

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



In this issue:

- Minister's message - 1
- April Worship - 3
- Gift Cards - 3
- Wise Women - 4
- Affirming - 5
- Book Club - 6
- Faith Formation - 6
- Financial Update - 7
- Foothills UC Thrift Store - 8
- Camp Kasota - 8
- Youth News - 9
- Camp Caravan - 10
- Youth leader needed - 11
- Primetimers - 11
- Music News - 12
- Naramata - 14
- AM Fitness - 14

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.

Minister's Message: Reverend Marion

Over the last six weeks, we have taken time to reflect as we journeyed through Lent. We have waved our palm branches, remembered Jesus' last meal with his friends, stood at the foot of the cross in sorrow, and once again proclaimed, "Christ has risen!" "Happy Easter morning!"

Spring is officially here, and new life is ready to break forth, and we are ready!

Every year follows a similar rhythm: we endure the winter and wait in anticipation for spring. It comes around each year, though it always looks a little different. One might think we wouldn't feel so weighed down during the winter months or so overjoyed at the sight of the first robin.

But this year, for me personally, winter has felt heavier. So much has been happening and continues to unfold in our community, our province, our country, and our world. It can be hard not to lose hope. It can be difficult to notice the tulips pushing through the last patches of snow or to look toward the future with any real sense of enthusiasm or hope.

However, we must remember that we are called Easter people, resurrection people, for a reason. We are continually being called into new life and new beginnings, and it is this promise that gives us hope to carry on. It helps us see the tulip emerging through the snow and feel joy at the sight of a robin perched on the fence in our backyard.

We are reminded that we have a reason to keep going, and a reason to hope.

One of my favourite songs is We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection. It serves as a beautiful reminder of what it means to live as an Easter person—and that I am not alone on this journey.

Continued...

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF STUC



We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united within the
vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story, including
all in circles of our love.

We'll share a light with those whose hearts are grieving,
we'll sing a song that lifts our hearts in love.
We'll be a place where all can come together,
to share the promise of God's dreams to come.
We'll be a light when all feels dark and empty,
we'll be the strength enfolding you in prayer.
We'll be the hand that reaches through the heartache,
bringing the promise that says we are not alone.

(Verse 3 of this hymn is not in the hymnal. It was written by Paul Hutchinson, in dedication and memory to the families of the Humboldt bus crash).

Happy Easter, Happy Spring!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

of

ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH

with

"STUC on a Musical Revue"

At St Thomas United Church,

100 Hawkwood Blvd NW,

Saturday May 9, 2026 at 2:30pm.

Adults & Teens \$25.00 (suggested price)
Children 12 & Under \$5.00 (suggested price)

Includes post-show reception & refreshments (with beer, wine, coolers, soft drinks for purchase) Tickets on sale at St Thomas United Church or Eventbrite.
Phone 403-241-0366

Worship at St. Thomas - Cathy Rivard

Maundy Thursday service will be held at Foothills United **Thursday April 2, 2026, 5:30 pm.**
 Good Friday service will be held jointly with Symons Valley and Reverend Marion at Symons Valley United Church **Friday April 3, 2026, 10:30am** (goodies at 9:30 am). Adult Choirs will be singing.
 Easter Sunrise service will be held at the Silver Springs lookout **Sunday April 5, 2026, 7:00 am.**
 Easter service and Communion will be held at St. Thomas **Sunday April 5, 2026, 10:30am.**

Upcoming Services for April, 2026.

<p>April 3 Good Friday Service</p> <p>Reverends Marion, Tracy, and Vicki.</p> <p>At Symons Valley United Church; 10:30am</p> <p>Hot Cross buns and refreshments to be served at 9:30 am.</p>	<p>April 5 Easter Sunrise Service</p> <p>Reverends Tracy and Marion.</p> <p>Gather at the Silver Springs lookout at 7:00 am</p>	<p>April 5 Easter Sunday and Communion, The good news is alive in the world</p> <p>Reverend Tracy. Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10</p> <p>Music: Adult Choir, Kari Orosz.</p>	<p>April 12 Children Led Service, Holy Humour Sunday</p> <p>Service Leaders: Ashley Dressler and Kate Power.</p> <p>Music: Children's Choir, Kari Orosz.</p>
<p>April 19 Consequences and Punishment</p> <p>Reverend Tracy. Scripture: Noah and the Ark.</p> <p>Music: Youth Choir, Adult Choir, Kari Orosz</p>	<p>April 26</p>	<p>Gift Cards - Richard Taylor-Kerr</p> <p>As of mid March, we have fundraised over \$1700 through the sale of gift cards. This is about where we were last year at this time. Good work St Thomas! If you have never bought gift cards then don't be shy and give them a try! They are an easy fundraiser.</p> <p>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.</p>	

The best way to order cards is to e-mail fundraising@stthomasunited.ca. Cards will be ready for you on the following Sunday. We can also make arrangements for pickup. Thank you for supporting this important fundraiser. Every purchase helps, no matter how small.

The Wise Women of St. Thomas United Church

Joy - Maureen Dodd

Joy: I've been scratching my head and consulting Hallmark cards for a month about this. With the state of the world, friends' health issues, and the relentless bad news, it feels flippancy to talk about joy.

The Bible has only a handful of passages about joy amongst its tales of mayhem, pestilence, and despair, and even some of these are a stretch. For example, Habakkuk 3 says: *Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour.* That's definitely a grudging joy.

Habakkuk was a prophet known for ranting to God over injustice and evil; like me when I'm watching the news. He had a hard time finding joy, what with his long list of things that were wrong in the world. So, I gave up on Habakkuk, I've seen similar rantings on Facebook, and they don't seem to bring anyone any joy either.

I prefer the message of Ecclesiastes: *Go, eat your (gluten-free) bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.* Sounds good to me. I try to look for joy in everyday experiences and interactions, even when my grandsons say things like, "You can't run fast, Grandma, and you can't throw a football, but I guess you can hold the water bottles." Sometimes I get to pull the equipment wagon. That's just as joyful.

What thoughts give you joy? What activities? What people? We can't take these for granted. Joy is in short supply these days, so be intentional about discovering it. Share joy. Savour joy. Be grateful for joy every single day.

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace this Easter.

Joy - Wanda Veer

Ahhh. Easter: Chocolate, Bunnies, Sunshine, Candies, Coloured Eggs, Puddles. What's not to love about Easter? Again, it is a glorified holiday where every "ladies" magazine will give you hints about the perfect food to serve, perfect decorations, perfect invitations that you can "Make All by Yourself!" Whoever wrote these articles didn't live in a real home, where husbands, kids, jobs, relatives, and budgets reigned. I always wanted to have an outdoor Easter egg hunt. What was I thinking? In Calgary? Mud, snow, rain, animals, all available to spoil that perfect day. Now, as I progress towards being a senior senior, it's much more fun to come upon an egg that I hid last year!

Joy and happiness are in short supply in 2026. I am not deterred. I can't fix the world. I've made a billion mistakes and have to live with the consequences. I have surrounded myself with many amazing people who shape their own destiny, follow their dreams, use their many talents, help and care for one another. That will have to be enough. My Easter joys come from small, insignificant things. A glorious song, a granddaughter's first experiment with a Bunsen burner, remember how much fun that was?, planting tomato and sweet pea seeds imagining a fantastic garden, trying a new recipe, lunching with favourite folks, phoning a friend, cleaning a drawer and actually throwing something out!, planning holidays, watching Anne of Green Gables again.. Life is short. I cannot possibly fit in all the joy that is offered to me each day.

Continued...

I sometimes struggle with folks who look at life from that different angle. Oh woe, what will we do, what's to become of ????? As H.L. Mencken said, "Life is a dead-end street". We do what we can with the talents we were given.

So, plan Easter the way you've always planned it, or add a wrinkle like putting lemon grass in the cranberry sauce just for fun. From Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones." We just have to get past Good Friday yet again, how I long to re-write that story, then spread some joy around. It's good medicine for others as well as yourself.

Happy Easter Everyone.

Easter Joy - Ruthann Watson

I'm writing this mid-March. Q1 seems like a year already. I'm looking for certainty, not mystery. Where do I find joy?

No one knows why God sent their Son at that point in human time. Why not during the Babylonian exile? Or the pogroms during the Russian Revolution? Or 21st century bombings of synagogues? It's a mystery and only God knows.

We carry on, reminding ourselves and others that Christianity was multicultural and inclusive from its earliest days. If those first century Jews had kept Jesus to themselves my Celtic and Bavarian ancestors would never have heard about Him. We are called to choose beauty and inner strength over ugliness and resentment. Mercy trumps (sorry!) vengeance.

In the words of Ted Loder from *Guerillas of Grace*, 1984:

...Bequeath me not becalmed seas, slack sails and premature benedictions,

But breathe into me a torment, storm enough to make within myself and from myself, something...a gladness of heart, a pitch for a song in the storm, a word of praise lived, a gratitude shared, a cross dared, a joy received.

And from another of his poems:

...I praise you...for this resurrection madness which is wiser than I and in which I see how great you are, how full of grace. Alleluia! Wishing you days of Joy, ham, and chocolate

Affirming - Dan MacDonald

The Affirming Team extends a huge thank you to everyone who donated a pie, participated in the silent auction, supported the artists in attendance, took home a \$1-\$100 donation envelope, or joined us for the shepherd's pie lunch on March 15, 2026. Our PIE Day fundraiser raised more than \$1500 for our Pride Prom in June. We are so appreciative of the overwhelming support from this congregation. We are truly living out our Affirming values!

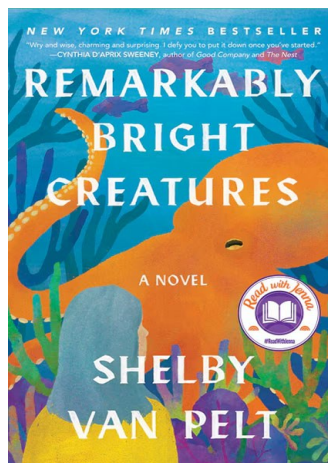
The \$1-\$100 envelope fundraiser will continue up to early June. If you're so inclined, please take an envelope of the dollar amount you're comfortable donating, and follow the instructions on the paper inside. You may even find a surprise gift in there! (if you get a sticker, call the office)

Closer to Pride Prom, we'll be looking for volunteers to help with set-up, managing the snacks, security, and packing up at the end. If you'd like to help out, please email:

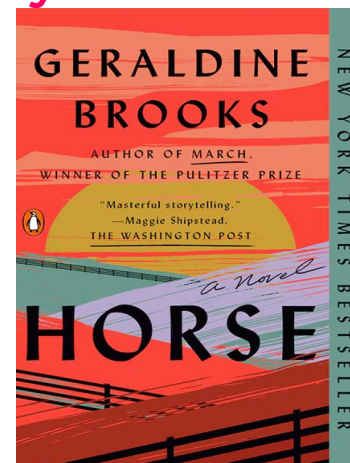
affirmng@stthomasunited.ca.

St. Thomas Book Club - Rachel Murray

For more information contact Rachel at 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 on Zoom. This year's book choices are:



April, 2026



May, 2026

Faith Formation - Gayle Wilderman

Last month, the Sunday School was learning about Lent. Being a neighbour, helping others, and thinking about how we want to treat others the way we would want to be treated. On PIE Day, the Children's Choir and the Senior Choir joined forces to sing "This is Me" from the musical The Greatest Showman. The kids sang with a lot of heart and passion about not being afraid to be themselves and to carry on bravely when others are cruel.

As we head towards Easter, there will be Sunday School and the annual Easter egg hunt in the sanctuary. Always a lot of fun on that joyful day!

Camp Caravan is now open for business. It brings faith, fun, and community engagement to children and families. [July 13-17, 2026](#), is when The Caravan will be at St. Thomas. You can sign up at camp-caravan.ca. Registration opened [March 4, 2026](#).

Messy Church will be back [April 24, 2026](#), at 5:30 pm, with good food, community, and celebrating spring growth and re-birth. All are welcome!

In the Narthax, the library crew have some very good books set out to try. They continue to sort through the books and some new ones to try are there.

And the job description for the new Sunday School Coordinator/Teacher has gone out.

"St. Thomas United Church has an active Childhood Education group of 4-12 years old. We are looking for an enthusiastic, caring individual who will, in collaboration with St. Thomas Ministry staff, plan and run a weekly Sunday School class as well as supporting volunteers, participating in special occasions such as Christmas, and helping plan and execute Messy Church 3 or 4 times a year for families. On average, a work week with planning would be 6 hours."

If you know someone or you yourself want to learn more, please contact Sharon, Myrna, or Gayle. Or send your resume to faith-formation@stthomasunited.ca

St. Thomas Financial Update: Greg Hyatt

St. Thomas' Annual Congregational Meeting took place on Sunday, March 22, at which time the Congregation approved both our 2025 financial statements and our 2026 Operating Fund budget. The 2025 financial statements are contained in St. Thomas' 2025 Annual Report which is available on St. Thomas' website. Key comments on these documents follow.

A. 2025 Financial Statements

Operating Fund

Our 2025 Operating Fund revenue exceeded our expenses (excluding depreciation) by \$9,100.

2025 was a strong year financially for our Operating Fund. Specifically:

- Our Operating Fund offerings for 2025 of \$312,400 were within \$2,300 of their 2024 level;
- Fundraising revenue in 2025 totalled \$18,600, exceeding the 2024 total by \$2,000;
- Third-party facility usage revenue totalled \$112,100 in 2025, exceeding the 2024 total by \$6,500; and
- 2025 Operating Fund expenses were less than the budgeted total by \$16,000.

Approximately \$9,800 of the 2025 fundraising revenue total was attributable to grocery card sales. We encourage everyone to participate in this program, which nets us 5% or 6% profit on the card sales.

Building Fund

We received \$35,900 in donations to our Building Fund in 2025, while spending \$121,300 on capital additions and major building repairs. Capital addition expenditures included about \$70,000 for sanctuary refurbishment including new carpet, repainted walls, retextured ceiling and new chairs. A further \$40,000 was spent for unanticipated water damage remediation along the sanctuary's back wall, including the addition of a retaining wall to divert rainwater and snow melt away from this wall.

As of December 31, 2025, we have \$106,000 set aside in the combined Building and Memorial Funds.

A healthy Building Fund is critical to our financial health. Without it, the water damage remediation expenses would have been problematic. As well, with our facility now over 35 years old, we expect that we will require the balances in these funds, together with future contributions to these funds, for capital replacement costs over the foreseeable future.

Donations to Other Charities

Our Congregation in 2025 contributed \$40,800 to the United Church's Mission & Service Fund and \$2,500 to other charities.

B. 2026 Operating Fund Budget

Our 2026 Operating Fund budget includes a projected deficit of \$29,000 versus the 2025 surplus of \$9,000. The deterioration in the budgeted net income is due to the following factors:

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- Operating Fund offerings are budgeted to decrease by \$16,000 versus 2025, due to the combined effect of deaths, reduced contributions by several families and transfers out of Calgary;
- Salary and benefit costs are budgeted to increase by \$8,000 versus 2025 due primarily to inflation adjustments, salary grade changes and benefit cost increases;
- The United Church's denominational assessment for 2026 is increasing by \$3,000 due to an increase in the assessment formula; and
- Budgeted committee expenses for 2026 are \$11,000 higher than actual 2025 expenses.

With our ageing congregation, demographic factors will continue to challenge our donation levels for the foreseeable future. Continuing to grow our Congregation with new younger families remains a critical priority. Why is this the case? United Church congregations are NOT funded by the wider church. St. Thomas relies on members' and adherents' financial donations to pay salaries, maintain our facility and fund programming. How many staff we have and what we offer depends directly on your financial contributions.

In addition, we must continue to support our fundraising efforts and be accommodating of our third-party facility users who contribute significantly to our facility's operating costs.

Finally, as your Treasurer, I am extremely thankful for your continuing financial support of St. Thomas United Church.

Foothills United Thrift Store: 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.

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.

For further information see www.campkasotawest.com



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 to be added to the list.

The next event will be held on **April 10, 2026**, at St. Thomas United Church. The May events will be on **May 1, 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 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 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 or call the church office to be added to our mail-out list!

In March, we played Dungeons and Dragons, attended Naked Faith with our friends from across the city, and did some crafts! On Sundays, we discussed International Women's Day, celebrated PIE Day, and planned for our youth led services!

What is Happening this Month?

Here are the events we currently have planned for April. 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:

Sunday Mornings

Sunday, April 5, 2026: There is no youth group this week. Celebrate Easter Sunday!

Sunday, April 12, 2026: We are discussing taking risks, believing in yourself, and resurrection.

Sunday, April 19, 2026: We will be continuing to plan for our youth led services.

Sunday, April 26, 2026: Join us in supporting the youth led service at Fish Creek United Church

Fridays

Friday, April 3, 2026: No youth group this week, as it is Good Friday.

Friday, April 10, 2026: We will be continuing our Dungeons and Dragons campaign.

Friday, April 17, 2026: We are attending Naked Faith at St. Thomas United Church.

Friday April 24, 2026: We are participating in Messy Church at St. Thomas United Church.

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.

Camp Caravan - Elaine Taylor-Kerr

Camp Caravan is a week-long summer day camp designed for children from kindergarten to grade 7, bringing adventure, creativity, and community to various locations across Chinook Winds Region. 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! St. Thomas will be hosting Camp Caravan July 13 – 17, 2026. To register go to [Camp-Caravan.ca](https://camp-caravan.ca)

A SMALL GIFT A BIG SUMMER

Camp Caravan is hitting the road again! We're bringing faith, fun, and friendship to children and communities across Calgary and Southern Alberta.

This year, we need your help.

Every summer, families rely on our No-Barrier Bursary Fund so their kids can attend camp. Camp costs \$150 per child, but we believe finances should never keep a child from belonging, laughter, and faith-filled community.

No child is ever turned away.

Right now, however, our **bursary fund is nearly empty**, and the need is greater than ever. Your gift helps us keep saying YES. \$150 sends one child to camp \$75 shares the cost Any amount opens the door for another camper

When you give, you're not just funding a week of camp you're creating friendships, confidence, faith, and lifelong memories. Help keep the Camp Caravan rolling. Scan the QR code for a donation or visit:

<https://camp-caravan.ca/>

(Tax receipts provided for gifts over \$25.)



Youth Leader Needed

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.



Primetimers Coffee Time: Betty Thompson

Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 10 am. We will have Hot Cross Buns to enjoy. If you can provide some treats please let me know.

Betty Thompson

Primetimers From Jan Campbell

"Dear Primetimers,

Hello to all of you. Keith and I miss you all so much. He is being well cared for at the Foothills' hospital. Thank you for your calls, emails, cards, and words of encouragement and support.

We want especially to thank the Primetimers for their gift to us. The plants are lovely, and I am actually remembering to water them! The gift card to a spa will be used, happily!

We hope you are all remembering to breathe, enjoy life, and be kind. It's that kind of world right now. We look forward to seeing you once again at STUC. Carry on and keep loving.

Peace

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:

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.

July 5, 2026: Annual Stampede service put on by the Strummers.

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 Easter time will be upon us very soon and the choir is practicing music for Palm Sunday: **March 29, 2026**, Good Friday: **April 3, 2026**, and Easter Sunday: **April 5 2026**. Barb Veitch will be accompanying us with her flute on Good Friday and Dick Worton will be accompanying us on his trumpet for Easter Sunday. All of our anthems are glorious! You will not want to miss them. The Good Friday service will be at Symons Valley United Church with their choir and our choir joining together. That service starts at 10:30 am with refreshments BEFORE the service at 9:30 am.

Our latest STUC Performance is shaping up. There is one show only on Saturday afternoon, May 9. The theme this year is a re-visit to shows of the past. I can tell you that the adult choir is reviving "Mama Mia".

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!

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

Youth Choir

We hope that you were able to listen to the Joy of Song service. We truly have so much musical talent and so many members willing to share the joy of music during worship.

The youth choir presented an energetic, joyful song in French: *Chantez Alleluia!*, Bravo! The 45 voice, youth, children, and adult choir sang a rousing massed number at the end of the service.

We will present an interpretation of *Noah and the Ark* **April 19, 2026**, and are practicing for our participation in STUC on a Musical Revue.

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

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir has been working hard on our Spring repertoire. We're especially excited for our May songs. We're preparing a movie showtune mashup for the STUC Show and a real earworm surprise for Mother's Day.

Kate Power: childrens-choir@stthomasunited.ca

Orchestra

The Orchestra enjoyed joining the other St. Thomas music groups at the Joy of Song service on March 1, 2026. We recently played on March 8, 2026, and will be playing at the service on **May 3, 2026**. We are also preparing another piece for our part in the STUC variety performance on **May 9, 2026**.

The Orchestra is a friendly group of people who enjoy sharing their music. The orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. New members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining us please contact

Dick Worton: 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.

They are also practicing a medley to perform in *STUC on a Musical Revue* and are working on music for the annual Stampede Service on **July 5, 2026**.

New members are always welcome. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact David Gray davidmg1957@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.

Naramata - Elaine Taylor-Kerr



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!

AM Fitness - Barbara Robertson

Spring has arrived. Time to get ready for shorts and tank tops...join the exercise group to tone your muscles.

Mondays, online 9:00 am.

Wednesday, in person, 9:30 am.

Friday, online 9:00 am.

Days and times subject to change.

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

