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When we come before God in worship, why do we sing rather than merely think or talk with one another? Singing is a language that God has given us to express our deepest longings, greatest joys, and most profound trust in the One who created us and loves us unconditionally.

– Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Pride & Joy | 20 Years & Counting!



When you talk to Mark Stephenson about this month's 20th Anniversary of the founding of **Pride & Joy**, his voice is bursting with, well, pride.

Mark conceived Pride & Joy, a small chamber choir, as part of MCC Toronto's legendary DNA Project, a from-the-ground-up engagement process that led to the establishment of MCC's bedrock beliefs in 2002. His vision was to bring together a group of singers (most drawn from The Choir of MCC Toronto) who could bring joyful and healing music beyond the walls of MCC Toronto. Twenty-years later, Mark and his merry band of talented singers have succeeded!

Since their first public performance at a memorial at The 519 in October 2002, Pride & Joy have been mainstays at weddings, funerals, birthdays and anniversaries. They have performed at many churches in and around Toronto, as well as other special public events. Diane Leah, MCC Toronto's former Music Director, was instrumental in helping the group over the years through coaching and song arranging, as was Eric Johnson who served as Artistic Director up until his move to New Brunswick last year. At this Sunday's Worship Service, Pride & Joy will be performing *Happy Together*, a song that couldn't be more apt for a group that has been there for each other every step of the way.

MCC Toronto congratulates founding members Janice Gladstone and Mark Stephenson, and the current members of Pride & Joy - Wanda Bussiere, Peter Henderson, Lori Honeycombe, J David Kenny, Gilbert Ma, Timothy Oakes, Dawn Sinclair, & Katie Winchester – on this wonderful milestone!

Book Pride & Joy for your next event [here](#).

MCC Toronto moves to Optional Mask Mandate

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Two Fridays ago we asked our members and congregants to participate in a Survey and provide us with their thoughts on MCC Toronto's current mandatory mask mandate at our Worship Services. And you responded – with 66% of our members and congregants urging us to move to an optional mask mandate immediately.

In response and beginning at this Sunday's (**Oct 16**) **11 AM** Worship Service, MCC Toronto will be moving to a **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** but **OPTIONAL** mask mandate, which will put us in line with almost all other city-wide agencies and organizations, from the TTC, to public libraries, to government offices, to other church denominations.

As the safety of our congregants, volunteers and staff at our Services is of paramount concern to all of us, we will:

- Strongly encourage all attendees to our Services to wear a mask, which we will be happy to provide if needed; we also have a stock of face shields
- Encourage folks who cough or sneeze to wear a mask or to watch the Service from home
- Post screening posters at all entrances
- Ask attendees to use hand sanitizer use upon entry
- Keep windows open and fans working

We thank all the members and congregants who responded to our Survey and apologize for any inconveniences caused by this decision. We will, of course, be monitoring the situation on a weekly basis going forward and I promise you we will move to re-instate a mandatory mask mandate if necessary.

Apologies to folks for any inconvenience

-Rev. Deana Dudley, Acting Senior Pastor

Musical Guest



Tringa Rexhepi is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Albanian-Canadian singer, songwriter and actor Tringa has performed professionally in theatre and as a pop artist across Canada and internationally for more than 15 years, on some of Canada's leading stages including Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre, Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, CAA Theatre, Segal Centre, and more. Credits include Elizabeth in *Obeah Opera* with the Luminato Festival and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre Festival in New York; Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Capitol Theatre Port Hope); Emily in *Prom Queen* (Canadian Musical Theatre Project); and Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Shakespeare By The Sea). Tringa is a graduate of Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance Program. Tringa's original pop music has garnered over 300,000 hits online.

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

Our Thanks for Your Kampala Offerings

Last Sunday, Rev. Deana went out on a limb and asked the congregation to give a little "extra" in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, to send to the little MCC Church in Kampala, Uganda. MCC Kampala feeds dozens of children every Sunday, most of whom are themselves living with HIV, or have been orphaned by AIDS. We are overjoyed to report back on your generosity, and tell you that you gave \$1,088 CAD, which when converted into Ugandan currency, amounts to over 2,600,000 Shillings! That will buy a lot of posho (corn meal) which is the staple of their diet! Thank you so much MCC Toronto!

Bible Study on Gospel of John | Oct 18 | 7 PM

A new 6-week Bible Study series on the Gospel of John kicks off this Tuesday (**Oct 18**) at **7 PM** on Zoom.

Written decades later than the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, or Luke, John's perspective on the life of Jesus is distinctively mystical. What makes this book unique? What does John say about Jesus that isn't in the other accounts of his life?

Join us to reflect on these questions and more!


JOIN BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Meeting ID: 840 3113 2013

Passcode: 493156

Children's Church | Oct 23

Our every second Sunday Children's Church returns Sunday, **October 23** for kids from kindergarten to grade five. No registration is required but please click [here](#) to tell us about your child/children should you be interested in having them join us.



Become a Monthly Donor

It is always a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate members and congregants enrolled in our weekly and monthly giving program! The on-going support of our 300+ sustaining donors is so critical to the work MCC Toronto does everyday, and we are extremely grateful for your gifts. However, like a lot of churches, MCC Toronto has seen our weekly and monthly contributions decline over the past two years. Today, we invite you to consider joining our family of weekly or monthly donors. Whether your gift is \$5 a week, or \$25 a month, every bit helps. You can sign up on our [website](#) or contact giving@mcctoronto.com for more information.

MCC Toronto's Community Outreach Partnership Grant



Community Outreach Partnership Grant Application

A reminder that the application portal for our 2022 Community Outreach Partnership (COP) Grant is now open. Do you know an organization with a vision and mission that aligns with MCC Toronto's? If so, please encourage them to make an application.

This annual up-to-\$5,000 grant is awarded to organization(s) doing important community work in the areas of LGBTQ+, social justice, youth supports, and/or health programs, with priority being given to smaller organizations.

To view full grant criteria and to see the application, please click on the link below. Deadline for applications is **November 10**.

[COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP GRANT](#)



Volunteer with us!

Volunteers have always been at the heart of MCC Toronto. We would not be the strong, inclusive and welcoming community we are, without the support and dedication of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and our other public programs.

Right now we urgently need volunteers familiar with **webcasting, sound operation multimedia and information desk**.

To sign up for these or other opportunities, please click the link below.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)



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!](#)

[REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE](#)

Every Gift is a Blessing. Please consider making a gift to MCC Toronto today.

DONATE

**Online and In-Person Programming
October 16 - 22**

OCTOBER 16-22	SUNDAY 16 11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service	MONDAY 17	TUESDAY 18	WEDNESDAY 19
		THURSDAY 20 10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion (ZOOM) 7 PM - Bible Study	FRIDAY 21	SATURDAY 22

Sunday:
11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service
7 PM- Bible Study

Thursday:
10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion
(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)



Bible Study

Bible Study
Tuesday | 7 PM
[ZOOM Link](#)
Meeting ID: 826 9057 1951
Password: 612843



Join us for Online and In-Person Worship Services

Sunday 11 AM | MCC Toronto YouTube

Sunday Service Worship
Online | 11 AM | In-person | 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



