

I love Family Day weekend. Partly, it's because it's February – the middle of winter, with some of the worst weather, and I think we really just NEED a holiday about now.

But also, I celebrate families of all kinds. I've been known to say that families (especially mine) are sometimes complicated. Case in point: When Janet and I got married, her father literally would not speak to her for nearly five years, because he thought equal marriage was "a travesty." For five years, I prayed daily that he would understand and appreciate the love that Janet and I share.

And Lo and Behold, eventually he came around. He acknowledged that, while I was not the son-in-law he expected, I "would do." He was a fiercely independent, extremely introverted man. At 94, he was still living independently in his own home, and resisted all of Janet's attempt to "help" with anything.

But in these last few months, time and age caught up with him, and he needed that help. Janet and I were privileged to care for him in his last days, in his own home. And near the end, he finally said to Janet, "She really is a part of our family." And when I would say "I love you," he would say "I love you too." He passed away on February 1, in his own bed, on his own terms. And I am reminded once again, that LOVE always bats last.

-Rev. Deana Dudley, Assistant Pastor

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## 2021 Report to Members, Congregants and Community!

MCC Toronto has prepared a special 2021 Report to Members, Congregants & Community to highlight the many ways we responded and renewed over the past year. Many thanks to all of you who helped make all this work possible!

[READ REPORT HERE](#)

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## Sunday Service Musical Guest!

This Sunday, Troy Adams concludes his three Sundays in a row as Offertory Performer!

**February 6**

**"Make Them Hear You"**

From the musical "Ragtime"

By Stephen Faherty

**February 13**

**"Everything Must Change"**

By Quincy Jones

**February 20**

**"You've Got A Friend"**

By Carole King

Arr. by Donny Hathaway

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Troy Adams has been performing in various theatres across Canada for the last 33 years. Toronto audiences may have seen him singing down in the Distillery District as part of Soulpepper's concert series, or in Musical Stage Co.'s production of *Next to Normal*.

A few other recent productions include Soulpepper's production of *Angels in America*, Parts 1 and 2 (Belize); *Dreamgirls* at Theatre Aquarius / The Grand Theatre (Jimmy Early); *Othello* at Shakespeare by the Sea (Othello); *Wanderlust* at the Stratford Festival (The Balladeer); *Shrek: The Musical* at Neptune Theatre / The Grand Theatre (Donkey); *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* at the Harbourfront Centre / Centaur Theatre / NAC (Ancestor); and *Cinderella* at the Neptune Theatre (Cinderella's father).

This recording was originally for Neptune Theatre's online telethon, in which I was asked to take part. I wanted to submit something that spoke to me artistically and reflected what my soul needed to express regarding what was happening at that time with both the global race protests and the pandemic. Being of mixed heritage (Black Loyalist, Mi'kmaq and Scottish), I decided that *Make Them Hear You* was the perfect choice.

I also wanted to express that this was not our first uprising. Rather, I think the excerpt from Martin Luther King's speech in 1966 reflects exactly what we are still demanding today. The photos of Frederick Douglass and the Black Lives Matter protesters serve to further highlight the many times we have had to stand up to inequality. Until equality happens, I say *Make Them Hear You*.

February 20 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

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

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## JOIN US TONIGHT!

Join us tonight to celebrate Rev. Junia and wish her well before her transition related surgery and accompanying medical leave. Just log into the Virtual Shower via Zoom. Hope to see you this evening **Friday, February 18 at 7 PM**.

[JOIN HERE](#)

Meeting ID: **846 1733 5591**  
Passcode: **238400**

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### Congregational Update to be hosted February 27

Join MCC Toronto for a special on-line Congregational Update meeting to be hosted on Zoom on **Sunday, February 27 at noon**. We will provide update on finances, staffing and the end of the COVID-19 crisis.

[JOIN HERE](#)

Meeting ID: **899 7634 5264**  
Passcode: **678922**

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## JOIN US!

### Lenten Bible Study begins March 1

MCC Toronto resume's it's Weekly Bible Study starting **Tuesday, March 1 at 7 PM** on Zoom with a special Mardi Gras Celebration. The study will be part of our Lenten Sermon Series "Fights for Rights" where we'll be looking at human rights stories in the bible like Ruth/Naomi, Esther, Moses, Midwives Shiphrah and Puah, and much more.

[JOIN HERE](#)

Meeting ID: **860 7974 3149**  
Passcode: **337101**

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## REMINDER!

### In-Person Worship Services return March 6

As previously announced, MCC Toronto will resume in-person Worship Services on **Sunday, March 6** just in time to begin the Lenten Journey towards Easter. For the time being we will have an **11 AM service only** until such a time we have the volunteer capacity and demand to resume the 9 AM services as well. We will continue with a hybrid of in-person and online by

livestreaming our services at [www.YouTube.com/MCCTorontoTV](http://www.YouTube.com/MCCTorontoTV) and continuing our Digital Coffee Hour on Zoom.

While the Ontario government announced on February 14 that proof of vaccination will no longer be required effective **Wednesday, March 2**, MCC Toronto is still considering what protocols we will keep in place to keep our congregants safe. New or adjusted protocol requirements will be shared prior to the res

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## GET INVOLVED! Casserole Club

MCC Toronto would like to launch a casserole club offering a ministry of hospitality in the form of prepared food for the bereaved and ill of our congregation. We are first and foremost looking for a volunteer team lead. If interested contact Rev. Jeff at: [jrock@mcctoronto.com](mailto:jrock@mcctoronto.com)

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As we look to resume in-person Worship Services beginning March,6 we need a few good volunteers! please click below to review current volunteer opportunities at MCC Toronto.

### CURRENT OPPRTUNITIES

Taking care of each other is more important than ever these days, and if you are in need of some care we are here for you. Just hop on the link below and fill out the form to let one of our pastors know about your needs.

Want to learn more? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

### SUBMIT FORM HERE

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

Interested in joining our family of sustaining donors? Contact [giving@mcctoronto.com](mailto:giving@mcctoronto.com)

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## Online Programming February 20 - 26

### Sunday:

**11 AM** Online Sunday Service

**11:45 AM** - Digital Coffee Hour

### Thursday:

**10:30 AM** - Ever Wonder Group Discussion

(Email: [everwonder@mcctoronto.com](mailto:everwonder@mcctoronto.com))

### Tuesday:

**7 PM** - Mental Health and Trauma Information Session

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

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## 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](mailto:communications@mcctoronto.com)



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

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