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I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.

– Audre Lorde

## International Women's Day

This past **Wednesday, March 8**, was International Women's Day! I celebrate and give thanks to all of the incredible, talented, resilient, unstoppable women in my life and the world. You are FABULOUS! Today, this blessing of women who have been part of my faith tradition resonates in my heart.

May the God of Eve teach you to dance,  
May the God of Hagar bring you comfort in the desert,  
May the God of Miriam bring companions to you when you struggle,  
May the God of Deborah teach you courage for your battles,  
May the Christ who knew Mary and Martha show you the way of balance,  
May the Christ who healed the bent-over woman heal your pain,  
May the Christ of Mary Magdala send you out to proclaim your story,  
In the name of Christ who is the memory and hope of the future.

(Niluka Perera, Sri Lanka)

And in all of the many names of God,  
God who is like a mother-eagle,  
God who is El-Shaddai, the all-sufficient God of many breasts,  
God who is womb-compassion,  
God who is the divine feminine...  
Amen.

Rev. Deana Dudley,  
Acting Senior Pastor

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## LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs Talent Show

Last Friday, our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs held a special community meal and talent show for many newcomers to celebrate the contributions of the Black LGBTQ+ community in honour of Black History Month. Despite the 'thundersnow,' around 70 program participants braved the weather and joined us for an unforgettable night of delicious food and entertainment in our brand-new Social Hall.

One of the night's highlights was a performance by fabulous [Naomi Leon](#), who did a lip-synced rendition of Beyoncé's "Cuff It" and dazzled us with her sparkling costume and impressive dance moves. She also gave a beautiful speech you can watch by clicking the link below.



Other performers also took the stage, showcasing their singing, dancing, and poetry skills to cheery attendees. However, the excitement was significantly heightened when the audience had to select their favourite performer who would win a featured prize for the night's performance.

Although all the performers did an outstanding job, Dario Dvon and Vivian Chiokwa emerged as the night's winners, taking first and second place, respectively.



From left to right: Naomi Leoni, Vivian Chiokwa, Naomi Leoni, and Dario Dvon

This wonderful evening was completed with a mouth-watering Jamaican feast prepared by The Diner's Corner.

We want to thank the **Canadian Race Relation Foundation** for fully funding this event and their continued dedication to funding and uplifting our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs' advocacy efforts and events. We believe a joyful celebration is exactly what the communities we serve need right now. If you also like to help, click on the link below and select the last option, "Make a gift in support of our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs."

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

### Musical Guest





**Abraham Millington** is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Abraham began singing and harmonizing at age 6, to the surprise of his family and infant school teachers in Barbados.

He attended the International Music Camp in North Dakota in 1999 as a high school trombonist in the Barbados National Youth Orchestra, which he credits as the catalyst for cementing his drive for and comfort with performing virtuosic pieces for trombone by Arthur Pryor and Alexander Guilmant, among others.

Abraham was on the Dean's List at York University in Toronto, completing an Honours BA in Law and Society and a Master of Arts in Music, supervised by Dr. Lesley Jacobs and Dr. Mark Chambers, respectively. At York, he took his first classical voice lessons with Prof. Stephanie Bogle.

Abraham has a passion for entertainment, whether vocal or instrumental and delights in using his gifts to bring joy to all.

**March 12 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel**

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

**Daylight Saving Time | Sunday, Mar 12**

# Daylight Saving



It's that time of year again to lose one hour of sleep! So, don't forget to set your clocks **one hour forward this Sunday morning**. Time change will happen at 2:00 AM.

**Children's Church | Returns March 12**

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns this **Sunday, March 12**, 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!

## Celebrating Mark Asselin | Sat, Mar 18 | 3 PM



All MCC Toronto members, congregants and friends are invited to attend a very special “living funeral” Celebration of Life Service for our dear friend Mark Asselin, MCC Toronto’s Facilities Manager. At Mark’s request, we are happy to announce that Rev. Jeff Rock will be officiating the Celebration Service with assistance from Revs. Deana and Junia. The Service will include musical guests Gavin Hope, Prince Janotra, Julie Michels, Dale Miller and Pride & Joy performing some of Mark’s favourite songs, with Music Direction by Jason Jestadt and Diane Leah.

MCC Toronto invites you to make a gift in celebration of Mark which you can do through the link below.

MAKE A CELEBRATION GIFT IN MARK'S HONOUR TODAY

## Knitting for Seniors | Sun, Mar 19, 26 & Apr 2 | 1 PM



Our Senior Programming invites you to **3 beginner knitting** classes. These classes are limited to 3 to 4 participants, so please register to reserve your spot. Just so you know, knitting needles and yarn will be provided, but we need the needles back for the next class, so we recommend bringing your own. We'll give you a list of recommended supplies and where to get them when registering.

The classes will be held on **Mar 19, Mar 26, and Apr 2 at 1 PM** at MCC Toronto's **Lavender Room**. Please email [seniors@mcctoronto.com](mailto:seniors@mcctoronto.com) for more details and to register. All are welcome, no matter your gender or knitting skill level.



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, Information Desk, Thrift Shop Cleaning and Sale.**

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

# 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](mailto: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 March 12 - 18

### Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service  
11 AM - Children's Church

### Tuesday:

7 PM - [Bible Study](#)

### Thursday:

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion  
(Email: [everwonder@mcctoronto.com](mailto:everwonder@mcctoronto.com))  
3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)



Bible Study

[Bible Study](#)  
Tuesday| 7:00 PM



Digital Fellowship Hall

[Digital Fellowship Hall](#)  
Thursday| 3:00 PM



[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 897 1945 8479  
Password: 559690

[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](mailto:communications@mcctoronto.com)



*Sent with love* 

