

October 2018



Community Guide

Fall edition

Vibrant

Inclusive

Progressive

**Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9**

115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto. 416-406-6228

45 Years of MCC Toronto

Following a request to start a MCC in Toronto, Rev. Bob Wolfe arrived in the city and held our first worship service with 12 people on July 17, 1973. Rev. John Ayers briefly replaced Rev. Wolfe in 1977. In August of that year, Rev. Brent Hawkes became our senior pastor and served for 40 years. In February, Rev. Jeff Rock became the fourth senior pastor in our history.

In 1985 we bought our first church building at 2029 Gerrard Street East and moved into it on December 8. We were the very first lesbian and gay organization in Canada to own our own property! In 1991 we moved into our current home at 115 Simpson Avenue.

In response to our growing numbers we added a 9:00 a.m. service in the spring of 1994. Our evening service was added to our Sunday worship schedule about a decade later. So many people attend our Christmas Eve and Pride Day services that we



must move off-site to locations that can better accommodate the crowds.

We have always fought for equality. In 1986 we supported Bill 7, adding sexual orientation to the Ontario Human Rights Code. In 1994 we supported Bill 167 in favour of equal rights. In 1996 we went to the Supreme Court of Canada in support of same sex spousal recognition under the Old Age Security Act. In 2001, we held the first legal same-sex marriages anywhere in the world.

Our church is 45 and our Denomination is 50!

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Need help?

Deacons provide the care and support **you're seeking.**

Contact one of our deacons today by email or telephone.

416-406-6228 x 114

deacons@mcctoronto.com

Don't Miss!

October 8

Thanksgiving Dinner

October 10

Bridges to Hope & Freedom

October 14

MCC 50th Anniversary

October 14

Blessing of the Animals

October 15

Pastor's Pub

October 21

First Responders Appreciation

October 21

Fall Vespers

October 26

Movie Night

November 11

Remembrance Vespers

November 24

Christmas Concert

Music Ministry

Explore your spirituality through song, engage deeply with worship and build community with other members.



The Choir supports two services on Sunday morning as well as Pride and Christmas Eve at Roy Thomson Hall. The style of music ranges from traditional “church” to theatre, gospel and pop music. We are always looking for new members to join us.

We are a congenial group with a mandate to make great music and have fun and social time as well. You do not have to be able to read music. All you need is a love a music, reasonable singing skills and the desire to be part of a choir experience.

Contact: music@mcctoronto.com

Rehearsals are Thursdays 7:00 p.m. and one Saturday a month at 9:00 a.m.

Acts 29

Gathering every Sunday afternoon to prepare the music for MCC Toronto’s Elevation service, this energetic group of singers and musicians brings an intimate sound to our evening worship service. acts29@mcctoronto.com
Rehearsals Sunday 4:00 p.m.



Jazz Vespers at MCC Toronto is a long running and critically acclaimed music series that brings a different kind of warmth and soul to our Sanctuary. Previous performances have attracted large crowds and generous donations for this pay-what-you-can event. Don’t miss this inspired musical afternoon featuring some of the best jazz musicians in Toronto. Our next Jazz Vespers is coming up October 21.

Christmas with The Choir

Special guests: Heather Bambrick, Dale Miller and Pride and Joy



One night only!

November 24, 7:30 p.m.

115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto, M4K 1A1

Jazz Vespers

Fall Edition

Sunday October 21, 4:00 p.m.

with

Julie Michels, Ted Quinln
and Friends

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
115 Simpson Avenue M4K 1A1

Refugee Ministry

We provide support, hope and safety to anyone who fears persecution, violence or risk to their lives based on their gender identity, gender expression and/or sexuality. Our Peer Support program has served over 2400 refugee claimants through one of the most stressful times of their lives by providing letters of support for their hearings, emotional and spiritual care when they request it, peer support, information sessions and resources to **navigate Canada's welfare, social and health systems, and much more.**

Our Private Sponsorship and Settlement program has sponsored and helped resettle 29 LGBTQ+ refugees who fear or have experienced persecution, torture or risk of their lives in their home countries.

BECOME A PARTICIPANT!

Are you an inland LGBTQ+ refugee claimant seeking assistance? Join us for monthly Peer Support meetings: 4th Sunday of the month, 12:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary at 115 Simpson Avenue.

Registration and Orientation: Mondays at 1:00 p.m.

Information sessions: Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Are you a passionate about social justice? Do you wish to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of LGBTQ people fleeing persecution? Volunteer with us! Contact refugeepeersupport@mcctoronto.com

FORM A SETTLEMENT TEAM!

Are you interested in investing your time, resources and talents to help resettle LGBTQ+ refugees? refugeesettlement@mcctoronto.com

Celebrate With Us!

We build bridges that transform lives and transforms the world. Our refugee programs provide services and hope to LGBTQ+ people fleeing persecution. We receive hundreds of pleas for help from people all over the world. Thousands of refugees have already made their way to Toronto and they need our help now.

Wednesday, October 10

6:00 reception | 7:00 program

2018

Bridges to

Hope & Freedom

in support of Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

Celebrating our refugee programs

Tickets are \$50.00 each at www.mcctoronto.com/bridges

2018 Event
Sponsors



MUSIC
PATRON

Battista Smith Migration Law Group
Monte-Lisi & Smith

Children & Families Ministry

The Children and Family Ministry creates meaningful connections with each other, our families, communities and God.



Nursery

We begin nurturing connection and community with our Nursery program. Our Nursery staff know the importance of providing a safe and secure space for our youngest to experience a place of love. Staff are trained professionals and welcome all infants on Sunday morning.

Children's Church

This dynamic worship oriented experience allows children to fully experience themselves within community and in relationships with their friends and God. With the use of wooden figures, stories unfold and come to life each week in ways that engage children's natural curiosity, creativity and wonder. Together we are helping children develop a belief system informed by knowledge, diverse spiritual practises and a touch of the holy.

For more information, contact Andrew at aholmes@mcctoronto.com



Children's Church

Sunday mornings at 11:00

November 18, 11:00 a.m.

LET THE CHILDREN
COME TO ME

Children's Sunday

at MCC Toronto



Worship

Celebrate God's love every Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m.

October

Sunday October 7, 2018

Seasons of Creation—Earth. Rev. Jeff Rock explores the sacred planet and our place on it.

Sunday October 14, 2018

Rev. Bruce Lee from MCC London joins us as we celebrate 50 years of Metropolitan Community Churches!

Sunday October 21, 2018

Chief Police Mark Saunders joins us with emergency personnel from across the city for our annual First Responders Appreciation service at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday October 28, 2018

Rev. Jeff Rock preaches at all three of our Sunday services.

November

Sunday November 4, 2018

We welcome Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow from MCC Detroit for our All **Saint's Day** service.

Sunday November 11, 2018

Our annual Remembrance Day service includes a Veterans Processional and a congregational moment of silence.

Sunday November 18, 2018

Love your inner child as Rev. Jeff Rock leads our first **Children's Sunday**.

Sunday November 25, 2018

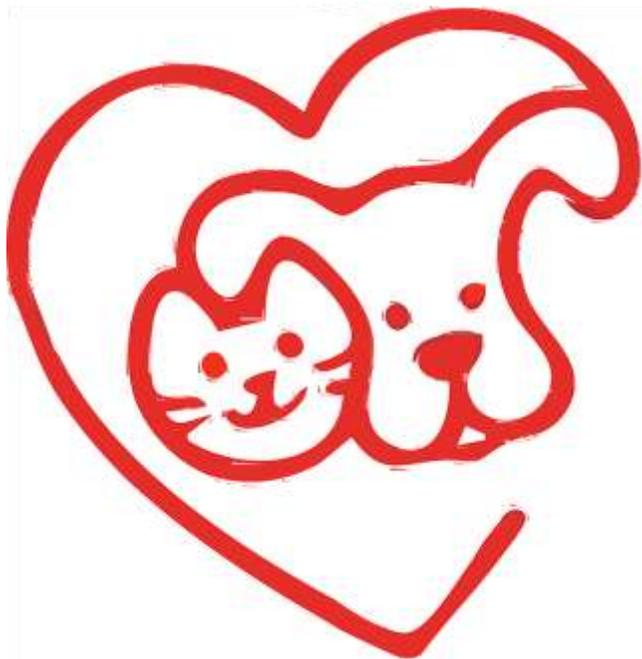
Rev. Jeff Rock inspires us with a Lesson for Life about the Reign of Christ.

Worship

Our Denomination's Anniversary

50 YEARS
...just the beginning!

Join us on Sunday October 14 as we celebrate 50 years of Metropolitan Community Churches!



October 14, 3:00
You and your furred/
feathered/scaled friends
are invited to our Blessing
of the Animals service!

On this special occasion, MCC
Toronto is a house of prayer for all
creatures great and small!

Blessing of the Animals

Worship

December

Sunday December 2, 2018

Recognizing World AIDS Day, we hang our congregational memorial AIDS Quilts around the church.

December 9, 2018

Join us Sunday evening for our annual Lessons & Carols candlelight service.

December 16, 2018

The third week of Advent is all about Joy. Wear pink and join us for Rev. Jeff Rock's sermon: **Joy Like A Blossom.**

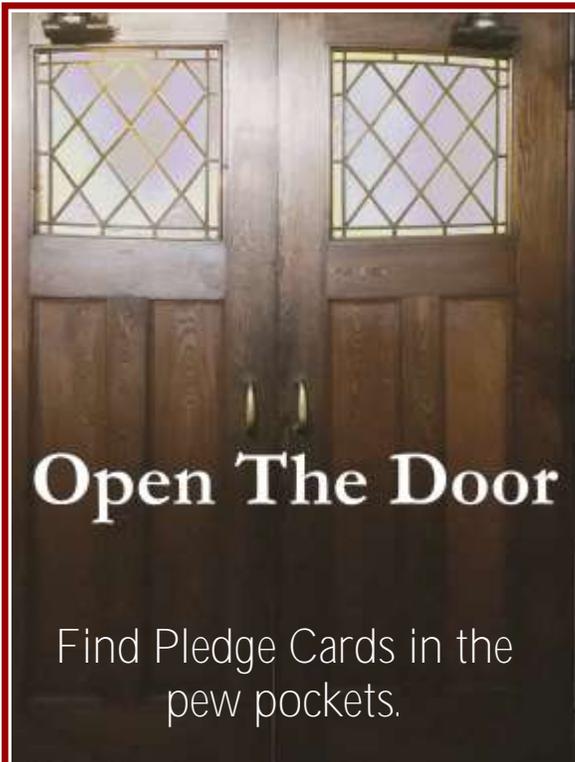
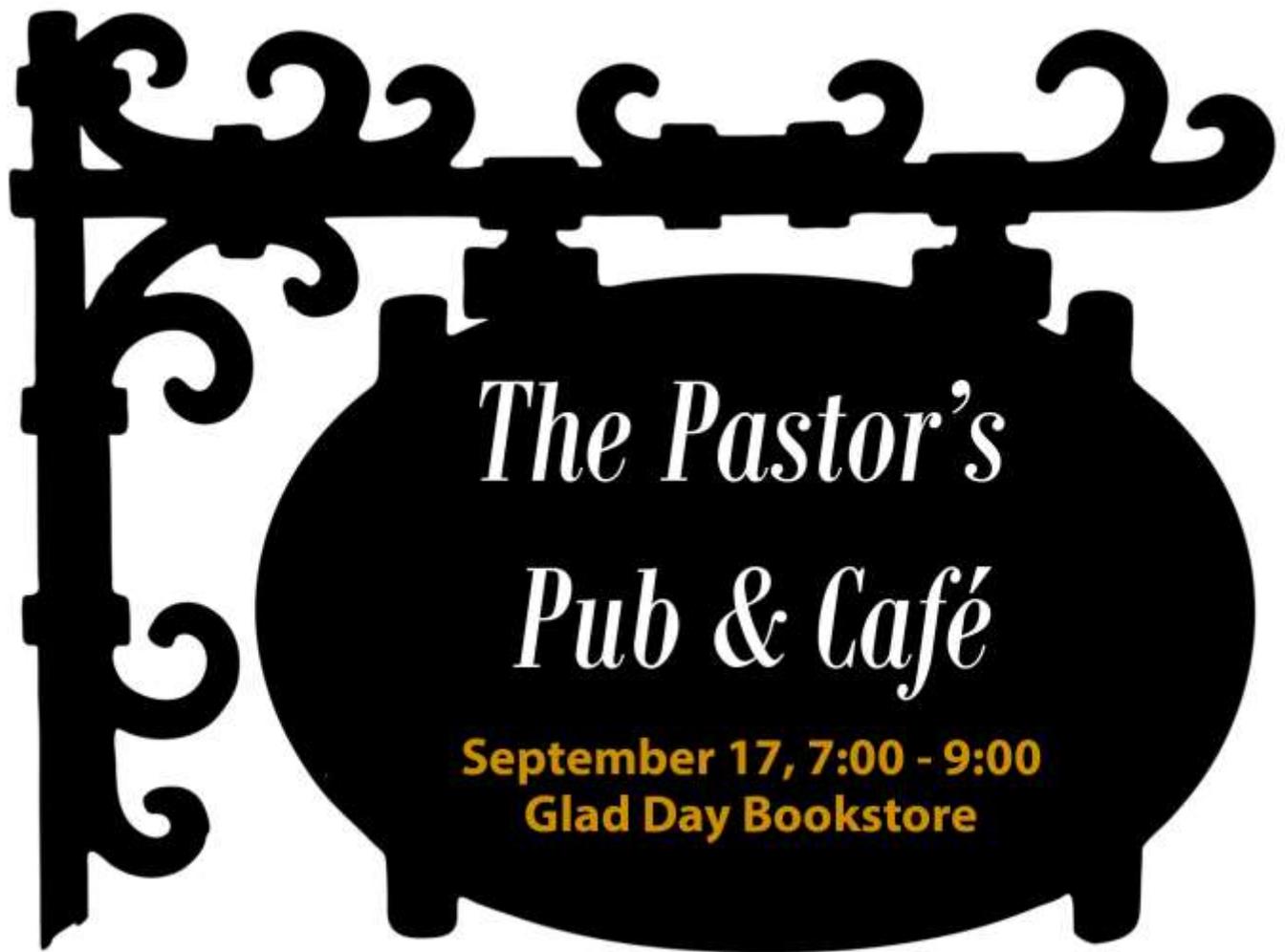
December 23, 2018

Christmas is not always filled with tidings of joy and peace. Join us as we observe Blue Christmas at our evening service.

December 24, 2018

MCC Toronto's Christmas Eve at Roy Thomson Hall





Our doors are powerful symbols. Some see our doors as a portal to great potential, others see them as a barrier. Life-changing decisions are made the first time someone walks through our doors. For some, this transition comes with fear, for others, joy. For all, the change is made easier by us, **those who've passed through these doors** before. We are called to welcome the searcher, assist the marginalized, celebrate with the joyful and encourage the fearful. We are called to steward over our sanctuary so others can experience God's love.

Volunteer opportunities for all

See our volunteer postings at our website!

Give time

Learn skills

make friends

Help people

volunteer.mcctoronto.com

How will you transform lives and transform the world?

Do you want to donate some of your time to our spiritual community? Are you ready to learn a new skill or maybe teach an old one?

There are so many wonderful ways to get involved with the community at MCC Toronto. You can help in the garden, serve dinner at a community meal, greet people at our reception desk or help us continue to deliver an **amazing Life Long Learning program**. As you'll see on the following pages, your choices are practically limitless.

Volunteering is not only a great way to give back to your community. It's also a great way to practise love and kindness every day, make new friends, and feel better about yourself. So get involved!

Get involved with leadership!

Develop & strengthen your skills

Administration and Finance Share your skills in organization and business administration to help us improve our capacity. sbereka@mcctoronto.com

Communications Team Are you good at writing, design, or visual art? Do you spend hours every day on Social Media? Have you got the gift of gab? Have you got a lot of great stories about MCC Toronto? Join us and improve our communications! kpape@mcctoronto.com

Facilities Team Help improve and maintain our building to ensure we offer a safe and welcoming space. Join us every week for Facilities Wednesday as we all spend a few morning hours on a project in the church. nyuzefowich@mcctoronto.com

Giving Team Help our congregation grow in its understanding of the spiritual and relationship dimensions of giving. Become a MCC Toronto Giving Team Ambassador and share your love of MCC Toronto! kcoutu@mcctoronto.com

Worship Technology Our worship services are enhanced by good sound, good visual arts and seamless projections. Are you tech minded? audiovideo@mcctoronto.com

Multimedia: Do you use PowerPoint at work? Do you love beautiful pictures? Then you can enhance our worship by designing or operating our worship slides—the “stained glass” of 21st century worship! Both designers and operators are needed. We provide extensive training. Operators are expected to be at church from 8:00 to 12:30 when they're on shift. Designers can work from home! multimedia@mcctoronto.com

Get involved with friends!

Social, Spiritual & Wellness groups at MCC Toronto.

Drag 'N Angels is our recreational co-ed crew consisting of a group of dedicated paddlers who are committed to working as a team for fellowship, fun and fitness while preparing for regattas across Ontario.

dragnangels@mcctoronto.com

Ever Wonder...? is a progressive group that meets on Thursdays to discuss Universal Consciousness and Transformation. wonder@mcctoronto.com

MCCTYA is a fantastic social group for young adults. In addition to occasional social outings and service projects, members of MCCTYA (ages 18-39) will sometimes meet for Coffee Shop gatherings, movie nights and faith discussions. youngadults@mcctoronto.com

Movie Night is hosted by our Social Justice Network on the last Friday of every month. \$10 admissions fee is requested but not required.

Pastor's Pub Join Reverend Jeff Rock for drinks and discussion every month at the Glad Day Book Store on Church Street.

3rd Mondays | 7:00 p.m. | Glad Day Book Store

Prayer Walks and Online Prayer is a prayer group that meets for a monthly prayer walk on Church Street. prayerwalks@mcctoronto.com

Soulful Worship and Praise (SWAP) worship in the styles of the Caribbean and African diaspora. swap@mcctoronto.com

T.R.E.A.T. (Trans Resource Education and Advocacy Team) is an open group centered on the Trans community. We serve as a prayer and support group focusing our activities on social interaction, education and outreach. We meet every second Sunday of the month in the Welcome Centre from 12:30-2:30 p.m. treat@mcctoronto.com

Get involved with welcoming!

Practise radical hospitality at MCC Toronto.

Greeters & Ushers welcome people as they arrive to worship on Sundays and help them navigate the space. ushersandgreeters@mcctoronto.com

Hospitality Ministry is a team of caring volunteers who welcome congregants with food and beverage services. This includes Café Connection after our morning services, Community Meals, concerts and other special events held at MCC Toronto. hospitality@mcctoronto.com

Sunday Information Centre provides details about the church, our programs, membership and all that we have to offer each Sunday after our services. Volunteers on our team are given training and the chance to meet many of our congregants and work with a positive team. The commitment to be part of this team is very reasonable! You will be assigned to one hour of service on a regular Sunday per month after one of our worship services. infocentre@mcctoronto.com

Triangle Cooks MCC Toronto houses an amazing high school for kids exploring their LGBTQ identity. Not only are these wonderful students treated to an enriched education program and a vibrant and supportive community, but they also get a hot lunch prepared and served to them by **volunteers every day!** If you'd like to help cook a weekly meal for a crowd of about 30 hungry teenagers, please send an email to Alice Martin Ellwood, alice.martinellwood@tdsb.on.ca

Weekday Welcome Desk is an **important part of MCC Toronto's** communication network. As the Welcome Desk greeter/receptionist, yours is the first face or voice that the visitor or caller will see or hear. It is very rewarding to be that person. This is a great position with someone who has some free time during the week. office@mcctoronto.com

Get involved with worship!

Explore your spirituality

Join the leadership of worship and meet other team members and congregants! Volunteers usually commit to one Sunday shift a month and contribute as part of a team.

Altar Guild **We wait on God's table! Help prepare the altar and communion elements for worship.** Carry the cross and candles during the procession. Schedule: Sundays and special services.

Anointers & Communion Servers are God's vessels, offering God's gift of healing and serving God's communion meal. Experience the mystery and beauty of these rituals and share God's blessings with the world.

Lectors Lift up your voice and read scripture and other sources of wisdom during the service.

Ushers & Greeters Greet people as they arrive to worship and help them navigate the space. Collect the offering during the service. Volunteers are asked to make a reliable commitment to the team. Greeting people, handing out our Sunday News, directing for Anointing and inviting and directing for Communion. We are the first impression people have as they arrive for worship.

Volunteer Orientation is on the first Sunday of every month at 12:30 in Room 109. Join us for a brief orientation session to find out how to get involved with volunteer opportunities at MCC Toronto. Our worship teams need extra support at this time, so please step up and lend a hand.

Volunteer for any of our worship team by sending an email to Andrew Holmes, aholmes@mcctoronto.com

Get involved with peace!

Peace, justice & environmental groups at MCC Toronto.

Depression Initiative provides support for dealing with depression, anxiety and stress. A new group is beginning November 11. To hear the details and find out about the perspectives and tools offered in the group, a free luncheon is being held on Sunday, October 28, in Room 109 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. For registration and information, email your name and phone number to depressioninitiative@mcctoronto.com

Garden Fairies beautify the exterior landscape of the church! Get your hands dirty and help nurture creation. Gardening is a gentle and mindful experience that promotes better fitness. This group is active right now, preparing the grounds for Winter, so contact us right away to join our exciting gardening projects! garden@mcctoronto.com

Peace and Justice Strategy Team identifies and responds to the social justice priorities of our congregation, supports and collaborates with existing ministries within our church, and fosters connections to broader communities of faith and justice. We meet regularly to discuss activities and strategy. pjst@mcctoronto.com

Social Justice Network members are all individually involved with and advocate for specific issues that personally motivate us, including LGBTQ+ issues, prisoner rights, the use and misuse of water, trans issues, indigenous issues and immigration issues. We meet every third Sunday of the month in the Welcome Centre from 12:45-2:15 p.m. socialjustice@mcctoronto.com

The Thrift Shop directs good used (sometimes new) items to people that need them at a reasonable price. Our work helps the environment, the church, and people we love, all at the same time. Visit us on Sunday morning in the upper Social Hall. thriftshop@mcctoronto.com

Fall Activities List

Please reference the following calendars for the dates of upcoming events..

Advent—Read about the four Sundays preceding Christmas on page 10.

Blessing of the Animals—October 14 at 3:00. More details on page 9.

Bridges to Hope & Freedom—Celebrating our Refugee Ministry: page 5.

Christmas Concert—See page 3 for more details.

Christmas Eve—Our 29th annual celebration at Roy Thomson Hall.

Depression Initiative Luncheon—Info session on October 28. Page 17.

Ever Wonder...?—Weekly spiritual discussion group. Details on page 14.

First Responders Appreciation—details on page 8.

Jazz Vespers—The best jazz musicians in the city. See page 2 for more info.

MCC 50th Anniversary—October 14. Details on page 8.

Movie Night—7:00 p.m. on the last Friday of each month. See page 14.

Meditation—Every Tuesday! Registration: aholmes@mcctoronto.com

Pastor's Pub—Third Monday every month! Check page 14 for details.

Membership Class—Contact membership@mcctoronto.com for details.

Refugee Info—Peer support with our Refugee Ministry. See page 4.

Refugee Orientation—Registration with our Refugee Ministry. Page 4.

Refugee Peer Support—4th Sunday of every month at 12:45.

Remembrance Day—November 11 at 11:00. See page 8.

Thanksgiving Dinner—October 8 at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Thrift Shop Advent Sale—**It's Christmas Time Again! Sunday mornings.**

Volunteer Orientation—First Sunday of the month at 12:30 in Room 109.

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Refugee Orientation	2 Meditation	3 Refugee Info	4 Ever Wonder?	5	6
7 Volunteer Orientation	8 Thanksgiving Dinner	9 Meditation	10 Bridges to Hope & Freedom	11 Ever Wonder?	12	13
14 MCC 50th Blessing of the Animals	15 Refugee Orientation Pastor's Pub	16 Meditation	17 Refugee Info	18 Ever Wonder?	19	20
21 First Responders Appreciation Jazz Vespers Membership	22 Refugee Orientation	23 Meditation	24 Refugee Info	25 Ever Wonder?	26 Movie Night	27
28 Refugee Peer Support Depression	29 Refugee Orientation	30 Meditation	31 Refugee Info			

November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Ever Wonder?	2	3
4 Membership Reception Volunteer Orientation	5 Refugee Orientation	6 Meditation	7 Refugee Info	8 Ever Wonder?	9	10
11 Remembrance Day Jazz Vespers	12 Refugee Orientation	13 Meditation	14 Refugee Info	15 Ever Wonder?	16	17
18	19 Refugee Orientation	20 Meditation	21 Refugee Info	22 Ever Wonder?	23	24 Christmas Concert
25 Refugee Peer Support Thrift Shop Advent Sale	26 Refugee Orientation	27 Meditation	28 Refugee Info	29 Ever Wonder?	30 Movie Night	

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 AIDS Quilts Volunteer Orientation	3 Refugee Orientation	4 Meditation	5 Refugee Info	6 Ever Wonder?	7	8
9 Lessons & Carols Advent Sale	10 Refugee Orientation	11 Meditation	12 Refugee Info	13 Ever Wonder?	14	15
16 Jazz Vespers	17 Refugee Orientation	18 Meditation	19 Refugee Info	20 Ever Wonder?	21	22
23 Blue Christmas Refugee Peer Support	24 Christmas Eve service	25	26	27 Ever Wonder?	28	29
30	31					

You're Invited

Join us on October 8, for
Thanksgiving Day Celebration.

Dinner will be served at 2:00 p.m



Location: Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
115 Simpson Avenue M4K 1A1