

The Query

eNews for the MCC Toronto community

MCC Toronto



“Thank you’ is the best prayer that anyone could say.”

– Alice Walker

Our Heartfelt Gratitude



Dear Friends,

It is with full heart and deep gratitude that I write to thank our faith family for their extraordinary response to MCC Toronto's **Respond Restore Renew Campaign**. In the weeks and months following our Year-End Appeal launch in mid-October, we shared stories

of how we've responded to community members in need, we outlined the services and programs we were looking to restore and reflected on what we hope to renew in the future. Through it all, you - our congregants and members - responded. Generously. With heart. And with a collective excitement for a better future for all of us.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

I am happy to report that not only did we achieve our hoped-for Campaign goal of \$125,000, but we exceeded it! In total, the **Respond Restore Renew Campaign** raised a remarkable \$151,452. Thanks to your incredible generosity, MCC Toronto is heading into 2022 in a strong financial position that will ensure our spiritual and human rights work can continue to grow and flourish.

While we won't have a final 2021 financial statement to share with you until later this spring following a formal audit, please know that your support of our Year-End Appeal and your continued faith in the important work we do means so much to all of us.

Cheers & Blessings,

Rev. Jeff Rock,
Senior Pastor

An Update from Rev. Junia Joplin

Grace + Peace, y'all...

After I share the Lesson for Life on Sunday, January 23, you probably won't be seeing much of me for the next couple of months. On that Sunday afternoon, I'll be traveling out of province to undergo transition related surgery. I'll be recovering at a convalescence center until early February, at which point I'll be heading home to Toronto to continue my recovery at home. I'm planning to be on medical leave for 8 to 12 weeks, depending on how my recovery goes.

During my recovery time, I won't be at work. I won't be in the office or working from home. I won't be responding to work-related calls or emails. However, I recognize that a faith community like MCC Toronto is a place of care and support, and, as part of that community, I'm open to receiving that care and support.

Trans people like me may pursue a variety of transition related surgeries, depending on their identities, resources, how they feel about their bodies, overall health, and other factors. Not every trans person chooses to undergo transition related surgery, but for those who do, the procedures are essential and life-saving treatments for gender dysphoria. And while the state of trans healthcare in Canada needs significant improvements, a few transition related surgeries are covered by provincial healthcare.

Trans people often come away from transition related surgeries feeling elated about the results, and feeling at home in their bodies like never before. I'm looking forward to that

feeling, and I'm hoping you'll be praying for me during my time away. In particular, I'd appreciate prayers for no complications, steady healing, and good mental health while I'm homebound.

If you'd like to celebrate with me and wish me well, I hope you'll log in to the virtual shower that's being planned via zoom – next Friday, January 21 at 7:00 pm.

JOIN THE VIRTUAL SHOWER

Meeting ID: 858 2492 5912

Passcode: 749503

In gratitude for your prayers & support,

Rev. Junia Joplin,
Associate Pastor

New Mid-Week Worship Series



Our Mid-week Worship is taking on a new format with a **#SpiritualStretch** and **#MidWeekmoment** posted every Wednesday at noon hour across our social media channels. Share this video with your friends and family to help us build our following.

Follow @MCCToronto on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or TikTok for more exciting and inspirational videos!

Sunday Service Musical Guests

This Sunday our musical guests, Alana Bridgewater and Andrew Prashad are performing a duet!

Alana Bridgewater is a singer/songwriter who discovered her love of performing at a very early age. Alana is best known for her performance as Killer Queen in the Mirvish production of *We Will Rock You*. She was also featured in *Hannibal* (NBC) as Denise, the feisty orderly.

Her most recent credits include *Spoon River* (Soulpepper); *Shrek: The Musical* (The Grand Theatre, London); *Hairspray* (Charlottetown Festival); *Smokey Joe's Café* (StageWest Mississauga and Calgary); *In a Jam* (CBC Television); Women's Blues Revue, Toronto; CBC Gospel Christmas Special (CBC Television / National Arts Centre); *Menopause Out Loud* (Toronto).



She has sung backup vocals for Carvin Winans and Johnny Reid and The Arkells, was a featured performer on the MCC Toronto choir's CD "Connected: Songs for the Heart," and has recorded two solo albums, "A Beautiful Christmas" and "Horizon."

Andrew Prashad is a solidly trained and versatile dancer, musician, singer, composer, writer and actor. He is one of the leading tap dance artists in Canada, teaching and choreographing around the world.

His self-produced *2: A Short Film* was officially selected to show in 12 festivals around the world and has won four awards, including Best Short Film.

He was a featured singer and dancer on the 20th Anniversary World Tour of *Riverdance*, and has played Cogsworth in Young People's Theatre's *Beauty and the Beast*, Billy in *Once* at Theatre St John's in Newfoundland, and Boutons in Neptune Theatre's *Cinderella* (Merritt Award, *Outstanding Supporting Actor*). He also originated the role of Jonas in *Jukebox Hero* at the Ed Mirvish Theatre.



He recently finished doing *Holiday Inn* at the Shaw Festival and is preparing to tour his multi-medium one-person show *One Step at a Time*, which chronicles his family's journey with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. It has been presented by numerous schools and theatres, raising \$11,500 (to date) for SickKids Hospital and ErinOak Kids.

Andrew is a graduate of the University of Toronto at Mississauga, with Honours Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theatre and Performance as well as French Literature.

January 16 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE](#)

Congregational Care



It's hard to stay connected during the pandemic, but taking care of each other is more important than ever. Did you know that the best way to connect with our clergy team for care is on our website?

By completing the online request form below our Congregational Care team will quickly respond and provide the support you or someone you know needs.

[SUBMIT FORM HERE](#)



MCC Toronto is looking for 5 volunteer Digital Ushers to serve on a once-a-month basis as a welcoming online moderator for either our online or livestreamed Worship Services.

Digital Ushers are volunteers proficient in YouTube chat who will act as goodwill ambassadors during the live broadcast of our Services. Ushers will welcome viewers to the Service, respond to enquiries and questions, and create a warm and participatory experience for all. Full training will be provided. Sign up to be a Digital Usher today.

REGISTER NOW

**Become a
Monthly Donor**



MCC Toronto is enormously grateful for the support of over 300+ donors who contribute to our work and mission through our monthly giving program.

Interested in starting the year by joining our family of monthly donors? Contact giving@mcctoronto.com

**Online Programming
January 16 - 22**

JAN

16 - 22

SUNDAY 16

11 AM - Online Sunday Service

11:45 AM - Digital Coffee Hour
(ZOOM)

MONDAY 17

TUESDAY 18

WEDNESDAY 19

THURSDAY 20

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion
(ZOOM)

FRIDAY 21

7 PM - Rev. Junia Joplin's Virtual Shower
(ZOOM)

SATURDAY 22

Sunday:

11 AM Online Sunday Service

11:45 AM - Digital Coffee Hour

7 PM - Rev. Junia Joplin's Virtual Shower

Thursday:

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion

(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)



Sunday Digital Coffee Hour

Sunday Digital Coffee Hour

Sunday | 11:45 AM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 828 3849 6709

Password: 797837



Sunday Service Worship
Online | 11 AM | MCC Toronto YouTube

Share Us Digitally!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in anything we're doing at MCC Toronto please invite them to join us digitally via the button below.

SHARE THE QUERY HERE



Questions? Comments? Inquires?
We'd love to hear from you!

Connect with us at
communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 

on behalf of MCC Toronto | 115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1A1 Canada

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