



ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH

SEPTEMBER, 2026

NEWSLETTER

## EDITOR'S NOTE - TODD J. ROBERTSON

HAPPY SEPTEMBER. AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, THOUGH I SUSPECT IT WILL BE MORE THE TECH GEEKY OF YOU MICROSOFT PUBLISHER IS BEING DISCONTINUED. PUBLISHER IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN USING TO CONSTRUCT THE NEWSLETTER AND THE BULLETIN. I WAS SEDUCED BY THE ABILITIES OF CANVA TO CREATE A NEWSLETTER AND GAVE IT A TRY. WELL, I AM NOT FINDING IT TO BE CONVENIENT AND A GREAT CHORE TO USE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT I WANTED TO GIVE A FAIR TRY AND GOT TOO DEEP BEFORE I REALIZED ALL THE DIFFICULTIES. SO THIS ISSUE MAY NOT BE UP PAR AND IS A BIT LATE AS I TRY TO CORRECT AS MUCH AS I CAN. HERE'S HOPNG THAT OCTOBER'S NEWSLETTER IS A BIT MORE FORGIVING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



**COME PAINT WITH US!**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**HELP US MAKE OUR  
WALL BEAUTIFUL,  
INCLUSIVE, AND  
WELCOMING!**

**ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH**  
**SEPTEMBER 5 FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM**  
**HOT DOG LUNCH, SNACKS, AND MORE**



# MINISTER'S MESSAGE: REVEREND MARION

WELCOME BACK!

SUMMER IS NOT OFFICIALLY OVER, BUT WE ARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF NEW BEGINNINGS IN SO MANY WAYS.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR FOR MANY, AND A NEW START TO THE CHURCH YEAR. WE HERE AT ST. THOMAS SEE A NEW SEASON OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, LUNCH AND LEARNS, YOUTH GROUP, CHOIRS, ORCHESTRA, STRUMMERS, MEDITATIVE WORSHIP, COFFEE AND CONVERSATION, AND SO MUCH MORE. IF YOU ARE ALREADY A PART OF THESE GROUPS, WELCOME BACK! IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO TRY SOMETHING NEW, WE WELCOME YOU.

I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU HAD A WONDERFUL SUMMER OF ADVENTURES, REST, AND RELAXATION.

WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU DID, THAT YOU ENJOYED OR WOULD DO AGAIN? I HIKE AS FAR AS I COULD GO IN THE RED ROCK CREEK OF RED ROCK CANYON, WATERTON. IT WAS AMAZING. WHAT NEW THINGS ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE UPCOMING NEW YEAR?

HERE'S MINE! KEEP READING:

FINALLY, A LONG-AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MANY HAVE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT: I HAVE ACCEPTED A HALF TIME CALL FROM BALZAC UNITED CHURCH! SO, I WON'T BE LEAVING ST. THOMAS ANYTIME SOON. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT THIS NEW CHAPTER OF LIFE HOLDS FOR ME, YOU FOLKS AT ST. THOMAS, AS WELL AS THE FOLKS AT BALZAC UC.

SEE YOU ALL SOON AT THE MANY UPCOMING EVENTS.

## WORSHIP

AT THE END OF EVERY SUNDAY SERVICE THERE IS A SLIDE ON THE SCREEN THAT READS "WE GIVE GREAT THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN MAKING TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE A REALITY."

THE SLIDE IS REFERRING TO ALL THE ASK ME FOLKS, GREETERS, CANDLE LIGHTERS, SCRIPTURE READERS, COMMUNION SERVERS AND COFFEE MAKERS, WHO HELP ON SUNDAY'S.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PART OF WORSHIP, IN WHATEVER WAY YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THERE IS SOMEONE WHO WILL GLADLY SHOW YOU HOW.

LINDA BOUCHARD, TOBIN DRESSLER, DIANE PALEY, CATHY RIVARD, HEATHER WORTON

# WORSHIP

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER IS ALWAYS A FUN AND EXCITING TIME. NEW THEMES, NEW IDEAS, AND NEW WAYS TO PRESENT OUR SERVICES. THE BIG THING TO NOTE IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO IN CHURCH SERVICE ON SEPTEMBER 6. WE ARE ENCOURAGING EVERYONE TO COME DOWN TO THE PRIDE PARADE. THERE WILL BE A LINK ON OUR WEB SITE: [STTHOMASUNITED.CA](http://STTHOMASUNITED.CA) THAT WILL HAVE THE AFFIRMING SERVICE FOR YOU. THE CHORUS ARE BACK IN ACTION AND THERE WILL BE MUCH TO HEAR AND SING ALONG TO

SEPTEMBER 6

CALGARY PRIDE PARADE  
PRE-RECORDED ONLY:  
ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO  
COME TO THE PARADE  
AND WATCH THE SERVICE  
ONLINE.

SEPTEMBER 13

CREATION 1:  
DELIGHT IN ME!

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY  
BACKPACK BLESSING

REVEREND TRACY.  
SCRIPTURE:  
EXODUS 15:1B-11 AND 20-21

MUSIC:  
ADULT CHOIR, KARI  
OROSZ.

SEPTEMBER 20

CREATION 2:  
LISTEN TO MY WISDOM!

REVEREND TRACY.  
SCRIPTURE:  
MATTHEW 20:1-16

MUSIC:  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR,  
ORCHESTRA, KARI OROSZ.

SEPTEMBER 27

CREATION 3:  
WORK WITH ME!

REVEREND TRACY.  
SCRIPTURE:  
MATTHEW 21:23-32

MUSIC:  
ADULT CHOIR,  
KARI OROSZ..

ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH

## FALL FAIR AND PRE-CHRISTMAS MARKET



**November 14, 2026: 10 am - 2 pm and  
November 15, 2026: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm,  
at St. Thomas United Church:  
100 Hawkwood Blvd NW**



# THE WISE WOMEN OF ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH

## WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? - MAUREEN DODD

WORKING IN HEALTH CARE AND AT THE AIRPORT, IT HAS BEEN EASY TO SEE THE THINGS WE HAVE IN COMMON. WE CAN ALL BE SCARED, WORRIED, NEEDING COFFEE, LONELY, LOST, ANGRY, EXCITED, TIRED, GRATEFUL; AND ALL IN THE SAME MINUTE. NOW WE ARE ALSO SEEING THOSE SIMILARITIES IN REGISTRY OFFICES AS PEOPLE TRY TO RENEW THEIR DRIVERS' LICENSES AND ARE CAUGHT IN THE SEVEN CIRCLES OF SOUL-CRUSHING BUREAUCRACY. AGAIN, WE CAN BECOME FRUSTRATED, SAD, AND MAYBE A LITTLE MEAN, WHEN THESE FIRST-WORLD PROBLEMS DRIVE US TO NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT OTHERS.

I'VE BEEN DELAYING WRITING THIS, WAITING FOR THE DAY THAT I GET OUT OF BED AS A REALLY GOOD CHRISTIAN, ALWAYS LOVING MY NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF. BUT THEN I LOOK AT THE NEWS AND CONTINUE JUDGING AND DEMONIZING THOSE WHO THINK, AND ACT DIFFERENTLY THAN I DO. THOSE WHO SEEM TO WANT TO DESTROY DEMOCRACY, AND THOSE WHO, I BELIEVE, HAVE NO GRATITUDE FOR OUR GOOD FORTUNE TO BE LIVING HERE.

WHEN EMOTIONS TAKE OVER, WE ARE CHALLENGED TO PRACTISE WHAT WE PREACH. IT'S HARDER TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AND TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE ALL HAVE IN COMMON, ESPECIALLY WHEN OUR BELIEFS SEEM TO BE THREATENED. IT BECOMES A STRUGGLE TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE'S HUMANITY.

THE MIDNIGHT DEADLINE FOR THIS ARTICLE IS FAST APPROACHING, AND I'VE JUST BEEN DISTRACTED BY MY NEIGHBOR WHO NEEDED TO BORROW A CUP OF VODKA; UNEXPECTED COMPANY, APPARENTLY, I'M TRYING NOT TO JUDGE. AND MY AROUND-THE-CORNER NEIGHBOR TEXTED TO ASK IF I COULD DRIVE HER TO AN APPOINTMENT NEXT WEEK. CHANNELLING THE GOOD SAMARITAN, I SAID YES TO THAT TOO. TWO SMALL STEPS TOWARDS BEING A BETTER CHRISTIAN AND NEIGHBOR. SO MAYBE THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO FOR NOW. RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR NEIGHBORS WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW. AND IT REALLY TAKES SO LITTLE EFFORT TO IMPROVE SOMEONE'S DAY.

ALSO, IT HELPS IF YOU CAN SING TO YOURSELF THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM SESAME STREET. VERY JAUNTY AND POSITIVE.



CONTINUED

## WHO ARE OUR NEIGHBORS? - WANDA VEER

THE ALBERTA OCTOBER 19, 2026, REFERENDUM IS LOOMING. LINES HAVE BEEN DRAWN IN THE SAND. ALBERTANS ARE CONCERNED, AND UNCERTAIN. WE FEEL ABANDONED, YET HOPEFUL, WOEFULLY UNINFORMED, BUT WANT TO MAKE AN INTELLIGENT DECISION.

STAN AND I RE-WATCHED THE KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY (6 LONG DVD'S) TITLED THE WAR. AN EXCELLENT AND ENTERTAINING VERSION OF THE WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH. IT IS A USA STORY, IT BEGINS WITH PEARL HARBOR, AND FOLLOWS FAMILIES FROM 4 DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THROUGH THEIR WAR EXPERIENCES. THE REASON I MENTION THIS IS THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY PARALLELS. WE HUMANS SIMPLY DON'T LEARN TO ASSIMILATE. WHY IS THE REASON FOR ECONOMIC WOES, FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT, UNREST, ETC., ALWAYS DUMPED ON A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE EASILY IDENTIFIED, OFTEN BY SKIN COLOR OR RELIGION?

WE HUMANS ALL FEEL THE SAME, CRY THE SAME, LAUGH THE SAME, WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, REGARDLESS OF SKIN COLOR, RELIGION, OR ETHNICITY. NEIGHBORS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR VERY LARGE, DIVERSE COUNTRY. LOVE THEM OR HATE THEM, WE RELY ON EACH OTHER. MY RURAL ROOTS HAD INNUMERABLE STORIES OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS. WE DIDN'T QUESTION WHO THEY PRAYED TO, WHAT THEIR ECONOMIC STATION WAS, WHO THEIR PARENTS WERE; WE JUST HELPED ONE ANOTHER. IT MAKES MY STOMACH KNOT WHEN I READ THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS, AS THEY CLEARLY INTEND TO LAY BLAME AND CREATE DIVISION.

I GUESS MY RESPONSE IS "WAIT A MINUTE HERE". I AM A CANADIAN, ONLY BECAUSE I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE BORN IN THIS COUNTRY. I DID NOT EARN THIS PRIVILEGE, I DID NOT WORK FOR THIS PRIVILEGE, I DID NOT PAY FOR THIS PRIVILEGE. I COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE BEEN BORN IN THE AFRICAN DESERTS. IT WAS SHEER LUCK. WHAT RIGHT DO I HAVE TO JUDGE THOSE WHO WORK, PLAN, LEAVE THEIR HOMELAND, LEAVE THEIR FAMILIES JUST TO BECOME CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTRY.

"DO UNTO OTHERS....", AND "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR..." SEEM TO BE EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT IN OUR WOUNDED WORLD TODAY.

AT LEAST THAT'S MY OPINION. UNTIL NEXT MONTH....

## THE SPIRIT OF THE REFERENDUM - RUTHANN WATSON

IN A MONTH, A VOTE WILL BE HELD WHICH, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME, WILL HAVE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL OF US. I'VE BEEN WRESTLING WITH THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THIS TIME IN OUR LIVES AND DID A BIT OF RESEARCH.



CONTINUED

ALMOST FROM ITS INCEPTION, WHAT BECAME CHRISTIANITY WAS MULTICULTURAL. PAUL, WHOSE WRITINGS CONTINUE TO SHAPE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF JESUS' TEACHINGS, WAS AN ARAMAIC AND GREEK SPEAKING PHARISEE, LITERATE IN HEBREW AND POSSIBLY LATIN, WHO GREW UP IN TARSUS, A CITY IN MODERN DAY TURKEY. ITS LOCATION MADE IT A CENTRE OF EAST-WEST TRADE AND SUBJECT TO MANY INFLUENCES. WELL-VERSED IN JUDAISM'S SACRED TEXTS, HAVING STUDIED UNDER PROMINENT JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS, HIS WRITINGS REFLECT A KNOWLEDGE OF GRECO-ROMAN CULTURE AND PHILOSOPHY. I'M TAKING THE WORD OF SCHOLARS LIKE N.T. WRIGHT ON THIS. EARLY FOLLOWERS OF THIS JESUS CAME TO THE NOTICE OF THE ROMAN OFFICIALS AND OTHERS BECAUSE THEY OFFERED FOOD AND ASSISTANCE TO ANYONE, REGARDLESS OF WHO THEY WERE OR THEIR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

IN 258 CE, THE EMPEROR DEMANDED THAT "LAWRENCE", A DEACON IN ROME, TURN OVER THE TREASURES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. THREE DAYS LATER, LAWRENCE RETURNED WITH POOR, SICK, WIDOWS AND THE SUFFERING, SAYING, "THESE ARE THE TRUE TREASURES OF THE CHURCH. YOU SEE, THE CHURCH IS TRULY RICH, FAR RICHER THAN YOUR EMPEROR!" HIS STAND COST HIM HIS LIFE BUT LATER VENERATED HIM AS A SAINT.

THIS PUZZLING BEHAVIOUR HAS BEEN, OR SHOULD BE, A CORNERSTONE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN. IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE, WE ARE CALLED TO WELCOME THE STRANGER, TO CARE FOR THE VULNERABLE, TO PURSUE JUSTICE, TO "DO UNTO OTHERS". THIS IS OFTEN AT ODDS WITH OUR MODERN DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SACRED AND THE SECULAR, OUR FAITH AND OUR STANCES ON PUBLIC POLICY.

I'LL KEEP THESE IN MIND AS I ANSWER THE BALLOT QUESTIONS.

## FAITH FORMATION - GAYLE WILDERMAN

JULY BROUGHT US LOVELY WARM WEATHER AND CAMP CARAVAN. ALL TOGETHER, THERE WERE 19 CAMPERS ENROLLED. LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES AND OUR FIRST YEAR WORKING AROUND HAVING A SUMMER DAYCARE IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AREA. CAMP CARAVAN MINISTER LISA PENZO AND TEAM LEAD MCKENZIE PROVIDED SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP. ST. THOMAS WAS ONE OF MANY OTHER UNITED CHURCHES WHO HAD CHILDREN IN CAMP CARAVAN IN CALGARY AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

We welcome our new Sunday School Co-ordinator: Kaitlyn Smith. Kaitlyn is a teacher who will be organizing volunteers and activities for the Sunday School this year. You may have seen her around already and make sure to say hello.

St. Thomas will have the Back to School service, including Blessing the Backpacks on September 12, 2026. There will be Sunday School registration forms there and lots of start up activities.

Stay tuned for the rest of September events.

# LIBRARY NEW TITLES - ELAINE GRAY

COME AND CHECKOUT THESE TITLES IN THE LIBRARY, BOTH NEW AND DONATED

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 – 12: I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE GONE – A KID'S GRIEF BOOK THAT HUGS, HELPS, AND GIVES HOPE BY KAREN BROUGH AND HIRUNI KARIYAWASAM. WISE OLD BEAR SAYS, "EMOTIONS AREN'T GOOD OR BAD, OR RIGHT OR WRONG – THEY JUST ARE." A LOVELY LITTLE BOOK TO HELP KIDS UNDERSTAND THE BIG FEELINGS THAT CAN ACCOMPANY LOSS.

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 – 5: WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE? OUR FIRST TALK ABOUT DIVERSITY BY DR. JILLIAN ROBERTS AND CINDY REVELL. OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN ABOUT CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS, AND PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER, AND THEY NEED TO START AT AN EARLY AGE; IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. ULTIMATELY, WE ARE ALL MUCH MORE ALIKE THAN WE ARE DIFFERENT.

FOR ADULTS: SINCERELY, KATHERINE: LIFE, GENDER, INCLUSIVITY, AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE BY KATHERINE DUDTSCHAK. THIS IS A STORY OF RESILIENCE, SELF-LOVE, AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF LEADING WITH AUTHENTICITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND PURPOSE. KATHERINE INSPIRES EACH OF US TO FOSTER A HARMONY WITHIN OURSELVES, AND WITH EACH OTHER AND THE NATURAL WORLD WE ARE PART OF AND SHARE.

52 WAYS TO RECONCILE – HOW TO WALK WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ON THE PATH TO HEALING BY DAVID A. ROBERTSON. THE IDEA OF THIS BOOK IS SIMPLE: FIFTY-TWO BITE SIZED CHAPTERS, EACH FOCUSED ON ONE ATTAINABLE ACT OF RECONCILIATION. ONE ACT PER WEEK, FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR. WITH WARMTH AND HUMOUR, AWARD-WINNING PUBLIC SPEAKER AND AUTHOR DAVID A. ROBERTSON SHARES STORIES AND TIPS FROM HIS OWN LEARNING EXPERIENCE. FORMER CBC RADIO HOST SHELAGH ROGERS SAID OF THIS BOOK, "FOR EVERY CANADIAN WHO EVER ASKED, 'WHAT CAN I DO (TO ADVANCE RECONCILIATION)?' THIS IS THE BOOK YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR."

RICHARD WAGAMESE SELECTED – WHAT COMES FROM SPIRIT. RICHARD WAGAMESE IS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FOREMOST INDIGENOUS AUTHORS AND STORYTELLERS IN CANADA. HIS WRITING IS CHERISHED FOR ITS HONESTY, PIERCING BEAUTY, AND HARD-WON WISDOM. THIS COLLECTION BRINGS TOGETHER THE AUTHOR'S MEDITATIONS AND SHORT NON-FICTION WRITINGS; IT CELEBRATES HIS ABILITY TO INSPIRE, UNITE, AND EMPOWER THROUGH STORY. A BOOK TO BE SAVOURED, SLOWLY AND THOUGHTFULLY.

ELAINE GRAY ON BEHALF OF LIBRARY LADIES FIONA CRAIG AND SHEILA HUMPHREY.

## STEWARDSHIP - LINDA MILLER

FALL MEANS CRISP MORNINGS, PUMPKIN SPICE, BEAUTIFUL LEAVES AND STEWARDSHIP! WE ARE PLANNING ON DOING ONE STEWARDSHIP SERVICE AND TWO MINUTE FOR STUC FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP. WE WILL KICKOFF THE CAMPAIGN THE JOY OF GIVING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2026!

WE ARE RETURNING TO PAPER AND ONLINE STEWARDSHIP PACKAGES THIS YEAR. THE PACKAGES, ADDRESSED BY NAME WILL BE READY FOR PICK UP IN THE LOBBY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 27, 2026. PAPER PLEDGE FORM SUBMISSIONS WILL GO IN THE STEWARDSHIP DROP BOX IN THE LOBBY OR PLEDGES CAN BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. WE ENCOURAGE THE ONLINE PROCESS TO SAVE PAPER. EXTRA UNNAMED PACKAGES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP IN THE LOBBY OR CAN BE MAILED OUT TO YOU, JUST GIVE THE OFFICE A CALL. PLEASE WATCH FOR A SPECIAL EMAIL GOING OUT AROUND SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> WITH THE LINKS TO THE FULL STEWARDSHIP PACKAGE. COMPLETING YOUR PLEDGE FORM IS IMPORTANT FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR THE CHURCH. WE ARE HOPING TO HAVE AS MANY PLEDGE FORMS COMPLETED AS POSSIBLE. YOU ARE INVITED TO CONTINUE TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THE JOY OF GIVING CAMPAIGN!

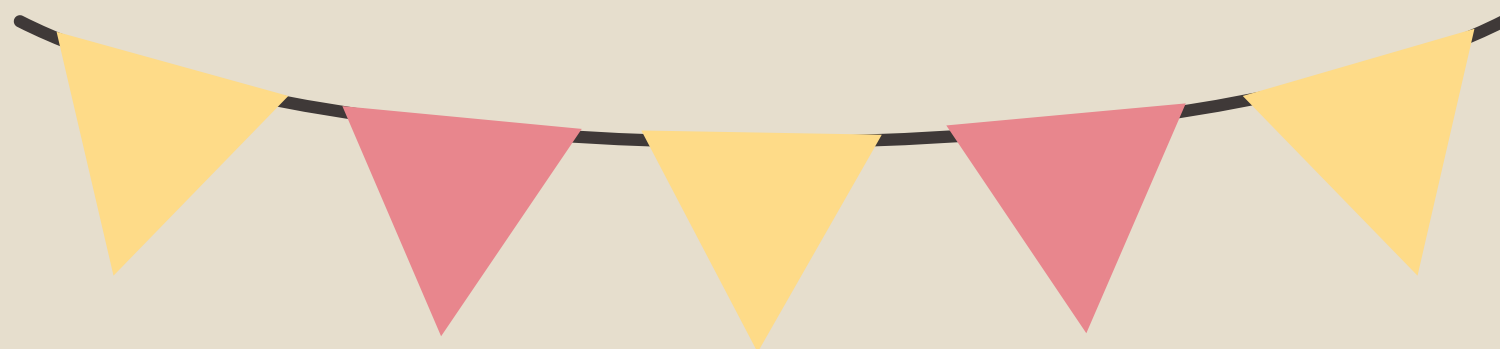
MISSION POSSIBLE, A TEAM CHALLENGE ACTIVITY, IS NEW AND COMING TO ST. THOMAS! IT WILL BE FUN FOR EVERYONE TO TAKE PART. LEARN MORE ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2026. START GETTING YOUR TEAMS AND TEAM NAMES READY IN OCTOBER BEFORE THE ACTIVITY LAUNCHES IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

## GIFT CARDS - RICHARD TAYLOR-KERR

AS WE CLOSE OUT THE SUMMER, WE HAVE FUNDRAISED \$5000 THROUGH THE SALE OF GIFT CARDS. GREAT WORK ST THOMAS!

WE HAVE GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE IN \$50S AND \$100S FOR SAFEWAY/ SOBEYS, CO-OP, AND SUPERSTORE. PAYMENT IS BY E-TRANSFER, CASH OR CHEQUE (PAYABLE TO ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH). SAFEWAY/SOBEY'S AND SUPERSTORE CARDS CAN BE USED IN ANY OF THEIR AFFILIATED STORES ACROSS CANADA. CO-OP CARDS CAN ONLY BE USED IN CALGARY.

THE BEST WAY TO ORDER CARDS IS TO E-MAIL [FUNDRAISING@STTHOMASUNITED.CA](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.



# YOUTH NEWS

## JUNIOR YOUTH NEWS

THE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP IS AN ENERGETIC GROUP OF CHILDREN IN GRADES FOUR – SIX. THE CHILDREN HAVE A LOT OF FUN TOGETHER GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER, DOING SOME CRAFTS AND PLAYING ACTIVE GAMES.

WE PLAN TO OFFER MONTHLY IN PERSON EVENTS DURING THE 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR. WE WILL ALSO BE CONTINUING THE COLLABORATION WITH SYMONS VALLEY FOR SOME OF THE 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.

OUR FIRST FALL MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2026 AT ST. THOMAS. OTHER FALL DATES ARE OCTOBER 2, 2026, NOVEMBER 6, 2026, AND DECEMBER 4, 2026. SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND DECEMBER WILL BE AT ST. THOMAS. NOVEMBER WILL BE AT SYMONS VALLEY UNITED.

SAM AND ELAINE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

## JUNIOR YOUTH NEWS

HELLO FAMILIES AND YOUTH GRADES 7-12; AS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR KICKS OFF, WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR YOUTH GROUP! ALL YOUTH FROM ST. THOMAS, AND SYMONS VALLEY UNITED CHURCH ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON FRIDAYS 7:00 -9:00 PM, AND AT OUR RESPECTIVE CHURCHES ON SUNDAY MORNING. YOUTH ARE ALWAYS WELCOME, AND ENCOURAGED TO BRING FRIENDS. LEADERS SEND OUT WEEKLY EMAILS AT THE START OF EACH WEEK TO REMIND YOUTH OF UPCOMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PLAN CHANGES (IF NECESSARY). EACH YOUTH, IF DESIRED, WILL ALSO RECEIVE MONTHLY CHECK-INS OVER EMAIL, OTHER FORMATS ARE AVAILABLE OVER TEXT. FOR THOSE WITH QUESTIONS, OR THOSE WANTING TO GET CONNECTED; FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US OVER EMAIL AT [YOUTH@STTHOMASUNITED.CA](mailto:youth@stthomasunited.ca). ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN CALL THE OFFICE AND REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAIL-OUT LIST.

## SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026: PRIDE PARADE - CALGARY ALWAYS HOSTS THEIR PRIDE PARADE ON THE SUNDAY OF LABOUR DAY WEEKEND. AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ST. THOMAS UNITED CHURCH, WE USUALLY WALK IN THE PARADE TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026: WELCOME BACK! - THIS SUNDAY WILL MARK OUR FIRST OFFICIAL SUNDAY-MORNING-YOUTH-GROUP FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR. WE WILL BE TAKING THIS DISCUSSION TO REFLECT ON WHEN OR HOW WORSHIP FEELS PERSONALLY IMPACTFUL.

CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026: TERRY FOX WALK - IN HONOUR OF TERRY FOX, THE YOUTH AT ST. THOMAS WILL BE GOING FOR A WALK AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DURING OUR TIME THIS SUNDAY MORNING. UNTIL THEN, WE WILL BE COLLECTING FUNDS FOR THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH. FOR THOSE WISHING TO DONATE, HERE IS OUR LINK: [RUN.TERRYFOX.CA/TEAM/SVUCSTUC](https://run.terryfox.ca/team/svucstuc)

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026: ORANGE SHIRT DAY - SEPTEMBER 30TH IS CANADA’S NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION. AS A MEANS OF HONOURING IT; WE WILL DISCUSS WHAT TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION MEANS IN BOTH THE CONTEXT OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY, AND IN TERMS OF THE UNITED CHURCH.

## FRIDAYS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026: WELCOME BACK - FOR OUR FIRST SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, WE WILL BE AT ST. THOMAS. WE WILL BE GOING OVER RULES AND EXPECTATIONS, BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS, HAVE AN ICE-CREAM SUNDAE BAR, AND END THE NIGHT WITH SOME FUN INDOOR GAMES.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2026: OUTDOOR GAMES - WHILE THE WEATHER IS WARM, AND THE SKIES ARE LIGHT WE ARE HOPING TO SPEND THIS FRIDAY PLAYING OUTSIDE AT SYMONS VALLEY. THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF THE WEATHER IS POOR. IF SO, EXPECT THIS TO BE SWAPPED WITH THE FOLLOWING WEEK’S PLAN.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2026: D&D - THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS, WE WILL BE STARTING BACK UP OUR CAMPAIGNS FOR THE YEAR! WE WILL BE USING THIS FRIDAY AS SESSION ZERO, SO WE CAN WELCOME ANY NEW AND RETURNING PLAYERS TO OUR TABLES FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN JOINING US. AS A REMINDER, OUR D&D SESSIONS TYPICALLY GO UNTIL 9:30 PM. FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW, DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS (D&D OR DND) IS A TABLETOP ROLE-PLAYING GAME THAT ALLOWS PLAYERS TO ENGAGE IN AN INTERACTIVE STORY AS FICTIONAL CHARACTERS. YOUTH THAT WANT TO CREATE/USE THEIR OWN CHARACTERS, SHOULD USE THE RULESET FOR CHARACTER CREATION FROM THE 2014 EDITION, AS THIS IS WHAT LEADERS ARE MOST FAMILIAR WITH, INCLUDING ANY OFFICIAL CONTENT USED FOR THIS VERSION. PENCILS, AND DICE WILL BE PROVIDED IF YOUTH DON’T HAVE THEIR OWN.

## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

PAINTING THE RETAINING WALL: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2026, YOUTH ARE INVITED TO HELP REPAINT THE RETAINING WALL OUTSIDE OF ST. THOMAS. THE CHURCH HAS EVEN BROUGHT IN SOMEONE TO ORGANIZE AND PLAN IT!



YOUTH TREK 2026: THIS YEAR THE CHINOOK WINDS AND NORTHERN SPIRIT REGION WILL BE HOSTING YOUTH TREK IN CAMROSE ALBERTA DURING OCTOBER 23-25! ALL YOUTH AGES 13-15 ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. SPOTS ARE LIMITED, AND THE TRIP WILL COST ABOUT \$350 (WITH BURSARIES AVAILABLE). FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION: [YOUTHTREK](#)  
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE REACH OUT TO:  
[FIRSTTHIRDMINISTRY@UNITED-CHURCH.CA](mailto:FIRSTTHIRDMINISTRY@UNITED-CHURCH.CA)

UNCHARTED 2027: THOSE AGED 16-17, ARE AGAIN INVITED TO THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT FROM FEBRUARY 12-16 . UNCHARTED IS HOSTED BY THE REGION'S FIRST THIRD MINISTRIES, AND BURSARIES WILL BE AVAILABLE. REGISTRATION IS NOT YET ACTIVE, AND THE LOCATION HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED. FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION: [UNCHARTED](#)  
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PLEASE REACH OUT TO:  
[FIRSTTHIRDMINISTRY@UNITED-CHURCH.CA](mailto:FIRSTTHIRDMINISTRY@UNITED-CHURCH.CA)

## MUSIC NEWS

AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK, THE MUSIC GROUPS LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER. THE TABLE BELOW LISTS THE FIRST FALL PRACTICES FOR EACH GROUP AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE LEADERS. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN ALL GROUPS.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS:

- SEPTEMBER 12, 2026:** ADULT CHOIR ANNUAL ADVANCE AT GHOST LAKE. THE ADULT CHOIR GATHERS TO CATCH UP ON EVERYONE'S SUMMER ADVENTURES, SING THROUGH MUSIC FOR THE COMING YEAR, AND ENJOY A BARBEQUE AT THE END OF THE DAY. CONTACT PAM BAZINET FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.
- NOVEMBER 22, 2026:** COCOA AND CAROLS FOLLOWING THE 'HANGING OF THE GREENS' SERVICE. PLAN TO STAY AFTER CHURCH TO ENJOY SOME HOT CHOCOLATE, GOODIES AND THE CHANCE TO SING SOME CHRISTMAS MUSIC TO KICK OFF THE SEASON.
- NOVEMBER 27, 2026:** FESTIVE VOICES CONCERT. THIS WILL BE A FUND RAISER FOR ST. THOMAS. MARINA THERON-MONNERY AND CURTIS VEER BOTH SING WITH THIS GROUP. COME OUT AND ENJOY THEIR BEAUTIFUL HARMONIES.
- DECEMBER 13, 2026:** ANNUAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHOIRS MUSICAL DURING THE SERVICE
- DECEMBER 24, 2026:** @8:00 PM. ADULT CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA



|                    | PRACTICE TIME                | FIRST FALL PRACTICE | AGES                 | CONTACT                                                                                                |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CHILDREN'S CHOIR   | THURSDAYS<br>6:00 – 7:00 PM  | SEPTEMBER 10, 2026  | ECS – GRADE 6        | KATE POWER<br><a href="mailto:CHILDRENS-CHOIR@STTHOMASUNITED.CA">CHILDRENS-CHOIR@STTHOMASUNITED.CA</a> |
| YOUTH CHOIR        | WEDNESDAYS<br>7:00 – 8:30 PM | SEPTEMBER 9, 2026   | Grade 6 – University | BARB ROBERTSON<br><a href="mailto:barbrob@telus.net">barbrob@telus.net</a>                             |
| ADULT CHOIR        | THURSDAYS<br>7:15 – 9:30 PM  | SEPTEMBER 10, 2026  |                      | PAM BAZINET<br><a href="mailto:PMBAZINET@SHAW.CA">PMBAZINET@SHAW.CA</a>                                |
| ORCHESTRA          | MONDAYS<br>7:00 – 8:30 PM    | SEPTEMBER 14, 2026  |                      | DICK WORTON<br><a href="mailto:dworton@telusplanet.net">dworton@telusplanet.net</a>                    |
| STRUMMERS          | THURSDAYS<br>6:00 – 7:00 PM  | SEPTEMBER 10, 2026  |                      | DAVID GRAY<br><a href="mailto:DAVIDMGI957@GMAIL.COM">DAVIDMGI957@GMAIL.COM</a>                         |
| STRUMMERS OUTREACH | TUESDAYS<br>1:00 PM          | SEPTEMBER 8, 2026   |                      | GEORGE ZIROFF<br><a href="mailto:GEORGEZIROFF@GMAIL.COM">GEORGEZIROFF@GMAIL.COM</a>                    |

## YOUTH CHOIR

THE ST. THOMAS YOUTH CHOIR RETURNS THIS FALL. AS SCHOOLS OFFER FEWER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES, YOUR CHILD, GRANDCHILD, OR NEIGHBOUR CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE YOUTH CHOIR. MUSIC IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART IN OUR LIVES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THIS IS A WIN WIN SITUATION. THE YOUTH GAIN CHORAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THEIR MUSIC DURING CHURCH SERVICES IS A BONUS FOR THE CONGREGATION.

PRACTICES ARE WEDNESDAYS, 7:00-8:30 WITH A FEW CHANGES TO THURSDAYS THIS FALL, AND SOME EXTRA PRACTICES BEFORE OR AFTER CHURCH.

YOUTH FROM GRADE 6 SCHOOL TO UNIVERSITY LEVEL AND BEYOND ARE WELCOME TO JOIN. NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

WE WILL START WORKING ON THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL RIGHT AWAY, "DUDE DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?" BARB ROBERTSON [BARBROB@TELUS.NET](mailto:BARBROB@TELUS.NET)

## ADULT CHOIR

AFTER A WELL ENJOYED SUMMER HIATUS THE ADULT CHOIR WILL START UP AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER WITH OUR FIRST REHEARSAL ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. OUR ANNUAL CHOIR ADVANCE AT GHOST LAKE WILL BE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026. OUR FIRST ANTHEM WILL BE PRESENTED FOR THE WELCOME BACK SERVICE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026.

RESEARCH CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE MESSAGE THAT SINGING IS VERY GOOD FOR BOTH YOUR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH. IT “REDUCES STRESS, ANXIETY, AND DEPRESSION, WHILE BOOSTING MOOD THROUGH THE RELEASE OF ENDORPHINS, DOPAMINE, AND OXYTOCIN”. IT IS A SOCIAL ACTIVITY, IT INVOLVES BREATHING, READING, AND MAKING BEAUTIFUL HARMONY WITH FRIENDS. AND TO TOP IT OFF, IT IS JUST PLAIN FUN! CONSIDER GIVING IT A TRY. SO, WHAT IS THE MOST MUSICAL PART OF A SNAKE? THE SCALES!

AS ALWAYS, NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING, COME 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)

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL GET BACK UP AND RUNNING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026. OUR FIRST ANTHEM WILL BE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026. 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 ORCHESTRA WILL BEGIN REHEARSALS ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SHARING OUR MUSIC WITH THE ST THOMAS FAMILY. THE ORCHESTRA REHEARSES ON MONDAY EVENINGS FROM 7:00PM TO 8:30PM. WE PLAY IN CHURCH ONCE A MONTH.

THE ORCHESTRA IS A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING GROUP. IF YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT AT ANY LEVEL AND WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, YOU WOULD BE VERY 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 DAVID GRAY. [DAVIDMGI957@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DAVIDMGI957@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](mailto:MUSIC-TEAM@STTHOMASUNITED.CA) OR TALK TO ELAINE TAYLOR-KERR.

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLOISTS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

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## CITY WIDE THEN LET US SING CONCERT – SEPTEMBER 11, 2026

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.

North Calgary Cluster



Learn More



SAVE THE DATE



Then Let Us  
**SING!**

**September 11 | 7:00 pm**

*A City Wide  
gathering for the  
whole community*

Hosted at **McDougall United Church**  
(8516 Athabasca St SE, Calgary)

## AM FITNESS

A.M. FUN AND FITNESS RETURNS TO ST. THOMAS SEPTEMBER 11, 2026, A HYBRID ONLINE/IN PERSON EXERCISE WORKOUT FOR ARMS, LEGS, BUTTS, CORE, CARDIO, STRETCHING....LOOK AFTER YOURSELF. JOIN US.

MONDAYS 9:00 AM ONLINE

WEDNESDAYS 9:30 AM IN PERSON

FRIDAYS 9:00 AM ONLINE

PLEASE NOTE THAT TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

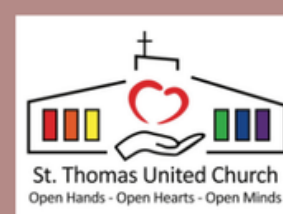
[BARBROB@TELUS.NET](mailto:BARBROB@TELUS.NET) (BARB)

[PMBAZINET@SHAW.CA](mailto:PMBAZINET@SHAW.CA) (PAM)

## PRIMETIMERS

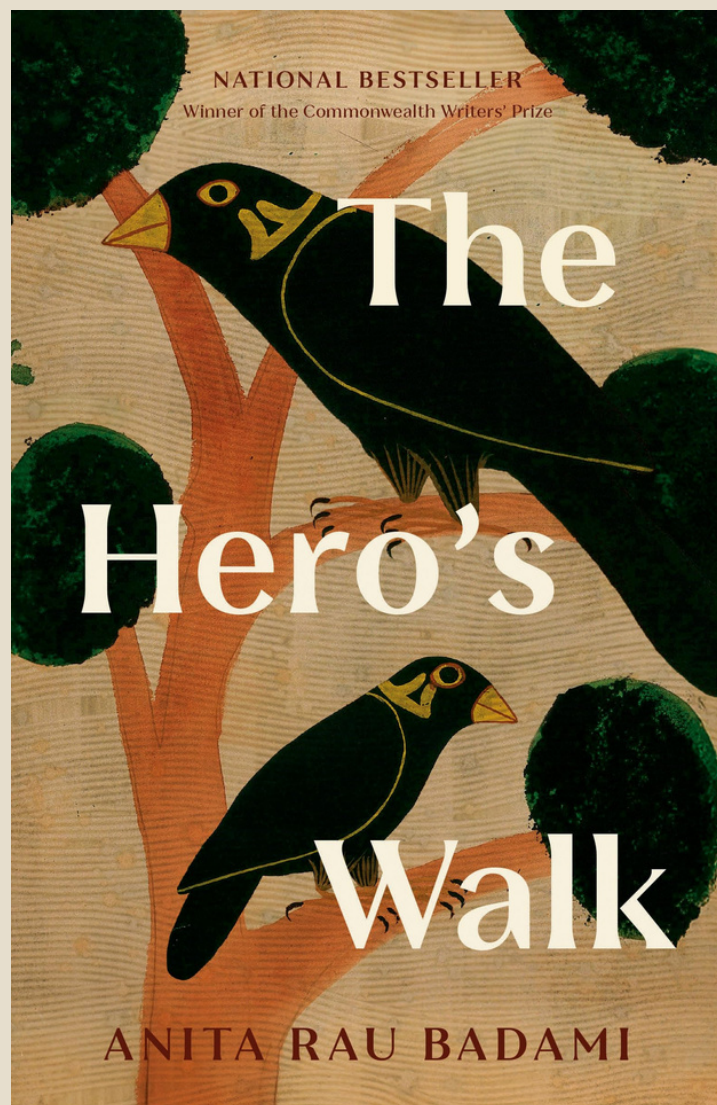
PRIMETIMERS COFFEE TIME - THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 3RD AT 10 AM  
JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION IN  
THE NARTHEX  
CONTACT: BETTY THOMPSON 403 246-5373  
[BETSJET@TELUSPLANET.NET](mailto:BETSJET@TELUSPLANET.NET)

*Primetimers Coffee time  
begins again on Thursday,  
September 3 at 10:00 am.  
2026,*

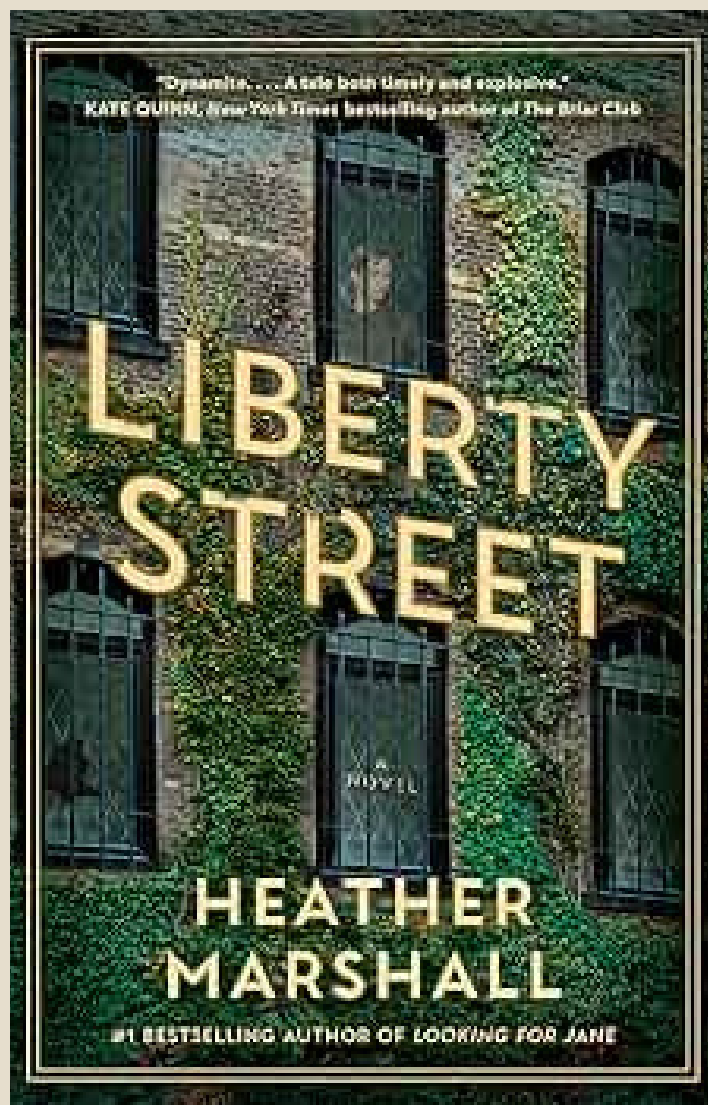


## ST. THOMAS BOOK CLUB - RACHEL MURRY

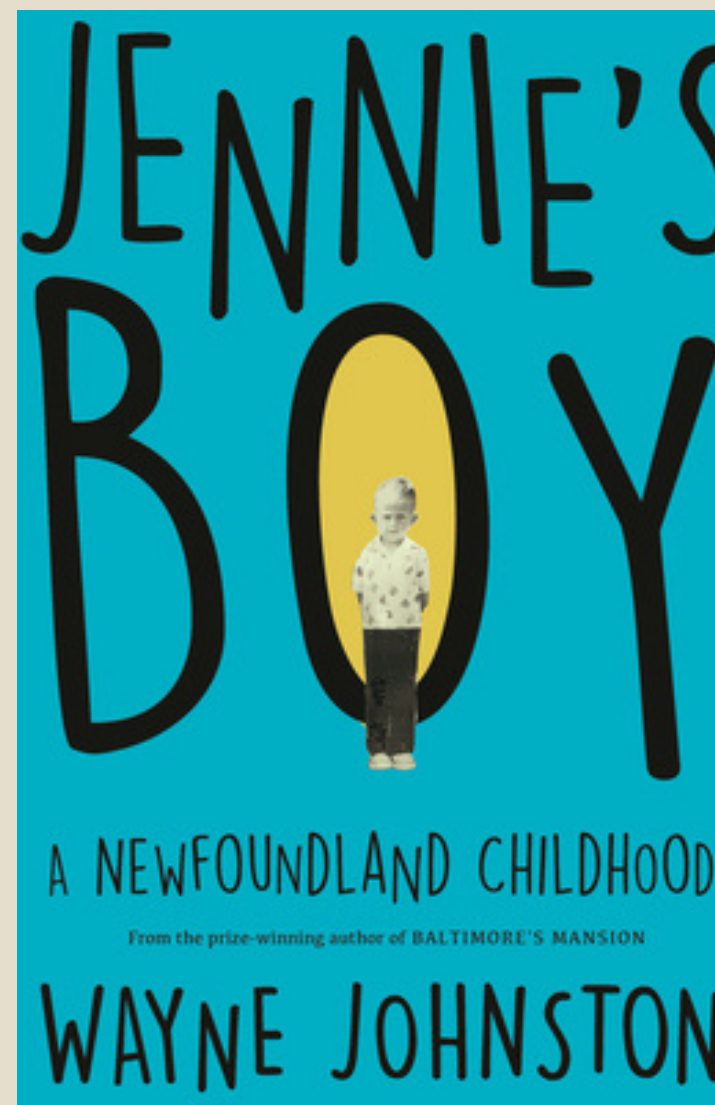
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RACHEL AT [RACHELMURRAY@SHAW.CA](mailto:rachelmurray@shaw.ca)  
NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! MEETS EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
AT 6:30 PM ON ZOOM.  
MEETS EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 6:30 PM ON ZOOM.  
THIS YEAR'S BOOK CHOICES ARE:



September 2026



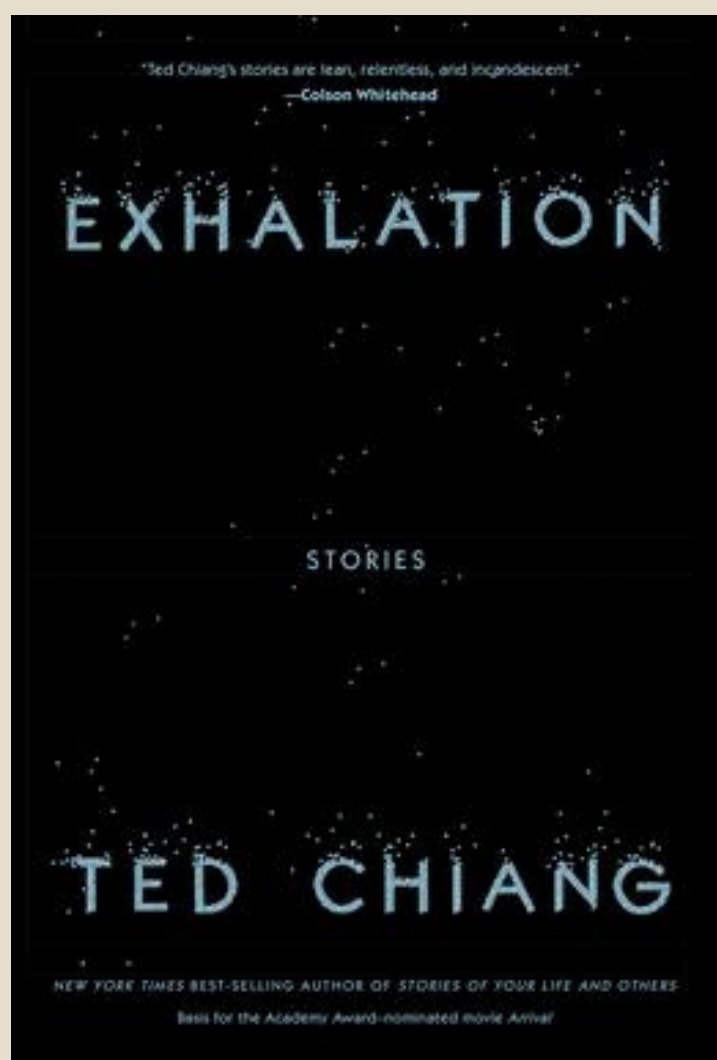
October 2026



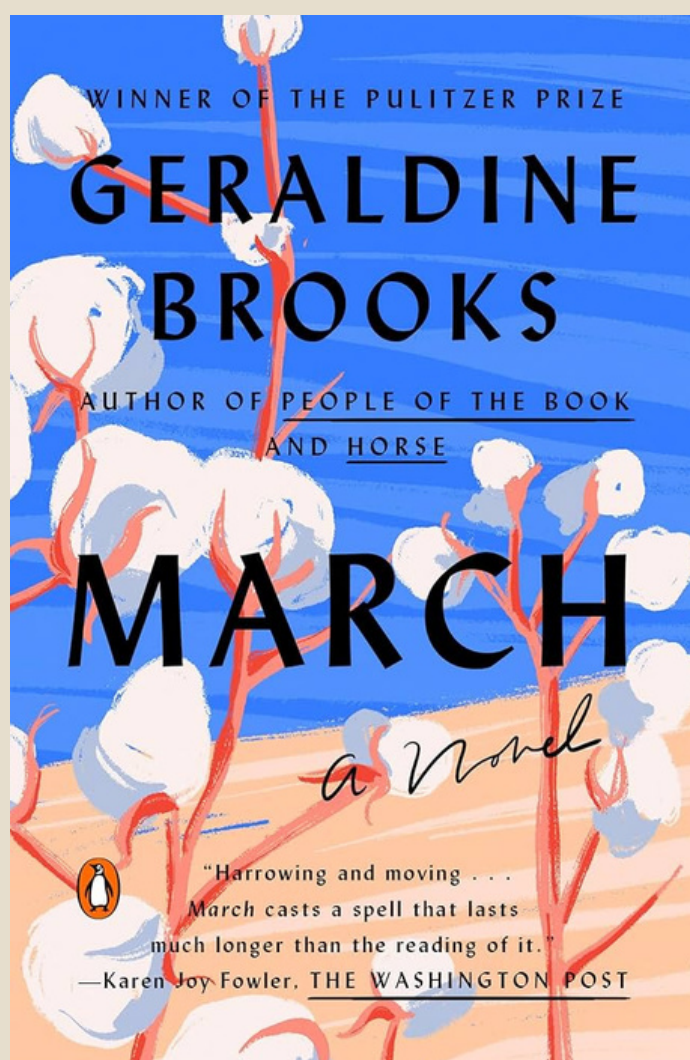
November 2026



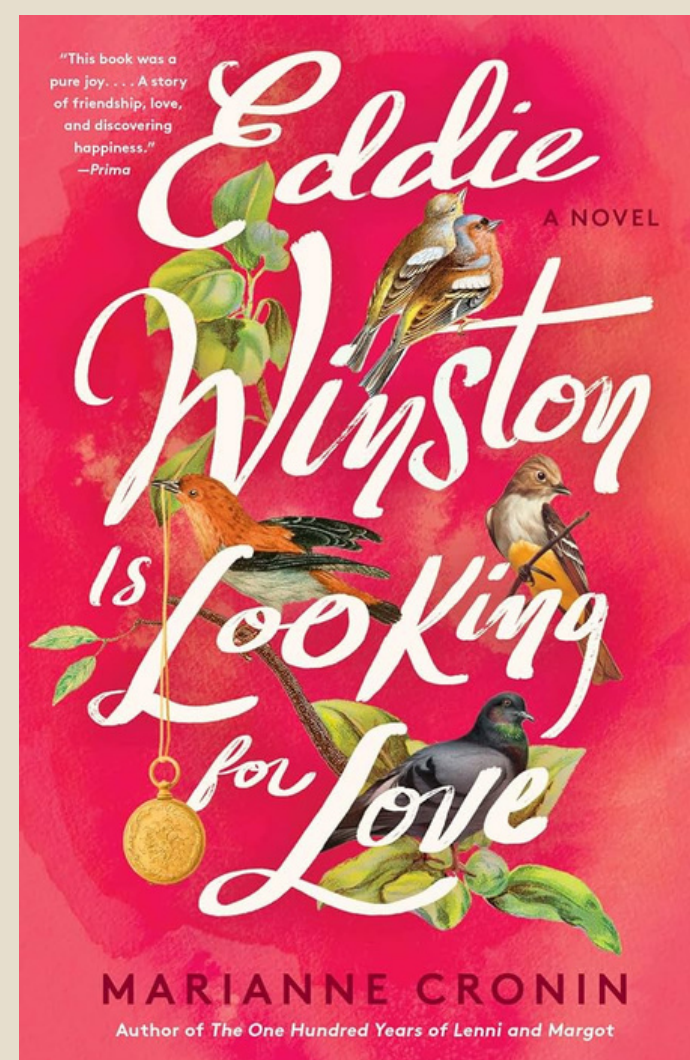
January 2027



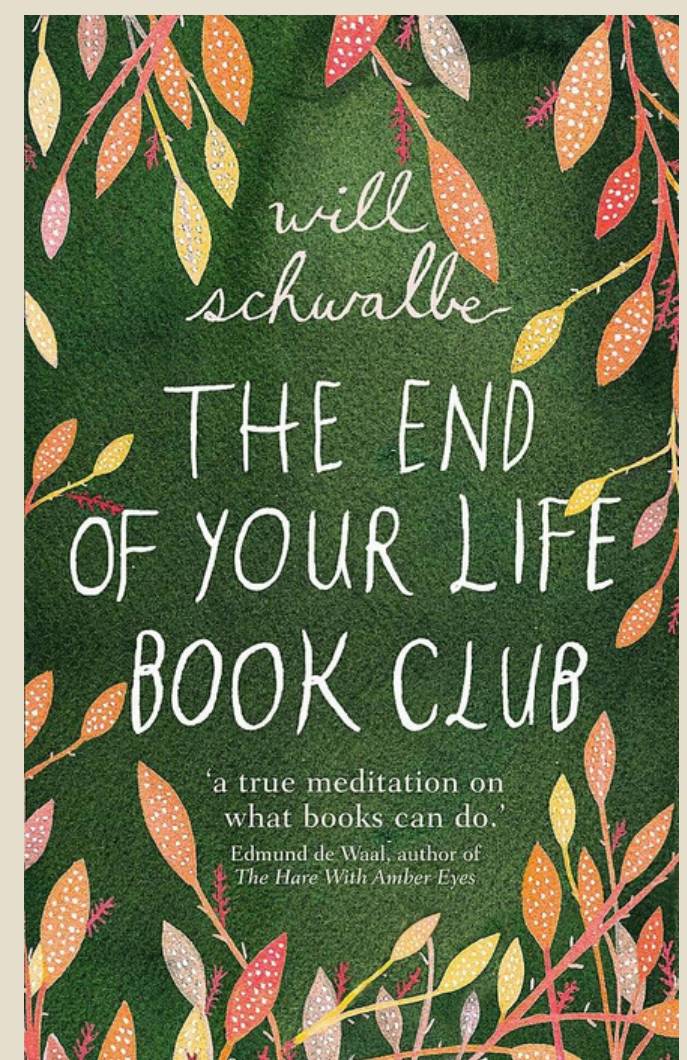
February 2027



March 2027



April 2027



May 2027

## BACK TO THE FUTURE EVENT INFORMATION

ON MAY 30, THERE WAS A CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP WITH THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING IDEAS AND INFORMATION TO SUPPORT PLANNING FOR FUTURE OF ST. THOMAS. THE NOTES FROM THIS SESSION ARE AVAILABLE ON THE ST. THOMAS WEBSITE AT [PLANNING TEAM – ST THOMAS UNITED CHURCH NW CALGARY](#) THERE ARE ALSO A FEW PRINTED COPIES AVAILABLE ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.