

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



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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).

## Minister's Message: Reverend Marion

It seems whoever you talk to, there is one thing on everyone's mind, "The State of the World."

There is anxiety and fear around every twist and turn. It comes up in every conversation, it's all over the news and we see it on all social media platforms. What do we believe? Who do we believe? How can we not be anxious?

Recently, I was spending time with my granddaughter who had just gotten a horse. Her dad sent us out to spend time with the horse and to catch him and put a halter on him. So, out we went. She wandered around behind him as he strolled around the pen for a bit, then finally he wandered into the round pen. "Quick, shut the gate." Again, she attempted to try to catch him. Finally, I couldn't stand it anymore, so I asked for the halter and lead. Within a few minutes of quietly talking and reassuring, we had the halter on him. I explained that I had learned from a wise horse trainer that when working with horses, it is "75% your attitude and 25% the horse's attitude." If you are tense, they will pick up on that and will be tense as well. If you are calm, then they will feel your calmness and in turn be calm.

"Be a non-anxious presence," as we say in ministry. I find this 75/25 % thingy works with most relationships and in many situations. In times of crisis, when the world seems like it is crumbling around us and uncertainty looms large, we need to check in on how we are reacting to the world around us. Are we 75% anxious and fearful, feeding into the anxiety, fear and chaos of others? Or are we being that non-anxious presence 75% of the time, as we strive to be a beacon of peace and calm?

How are we reacting to the world around us? It may depend on the day. But it matters! What the horse trainer was asking us to do was to continually be aware of our emotions, and how we are responding to any situation. Are we calm, or are we feeding into the chaos?

Continued...

I invite you into a time of stillness and centering as you pray the prayer below, by Richard Bott. My hope for you is that you can let go of some of the craziness around us and focus on the love that is within and all around. And know that we are not alone in the midst of chaos.

*A RETELLING OF PSALM 46, by Ricahrd Bott* (Former Moderator of The United Church of Canada)

God is. [breath]

God is. [breath]

God is. [breath]

God is my refuge.

God is my safe place.

God is my strength.

God is my help, in this time of trouble.

In all my times of trouble.

God IS.

God is –

so I will not be afraid, though the earth shakes  
and the mountains crash into the sea - though  
the waves overwhelm

(not just me, but) everything.

I will not be afraid

For God is.

There's a river that flows -

that sings - in the heart of God's holy places.

And God is there, (we will not fear, we will not  
fall.)

From the moment the sun rises,

through the day, through the night, till it rises  
again

God is there.

(we will not fear, we will not fall.)

The world is in chaos.

Law and order crumbles.

God is there.

(we will not fear, we will not fall.)

God is here, with all God's creation.

It's fortress.

It's stronghold.

Come and see what God does.

Come and see what God breaks.

Come and see conflict end, from sea to sea to shin-  
ing sea

For God breaks the bow and shatters the spear, and  
burns the shield with fire

and says... and says... and says...

"Be still. Be still. Be still and know

That I am.

God.

God is here. Our stronghold. Our fortress.

(we will not fear, we will \*not\* fall.)

# Worship at St. Thomas - Cathy Rivard

## Upcoming Services for February, 2026.

### February 1

What Does God Require of Us?

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
Micah 6:1-8

Music:  
Adult Choir, Youth  
Choir, Kari Orosz.

### February 8

Wisdom through  
God's Spirit

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Children's Choir, Or-  
chestra, Kari Orosz .

### February 15

Transfiguration Sun-  
day - Black History  
Month

Reverend Tracy  
Scripture:  
Matthew 17:1-9

Music:  
Adult Choir, Richard  
Taylor-Kerr Record-  
ing), Kari Orosz.

### February 22

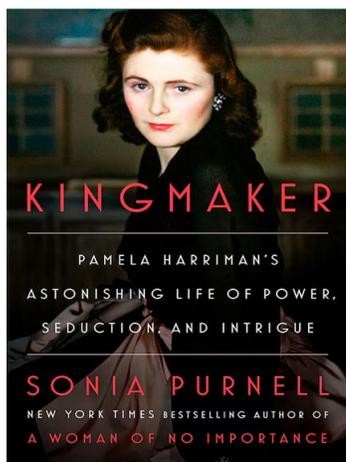
Lent 1

Reverend Marion  
Scripture:  
John 2:1-11,  
Matthew 13:31-32

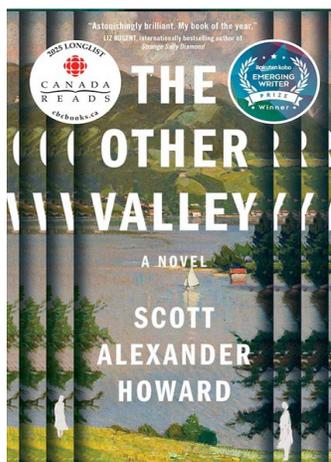
Music:  
Strummers,  
Kari Orosz.

# St. Thomas Book Club - Rachel Murray

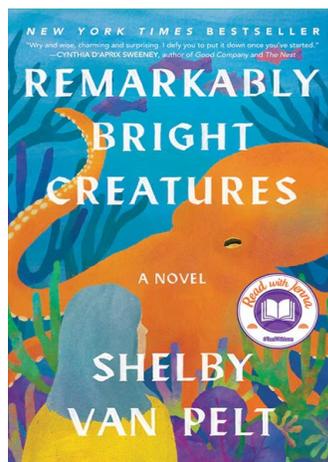
For more information contact Rachel at [rachelmurray@shaw.ca](mailto:rachelmurray@shaw.ca). New members welcome! Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm



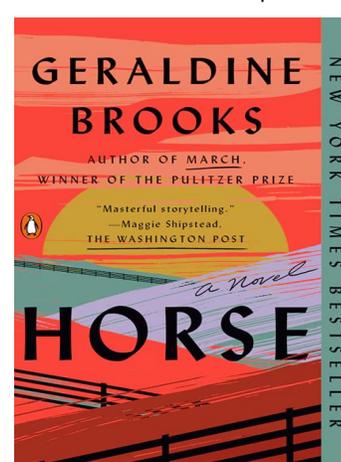
February, 2026



March, 2026



April, 2026



May, 2026

# The Wise Women of St. Thomas United Church

## Olympics - Wanda Veer

Here come the Olympics. Such fanfare, such excitement, such suspense. I have to admit, I am not a sports fan. Probably because I am so dismal at every sport, but I became much more appreciative of the whole Olympic event when Calgary hosted them in 1988. It was exciting to be a part of the cheering crowd as athletes won or lost their spectacular sports.

In my mind, there are lots of pros and cons as athletes strive for the excellence required in Olympics. It requires talent, determination, skill, patience, and endless support from family and friends. It would seem to me that family lives are upended over and over again as their hopeful Olympian travels the world for lessons and competitions. It must create all sorts of challenges to have any sort of family celebrations, and of course, the economic cost is huge. The pro side is being part of this fabulous world of sports, and even winning many events. The con side is losing by a second, or less, of becoming the has-been, almost made it, person in that sport. And, since you have spent every moment pursuing the Olympic goal, what does one do when that is gone?

But the dream of being "the best in the world" is alive and well. Families and athletes embrace this goal year after year. For the rest of us? We have to make our own mini-Olympics. We aim to be the best cook, neighbour, parent, driver, fashion goddess, hairdresser, accountant, pastor, teacher... you name it. We humans generally seek to do our best in one endeavour or another.

How does God figure into this? I am betting a large percentage of the competitors are asking God for assistance as they wait at the starting gate. And with wild promises, like the rest of us make sometime. For example: I promise that if I win, I will go to church every single Sunday and not yell at my siblings and never sin or tell a lie, etc., etc. God in his/her/their wisdom gently allows us to "do our best with his/her/their blessing".

So, let's celebrate our own accomplishments as we watch crazy people soar off mountains and ski jumps! It's their moment with God's blessing.

## Olympians and Kings - Ruthann Watson

I'm writing this the first week of January. The grim headlines took me down some rabbit holes.

Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter: Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together (added in 2021).

We elect or designate "kings" to fight our battles, represent our country, fulfill our dreams and our aspirations, reflect "who we are". And if they don't, we often feel betrayed.

Samuel 1:8 – sounds like the arguments against Joe Biden: "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." Verses 10-18 are dire (and prescient) warnings about how this could all go wrong. And Verse 20 could be in any political rally today..."to go out before us and fight our battles."

*I have grown up. I now realize that a hero is not merely someone who has won the genetic lottery and can play a sport at a high level. No, a hero is someone who courageously fights adversity in an unselfish pursuit of the common good. Mac Horsbergh, Winnipeg Free Press*

Continued...

The early Christians caught people's attention because they fed and cared for those in need, even "pagans", not because it would bring them glory or medals, but in response to a God who loved for them.

We have an Olympic-sized task in front of us – to resist the temptation to "be like all the other nations" who follow the siren call of the strong man/woman/person. To hold our kings to account. To differentiate leaders from entertainers or skilled orators. To refuse to endorse those who seek to pit us against each other. To ask, "Are you willing to lose an election over this?" To glean wisdom from history and scripture. To reclaim "Christian". To lose in order to gain. To be hopeful and joyful. Together.

Wishing you love, hugs, and chocolate!

## Olympians - Maureen Dodd

This month the world will be honoring Olympic athletes who have outpaced their fellow competitors by seconds. Many are in events that should be labelled, "Do not attempt this at home." Some of these events did not start with the ancient Greeks, but with college lads saying, 'Hold my beer and watch this.'

We don't have to wait for four years to honor Olympians. We come across them every day. Here are a few that I've encountered recently, and who will never get on a podium to the rousing sounds of Oh Canada. (But they should.)

Health Care Professionals – Most of them doing their darndest to help people despite staff shortages and the whims of governmental interference.

Call Centre employees – it's not their fault that they are short-staffed, or that weather grounded flights, or took out power, or the computer made errors. It's a tough job when all you hear is "Do you know how long I've been waiting on Hold?" Nobody contacts a Call Centre to say that everything is good.

Those committed people who take care of ill or aging family members at home, often with little outside support.

City workers who left their family and friends during the holidays to deal with the water main break. First responders who ensured that everyone was rescued from their vehicles.

Teachers doing their very best for our kids, in a system that is overcrowded and under-resourced.

Leaders, volunteers, and citizens working desperately to save democracy.

There are so many more. I'm sure that many of us have said about someone, "They deserve a medal." So, in this month of love, where we will have constant reminders of Olympians, let's pay attention to the Olympians in our lives, and give them a verbal or written medal. They deserve at least that.

## Faith Formation - Gayle Wilderman

If you had a chance to take part in the January 30<sup>th</sup> Messy Church, you put together a soup mix, very much like you can get at the Farmer's Market, enjoyed a meal and some thinking about family get togethers, took time to play card and board games together with a cup of hot cocoa, and just simply hunkering down. You ate a dinner of tasty "taco in a bag" spear headed by Myrna, while Ashley had fun craft activities set up for the families and Marion set up the "Wintering" story and lesson theme. Bud brought everyone to the sanctuary to enjoy singing hymns. Messy Church was set up for everyone.

Sunday School for February is positive oriented, with a "tell me something good" theme, or grounding in good news. [February 15, 2026](#), is during the Family Day Long Weekend, so no Sunday School. And [February 22, 2026](#), is Pink Shirt Day so please Wear Pink!

The Inter-Faith Speaker Series is going to continue this year, so watch the bulletins. UN World Harmony starts in the first week of February.

The library continues to be a welcoming place, with interesting books that are worth a look see. Sheila's bulletin board for Christmas was smashing, and Fiona has a display table in the narthex with the new books. Many of them researched and purchased by Elaine G. I have recently taken out a book for myself and one for the grandkids. Good reads.

And here are a few reviews from Elaine Gray of new books for the New Year, both purchased and donated:

*The Little Grizzly Who Walked Like a Boss* (age 4 – 12) by Victoria Tudor. Discover the wild wonders of Banff National Park through the eyes of a brave bear cub, inspired by the real bear known as Boss (Bear #122). Walk tall. Be curious. Explore the wild – just like Boss.

*The Adventures of Bucket and Arthur – Moorland* by St. Thomas' own Sheila Humphrey. Teaching children that problems in life must be faced with courage, humility, creativity, and patience, The Adventures of Bucket and Arthur show single parent households and children of divorce that they are not alone. There is nothing stronger than the love of family.

*Gender: Your Guide – The Gender Friendly Primer on What to Know, What to Say, and What to Do in the New Gender Culture* by Lee Airton. Be a part of the ever-evolving conversation around gender and discover how to navigate gender diversity in today's families, communities, and workplaces.

*Owning It – Our disabled childhoods in our own words*, edited by Lucy Catchpole, Jen Campbell, James Catchpole. Come on a journey through childhood with this anthology of twenty-two autobiographical stories from the very best writers in the disabled community.

*Sorry, Not Sorry: An Unapologetic Look at What Makes Canada Worth Fighting for* by Mark Critch. Known for his sharp-witted skits on CBC's This Hour Has 22 Minutes, Mark Critch uses his keen observational skills to explore Canadian identity and the new wave of Canadian patriotism.

Come and check out these new arrivals!

The Library Ladies - Fiona Craig, Elaine Gray, Sheila Humphrey.

Faith Formation team – Reverend Marion Martin, Fiona Craig, Ashley Dressler, Elaine Gray, Sheila Humphreys, Myrna Malanik, Marie Vallet, Sharon Ramraj-Thompson, Gayle Wilderman

## Pastoral Care - Marj Aucoin

### Pastoral Care: Our Friend to Friend Visiting Program

St. Thomas is changing, with many folks in their 70's, 80's, and 90's now. This means that, as a congregation, we have some who are unable to come to church and stay connected.

Pastoral care is the compassionate responsibility of each and every one of us in our church family. St. Thomas has always believed we have a responsibility and a call to these folks. We will become them someday.

These are the people who built St. Thomas and other United Churches across Canada. We have so many folks who have built their lives, friendships, and volunteer commitments around church. There are now many who cannot be here for a multitude of reasons...health issues, mobility, have moved, don't drive, weather, vision, hearing loss, etc.

If you unexpectedly get ill or have to go through treatments or separation, it is like a sudden retirement from a place that was known to you as family. It is from a place where you were called family and told you were family; so it is devastating if you get lost, if you are allowed to just disappear, if no one notices.

The difference is also that you miss out on those aspects of life that nurtured your spirit and brought you life, energy, and joy. Things like music, coffee with friends, prayer, scripture, communion, and community.

We can't let that happen. We do not want anyone to fall through the cracks. The Pastoral Care team cannot possibly visit everyone ourselves, so we ask our whole congregation to step in, be a friend, get a friend, develop relationships. Visiting is about keeping all folks connected. It really is a privilege to hear about another person's life. Hold it as a gift.

Would you like to have a visitor? Would you like to be a visitor? How are you? We care and are here for all of you. We'd love for you to join us!

Any questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to one of us. On behalf of the Pastoral Care team, Marj, Richard, Betty, Jan, Louise, Heather, Diane, and Cathy. [marj123@shaw.ca](mailto:marj123@shaw.ca)

## Foothills United Thrift Store: Elaine Taylor-Kerr

### Clothing Donations

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 pm – 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.

# Youth News

## Junior Youth Group

The children continue to have a lot of fun together getting to know each other, doing some crafts, and playing active games.

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 next event will be held on **February 6, 2026**, at St. Thomas United Church. The March events will be on **March 6, 2026**, at Symons Valley United Church (38 Kincora Rise NW). Sam and Elaine look forward to seeing you there!

## 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 afternoons 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 to come to Friday activities and Sunday mornings. 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!

In January, we played games, attended Naked Faith with our friends from across the city, and watched a movie! On Sundays, we discussed the baptism of Jesus, Blue Monday, and mental health. We also gathered warm clothing to help contribute to those working through homelessness.

## What is Happening this Month?

Here are the events we currently have planned for February. 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! Our Sunday mornings will consist of:

Continued...

## Sunday Mornings

**Sunday, February 1, 2026:** We will be discussing Lent and helping in the congregation.

**Sunday, February 8, 2026:** We are discussing Black history month and the church's involvement.

**Sunday, February 15, 2026:** We will be continuing from the previous week and expanding our discussion to other acts of discrimination, and how they affect our personal lives and history.

**Sunday, February 22, 2026:** We are discussing Ramadan, and preparing questions for our joint event with the Muslim youth from Symons Valley.

## Friday Events

**Friday, February 6, 2026:** We will be playing Dungeons and Dragons at Symons Valley United Church!

**Friday, February 13, 2026:** We will be bowling and playing arcade games near Symons Valley!

**Friday, February 20, 2026:** We are attending Naked Faith at St. Thomas United Church!

**Friday, February 27, 2026:** We will be breaking the fast alongside the Muslim Youth from Symons Valley United Church!

**FOOTHILLS UNITED CHURCH**

**St. Thomas United Church**  
Open Hands - Open Hearts - Open Minds

Celebrate with Foothills United Church & St. Thomas United Church

# PANCAKES, ASHES & MARDI GRAS

Celebrate with Foothills United Church & St. Thomas United Church for PANCAKES, CELEBRATION, AND FUN! Following the meal will be a short Christian ritual of Ash Wednesday, to prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent, which leads us to Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

**5:30-7:30 PM | Feb 18, 2026**

**Foothills United Church**  
3803 - 69 Street N.W.

## What to look out for:

**Outreach Project Completion:** In collaboration with Fish Creek Shared Ministries; youth and young adults all over Calgary have been collecting mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and blankets for un-housed individuals. No one should have to face the winter cold without protection. With the end of the holiday season, many charitable initiatives close with them. On January 31, 2026, starting at 5:30-6:00 pm we invite all our young adults, or youth 16+ individually accompanied by a parent, to join us downtown to hand out supplies, and listen to people's stories. Our final deadline for submitting items is during January's Naked Faith on the 16th.

**Collective 2026: Brace for Impact:** In a partnership between The United Church of Canada, The Presbyterian Church of Canada will be hosting an event from **August 12-15, 2026**, at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. Registration will open on **January 15, 2026**, and will remain open until **June 15, 2026**. Registration will be \$450; however, we will be doing some fundraising in order to help subsidize costs. For more details, please use this site: <https://www.collective-gathering.ca/>

## Youth Leader Needed

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 working with fellow youth leaders to plan and run social activities and Sunday morning youth classes as well as communicate 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](mailto:youth-advisory@stthomasunited.ca).

## AM Fitness - Barb Robertson

What are you doing to help avoid some of the dangers of a sedentary lifestyle? (\*see below)

Take a step forward and join the hybrid A.M. Fun and Fitness class Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This is a supportive group that works at their own levels. An online video is available to members.

Please note that there are no classes **February, 11 - 25, 2026**, inclusive. This is a good time to access the online video. \*"Research shows that a sedentary lifestyle is associated with a higher risk or mortality, cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, certain types of cancer, depression and dementia, muscle loss, poor quality of life and daily function."

## 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:

**March 1, 2026:** Joy of Song.

**May 9, 2026:** in the afternoon – Celebrating 50 Years of STUC! Save the date for another STUC musical show! As STUC will celebrate 50 years in 2026, this show will include music from various past shows and sermon series.

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

### Adult Choir

Twelfth Night for our north quadrant churches to share their Christmas music with each other was held on Sunday, **January 11, 2026**, at Hillhurst United Church. It was a wonderful evening of song and fellowship in an historical church that is undergoing lots of renovations.

Our annual Joy of Song service is coming up on **March 1, 2026**. This service features all of our musical groups and is one that you won't want to miss if you are in town. The joint choir piece is a beautiful hymn, but that is all I will tell you.

Research continues to support the message that singing is very good for both your physical and emotional health. It is a social activity, it involves breathing, reading, and making beautiful harmony with friends. Consider giving it a try!

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)

Continued...

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## Youth Choir

We are excited to have new members join our enthusiastic group. We are now an ensemble of 9 with room for more.

We are also excited about all of the music that we are going to be doing:

*Noah and the Ark*

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* excerpts

We are even doing a song in French for the "Joy of Song" service.

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

## Children's Choir

Our choir is hard at work learning new repertoire to share with you on Sunday mornings and look forward to participating in the show on **May 9, 2026**. If you know a prospective chorister in grades K-6, please encourage them to come join us on Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the church. Check out our page on the St. Thomas website for more information.

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

## Orchestra

The Orchestra has had a good start to our year and are looking forward to more performances in 2026.

We very much enjoyed being part of the St. Thomas contingent at the Twelfth Night celebration. It was a wonderful experience. The Orchestra shared music with the congregation on January 11 and will be playing again on **February 8, 2026**.

The Orchestra is a friendly group of people who enjoy sharing their music. New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining us please contact

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

## Strummers

The Strummers practice 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.

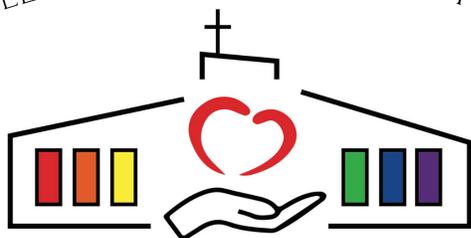
New members are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact David Gray [Davidmg1957@gmail.com](mailto:Davidmg1957@gmail.com)

Continued...

## 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.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF STUC



**St. Thomas United Church**  
Open Hands - Open Hearts - Open Minds

ON MAY 9, 2026 WE WILL HAVE THE  
HONOR OF CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH

THERE WILL BE A MUSICAL REVUE STARTING  
AT 2:00 PM

THERE WILL BE SNACKS AND THERE WILL BE  
WINE, BEER, COOLERS, AND POP FOR  
PURCHASE.

**Imagine**  
CHILDREN'S RETREAT  
2026

A safe, joy-filled retreat where children play, wonder, and grow in faith!

Faith + Fun = Awesome!  
Come explore, play, and grow together!

for children, ages 8-11 and their leaders!

April 17-19, 2026  
@ Kasota East Camp  
(Sylvan Lake, Alberta)

Info/Register:

\$300 includes transportation, meals, accommodation and supplies\*  
\*Need financial support? We've got you—bursaries are available, and you choose what works best for your family during registration.

firstthirdministry.ca

**LENT INTERFAITH SPEAKER SERIES**

**TIMES: 7PM - 9PM FOR ALL DATES**

**SERIES AND DATES:**

- MARCH 4: HINDU TRADITION WITH ANIRBAN BOSU.**
- MARCH 11: THE BAHAI TRADITION WITH MAY & HOWIE CUMMINGS.**
- MARCH 18: THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST TRADITION WITH REV. SAMAYA OAKLEY.**
- MARCH 25: THE INDIGENOUS TRADITION WITH DAKOTA EAGLEWOMAN.**
- APRIL 1: THE TURKISH MUSLIM TRADITION & INTERFAITH DIALOGUE INSTITUTE WITH FATIH & AYSE SEZGIN.**

**ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT FOOTHILLS UNITED CHURCH**  
**3803 69<sup>TH</sup> ST NW**

## 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 10 or 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.



Registration is now open. There is a discount of \$40 if you register before **March 27, 2026**. For further information see [www.campkasotawest.com](http://www.campkasotawest.com)

## Naramata - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

**NaramataCentre**  
You Belong Here

Naramata Centre Summer Programs for all ages  
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.