



“

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of our God!'...
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.'
For the sake of all my relations and friends
I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of our Sovereign God,
I will seek your good.

Psalm 122: 1, 7-9

Celebrating the Re-opening of our Social Hall



Last Sunday (February 19), MCC Toronto celebrated the re-opening of our beloved Social Hall with a procession into the space led by Rev. Deana Dudley, Jason Jestadt on accordion, Abraham Millington on trombone, and the always wonderful Choir of MCC Toronto. To me, it was glorious! The sun was shining in through the new clerestory windows as joyful clapping and cheers erupted. Rev. Deana delivered a moving and profound blessing of the space. This, to me, represented the best of what MCC Toronto is all about – community, family, togetherness.

I think the completion of renovations to our public spaces will mean a lot for MCC Toronto's future. I know it is meaningful to Michael McCain and Margaret "Margi" McCain whose leadership and support will be celebrated with the soon-to-be naming of the McCain Family Social Hall. I know it is meaningful to donors to **ELEVATION – MCC Toronto Campaign** donors who funded the renovations in anticipation of the future human rights work and programming that will soon take up the space. And I know it was meaningful to the 75 community members who braved Wednesday night's snowstorm to join us for our first Community Meal and and Ash Wednesday Service in three years!

Credit is owed to so many people for getting us to this place. None more than our dear friend and fearless Facilities Manager Mark Asselin, who Rev. Deana celebrated as part of Sunday's dedication.

Every flourish – from colour selection to lighting; every detail – from expanding the size of the vestibule to integrate two formerly obstructive posts to moving the location of our Information Desk; every architectural delight – from the unveiling of the new clerestory windows to the soon to be installed curved wooden feature wall; all came about through Mark. When I arrived at MCC Toronto to lead the **ELEVATION Campaign**, the how's and way's of realizing the renovation ambitions to be achieved through the Campaign were totally uncertain. Managing and overseeing a complex construction project required a high level of professionalism and construction proficiency that seemed – at the time - terribly out of reach. The day Mark arrived at MCC Toronto in November 2018, all uncertainty was silenced. Here was a man who would see us – and steer us – through.

Which he did. With love. With creativity. With 150% dedication.

Celebrating Mark Asselin

For those who follow our much-loved Facilities Manager Mark Asselin on social media, you already know. For those who don't, I am the bearer of heartbreaking news. Our dearest friend Mark has stage 4 cancer and will not be with us for much longer. Mark is facing this news with great grace and courage, as he has done throughout his struggle.

Bucking convention – which he has proudly done his entire life - Mark has asked us to host a living funeral for him. Which we are.

On **Saturday, March 18 at 3 PM**, MCC Toronto will host a Celebration of Life Service for Mark Asselin in our Sanctuary, and Mark will be present with us for this celebration!

Again bucking convention, Mark has told us that he wants his Celebration of Life Service to be an upbeat affair. You can expect to hear some of Mark's favourite tunes from some of Mark's favourite artists. You can expect moments of levity – and moments of laughter, as well as moments of deep respect and affection.

All MCC Toronto members, congregants and friends are invited to attend.

Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor

Black History Spotlight



For this Sunday's Black History Spotlight, we'll be looking together at *Church Hat*, a story about unconditional love set in a black family and their wider faith community. *Church Hat* was written by Debra Williams, who attends MCC Toronto along with her uncle, Robert. It's a story about identity, expression, and the ways faith inspires us to love each other just as we are.

Debra will be talking about *Church Hat* during our theme conversation and reading from the book during Children's Church. As a special treat, each child in attendance on Sunday will be

Musical Guests

Beau Dixon and **Mary Kelly** are our musical guests this Sunday!



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.

Nova Scotia native, **Mary Kelly** is always delighted to sing at MCC Toronto. Her repertoire encompasses jazz, folk and musical theatre. She has been a featured soloist for Symphony Nova Scotia and performed at Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes's final Christmas Eve service in December 2017.

Television credits include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Schitt's Creek*, *Saving Hope*, and *Orphan Black*.

On stage, she has appeared in *My Fair Lady*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Chicago*, and *Sincerely, a Friend*, based on the music of Leonard Cohen—to name just a few!

Her website is mkdivamusic.com.



CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE

50th Anniversary Roundtable | Feb 26 | 12:30 PM

REMINDER: Following this Sunday's Worship Service, congregants and members are invited to participate in a roundtable planning discussion on MCC Toronto's 50th Anniversary. What would you like to see? We want to hear from you! If you are unable to attend, please take a moment to share your ideas through the survey link below.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW

Children's Church | Returns Feb 26

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns this Sunday, **February 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 | 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, **February 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!

Town Hall | Mar 5 | 12:30 PM

As previously announced, the next Town Hall with MCC Toronto's Board of Directors will take place on **March 5** in the Sanctuary beginning at **12:30 PM**, and we anticipate that the meeting can run for up to 2 hours, if discussion warrants. The Town Hall will be facilitated by Rev. Deana Dudley. So that the Board can be better prepared to answer your questions, if you know in advance what you would like to ask, please send them to the Board in advance via bofd@mcctoronto.com.

The Town Hall will also be livestreamed, and you can submit questions online via the chat function on YouTube.

WATCH THE TOWN HALL HERE

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

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

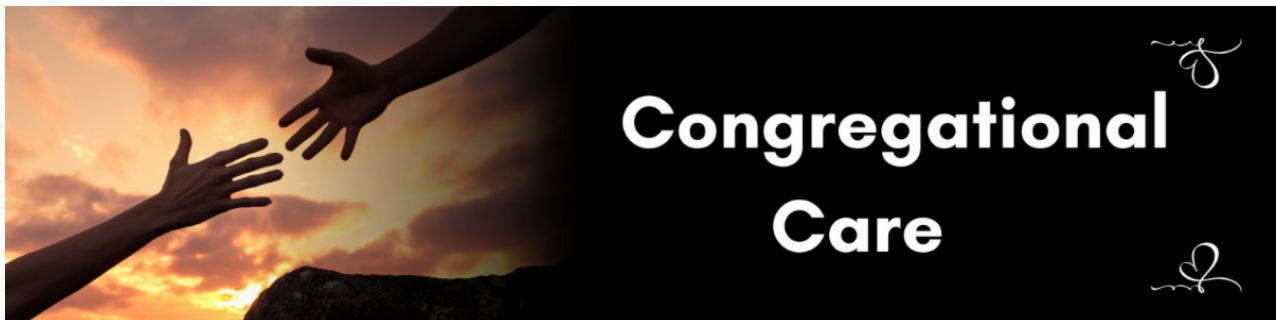
[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

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.

Congregational Care



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 26 - March 4

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

11 AM - Children's Church

Tuesday:

7 PM - [Bible Study](#)

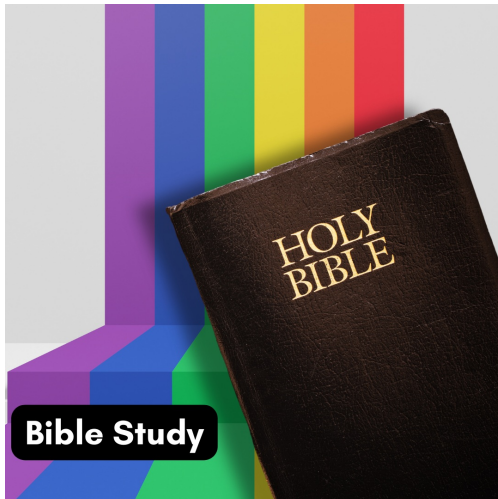
Monday:

7 PM - Young Adult Meet and Greet (Glad Day Bookstore)

Thursday:

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

3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)



Bible Study

[Bible Study](#)

Tuesday | 7:00 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 897 1945 8479

Password: 559690



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 

