty: Speaking with truth and being genuine.
- Humility: Recognizing one's one place in the world and being mindful of others.
- Wisdom: Using knowledge and understanding to make good decisions.
- Truth: Living truthfully and being authentic.

These teachings are not isolated; they are interconnected and should be practiced in harmony. For example, one cannot truly be wise without also being humble, or honest without also being respectful. The teachings are passed down through stories, ceremonies, and cultural practices.



## Faith Formation - Gayle Wilderman

New sanctuary carpet, and painting, new comfy chairs, and all sorts of rooms cleaned and purged including the nursery store room and the Sunday School store room this summer.

The summer program, Camp Caravans, had 25 participants and Ashley used the words "wildly successful"! We hope to keep the program going and hope to run it again next summer.

Sunday School starts **September 7, 2025**, and the children should bring their backpacks to be blessed.

Faith Formation Team: Reverend Marion Martin, Ashley Dressler (Children's Coordinator), Myrna Malanik, Sharon Ramraj-Thompson, Marie Vallet, Gayle Wilderman, and library: Fiona Craig, Elaine Gray, and Sheila Humfrey.

## Primetimers - Jan and Keith Campbell

I hope this message finds you happy and healthy. This is quite likely our last message to you as Primetimers' Coordinators. Keith and I have thoroughly enjoyed, not just organizing, but being a part of such a wonderful, vital group of individuals. It has been our privilege and honour to have organized some really fun, entertaining outings. Our "Coffee and a Chat " events always drew a great group of people, just socializing.

We have had to withdraw from most of our activities. Keith has had confirmed a serious health problem, which will require all of our energy and attention.

No one has stepped forward to organize the group's events. However, Reverend Tracy has a few ideas, so keep watching the bulletins, newsletters, etc. Please continue to stay active.

We are sad to leave the group. But, it has been wonderful meeting and sharing time with you all. Peace.

## Foothills United Thrift Store: Elaine Taylor-Kerr

### Clothing Donations

Foothills thanks you for all the clothing donations they have received for their monthly sales. They are currently overwhelmed with donations and ask that you hold your donations for now until they get through their backlog.

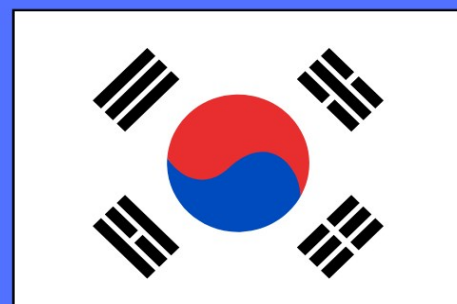
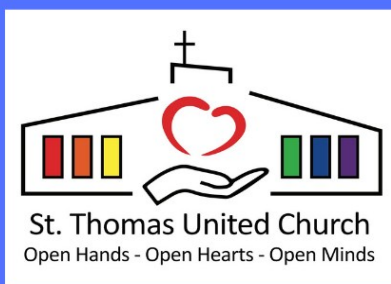
Foothills United collects used clothing for their sales. They are in need of donations of gently used clothing. Donations can be dropped off at Foothills United between 9:00 am and noon Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday but please call the office ahead if you are coming at 403-288-5632. If you have clothing to donate but are unable to get to Foothills, please contact Elaine Taylor-Kerr.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Foothills United runs a Thrift Store as part of the outreach to the community and as a fundraiser, open from 1:00 – 6:00 pm on the first and third Thursday of the month plus one Saturday of the month. They could really use more volunteers to help with the sales. For more information or to volunteer, please contact either Reverend Marion or Elaine Taylor-Kerr.

# ***The St. Thomas United Church Intercultural Awareness group Invites you to their potluck***

***You are invited to bring a dish reflecting your cultural background to share with others in the Mountainview Hall at  
5:30 pm Wednesday, September 24, 2025***



# Youth News

## Junior Youth Group

We are looking forward to another exciting year with Junior Youth group.

The Junior Youth Group is an energetic group of children in grades four, five, and six. We plan to have monthly in-person events this school year. We will also be continuing the collaboration with Symons Valley for some joint events. If you know of a child who will be 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](mailto:junior-youth@stthomasunited.ca) to be added to the list.

The first event for the 2025/2026 school year will be held on **September 12, 2025**, at St. Thomas United Church.

Sam and Elaine look forward to seeing you there!

## Change in leadership for Junior Youth

We are sad to announce that Ev Robertson has decided to step back from being a Junior Youth Group Leader. They have been a dedicated leader since September 2016 and have had a positive impact on the children who attended Junior Youth group over the past 9 years. When COVID struck in 2020, they quickly pivoted to offering an online program that included time to chat and the opportunity to play online video games together. Their concern for the well being of this age group during the COVID lock down time, lead them to offer online meetings for Junior Youth every Friday evening for over a year. As in-person events became possible again, they continued to offer a monthly online meeting. We appreciate all that Ev has done and wish them well. The children will miss them.

## New Youth Leader

I am pleased to announce that we had one new youth leader join Jonah Edwards, Serena Moar, and Isaac Reimer on the youth leader team effective **August 1, 2025**.

Annalee McKellar is going into her 2nd year at the U of C with majors in Psychology and Gender and Sexuality Studies. She grew up in the United Church and has leadership training and experience from being on youth council for 3 years while in high school. She is passionate about social justice and about improving youth mental health. She was described by her references as being excellent at building relationships and at making sure all feel included.

Please join the YAC team in welcoming Annalee





## Youth Group (Grades 7 to 12)

The Youth Leaders of St. Thomas and Symons Valley United Churches are excited to invite you to Youth Group! Youth Group is for everyone who is in grades 7-12. Typically, we meet on Friday evenings or Sunday afternoon 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 nights. Sunday mornings are focused on faith discussion, learning more about various scriptures, or exploring social justice issues. Friends are always welcome! A Zoom link can be provided for Sunday mornings if you would like to join us virtually! 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](mailto:youth@stthomasunited.ca) or call the church office to be added to our mail-out list!

This Summer there were no Sunday Morning meetings, but youth did meet multiple Fridays to do fun outdoors activities, such as mini golf and swimming. Now that the school year is coming back in full swing, the Youth Group will go back to meeting every Sunday and Friday and we look forward to seeing you all more!

## What is Happening this Month?

Here are the events we currently have planned for September. Keep an eye out for our Terry Fox Run on Sunday, September 14, 2025! Please remember that this schedule is subject to change on short notice. Keep an eye out on your weekly emails for the most up-to-date information!

**September 5, 2025:** We're Back! Join us at St. Thomas as we confirm our norms and rules for the year, welcome in the new members of the Youth Group, and build our own ice cream sundaes!

**September 12, 2025:** Join us at Symons Valley for some church-wide games! We can't wait to see everyone for games.

**September 19, 2025:** Please join us at Colour Me Mine (Location to be confirmed) for our first social outing of the year! We're excited to paint some pottery together!

**September 26, 2025:** As we end September, please join us at Symons Valley for a Board Game Night, followed by Senior High Stay Late!

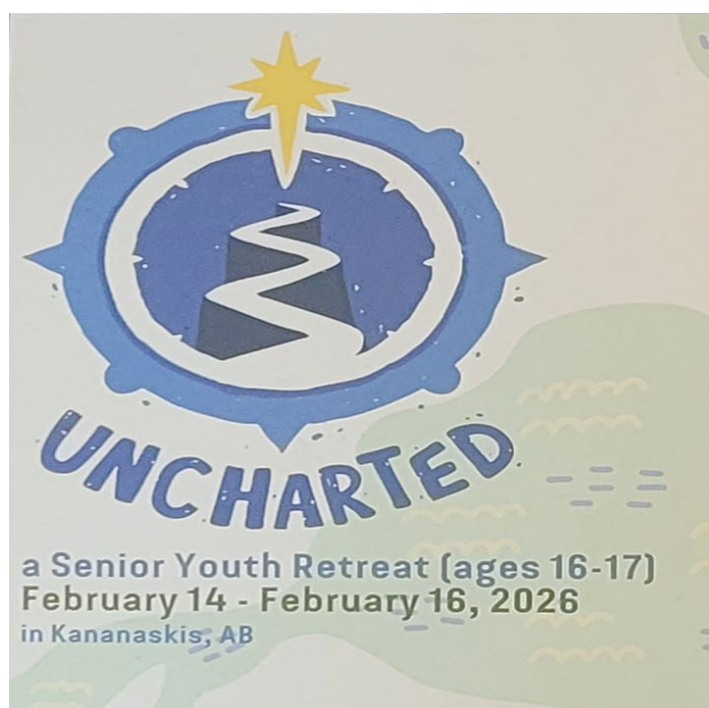
**Naked Faith:** Naked Faith is still going to be on break for September, but we will be joining them again next month! Naked Faith is an alternative worship experience aimed at youth and young adults, but open to all. The evening begins with dinner at 6:00 pm, with the service starting at 7:00 pm. Youth are welcome to stay for games after and young adults go out to a pub. All are welcome!

**Young Adult Pub Night:** Pub night usually occurs on the 4th Sunday of the month at the Southland Bull and Finch pub. For more information, visit the Regional Youth and Young Adult page contact Brenda McKellar at 403-850-7874 or contact the youth leaders for more information!

**Dirty Theology:** Dirty Theology is hosted by Fish Creek Shared Ministries, a United Church ministry in the Calgary area and usually occurs on the 1st Sunday of the month. 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.

## 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, \$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](mailto:pgrix14@gmail.com)) or Elaine Taylor-Kerr ([taylor-kerr@shaw.ca](mailto:taylor-kerr@shaw.ca)).



Hello!

We are so excited to share our plans for our first ever Senior Youth Retreat! We will welcome youth, ages 16–17, from United Church of Canada places and spaces across BC, The Yukon, and Alberta! Join us for Uncharted!

We will be gathering at Camp Chief Hector in Kananaskis, Alberta, for a time centered on personal discovery, contemplative faith, and meaningful connections; all in a place of inclusive welcome and joy.

Registration opens **June 15, 2025**, and is limited to 40 participants. Please reach out if you have questions to

[firstthirdministry@united-church.ca](mailto:firstthirdministry@united-church.ca)

## Pastoral Care - Richard Taylor-Kerr

As we return to St. Thomas after a busy summer and start a new church season, it is important to become re-acquainted with what the Pastoral Care team does at St. Thomas:

Our purpose is to care for the congregation in a practical way by working with the ministry team to 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, Senior's Wellness Day, and The Art of Farewell.

Funeral receptions (we have handled five receptions so far this year).

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: We 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 Reverend 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](mailto:pastoral-care@stthomasunited.ca) or our ministers.

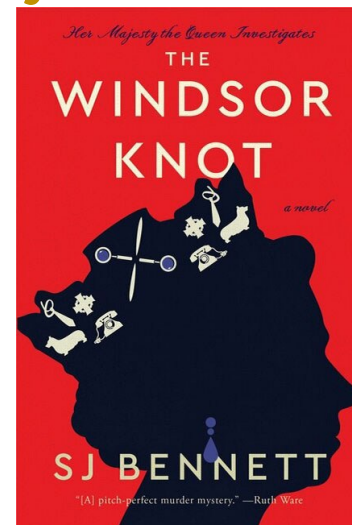
Richard Taylor-Kerr - Chair of Pastoral Care - on behalf of the Pastoral Care Committee: Marj Aucoin, Diane Latter, Jan Mingo, Cathy Olson, Louise Scott, Betty Thompson, and Heather Worton.



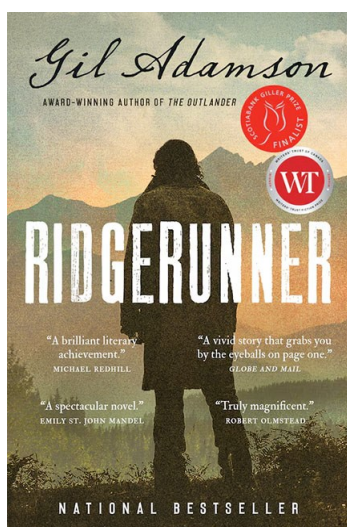
# St. Thomas Book Club - Rachel Murray

For more information contact Rachel at [rachelmurray@shaw.ca](mailto:rachelmurray@shaw.ca)

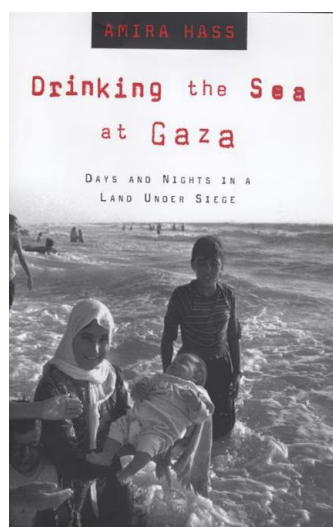
New members welcome! Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom.



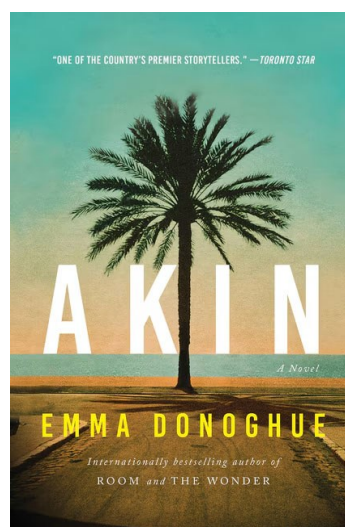
September, 2025



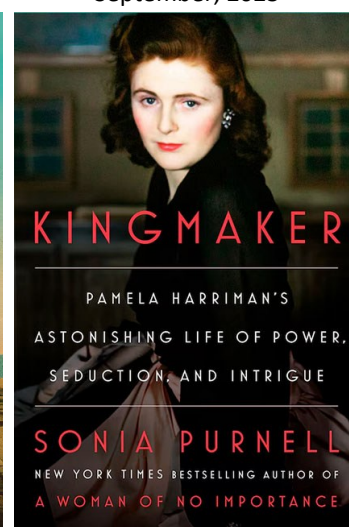
October, 2025



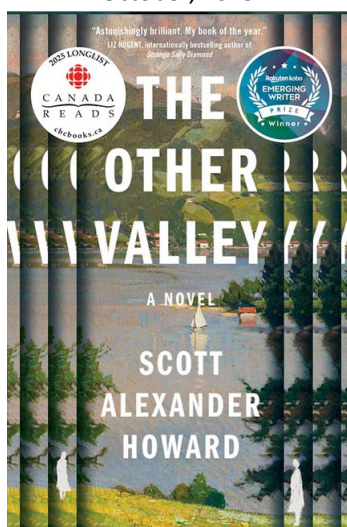
November, 2025



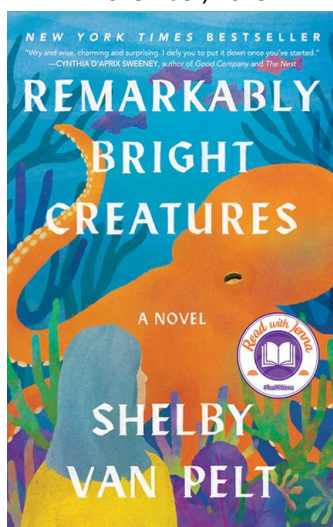
January, 2026



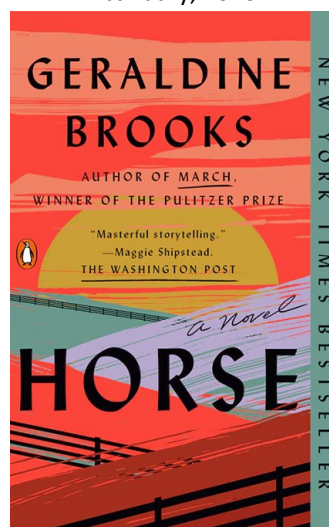
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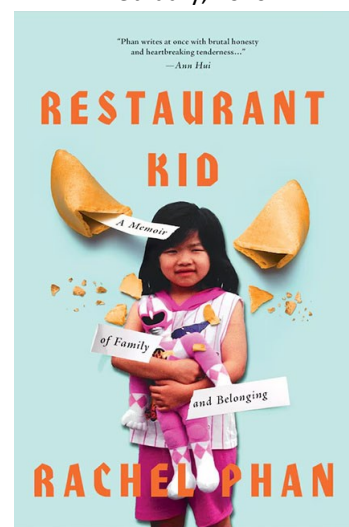
March, 2026



April, 2026



May, 2026



June, 2026

# 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:

**Sept 13, 2025:** Adult Choir Advance – contact Pam Bazinet for the details

**Nov 30, 2025:** Maple Leaf Brass will provide the music for this service

**Nov 30, 2025:** Cocoa and Carols following the service – a chance to enjoy singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols.

**Dec 14, 2025:** Children and Youth Choirs' Christmas Musical

**Dec 24, 2025:** 8:00 pm service: Adult Choir Canata will be the message for this Christmas Eve service

Group	Practice Time	Ages	First Fall	Contact
Children's Choir	Thursdays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	ECS – Grade 6	Sept 4	Kate Power <a href="mailto:childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca">childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca</a>
Youth Choir	Wednesdays 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Grade 6 – University	Sept 3	Barb Robertson <a href="mailto:barbrob@telus.net">barbrob@telus.net</a>
Adult Choir	Thursdays 7:15 pm – 9:30 pm		Sept 4	Pam Bazinet <a href="mailto:pmbazinet@shaw.ca">pmbazinet@shaw.ca</a>
Orchestra	Mondays 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm		Sept 15	Dick Worton <a href="mailto:dworton@telusplanet.net">dworton@telusplanet.net</a>
Strummers	Thursdays 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm		Sept 4	Ron French <a href="mailto:rondifrench@telus.net">rondifrench@telus.net</a>
Strummers	Tuesdays 1:00 pm -		Sept 2	George Zirotf <a href="mailto:gzirotf@shaw.ca">gzirotf@shaw.ca</a>

## Adult Choir

After a very busy and productive year of singing, the adult choir took a break over the summer. Those members who were here for several funerals did a fine job of supporting those celebrations of life. Our first rehearsal will be on **Thursday, September 4, 2025**, starting at 7:15 p.m. as usual. New music packets will be handed out and we will get to work. Our first participation in church will be on **Sunday, September 7, 2025**. Always a highlight of our year is our annual choir Advance which is held in the community of Ghost Lake thanks to Corinne Smith. This year it is on **Saturday, September 13, 2025**. We sing and socialize and eat from 9:00 am to after our ending BBQ around 5:00 pm. Choir members come for as much or as little of the day as they are able to.

Continued...

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

Pam Bazinet [pmbazinet@shaw.ca](mailto:pmbazinet@shaw.ca)

## Youth Choir

Youth Singers Wanted.

Join us in September as we start preparing for our Christmas musical, *Carol of the Belles*. At the STUC Drive-in restaurant, the pageant of the birth of Jesus replaces the Rock and Roll special.

We sing about once a month as well as at special events like 12th Night, a STUC show, and often get snacks/pizza, etc. Join other church youth and their friends as they share their talents and have fun together. Did you know how good singing is for you? Parents and grandparents, please encourage your kids/grandkids and neighbours to come sing with us.

For further information please contact: Barb [barbrob@telus.net](mailto:barbrob@telus.net)

## Children's Choir

Children's choir will get back up and running on **Thursday, September 4, 2025**. Our first anthem will be on **Sunday, September 14, 2025**. Anyone in grade K-6 is welcome to join. Our rehearsals run from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm most Thursday evenings from September to mid May.

Kate Power [childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca)

## Orchestra

The St. Thomas Orchestra is an enthusiastic and friendly group of instrumentalists who provide music for St. Thomas United Church services. We play in church approximately once per month. Our group meets on Monday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We always welcome new members. So, if you play an instrument, or once played, please consider joining us. All skill levels are welcome.

Dick Worton [dworton@telusplanet.net](mailto:dworton@telusplanet.net)

## Strummers

The Strummers will be practicing on Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm in the Library. They are practicing 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](mailto:rondifrench@telus.net)

## 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](mailto:music-team@stthomasunited.ca) or talk to Elaine Taylor-Kerr.