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"Racism is not merely a simplistic hatred. It is, more often, broad sympathy toward some and broader skepticism toward others."

- Ta-Nehisi Coates

MCC Toronto's 50th Anniversary Celebrations



Dear MCC Toronto Family & Friends,

As members and congregants know, 2023 marks the 50th Anniversary of MCC Toronto. While we have already put in some thinking about how to celebrate this incredible milestone in our history, we want to hear from you! What would you like to see MCC Toronto do this year? What sort of events? What kind of activities? Our goal is to engage congregants – current and past – in celebrating the transformational work that MCC Toronto has done while looking ahead to the next 50 years.

We've created a survey to invite your suggestions and we'd be grateful to receive your input by March 2, 2023. All ideas are welcomed!

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW

We are also inviting folks to join us following the Worship Service on Sunday, February 26, for a special 1-hour roundtable/brainstorming meeting to hear your ideas and feedback in person. All are invited!

At this time, I am thrilled to let you in on one of our special 50th Anniversary projects. Our friends at The ArQuives – Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives (formerly known as the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives) have agreed to the herculean task of sorting through, processing and managing MCC Toronto's archival material. Fifty boxes of archival materials from our attics were transported to The ArQuives last month, and we are currently working with them toward the creation of a special MCC Toronto 50th Anniversary Exhibition at some point this year. We are grateful to The ArQuives staff and volunteers for taking on this project with us.

We have so much to celebrate this year. We hope you will join us!

Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor

Black History Spotlight

For this Sunday's black history spotlight, we'll be linking Black History Month and our 50th Anniversary as we reflect on some of the experiences of MCC Toronto's black congregants. In the 2017 book *Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer*, an essay by contributor David K. Seitz looks at how "My House Shall Be A House of Prayer For All People," words from scripture that are inscribed on the wall above our chapel, call us into an ongoing fight for justice.



Musical Guests

Julie Birungi and **Beau Dixon** are our musical guests this Sunday!

Julie Birungi is a Canadian-Ugandan gospel singer known in Uganda and across East Africa for her songs like *Nkulembera*, *Lwana Nabo*, *Ekikunyumira* and *Bamuyita Yesu*.

Julie received the Best Female Gospel Song award for her song *Saba* in 2014 and the Best Religious Song award for *List Ya Mukama* in 2015. She was nominated for Best Religious Song for *Kijja Kugwa* in 2016 at the third, fourth and fifth HiPipo Music Awards, respectively. She also won the Song of the Year award at the Olive Gospel Music Awards in 2012, the Female Artist of the Year award at the VIGA Awards in 2016, and the Diva Collabo Award for *Yani*, a collaboration with Iryn Namubiru, at the 2011 Diva Awards.



Julie currently lives happily with her wife and their seven children in Hamilton, Ontario, and continues to worship the Lord with songs of praise at every opportunity she gets. She also founded an organization (Juleans Blessing Hands) to help single mothers, including LGBTQ+ moms, with vulnerable children back in her home country because she understands what it's like to live under those circumstances. Find Julie on [Instagram!](#)



Beau Dixon is a self-taught, award-winning songwriter, musician, actor, playwright, music director, sound designer, producer and artistic director for Firebrand Theatre. As a songwriter and musician, Beau has shared the stage with Serena Ryder, Rufus Wainwright, Feist, Ron Sexsmith, Jeff Healey, Jully Black and countless others. He has toured extensively throughout Canada, the U.S. and Europe and has three albums under his name, available on iTunes, Bandcamp and other streaming platforms.

As an actor, he has performed on many reputable theatre stages throughout Canada. *NOW Magazine* and the *Toronto Star* have listed him among Toronto's top ten theatre actors, multiple years in a row. Beau is currently performing in *Porchside Songs* with Musical Stage, as well as music-directing a show he created for Stratford Festival entitled *FREEDOM 2.0: Black Music That Changed America*.

In 2011, Beau was inducted into Peterborough's Pathway of Fame for his leadership in the arts. His website is www.beaudixon.com.

REMINDER: Let the Light Shine In | Sunday, Feb 19

We invite MCC Toronto congregants to join us for a celebratory reopening of our Social Hall following this Sunday's (**Feb 19**) Worship Service.

Mardi Gras Community Meal and Ash Wednesday Service

On **Feb 22** at **6 PM**, everyone is welcome to join their MCC Toronto family for our first Community Meal in over three years! Enjoy a pancake supper followed by an **Ash Wednesday** Service, both in person and online, at **7:30 PM**. This is a no-charge, no registration required event – all are welcome!!

JOIN THE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ONLINE

Children's Church | Returns Feb 26

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns **Feb 26** 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 take part!

Young Adult Meet and Greet | Monday, Feb 27 | 7PM

MCC Toronto Young Adults will host a meet and greet event at the Glad Day Bookstore (499 Church St. Toronto) on Monday, **Feb 27**, from **7-9 PM**. Come on out to the Village, grab coffee or drink, and connect with other folks in your church family. While this meet and greet is hosted by MCC Toronto's Young Adults program, grownups of all ages are welcome!



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 need volunteers for our **Triangle Program Lunches, Community Meals, and Information Desk.**

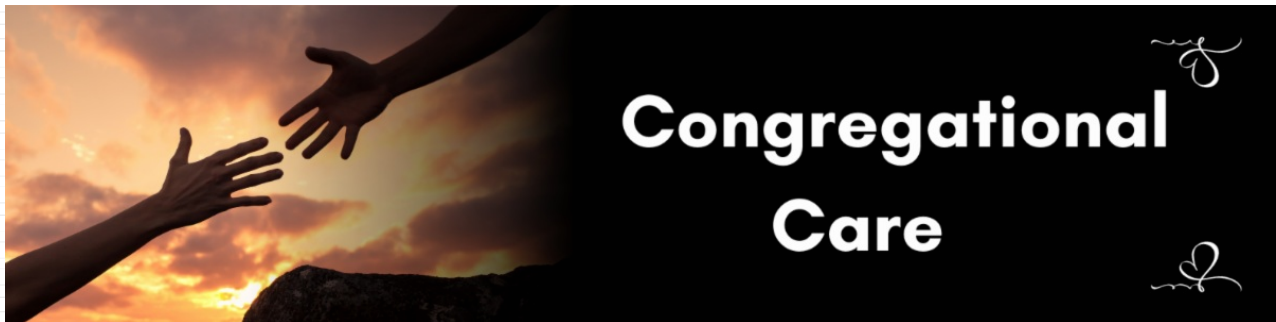
To sign up for these or other opportunities, please click the link below.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE

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 support our operations. You can sign up on our [website](#) or contact giving@mcctoronto.com for more information.



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 about our Congregational Care program? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE

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

DONATE

This Week at a Glance February 19 - 25

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

12 PM - Let the Light Shine In - Social Hall Re-opening

Wednesday:

6 PM - Mardi Gras Community Meal

7:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Service

Tuesday:

7 PM- Bible Study



Bible Study

Bible Study

Tuesday | 7:00 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 897 1945 8479

Password: 559690

Thursday:

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion

(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)

3 PM - Digital Fellowship Hall



Digital Fellowship Hall

Digital Fellowship Hall

Thursday | 3:00 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 889 7843 8853

Password: 560461



Sunday Service Worship

Online | 11 AM | In-person | MCC Toronto YouTube

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

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 

